

# CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

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# PBBM reforms, rice price reduction measures yielding positive results

MANILA – The continued decrease in inflation is the result of economic reforms and measures to reduce food prices, particularly that of rice, undertaken by the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported Tuesday that

headline inflation eased to 1.4 percent in April, the slowest since the 1.2 percent rate recorded in November 2019.

“Ang pagbaba ng inflation sa 1.4 percent ngayong Abril ay isang konkretong patunay na ang mga hakbang ng pamahalaan ay may tunay na epekto sa buhay ng mga ordi-

naryong Pilipino (The easing of inflation to 1.4 percent this April is a concrete proof that government measures have a real effect on the lives of ordinary Filipinos),” Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez on Tuesday said in a statement.

“Ipinapakita ng numerong ito na mas

(Turn to p. 2)

## DA actions curb food prices, tame inflation to pre-Covid levels

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture’s (DA) efforts to rein in the price of rice and other food items helped further ease inflation in April, bringing it to its lowest level before the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported Tuesday that headline inflation eased to 1.4 percent in April, the slowest since the 1.2 percent rate recorded in November 2019.

Food inflation also decelerated signifi-



DA photo

cantly, dropping to 0.7 percent from 2.3 percent in March and 6.3 percent in April 2023.

“We are encouraged that our initiatives to enhance supply and stabilize agricultural commodity prices are easing the financial burden on millions of

Filipino consumers, especially low-income families,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said in a news release on Tuesday.

Inflation for the bottom 30 percent of income households

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## Palace sees need for mandatory drug test to ensure road safety

MANILA – The regular and mandatory drug testing for all public utility vehicles (PUV) drivers is vital to ensure road safety, Malacañang said on Tuesday.

“Dapat pong pagaralan kasi ito po ay kailangan din po (It

should be studied because it is also necessary),” Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary and Palace Press Officer Claire Castro told reporters in a press briefing.

This, after Transportation Secretary Vince

Dizon on Monday announced that all PUV drivers will be required to undergo drug test every six months, as part of the stricter nationwide road safety plan.

Castro backed the latest directive, saying

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# PBBM reforms, rice price reduction measures yielding positive results



**CHEAPER RICE.** The Department of Agriculture launches the PHP20 per kilogram rice program in Cebu on May 1, 2025. Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez on Tuesday (May 6) attributed the further easing of inflation in April to economic reforms and measures implemented by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s administration to lower rice prices. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

## Deployment of medical teams at polling hubs urged amid extreme heat

MANILA – With election day less than a week away, AGRI Party-list Rep. Wilbert Lee reminded the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and the Department of Health (DOH) to ensure the deployment of adequate medical personnel in polling precincts to attend to voters who may suffer from heat-related illnesses.

Lee issued the call as the country continues to experience scorching temperatures, with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) posting several warnings in recent days as the heat index in several areas reached dangerous levels.

“The extreme heat we are currently experiencing is not just uncomfortable -- it is dangerous, especially for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, and individuals with underlying health conditions who will go

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**PBBM...FR. P. 1**

kontrolado na ang presyo ng mga pangunahing bilihin -- mula sa bigas, gulay, at karne, hanggang sa kuryente at pamasahé. Ibig sabihin, mas abot-kaya na ang pang-araw-araw na gastusin at mas lumalawak ang kakayahan ng bawat pamilyang Pilipino na mapagkasya ang kanilang kita (This number shows that prices of basic commodities are more controlled -- from rice, vegetables, and meat, including electricity and transport fare. It means daily expenses are more affordable and expands every Filipino family's ability to stretch their income)," he added.

Romualdez said the fall in inflation was an "expected outcome" and not a fluke, pointing out that lower prices of rice and other food items contributed largely to the decrease in inflation in April.

"Hindi ito basta resulta ng swerte. Ito ay bunga ng malinaw na direksyon at matatag na pamumuno ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (This is not the result of luck. This is the result of the clear direction and strong leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.)," he said.

Since the start of the second half of 2024, the Department of Agriculture has launched several programs that aim to provide cheaper rice directly to the vulnerable sectors under the Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) initiative. These include the P29 program in July and the Rice for All in August last year.

On May 1, the "Benteng Bigas Mayroon

(BBM) Na" program was launched in Cebu.

The KNP initiative also expanded access to cheaper vegetables and other agricultural products.

At the same time, President Marcos' decision to reduce rice import tariffs has also been successful in reducing inflation.

Romualdez said Congress contributed through legislation and the exercise of its oversight power to keep prices down, untangle bottlenecks in the distribution chain that push prices up, and to expose abusive practices like hoarding and price manipulation.

He vowed that he and the House of Representatives would continue to help President Marcos keep food prices down and the country's economy growing.

The PSA said the downturn in the overall inflation in April was due to the slower increase in the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages at 0.9 percent from 2.2 percent in the previous month.

Food inflation in particular, further eased to 0.7 percent from 2.3 percent in March this year. In April last year, food inflation was at 6.3 percent.

The PSA noted that the average price of regular milled rice declined to PHP44.45 per kg in April from PHP51.25 in April last year; well-milled rice fell to PHP44.45/kg from PHP51.25/kg; and special rice declined to PHP60.69 from last year's PHP64.68/kg. (PNA)

**PALACE...FR. P. 1**

the move is necessary to prevent a repeat of deadly vehicular accidents in the country.

"Tandaan po natin, ang inaalagaan po dito, yung, yung safety ng commuters, passengers, ng mga tao na gumagamit po ng kalsada, including na rin po 'yung mga driver (Let's remember, what is being taken care of here is the safety of commuters, passengers, people using the roads, including driv-

ers)," she said.

"Hindi po ito basa-basta maaaring sabihin na huwag na lang gawin kung ito naman po ay makakasama sa safety. Pag-aaralan pa po ito (We cannot simply ignore this especially if this is a threat to public safety. We will study this further)."

Castro hoped that the new policy would not be seen as a "money-making strategy."

"Huwag naman po

**DEPLOYMENT...FR. P. 1**

out and vote," the lawmaker said in a news release on Tuesday.

Lee said that while it is crucial to ensure a secure and orderly election, the welfare of voters must also be prioritized, particularly in areas with high voter turnout and limited access to healthcare facilities.

According to the Comelec, over 68 million voters are expected to participate in the upcoming midterm national and local elections.

"We understand that the Comelec already has contingency plans in place, but we urge them to include, or at the very least strength-

en, provisions for on-site medical assistance in coordination with the DOH, local government units, and the Philippine Red Cross," Lee said.

"Their presence could be the difference between life and death for some voters, especially those who are frail or medically compromised."

The party-list group also reminded voters to take personal precautions to protect themselves from the scorching heat on election day. It urged the public to stay hydrated, wear light and breathable clothing, and bring umbrellas or hats. (PNA)

**DA...FR. P. 1**

slipped to a record low of 0.1 percent in April.

Tiu Laurel, however, noted that challenges remain.

"There are still supply and value chain issues the DA is actively addressing, particularly in the pork sector, which could further stabilize food prices moving forward," he said.

On May 1, the DA launched its PHP20-per-kilo rice program in Cebu City, with a broader rollout planned after the elec-

natin agad husgahan na ito ay isang money-making device or strategy (Let's not immediately judge that this is a money-making device or strategy)," she said.

**PH lifts import ban on Minnesota poultry, eggs**

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) has lifted the temporary ban on the importation of domestic and wild birds, as well as poultry products from Minnesota, USA.

The decision follows the resolution of an earlier outbreak of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the state.

DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. issued Memorandum Order No. 22, permit-

ting the entry into the Philippines of live poultry, poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs and semen originating from Minnesota.

The ban was initially imposed to safeguard the local poultry industry, which is crucial to the country's food security and a significant source of employment and investment.

The DA's decision to lift the import ban was based on official reports from the

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# CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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## Gov't to ensure inflation slowdown is felt by Filipino households

MANILA — Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary Ralph Recto on Tuesday said the government will ensure that the slowdown in inflation will be felt by all Filipinos.

“Kahit pa patuloy na bumababa ang inflation, hindi po kami magiging kampante. Patuloy po ang aksyon ng gobyerno —hindi lang para manatili itong mababa, kundi para siguraduhin na mararamdaman ito ng bawat pamilyang Pilipino (Despite the continued drop in inflation, we will not be complacent. The government will continue taking action —not just to keep it low, but to ensure that it will be felt by every Filipino family),” Recto said in a statement.

Inflation fell to 1.4 percent in April this year, the lowest since November 2019, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

“This lower-than-expected inflation rate for the month also provides more room for the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) to further cut policy interest rates to help us further boost the spending power of Filipinos, drive in more investments, and grow the economy, especially amid rising global uncertainties,” Recto said.

### PH...FR. P. 2

United States' veterinary authorities to the World Organisation for Animal Health, confirming that all reported cases of HPAI in affected counties of Minnesota have been resolved. No additional



Finance Secretary Ralph Recto (PNA photo by Jess M. Escaros Jr.)

the local market, as well as address potential non-food inflation drivers.

Except for the National Capital Region (NCR), all regions had lower inflation in April 2025 compared to the previous month, PSA data showed.

Inflation in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and Cagayan Valley dropped to 2 percent, while all other regions fell below the government's target range.

“We have been closely monitoring the situation and are aware of the upward price pressures mainly from meat, restaurant services, electricity, and rentals. In addition to paying attention to external developments, bringing down the prices for these items will be our primary focus moving forward,” Recto said.

The DOF chief said the government continues to implement a whole-of-government approach to maintain price stability and ensure the availability of affordable food in

The government also continues to implement maximum retail price of imported rice at PHP45 per kilogram in NCR, while the PHP20/kg. rice program will be launched after the election aid distribution ban.

Recto said the government also continues to support initiatives mitigating elevated energy prices, encouraging renewable energy, and promoting cost-effective sources of energy. (PNA)

al outbreaks have been reported after Feb. 28.

The US is a major source of poultry products for the Philippines.

The US Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Ser-

vice has reported that in 2024, it shipped to the Philippines 169,226 metric tons of poultry products (except eggs) worth USD194.1 million, up from USD180.5 million in 2023. (PR)

## Palace hails global recognition of 2 PH beaches in world's best list

MANILA — Malacañang on Tuesday hailed the inclusion of two Philippine beaches in the World's 50 Best Beaches 2025 list, calling it a proud moment that reflects the country's unmatched natural beauty and growing global reputation as a premier beach destination.

Entalula Beach in El Nido, Palawan ranked second on the list, while Bon Bon Beach in Romblon placed 38th — a feat warmly welcomed by the Marcos administration.

“Ang pagkilalang ito ay patunay na kahanga-hanga ang ganda ng Pilipinas at sa ating global standing bilang isa sa mga pinamalaking beach destination sa buong mundo (This recognition proves the stunning beauty of the Philippines and our global standing as one of the most celebrated beach destinations in the world),” Palace



Entalula Beach in Palawan. (World's 50 Beaches website)

Press Officer Claire Castro said in a press briefing.

Castro pointed to the postcard-perfect limestone cliffs and crystal-clear waters of Entalula, and the quiet charm of Bon Bon Beach's sandbar, as examples of the country's world-class island offerings.

She said the recognition supports the administration's National Tourism Development Plan 2023–2028 and the Department of Tourism's (DOT) “Love the Philippines” campaign, both of which aim to promote sustainable travel and

heritage preservation.

“Patuloy ang DOT sa pagsusulong ng sustainable tourism hindi lang para sa ating coastal destinations kung hindi para rin sa pag-unlad ng ating mga komunidad at pagtaguyod ng ating national heritage (The DOT continues to promote sustainable tourism not only for our coastal destinations but also for the development of our communities and the protection of our national heritage),” she said.

According to The World's 50 Best Beaches website, the (Turn to p. 5)



On May 2, 2025, the Office of the Provincial Governor - Medical Mission Team, in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, led a compassionate initiative in Brgy. Santiago, City of Gen. Trias through a medical and dental mission where 225 residents received free medical consultations and medicine, while 55 had smiles restored with free tooth extractions and medicine.

The event made a significant impact in the community with health services made accessible to residents at no cost.

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

**FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-244-25**

**RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION,**  
(in its capacity as successor-in-interest of  
RCBC Savings Bank, Inc.) represented by Atty.  
Leonardo A. Yepes Jr.,

*Petitioner-Mortgagee,  
-versus-*

**CRISANTA PALERMO LEYCO AND PEDRO  
PALERMO LEYCO JR.,**  
*Respondents-Mortgagors,*

-----x-----

**NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE**

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Petitioner-Mortgagee, **RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION, (in its capacity as successor-in-interest of RCBC Savings Bank, Inc.) represented by Atty. Leonardo A. Yepes Jr.**, with business address at 28th Floor At Yuchengco Centre, 25th & 26th Sts., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, against the Respondents-Mortgagors, **CRISANTA PALERMO LEYCO AND PEDRO PALERMO LEYCO JR.**, with residence and postal address at Pili Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro/Gumamela St., Brgy. Cacawan Pinamalayan, Oriental, Mindoro, Philippines / Blk 34 Lot 35 Meridian Place Phl. Brgy. Pasong Kawayan 4107, General Trias, Cavite, Philippines to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness as of FEBRUARY 24, 2025 amounts to **FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FORTY-THREE AND 43/100 ONLY (PHP484,243.43)** inclusive of interest and other charges, attorney's fees and expenses of foreclosure, the undersigned Sheriff will set at public auction on **MAY 21, 2025** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 12:00 noon at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

**TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE**  
**No. 057-2021059234**

**LOT NO: 35 BLOCK NO: 34 PLAN NO:PCS-04-029079**  
**PORTION OF: THE CONS/SUBD OF LOT 2324-A, FLS-168-D, S.F.D.M. ESTATE & LOT 3296-D, PSD-04-051993; LRC RECORD NO. 5964**

**LOCATION: BARANGAY PASONG KAWAYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF GEN. TRIAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON**

**BOUNDARIES:**

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT(S)
1-2	NE	ROAD LOT 3 (8.00M WIDE R.O.W.), PCS-04-029079
2-3	SE	LOT 37, BLOCK 34, PCS-04-029079
3-4	SW	LOT 36, BLOCK 34, PCS-04-029079
4-5	SW	LOT 34, BLOCK 34, PCS-04-029079
5-1	NW	LOT 33, BLOCK 34, PCS-04-029079

**AREA: SIXTY (60) SQUARE METERS.**

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 date and time, it shall be held on JUNE 4, 2025 without further notice.

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

Trece Martires City, April 24, 2025

JOANNAH AVIGAIL C. TIMKANG  
*Sheriff IV*

**Copy Furnished:**

**RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION**  
(in its capacity as successor-in-interest of RCBC Savings Bank, Inc.) represented by Atty. Leonardo A. Yepes Jr.,  
28th Floor AT Yuchengco Centre, 25th & 26th Sts., Bonifacio

## Gov't to continue close monitoring of commodity prices – DEPDev

MANILA – Despite the continued easing in inflation, the Marcos administration will continue to closely monitor commodity prices and implement measures to mitigate inflationary pressures, the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) said Tuesday.

DEPDev made the statement after the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that inflation eased further to 1.4 percent in April, the lowest since November 2019.

A key driver of the decline was food inflation, which dropped significantly to 0.7 percent in April from 2.3 percent in March.

Rice prices continued their downward trend, marking the tenth consecutive month of month-on-month decline, attributed to lower local farmgate prices and reduced landed cost of imported rice.

“The sustained slowdown in inflation, driven largely by the significant decline in food prices, is a positive sign that our policy interventions are working. We will continue to implement strategies to vigilantly monitor price shocks

and proactively temper inflationary pressures,” said Rosemarie Edillon, the DEPDev undersecretary for planning and policy group.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is closely monitoring agricultural production and market prices, particularly for high-value crops, such as vegetables, which are vulnerable to the ongoing extreme heat and are primarily sourced from northern regions.

The DA has also reconstituted the Inter-Agency Livestock Data Analytics Group to support data-driven decision-making in the meat and poultry sectors.

DEPDev said a memorandum of understanding was also signed with the Philippine Postal Corp. to expand the Kadiwa ng Pangulo program nationwide by enabling PHLPost offices to host Kadiwa stores.

“We must continue to push for decisive coordination to ensure price stability, especially for essential commodities. Our goal is not only to reduce inflation but to ensure that its benefits are felt by every Filipino household – through lower food costs and improved access to basic goods,”



**PRICE WATCH.** Department of Agriculture Assistant Secretary for Agribusiness, Marketing, and Consumer Affairs lawyer Genevieve Velaria-Guevarra (left) and Assistant Secretary for Swine and Poultry Constante Palabrica (2nd from left) lead the inspection of a meat section during their Joint Market Monitoring at the Balintawak Cloverleaf Market, Antonio Arnaiz Avenue, Quezon City on March 11, 2025. The Department of Economy, Planning, and Development on Tuesday (May 6, 2025) assured that the government would continue to monitor commodity prices even after inflation dropped further in April. (PNA photo by Robert Oswald P. Alfiler)

Edillon said.

She likewise highlighted the transition of the National Economic and Development Authority into the DEPDev, which she said strengthens the government's capacity for strategic foresight and policy coherence.

“With the expanded mandate, DEPDev is now better positioned

to unify and align the country's socioeconomic goals. We are committed to developing forward-looking, strategic policies that promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, generate quality jobs, manage inflation, and protect the purchasing power of Filipinos,” Edillon added. (PNA)

## Comelec extends online voting enrollment period for 3 days

MANILA — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has extended for three days the enrollment period for overseas Filipino voters who want to cast their votes in the May 2025 midterm elections via the Online Voting and Counting System (OVCS).

In Minute Resolution No. 25-0544, the Comelec en banc said the deadline of enroll-

ment for those who would like to vote online has been moved from its original date of May 7 to May 10.

“The Commission resolves to approve the request of the Office for Overseas Voting (OFOV)... to extend the pre-voting enrollment period from 07 May 2025 to 10 May 2025, 11:59 PM (Philippine time),” it said.

**(Turn to p. 5)**

Global City, Taguig City

**CRISANTA PALERMO LEYCO AND  
PEDRO PALERMO LEYCO JR.**

Pili Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro/  
Gumamela St., Brgy. Cacawan Pinamalayan, Oriental,  
Mindoro, Philippines/ Blk. 34 Lot 35 Meridian Place Phl. Brgy.  
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## Labor Day 'Libreng Sakay' benefits 4.3M train passengers

MANILA – Nearly 4.3 million commuters were given free rides across three rail services in Metro Manila during President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s Labor Day 'Libreng Sakay' initiative.

In a report on Tuesday, Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Vince Dizon said the free rides at the Light Rail Transit Lines 1 (LRT-1), Line 2 (LRT-2), and the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3) were meant to honor the sacrifices of Filipino workers and ease the burden of daily commuters.

"Malaking tulong ang libreng sakay sa ating mga manggagawa at commuters. Kaya sa utos ni Pangulong Marcos, taon-taon na natin itong gagawin tuwing Labor Day bilang pagkilala sa kontribusyon ng mga manggagawa sa bansa (The free rides were a great boon to workers and other commuters. That's why President Marcos ordered that we will institutionalize this every Labor Day in recognition of their contributions to the country)," Dizon said.

In a statement, the Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC) -- the operator and maintenance provider of LRT-1 -- said there were an average of 460,000 passengers daily at the LRT-1 from April 30 to May 3. The MRT-3 reported a total of 1,618,541 passengers during the same period.

The four days of free rides at the MRT-3 also had a record number of passengers in a single day, particularly on April 30 with a total of 481,156 passengers.

"The initiative aimed to show appreciation for the contributions of Filipino workers, promoting as well public trust and patronage for mass transportation," it said. (PNA)

**PRIDE IS BEFORE A CRASH,  
AND A HAUGHTY SPIRIT  
BEFORE STUMBLING**

*Prov. 16:18*

## Papabili: Filipino Tagle, liked by the young

ROME – With a disarming smile and a great informality that is especially liked by young people, Filipino cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, one of the most well-known faces of the Asian Church, is a top papabile (pope tip) whose old video singing John Lennon's "Imagine" – on a world without religions – has gone viral causing him some embarrassment.

Meanwhile, the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) -- the operator and maintenance provider of the LRT-2 -- reported a total of 787,284 passengers during the free ride period.

It said these four days of free rides had a record number of passengers, particularly on May 2, with 234,888 -- the highest number of passengers recorded at the LRT-2 and surpassing the previous post-pandemic record.

His father is of Tagalog ethnicity and his mother is Chinese-Filipino. His paternal grandfather, from whom he inherited his surname, belonged to the class of Spanish origin, which constituted the local aristocracy until the Philippine revolution put an end to Spanish domination.

Beloved throughout his continent, Tagle was among the papabili already in 2013, also for that simple style with which he proposed the image of a new, fresh Church, different from the stiff one of the old continent, for example.

Since then, he was called to Rome by Pope Francis as head of Propaganda Fide, becoming the so-called "Red Pope," precisely because of the power of this figure in the Church.

But over the years, his star has faded a bit: a stumble in his career

occurred in 2022 when the Pontiff ousted him from the leadership of Caritas Internationalis.

Tagle had not been able to manage, or perhaps had not noticed, the increasingly polluted internal climate in which the charitable arm of the Church of the world operated. It was he who had to announce the Pope's decision, assuring that it was not a question of "sexual harassment or abuse" or "bad management of money." But the context had become too difficult to continue "walking together, with different cultures, in their unique expressions of humanity."

Tagle continues to please people and young people, also for the simplicity with which he announces the Gospel, without giving up singing and dancing.

The old video of his, circulating in recent days, in which he sings Lennon's "Imagine," in which a world without nations or religions is evoked, has caused some controversy.

The Filipino cardinal is perhaps the most social media-inclined among the cardinals.

On X from April 21 to 23, he collected about 149,000 mentions and has a verified Facebook page followed by more than 600,000 followers. Since he was Archbishop of Manila, he has also managed his own YouTube page in which he explains the Gospel with simple words and always with a smile. (ANSA)

## COMELEC ...FR. P. 4

The poll body said this is to encourage more Filipino voters abroad to enroll in the system, noting the "multiple requests" for extension it received from various Filipino communities abroad.

As of May 3, the total number of OVCS pre-voting enrollees was at 134,474.

"Said number represents only 11.01% of the total registered overseas voters falling under OVCS Posts

## PALACE ...FR. P. 1

rankings were based on eight criteria: uniqueness; wildlife; pristine conditions; soundtrack of nature; ease of entry; calm waters; unspoiled tranquility; and consistently idyllic.

Entalula Beach was commended for its "amazing seclusion" and "striking limestone cliffs that provide a stunning and dramatic backdrop to its white, sandy shores."

"This beach is less frequented than others in the area, offering visitors a chance to escape the usual tourist spots and truly immerse themselves in nature. The water is remarkably clear, providing excellent conditions for both swimming and snorkeling, where visitors can explore vibrant coral reefs just a short swim from the shore. Accessible only by boat, Entalula adds an element of adventure and exclusivity to any visit. Its striking

natural features and tranquil atmosphere make it a coveted spot for relaxation and appreciating nature," the website stated. Meanwhile, Bon Bon Beach on Romblon Island is "admired for its unique natural sandbar that stretches out to Bangug Island. Visible during low tide, this sandbar allows visitors to walk across the shallow, clear waters to the neighboring island."

The website further described the beach as "undeveloped, preserving its serene and unspoiled charm. The sand is fine and white, while the water is incredibly clear, providing lovely swimming conditions without big waves. As a lesser-known destination, Bon Bon Beach offers a quiet retreat compared to more tourist-heavy spots, so much so that often you could have this beach all to yourself." (PNA)

**A kind man benefits himself, But the cruel person brings trouble on himself.**

*Proverbs 11:17*

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## NNIC audits bollards at NAIA, redesigns drop-off zones

MANILA – Operator New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC) announced Tuesday it is conducting an audit of all security bollards at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) and will redesign the departure drop-off areas at Terminals 1 and 2 to enhance curbside safety.

The bollards project at the country's main gateway in 2019, apparently costing PHP8 million, became a subject of scrutiny after a vehicle crashed outside Terminal 1 on Sunday.

Sunday morning's vehicle crash at the departure entrance of Terminal 1 in Parañaque City killed a four-year-old girl and a 29-year-old male. Four others were injured, including the girl's mother.

The audit will determine where reinforcements, such as deeper foundations or structural upgrades, are needed for existing bollards, along with similar protective barriers, particularly in high foot-traffic areas, the NNIC said.

The San Miguel Corporation-led NNIC also said it is modifying the current diagonal passenger drop-off layout at Terminals 1

and 2 departure areas to a safer parallel unloading configuration.

"Together with the planned bollard reinforcements, this adjustment will provide an added layer of protection for passengers, well-wishers, airport staff and others who regularly access the terminal curbside," NNIC said in a statement.

The NNIC said it is treating it with the urgency it deserves.

"While safeguards were already in place, we recognize that there is always room to improve. We are taking concrete steps to help ensure incidents like this do not happen again," it said.

The NNIC assumed operations of NAIA in September 2024 through a public-private partnership aimed at modernizing and improving the country's main international gateway.

In an interview with the Philippine News

Agency on Tuesday, Manila International Authority general manager Eric Ines said the bollards were installed upon the recommendation of the Australian Security Audit.

He admitted that the installation of the bollards is not deep enough.

"Our current engineer said if deep excavation would be made (for the installation of bollards at departure area), it would go through the main arrival area," he explained.

Ines said that while the NNIC is addressing the problem, he ordered the deployment of additional police officers at the Terminal 1 departure area.

"Usually there is one or two policemen manning the area. I instructed the deployment of additional personnel, so that once in a while, they could check on the drivers, if they have parked correctly," he said. (PNA)

**"HAPPY ARE THOSE CONSCIOUS OF THEIR SPIRITUAL NEED, SINCE THE KINGDOM OF THE HEAVENS BELONGS TO THEM."**

*Matthew 5:3*

## Filipino pairs bow out of Beach Pro Tour Futures Nuvali

MANILA – Alas Pilipinas pair Sisi Rondina and Bernadeth Pons ended their run in the Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour Futures Nuvali after bowing to Beata Vaida and Francesca Ioana Alupei of Romania, 21-18, 19-21, 12-15, in Santa Rosa City, Laguna on Saturday.

Playing in their first beach volleyball tournament after focusing on indoor competition for the past two years, they fought hard but failed to overcome their rivals.

"I'm proud of our performance here. The preparation was really short, but we worked hard for this. Unfortunately, we fell short," Pons said.

"We have a lot to work on, I was looking to get that one kill block because that would have been huge in a close match like this. But this is still a good start and we'll do better in the next events," she added.

Rondina, 28, vowed to fight for medals in future tournaments, with the Thailand Southeast Asian Games in December as the main goal.

"I'm very grateful for the opportunity and we deeply appreciate the warm reception. So amazing! It just feels so bad that it ended early," she said.

Khylem Progella and Sofia Pagara also lost their quarterfinal match to Asian Volleyball Confederation Beach Tour Nuvali Open silver medalists Shaunna Polley and Olivia MacDonald of New Zealand, 17-21, 14-21.



**GOOD FIGHT.** Sisi Rondina (left) dives to keep the ball in play as teammate Bernadeth Pons looks on during their quarterfinal match in the Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour Futures Nuvali in Santa Rosa City, Laguna on Saturday (May 3, 2025). They lost to Beata Vaida and Francesca Ioana Alupei of Romania, 21-18, 19-21, 12-15. (Contributed photo)

The University of Santo Tomas duo had beaten Danieke Prins and Annemieke Driesen of the Netherlands, 23-25, 21-11, 15-10, and 2023 Australia Beach Volleyball Tour champions Vanuatu's Sherysyn Toko and Majabelle Lawac of Vanuatu, 21-16, 21-17.

Filipinos James Buytrago and Rancel Varga, silver medalists last year, fell to Eylon Elazar and Kevin Cuzmiov of Israel in the quarterfinals, 21-17, 21-15, of the men's division of the tournament organized by the Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF) and supported by the Philippine Olympic Committee and Philippine Sports Commission.

Buytrago and Varga earlier won over Australia's Finley Bennett and Jed Walker (21-17, 21-16) and Hungary's Domonkos Doczi and Bence Attila Streli (21-15, 21-19).

PNVF president Ramon Suzara hopes the top Philippine pairs can earn enough points to get a shot at

wild card places in the Beach Volleyball World Championships in Adelaide, Australia in November.

"Sisi and Bernadeth played very well, the chemistry is still there. Making the quarterfinals in this field is impressive," Suzara, who also serves as Asian Volleyball Confederation president, said.

Sakura Ito and Mayu Sawame of Japan conquered Ieva Dumbauskaite and Gerda Grudzinskaite of Lithuania, 21-17, 15-21, 15-13, Sunday to advance to the women's final against New Zealand's Polley and MacDonald, who beat Vaida and Francesca Ioana Alupei, 21-10, 21-19.

Eylon Elazar and Kevin Cuzmiov of Israel won over Stavros Ntallas and Dimitris Chatzinikolaou of Greece, 22-20, 21-11, to forge a men's title duel with Lubos Nemec and Adrian Petruf, who prevailed over Oskars Bulgacs and Matiss Graudins of Latvia, 25-23, 21-10. (PNA)