

# CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

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# PBBM: Gov't investing big, leveraging tech in education, skills dev't

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Thursday said the government is making massive investments in education and skills development while leveraging technology to bring training and employment opportunities closer to Filipinos.

Marcos made the statement as he led the

launch of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Skills Passport Mobile Application in San Juan City, calling the platform a key reform to modernize skills training and workforce development.

“Ito ngayon ang TESDA Skills Passport Mobile Applica-

tion. Isang hakbang ng pamahalaan upang mas mapalapit ang kasanayan at oportunidad sa bawat Pilipino (This is the TESDA Skills Passport Mobile Application. It is a step by the government to bring skills and opportunities closer to every Filipino),” Marcos said.

The President under-

## Megaworld sets P65-B capex for new and expansion projects

MANILA – Listed property developer Megaworld has earmarked PHP65 billion in capital expenditures for 2026 as it expands its township projects outside Metro Manila.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Wednesday, the company said the

funds will be used for land acquisition, development of existing projects, and high-value investments.

The company is set to launch 19 projects this year, including the Ilocandia Coastown in Ilocos Norte, the Upper Central in Cagayan de Oro City, and the

Nascala Coast in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Other projects are in the cities of Pasig, Taguig, Manila and in the provinces of (Turn to p. 2)



## Naic Police warn public against making bomb threats

NAIC, Cavite (PIA) — Making malicious bomb threats is punishable by law through fines and even imprisonment, the Naic Municipal Police Station (MPS) warned the public following reported bomb threats in five schools.

Last February 1, the Naic MPS reported bomb threat incidents in Cavite Community Academy, Centro de Naic National High School, Pueblo del Mar National High



School, Immaculate Concepcion School, and Cavite State University-Naic Campus.

In coordination with the Explosives and Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and K-9 units, the Naic MPS conducted comprehensive clearing operations and inspections in the

schools identified in the threat.

The local police reported that no explosive devices were found in any of the institutions.

In a statement, Police Colonel Ariel Red, Provincial Director for Cavite Provincial (Turn to p. 2)

scored that technology has become inseparable from daily life, noting that learning, communication and work have largely shifted to digital platforms.

He said education and skills development remain the administration's primary investments for long-term

growth, revealing that more than PHP1 trillion has been allocated for education this year.

“Ang edukasyon at pagsasanay ang puwan natin para sa isang maunlad na kinabukasan (Education and training are our investments for a prosperous

future),” he said.

He also announced that TESDA received nearly PHP20 billion in funding for 2026, the largest budget in the agency's history, to expand scholarships and skills training programs.

The TESDA Skills (Turn to p. 2)

## DSWD on 'Blue Alert' for TD Basyang



(DSWD photo)

MANILA – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is on Blue Alert status, with concerned regional offices monitoring developments as Tropical Depression

Basyang approaches northeastern Mindanao.

“The DSWD is now on Blue Alert to monitor the approaching weather disturbance,”

Assistant Secretary Irene Dumla of the (Turn to p. 2)

Disaster Response Management Group said in a statement on Wednesday.

“We have already notified all DSWD Field Offices (FO) along the track of the tropical cyclone to monitor the situation and coordinate with concerned local government units (LGUs) to ensure that all preparedness for response measures is in place.”

She assured that the DSWD is prepared to immediately distribute

## PBBM:... FR. P. 1

Passport Mobile Application serves as an all-in-one digital platform where users can store verified credentials, access training and scholarships, explore job opportunities, and locate TESDA-accredited institutions.

The app also uses identity verification and data security features, including Phil-Sys validation and blockchain technology, to ensure the integrity of credentials.

Marcos said the plat-

## High blood sugar raises risk of tooth decay: Japanese study

TOKYO – Sustained high blood sugar levels caused by diabetes and other factors raise the risk of tooth decay as sugars in the blood are transferred to saliva, University of Osaka researchers have found.

The research team led by lecturer Akito Sakanaka surveyed around 60 diabetic and nondiabetic people to examine how blood sugar affects oral health.

They collected test subjects' glandular saliva, or saliva freshly secreted from salivary glands, to analyze the movement of sugar and metabolites derived from blood.

The results showed that people with higher blood sugar levels are more likely to see transfers of glucose and fructose from their blood to their saliva and have tooth decay and dental plaque.

Moreover, an analysis of dental plaque showed an increase in bacteria that cause tooth decay and a decrease in bacteria that help maintain oral

form would help employers verify qualifications and allow workers to plan their training and career pathways more efficiently.

Thursday's event marked the President's first public engagement since he was diagnosed with diverticulitis on Jan. 21.

On doctors' advice, Marcos earlier limited his activities to meetings and paperwork inside Malacañang but continued to discharge his duties. (PNA)

## DSWD... FR. P. 1

food items to LGUs that will bear the brunt of Basyang.

“Currently, the DSWD has more than 3.5 million family food packs (FFPs) prepositioned in all its hubs, spokes, and last-mile warehouses across the country. Of which, the DSWD FO Caraga maintains more than 186,000 boxes of FFPs, DSWD FO Central Visayas has over 77,000 boxes of FFPs, while the DSWD FO Eastern Visayas has more than 161,000 boxes of FFPs,” she said.

She said the Luzon Disaster Resource Operations Center in Pasay City has more than 672,000 boxes of FFPs, while more than 317,000 boxes of FFPs are stationed at the Visayas Disaster Resource Operations Center in Mandaue City.

Dumlao added that the DSWD has more

## MEGAWORLD... FR. P. 1

Cavite, Laguna, Palawan, Iloilo and Cebu.

Residential, office, and retail projects in Bacolod, Iloilo, Pampanga, Cavite, and Palawan are also further developed since these “will help propel the growth of MREIT, Inc., Megaworld’s real estate investment trust, as more developments add to the list of future infusions that the company can tap,” the disclosure said.

Hospitality expansion is also in the pipeline, with five hotels now under construction, namely ArcoVia Hotel in Pasig City, Savoy Hotel Capital Town in San Fernando, Pampanga; Savoy Hotel Palawan and Paragua Sands, both in San Vicente, Palawan; and

cover relief and early recovery operations during disasters and calamities.

DSWD disaster response equipment, including its Mobile Command Centers and Mobile Kitchens, is also on standby in all regional offices, ready for deployment as needed, Dumlao said.

“As part of the marching orders of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the DSWD will continue to be proactive in its preparedness for response operations to guarantee that no Filipino family will go hungry during times of disasters,” she said.

“We also call on the public to prepare for the possible impacts of Basyang. Maintain your coordination with your LGUs and listen to their announcements for possible pre-emptive evacuation. Rest assured that

## NAIC ... FR. P. 1

Police, condemned the spread of bomb threats, especially in schools.

“We strongly condemn this irresponsible act of sowing fear and disrupting peace in the Municipality of Naic, especially among parents, students, and teachers. Their safety and peace of mind remain our top priority.”

The Cavite Provincial Anti-Cybercrime Unit is investigating said incidents and continues to identify and hold the individuals responsible for the bomb threat accountable.

Red also commended the school personnel who handled the bomb

threats and ensured that students and their parents remained calm during the ordeal.

“I also commend the school principals and teachers for remaining calm, vigilant, and united in ensuring that learners and their families were kept safe and reassured.”

Making bomb ‘jokes’ is a criminal offense under Presidential Decree No. 1727 (s. 1980). Violators may be penalized with imprisonment of up to five (5) years, a fine of up to P40,000, or both, at the discretion of the court. (PB-PIA CAL-ABARZON, Naic Municipal Police)

than PHP3.04 billion in its Quick Response Fund (QRF) lodged at the DSWD’s Central Office, which can

# CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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### OPPO marks 25th Founding Anniversary with tribute program for retirees

On January 23, the Office of the Provincial Population Officer (OPPO) celebrated its 25th Founding Anniversary with a meaningful Tribute Program for Retirees, themed “Silver Year of Service: Building Healthy Families, Building a Stronger Province” at the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City.

The program opened with a welcome message from Ms. Eloisa L. Comia, OPPO Department Head. In her message, Ms. Comia acknowledged the presence of the retirees, and OPPO personnel, commending their unwavering dedication in providing quality public service. She also expressed her heartfelt gratitude for being part of OPPO, sharing her personal career journey as an inspiring testament to commitment and growth within public service.

A video presentation honoring the retirees followed, highlighting their years of service and significant contributions to OPPO’s mission of building healthy families and communities. Messages to the retirees were delivered by current OPPO staff, expressing appreciation and gratitude for the retirees’ dedication and legacy.

Retirees were awarded with certificates in recognition and respect for their years of dedicated service with a serenade which further added warmth to the celebration. In return, the retirees also shared their appreciation, reflecting on their experiences and years of service.

The 25th founding anniversary celebration served not only as a tribute to OPPO’s retirees but also as a reaffirmation of the office’s continuing commitment to public service, honoring the past while strengthening its resolve to build healthier families and a stronger province.--- OPIO



### Another round of PGC’s health mission successfully held

The Provincial Government of Cavite successfully conducted another successful Medical and Dental Mission on January 27 at Brgy. Luzviminda I, Dasmariñas City, providing residents with free healthcare services.

The activity offered medical consultations to 437 patients and dental services to 51 patients, along with diagnostic tests such as FBS tests, ECG tests and X-ray examinations. The mission was graced by the presence of 4th Board Member Nickol Austria and Councilor Dr. Daisy Alvarez, underscoring the local government’s continued commitment to accessible healthcare for the community.--- opio



### Medical and dental mission serves residents of PasCam II, General Trias City

Residents of Brgy. Pasong Camachile II, City of General Trias, Cavite benefited from the Medical and Dental Mission conducted by the Provincial Government of Cavite at San Benito Subdivision on January 28, delivering essential healthcare services directly to the community.

The outreach activity was made possible through the collaborative efforts of AMIGA District Hospital, the General Trias City Rural Health Unit (RHU) Dental Team, and the General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH) team, together with the Office of the Provincial Governor (OPG) staff, ensuring efficient and accessible healthcare delivery.

A total of 428 residents received medical consultations, while 43 individuals availed of dental services. Diagnostic services conducted during the mission included electrocardiogram (ECG), X-ray procedures, and fasting blood sugar (FBS) tests, helping residents monitor and address potential health concerns.

The success of the activity was further strengthened by the active support of Punong Barangay Jowies S. Carampot and the assistance of Barangay Nutrition Scholars, ensuring the smooth delivery of services to constituents.

The initiative reflects the continuing commitment of the provincial government to uplifting the health and welfare of communities by bringing quality and accessible healthcare services closer to Caviteños.--- OPIO

their strong support for the activity, reinforcing the local government’s commitment to uplifting the health and welfare of their constituents.--- OPIO



### PGC’s medical and dental mission continue in Buho, Amadeo

In line with the Provincial Government of Cavite’s continued commitment to improving the health of Caviteños, another leg of the Medical and Dental Mission was successfully conducted in Barangay Buho, Amadeo on January 29, benefiting a total of 445 patients.

The initiative delivered the much-needed healthcare services, providing medical consultations, dental services and other diagnostic tests to the patients. Likewise, free medicines and vitamins were handed out.

Seventh District Board Member Aldrin Anacan, together with Amadeo Mayor Jojo Domingo and members of the Sangguniang Bayan, showed

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

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-842-25

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK,  
In its capacity as Assignee-Mortgagee  
of PNB Savings Bank,  
Mortgagee,

-versus-

SPS. GIL E. BARROZ, JR. AND  
MA. CECILIA V. BARROZ,  
Debtors/Mortgagors,

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK** in its capacity as Assignee-Mortgagee of PNB Savings Bank with business address at PNB Financial Center, Pres. Diosdado P. Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City against the Debtor/Mortgagor, **SPS. GIL E. BARROZ, JR. and MA. CECILIA V. BARROZ**, with residence and postal addresses at (1) 114 Reyes Circle St., 4th Estate Subd., Brgy. San Antonio, Parañaque City (2) Lot 3, Block 30 Phase 7B, Elliston Place, Brgy. Pasong Camachile 2, General Trias, Cavite and (3) #0114 (D) Reyes Cpd St., 4th Estate Subd., San Antonio, Parañaque City, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of October 30, 2025 amounts to **THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE PESOS and 96/100 (P3,533,871.96)**, Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest but exclusive of foreclosure expenses, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **March 4, 2026** 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 NO. 057-2021053642**

**LOT NO:3 Block No. 30 Plan No. Pcs-04-030042**

**Portion of: Lot 2506; Lot 2510-B, Psd-40866, LRC Record No. 5964**

**Location:** Barangay of Pasong Camachile 2, Municipality of Gen. Trias, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon

**Boundaries:**

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	SE	Road Lot 33, Pcs-04-030042
2-3	SW	Lot 2 Block 30, Pcs-04-030042
3-4	NW	Lot 22504, RS-04-004854
4-1	NE	Lot 4, Block 30, Pcs-04-030042

**AREA: FORTY EIGHT SQUARE METERS (48), 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 date and time, it shall be held on **March 18, 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, **February 4, 2026**.

JOSELITO L. ARANDA  
Sheriff IV

**Copy Furnished:**

**S.P. MADRID & ASSOCIATES**

Counsel for the Mortgagee  
17th Floor Chatham House Condominium  
Valero St., cor. V.A. Rufino Street, Makati City, M.M.

**SPS. GIL E. BARROZ, JR. & MA. CECILIA V. BARROZ**

(1) 114 Reyes Circle St., 4th Estate Subd., Brgy. San Antonio, Parañaque City  
(2) Lot 3, Block 30 Phase 7B, Elliston Place, Brgy. Pasong Camachile 2, Gen. Trias City, Cavite  
(3) #0114 (D) Reyes Cpd St., 4th Estate Subd., San Antonio, Parañaque City

## PH economy needs new growth drivers – economist

MANILA – An economist stressed the need to strengthen the Philippines' manufacturing and agriculture sectors to expand structural growth drivers and support economic recovery this year.

In a report, Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Senior Vice President and Lead Economist Jun Neri projected an economic rebound in the second half of the year, with full-year growth seen at 5.1 percent, below the government's 5 percent to 6 percent target.

Consumption remains the economy's main growth driver, supported by remittances from overseas Filipino workers and the business process outsourcing sector.

Neri explained that consumer spending grew only by 3.8 percent in the last quarter of 2025, the slowest since 2010 outside of the pandemic.

“Negative sentiment likely dampened the appetite for spending, while the relief from lower inflation failed to generate stronger consumption growth,”

**The one walking with the wise will become wise,  
But the one who has dealings with the stupid will fare badly.**  
*Proverbs 13:20*

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

**Publication:** Cavite News Publishing  
**Dates:** February 5, 12, & 19, 2026

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

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-764-25

**BDO UNIBANK, INC.,**  
Mortgagee,  
-versus-

**SPS. JEFFREY F. TARUC AND**  
**ROVELYN A. TARUC,**  
Debtors/Mortgagors,

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Mortgagee, **BDO UNIBANK, INC.**, with business address at 33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas, No. 12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City against the Debtors/Mortgagors, **SPS. JEFFREY F. TARUC and ROVELYN A. TARUC**, with postal addresses at (1) No. 0319 D. de Leon St., Tambo, Parañaque City (occupied by Mortgagors), and (2) Block 22, Lot 3, Phase 151 Amaia Scapes Cavite, Arnaldo Highway, Brgy. Santiago, Gen. Trias, Cavite (not occupied) to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of October 17, 2025 amounts to **TWO MILLION THREE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY PESOS and 95/100 (PHP2,317670.95)**, Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **March 4, 2026** 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 No. 057-2019027679**

A parcel of land (Lot 3, Blk. 22 of the consolidation & subdivision plan, Pcs-04-026-861, being a portion of Lots 2374-A, Fls-2049-D & Lot 2372 San Francisco de Malabon Estate & Lots 2374-B-1 & 2374-B-2, Psd-04-030238), situated in the Barangay of Santiago, Municipality of General Trias, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the SE., along line 1-2 by Road Lot 20; on the SW., along line 2-3 by Lot 2, Blk. 22, both of the consolidation & subdivision plan; on the NW., along line 3-4 by Lot 2368 San Francisco de Malabon Estate; and on the NE., along line 4-1 by Lot 5, Blk. 22 of the consolidation & subdivision plan. Beginning at a point marked “1” on plan. x x x containing an area of **FORTY SIX (46) SQUARE METERS, more or less x x x**

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **March 18, 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, **February 04, 2026**.

JOANNAH AVIGAIL C. TIMKANG  
Sheriff IV

**Copy Furnished:**

**BDO UNIBANK, INC.**  
**CONSUMER REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT**  
33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas  
No. 12, ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City

**SPS. JEFFREY F. TARUC and ROVELYN A. TARUC**  
(1) No. 0319 D. de Leon St., Tambo, Parañaque City  
(2) Blk. 22, Lot 3, Phase 151 Amaia Scapes Cavite, Arnaldo Highway, Brgy. Santiago, Gen. Trias, Cavite

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

**Publication:** Cavite News Publishing  
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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

**FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-763-25**

BDO UNIBANK, INC.,  
Mortgagee,

-versus-

SPS. JINKY M. PEÑAREDONDO AND  
JERSON A. PEÑAREDONDO  
Debtors/Mortgagors,

X-----X

**NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE**

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Mortgagee, **BDO UNIBANK, INC.**, with business address at BDO Corporate Center, 33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas, No. 12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City against the Debtor/Mortgagor, **SPS. JINKY M. PEÑAREDONDO and JERSON A. PEÑAREDONDO**, with residence and postal addresses at (1) Lot 21, Block 6, Bel Air Central Anyana, Brgy. Mulawin & Sanja Mayor, Tanza, Cavite (Vacant Lot) and (2) No. 2068 Gen. Malvar St., South Cembo, Taguig City (occupied by third party), to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of October 17, 2025 amounts to **TWO MILLION TWO HUNDRED THIRTY NINE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SEVEN PESOS and 31/100 (PHP2,239,707.31)**, Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **March 4, 2026** 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 NO. 057-2021053642**

**LOT NO:21 Block No. 6 Plan No. Pcs-04-032313**

**Portion of:** Consolidation and subdivision of Lots 1026-A & 1026-B both of (LRA) Psd-E2016007004 1027-DD-2 (LRA) Psd-E2016003356, 1029-A & 1029-B, both of (LRA) Psd-E2016004559, 1031, FRS-04-006030 & 1032-A & 1032-B, both of Psd-04-247824, LRC Record No. 6832

**Location:** Barangay of Mulawin & Sanja Mayor, Municipality of Tanza, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon

**Boundaries:**

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	NE	Lot 13, Block 6, Pcs-04-032313
2-3	NE	Lot 12, Block 6, Pcs-04-032313
3-4	SE	Lot 22, Block 6, Pcs-04-032313
4-5	SW	Road Lot 14 (8.00 m wide), Pcs-04-032313
5-1	NW	Lot 20, Block 6, Pcs-04-032313

**AREA: ONE HUNDRED (100) 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 date and time, it shall be held on **March 18, 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, **February 04, 2026**.

JOANNAH AVIGAIL C. TIMKANG  
Sheriff IV

**Copy Furnished:**

**BDO UNIBANK, INC.**  
CONSUMER REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT  
33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas  
No. 12, ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City

**SPS. JINKY PEÑAREDONDO & JERSON A.  
PEÑAREDONDO**  
(1) Lot 21, Blk. 6, Bel Air Central Anyana, Brgy. Mulawin & San-

## DICT chief calls for multisectoral push for nationwide connectivity

MANILA – Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Henry Aguda called for collective action from the private, public and civil sectors to ensure digital connectivity in every corner of the country.

During the Philippine Telecom Summit (PTS) 2026 in Pasay City on Thursday, Aguda dubbed the collective action “Digital Bayanihan,” and it is in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s directive to ensure that no Filipino is left offline.

“Government, telcos, investors, innovators, and local communities [must] work together, ensuring that every Filipino, from the highest mountains to the farthest islands, is connected,” he said.

He noted that connectivity is no longer just a technological issue but is now intrinsically connected to the economy, job market and inclusion that shapes investments, education, micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) growth, and delivery of government services.

The Digital Bayanihan program is supported by Republic Act 12234, or the “Konektadong Pinoy” law, and the construc-

tion of telecommunications infrastructure under the National Fiber Backbone (NFB) program.

In her message, National Telecommunications Commissioner Ella Blanca Lopez said multisectoral cooperation in building connectivity and the NFB program are key in bringing reliable internet service to underserved and remote areas.

“A true konektadong pinoy (connected Filipino) is achieved not by policy alone, but through sustained cooperation and collective responsibility,” Lopez said.

The PTS 2026 is a high-level, multi-stakeholder dialogue that brought together high-ranking executives in the telecommunications sector, as well as the country’s top government officials in telecommunications, including Marcos.

The summit seeks to emphasize the importance of partnership, collaboration and shared responsibility in advancing inclusive, reliable and accessible digital services for all Filipinos, aligned with the theme, “Where Policy, Infrastructure, and Investment Align to Power the Philippines’ Digital Future.” (PNA)



**INCLUSIVE CONNECTIVITY.** Department of Information and Communications Technology Secretary Henry Aguda speaks during the Philippine Telecommunications Summit (PTS) 2026 in Newport World Resorts in Pasay City on Thursday (Feb. 5, 2026). The PTS 2026 was a high-level, multi-stakeholder dialogue that brought together many high-ranking executives in the telecommunications sector, as well as the country’s top government officials in the sector, including President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (PNA photo by Raymond Carl Dela Cruz)

## Death toll from heavy snow in Japan hits 30



BAKU – Unusually heavy snow in Japan has been blamed for 30 deaths in the past two weeks, officials said on Feb. 3, as the government deployed troops to help clear huge drifts that left residents in the country’s north struggling to leave home, according to the Straits Times.

The authorities recorded up to 4.5m of snowfall in parts of the worst-hit northern region of Aomori, where many of the deaths took place, including that of a 91-year-old woman whose body was found beneath a 3m pile of snow outside her house.

A powerful cold air mass has resulted in heavy snow along the Sea of Japan coast in recent weeks, with some central and northern areas of the main Honshu island seeing more than double the usual volumes.

The central government has deployed troops to help the local authorities cope and Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi held a special Cabinet-level meeting on Feb. 3 to instruct ministers to do all they can to prevent further deaths and accidents.

Television images showed residents having to walk through trenches dug into the heavy snow, while drivers struggled to avoid their vehicles getting stuck.

Many local schools were closed and public transport services had been suspended in some areas.

The authorities must prioritize snow removal, a resident of Aomori city, the regional capital, told local broadcaster RAB on Feb. 3 after he helped to extract a stuck van. (AZERTAC)

ja Mayor, Tanza, Cavite  
(2) No. 2068 Gen. Malvar St., South Cembo, Taguig City

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## PSC chief Gregorio named PSA Executive of the Year

MANILA – Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chairperson John Patrick Gregorio will be honored as Executive of the Year in the Philippine Sports-writers Association (PSA) Awards Night on Feb. 16 at the Diamond Hotel Manila.

In a news release on Wednesday, the association said the 58-year-old former hotelier and sports executive under the MVP Group will join gymnast Carlos Edriel Yulo and tennis player Alexandra Eala, who will receive the Male and Female Athletes of the Year awards, respectively.

Gregorio, a proud alumnus of the University of the Philippines, has done so much since his appointment as PSC chief on July 1, 2025.

Under his leadership, the PSC approved the across-the-board increase of PHP5,000 to the monthly allowances of national athletes and coaches, and opened the doors of the track and field ovals at the Rizal Memorial Complex, Philsports, and the Teachers Camp in Baguio to the public.

The PSC also supported the hosting of major international



**EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR.** Philippine Sports Commission chairperson John Patrick Gregorio will be honored as Executive of the Year in the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) Awards Night on Feb. 16, 2026 at the Diamond Hotel Manila. He will be in the company of gymnast Carlos Edriel Yulo and tennis player Alexandra Eala, who will receive the Male and Female Athletes of the Year awards. (Contributed photo)

tournaments such as the FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship, the FIG Artistic Gymnastics Junior World Championships, and the FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup.

The former PBA chairman and president of the Philippine Rowing Association was named head of the National Sports Tourism-Interagency Committee, which was responsible for the staging of the Philippine Women's Open, the country's first WTA 125 event, where Eala served as the main attraction in her first major tournament.

Under Gregorio's watch, massive ren-

ovations were made at the Rizal Memorial Complex, including the tennis center, baseball pitch, media conference room, the Philsports track oval, and training facilities in Baguio.

As former POC secretary general, the eldest brother of coaches Ryan and Allan Gregorio, also made sure of a harmonious working relationship between the government sports agency and the country's Olympic governing body, identified grassroots talent outside of Metro Manila, and ensured the continuity in sports development initiatives.

Before his appointment to the PSC, Gregorio helped organize

## Eala pulls off epic comeback to reach Abu Dhabi Open quarterfinals

MANILA – Filipino Alexandra Eala rallied past Aliaksandra Sasnovich, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5), Wednesday night (Thursday morning in Manila) to reach the quarterfinals of the WTA 500 Abu Dhabi Open at Zayed Sports City International Tennis Centre in the United Arab Emirates.

Eala, currently World No. 45, pulled off a huge comeback from 0-4 in the third set, sending a predominantly Filipino crowd to their feet after reaching match point, 6-5.

Sasnovich forced a tie-break, but misplays allowed Eala to complete an epic comeback to win the match in almost three hours to the delight of her Filipino fans.

“I’m so happy. I can’t believe it,” Eala said in her on-court interview, then she acknowledged the crowd.

“Grabe! Napasubok talaga yung tibay ng dib-dib ko at sigurado ako na kayo din kaya congrats mga kababayan. Maraming salamat po (Awesome! My will was really tested and

the return of the Tour of Luzon under the firm DuckWorld Philippines.

He was one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men in 2003 for Tourism Management, first executive director of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP), the secretary general of the Association of Boxing Alliances in the Philippines (ABAP), and executive vice president of the MVP Sports Foundation. (PNA)



I’m sure you were too, so congratulations, my countrymen. Thank you very much.”

The Filipino tennis star will be up against No. 2 seed Ekaterina Alexandrova of Russia, who scored a 6-3, 6-0 victory over Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine to also move to the quarterfinals.

“These moments are moments I only have dreamed about. Selling out stadiums is insane and being in these matches in particular is just really the ones that kind of stick with you. And I’ve had a lot of them in the past year, so I’m really happy with this win,” Eala said.

Eala also advanced to the doubles quarterfinals with Janice Tjen of Indonesia after beating Leylah Fernandez of Canada and Kristina Mladenovic of France, 7-5, 3-6, 10-6, on Tuesday.

Sonay Kartal of Great Britain and Sara Bejlek of the Czech Republic defeated separate rivals to arrange a quarterfinal showdown.

Kartal, who ousted defending champion and No. 1 seed Belinda Bencic of Switzerland in the first round, prevailed over Renata Zarazua of Mexico, 6-0, 6-3.

Bejlek, on the other hand, stunned No. 7 seed Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia, 6-4, 6-3.

In other matches, No. 3 seed Carla Tauson of Denmark trounced Simona Waltert of Switzerland, 6-3, 6-1, and Hailey Baptiste of USA shocked compatriot and No. 4 seed Emma Navarro, 7-6 (6), 0-6, 6-3.

In the doubles category, Eala and Indonesian Janice Tjen will face No. 2 seeds Cristina Bucsa of Spain and Shuai Zhang of China in the quarterfinal round on Thursday.

Bucsa and Zhang downed twins Lyudmyla and Nadiia Kichenok of Ukraine, 6-1, 6-4.

The semifinal match between Sofia Kenin/Desirae Krawozyk and Ekaterina Alexandrova/Maya Jant of Australia is also scheduled on Thursday.

Kenin/Krawozyk walked over Ostapenko/Barbara Krejcikova of the Czech Republic, while Alexandrova/Maya Jant of Australia stunned third seeds Ellen Perez of Australia and Demi Schuurs of the Netherlands, 6-4, 6-1.

Fourth seeds Tereza Mihalikova of Slovakia and Olivia Nicholls of Great Britain marched to the Final Four following their 5-7, 7-6 (5), 10-8 victory over Andreja Klepac of Slovenia and Irina Khromacheva. (PNA)