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Farmers, fishers to receive P100-M fuel aid as fuel hikes loom

MANILA – Filipino farmers and fishers are expected to receive at least PHP100 million worth of fuel subsidy from the government amid a looming oil price hikes due to the ongoing tensions in the Middle East, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Wednesday.

In a press conference, DA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Ar-

nel de Mesa said the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has earlier approved a PHP150 million fund for the agency's fuel subsidy program.

Of the total, PHP100 million has already been disbursed to the DA and is ready for distribution.

Farmers and fishers will receive PHP5,000 and PHP3,000 worth

of one-time aid per person, respectively.

"Inaasahan nating 9,700 farmers 'yung paunang makakatanggap ng assistance (We expect 9,700 farmers to initially receive the assistance) under the fuel subsidy program," De Mesa said.

Eligible farmers are those officially registered to the government's Registry Sys-
(Turn to p. 2)

Volunteer groups scrub vandalized Cavite City historical markers clean

CAVITE CITY, Cavite (PIA) – Known for their pride in Cavite's role in history, Caviteños are wrapping up the National Arts Month with a series of restoration efforts of historical markers within the City of Cavite.

Last February 27, volunteers from the Cavite Historical Society, Cavite State University, Kabataang Kabitenyo and Temple Street Prim-



era Familia led the city-wide cleaning

21K working-class individuals to benefit from Cavite 4PH project

MANILA – At least 21,000 working-class individuals are expected to benefit from two housing projects under the Expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) said

Thursday.

In a news release, DHSUD reported that Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling and Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene Acosta joined Edgar Saavedra, chief executive officer of Megawide Construction Corporation, during the

groundbreaking rites for the projects being developed by PHI World Developers.

The two developments, located in Barangays Salitran and Paliparan, will consist of 26 multi-storey condominium towers that can generate more
(Turn to p. 2)



FUEL SUBSIDY. Farmers harvest their crop in Barangay Talipapa, Cabantuan City, Nueva Ecija on Aug. 12, 2025. The Department of Agriculture on Wednesday (March 4, 2026) said Filipino farmers and fishers will receive fuel aid amid the looming oil price hikes due to the ongoing tensions in the Middle East. (Photo courtesy of DA)

and restoration of historical markers within Samonte Park.

Led by the City Tourism Office and volunteers from the Manileños for Heritage Group, a non-government organization dedicated to restoring historical markers and monuments in Manila City, the cleaning and restoration activity included key historical items such as the 1872 Cavite Mutiny marker, Capital Marker, and the Ermita dePor-
(Turn to p.2)

4,277 new HIV cases logged in Q4 2025

MANILA – The Philippines recorded 4,277 newly reported HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) cases from October to December 2025, or an average of 47 new diagnoses per day.

In its latest HIV/AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) Surveillance Report, the Department of Health (DOH) Epidemiology Bureau said the new cases brought the to-

tal number of reported HIV infections in the country to 163,454 from January 1984 to December 2025.

Of the newly reported cases during the fourth quarter of 2025, 4,038 were men while 239 were women. The report also showed that 55 women were pregnant at the time of diagnosis.

The majority of new cases were among
(Turn to p.2)

FARMERS... FR. P. 1

tem for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSB-SA), and who either own or rent machinery for production.

For fishers, qualification includes registration in the RSBSA or Municipal Fishers' Registration System (FishR), owning boats weighing 3 gross tons or less, and being compliant with legal fishing methods and practices.

"Makakareceive silang PHP3,000 – ang unang makakatanggap ay (They will receive PHP3,000 – the initial recipients are) 15,800 fisherfolk," De Mesa said.

The remaining PHP50 million, meanwhile, will be released by the DBM once global oil prices hit USD80 per barrel due to prolonged tensions in the Middle East.

Overall, fuel subsidy per sector will be PHP75 million, which will benefit a total of 14,500 farmers and 23,800 fishers.

The DA official said fuel subsidies can be immediately released, provided they complete their registrations for the Interventions Monitoring Card (IMC).

Under the measure, eligible beneficiaries must be registered with the Development Bank of the Philip-

ines (DBP) and Fin-tech to secure their IMCs.

"Kukunan sila nung tinatawag na KYC, Know Your Client, tapos kapag napirmahan na 'yung kanilang registration forms, ipa-process and then ipa-release na 'yung IMC card nila (They will be asked for their KYC, Know Your Client, and then once their registration forms are signed, it will be processed, then their IMC cards will be released)," De Mesa said.

The PHP5,000 and PHP3,000 fuel aid will be directly disbursed to IMCs, which are locked-in for automatic payment transactions with fuel stations.

For rural areas with connectivity challenges, De Mesa said the DA will issue vouchers for fuel subsidies.

The DA will continue to distribute farm inputs like seedlings, fertilizers and machinery beginning on the next planting season to minimize the impact of Middle East tensions and global crude adjustments on local food production.

"These are all given for free, sa ating mga magsasaka (to our farmers)," he said. (PNA)

4277 NEW HIV... FR. P. 1

young people and those in their prime working years.

Data showed that 45 percent of the cases were aged 25 to 34, while 32 percent were aged 15 to 24.

Those aged 35 to 49 accounted for 19 percent, while individuals aged 50 and above comprised 2 percent. Less than 1 percent were younger than 15 years old.

In terms of geograph-

ic distribution, the National Capital Region recorded the highest number of cases with 899, or 21 percent of the total for the quarter.

This was followed by Calabarzon with 723 cases (17 percent), Central Luzon with 447 cases (10 percent), Davao Region with 270 cases (6 percent), and Central Visayas with 223 cases (5 percent). The rest of

21K... FR. P. 1

than 7,000 housing units under the Expanded 4PH Program.

Earlier, Saavedra committed to deliver 100,000 socialized housing units under the Marcos administration, signaling the private sector's strengthened participation in the government's flagship housing initiative.

Aliling described Megawide's involvement as a strong vote of confidence in the Expanded 4PH and the reforms being implemented by the DHSUD.

He noted that Megawide, a Quadruple A-rated construction firm, is among reputable private de-

VOLUNTEER... FR. P. 1

velopers supporting the program aimed at addressing the country's housing backlog.

Once completed, the Cavite projects are expected to provide decent, safe and affordable homes to thousands of working-class families.

The Pag-IBIG Fund is supporting both developments, which will feature amenities such as open parks, playgrounds, entrance and exit gates, parking areas and a clubhouse.

Also present during the ceremony were DHSUD Senior Undersecretary Eduardo Robles Jr. and other key officials from DHSUD and Pag-IBIG Fund. (PNA)

to help the City Government in restoring these markers and monuments to their former glory."

The Ermita de Porta Vaga has been repeatedly defaced and vandalized over the past year, which captured the attention of civil society organizations. (PB-PIA CALABARZON, City Government of Cavite)

95-95 targets of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), which aim that by 2030, 95 percent of all PLHIV know their status, 95 percent of those diagnosed receive sustained ART, and 95 percent of those on treatment achieve viral suppression.

The DOH continues to urge the public, especially those at risk, to undergo regular testing and access free treatment services available in government-accredited treatment hubs nationwide. (PNA)

The Philippines has adopted the global 95-

TESDA to roll out initiatives to empower more women

MANILA – In line with the observance of Women's Month, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) has lined up activities aimed to benefit women.

Among these is the start-up hub inside the TESDA Complex in Bicutan, Taguig, from March 9 to 31, that will "showcase the products of micro entrepreneurs who are graduates of technical vocational education and training," TESDA Public Information Office Director Floramel Joy Songsong told the Philippine News Agency in an interview on Wednesday.

Graduates of TESDA

Technology Institutions (TTIs) will also participate, enabling them to showcase and sell their products to TESDA personnel and learners.

The other activities include the "Serbisyo para kay Juana," which is available at the central office and some regional offices, and the health and wellness information program on March 25 at the main office that will feature breast cancer awareness forum and breast examination.

"Similar activities will be conducted in other regional and provincial offices as well as TTIs," Songsong said. (PNA)

DRAW CLOSE TO GOD AND HE WILL DRAW CLOSE TO YOU

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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Provincial Government of Quezon visits PGC

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) welcomed the delegation from the Provincial Government of Quezon for a benchmarking activity focused on best practices in workplace organization and environmental management.

Leading the welcome were Engr. Gilbert Gandia, together with several PGC department heads, who warmly received the visiting officials and employees. In his message, Engr. Gandia expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share Cavite's initiatives and underscored the importance of collaboration among local government units in promoting efficiency, innovation, and sustainable governance.

A key highlight of the activity was the presentation of the Workplace Organization Committee (WOC) accomplishments by Ms. Michelle F. Alcid, Quality Management Representative and Ms. Luzviminda Amparo, WOC Chairperson. They provided a comprehensive overview of the committee's strategies and initiatives in maintaining an orderly, efficient, and productive work environment within the provincial government. The presentation showcased the implementation of workplace organization standards, employee engagement efforts, monitoring mechanisms, and the positive impact of these initiatives on overall office performance and service delivery.

In addition, Mr. Aaron Macaspac of the Office of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (OPENRO) presented the province's Solid Waste Management Program. The succeeding discussions which was also joined by OPENRO head, Ms. Anabelle Cayabyab, highlighted PGC's policies, programs, and compliance efforts aligned with national environmental laws, as well as the province's initiatives in promoting waste segregation, recycling, and environmental awareness among communities and government offices.

As part of the benchmarking activity, the delegation from Quezon headed by Provincial Administrator Mr. Manuel M. Butardo visited selected offices within the PGC to observe firsthand the implementation of workplace organization practices. The visit provided an opportunity for meaningful exchange of ideas, clarifications, and sharing of experiences between the two provincial governments.

The activity concluded with strengthened ties and a shared commitment to continuously improve public service delivery through innovation, organization, and sustainable practices. Through the initiative, the Provincial Government of Cavite reaffirms its dedication to good governance and its openness to collaborative learning with fellow local government units.--- OPIO

Cavite Entrepreneurship Students Caravan sparks young business minds in Amadeo

More than 300 Grade 12 students gathered for an inspiring and knowledge-filled day during the Cavite Entrepreneurship Students Caravan dubbed "ABM BIZ Talks: Igniting the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs" held recently at Amadeo Integrated High School.

The activity was facilitated by the Office of the Provincial Cooperatives Development Officer (OPCDO) headed by Ms. Myrachel P. Cuadra, as part of its continuing commitment to nurture entrepreneurial awareness among the youth of Cavite.

Dr. Gloria T. Villela, Principal III – Amadeo Integrated High School warmly welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of equipping students with practical knowledge and skills that will help them become future-ready entrepreneurs. Meanwhile, Amadeo Mayor Jose R. Domingo inspired the students



In line with its continuing commitment to recognize the hard work and dedication of its workforce, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) successfully conducted the distribution of performance incentives under its Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) on February 23.

Held at the 2nd Floor Function Hall of the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City, a total of 226 qualified employees who also celebrated their birthday this February received a token as incentive. The initiative forms part of PGC's sustained Rewards and Recognition Program aimed at motivating personnel and fostering a culture of excellence in public service.

The distribution ceremony was attended by Board Member Morit Sison, Chairperson of the Committee on Personnel Affairs and Appointment and some members of the PRAISE Committee. Their presence underscored the Provincial Government's strong support for programs that promote employee welfare and professional growth.

The PRAISE program serves as a tangible expression of appreciation for employees who consistently demonstrate commitment, efficiency, and dedication in delivering quality services to the people of Cavite. Through the provision of performance incentives, the Provincial Government acknowledges the invaluable contributions of its human resources—the backbone of effective governance, proving that valuing its people remains at the heart of its governance.--- OPIO



through his message, encouraging them to explore business opportunities, embrace innovation, and contribute to the local economy of Amadeo and the entire province.

Highlighting the programs and services of OPCDO, Ms. Liza Gabatan, OPCDO Entrepreneurial Division Head, presented various initiatives designed to support aspiring entrepreneurs, including cooperative development assistance, training programs, and business-related services available to Caviteños. Her presentation introduced students to opportunities they may pursue as they transition from school to the business world.

Adding depth to the learning session, Dr. Leo D. Manansala, Vice Dean – College of Professional & Graduate Studies, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, delivered an engaging lecture on Entrepreneurial Mindset, where he discussed the importance of creativity, resilience, risk-taking, and adaptability in building successful ventures. He encouraged students to shift their perspective from merely seeking employment to becoming job creators in the future.

An open forum followed the discussion, allowing students to actively participate by raising questions and sharing insights. The interactive exchange created a dynamic learning environment and further strengthened the students' understanding of entrepreneurship.

Through the initiative, the Provincial Government of Cavite continues to empower the next generation—igniting passion, building confidence, and shaping young Caviteños into future entrepreneurs ready to take on the challenges of the modern business landscape.--- OPIO

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

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-015-26

CHINA BANK SAVINGS, INC.
Mortgagee,
-versus-

SPOUSES GEOFFREY G. SABELALA
AND AIRA B. SABELALA,
Mortgagors/Barrowers

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, SPOUSES GEOFFREY G. SABELALA and AIRA B. SABELALA, with residence and postal addresses at (1) 219 F, Brgy. St Purok 6-A, Brgy. Lower Bicutan, Taguig City; (2) 64 VP Cruz St. Purok 05, Brgy. Lower Bicutan, Taguig City (3) 42 Barangay St., Purok 06-A, Brgy. Lower Bicutan, Taguig City, and (4) Blk. 13, Lot 10, Westwood Phase 3, Brgy. Pasong Camachile, General Trias, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness wick as of January 15, 2026 amounts to **ONE MILLION SEVENTY-ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR PESOS and 79/100 (Php1,071,994.79)**, 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 **March 25, 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. 057-2022007553

Lot No.10 Block No. 13 Plan No. Pcs-04-031444
Portion of: Block 17, Pcs-04-029302; Lot 1930, FRS-04-005921; Lot 1931, FRS-04-005433; Lot 3049, SFDM Estate, Decree No. 4270, LRC Record No. 5964
Location: Barangay of Tapia, City of Gen. Trias, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon

Boundaries:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	NE	Lot 12, Block 13, Pcs-04-031444
2-3	SE	Road Lot 17, Pcs-04-031444
3-4	SW	Lot 8, Block 13, Pcs-04-031444
4-1	NW	Lot 9, Block 13, Pcs-04-031444

Area: FIFTY (50) 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 **APRIL 8, 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 27, 2026.

ANDRES B. ESPINA
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:
BUENAVENTURA PAGTAKHAN CONSTANTINO MANGROBANG ROSELL AND ASSOCIATES

Counsel for the Mortgagee
12th Floor, China Bank Savings Inc. Building
314 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

SPS. GEOFFREY G. SABELALA & AIRA B. SABELALA
(1) 219 F, Brgy. St Purok 6-A, Brgy. Lower Bicutan, Taguig City
(2) 64 VP Cruz St. Purok 05, Brgy. Lower Bicutna, Taguig City
(3) 42 Barangay St. Purok 06-A, Brgy. Lower Bicutan, Taguig City,
(4) Blk. 13, Lot 10, Westwood Phase 3, Brgy. Pasong Camachile, General Trias, Cavite

Published at: Cavite News Publishing
Dates: March 5, 12, & 19, 2026

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to 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-054-26

CHINA BANK SAVINGS, INC.
Mortgagee,
-versus-

SPS. ARTURO A. SOLIS AND ANNALYN U. SOLIS
Mortgagors/Barrowers

x-----x

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TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2024004437

Lot No.40 Block No. 17 Plan No. Pcs-04-248018
Portion of: Block 20, Pcs-04-030746
Location: Barangay of Tanauan, Mun. of Tanza, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon

Boundaries:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	SE	Lot 37, Block 17, PSD-04-248018
2-3	SW	Lot 41, Block 17, PSD-04-248018
3-4	NW	Road Lot 9, PSD-04-248018
4-1	NE	Lot 38, Block 17, PSD-04-248018

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 **APRIL 8, 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 27, 2026.

JOANNAH AVIGAIL C. TIMKANG
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:

BUENAVENTURA PAGTAKHAN CONSTANTINO MANGROBANG ROSELL AND ASSOCIATES

Counsel for the Mortgagee
12th Floor, China Bank Savings Inc. Building
314 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

SPS. ARTURO A. SOLI AND ANNALYN U. SOLIS,
(1) Lot 13, Blk. 1, Suburban Heights, Brgy. San Juan, Cainta, Rizal
(2) Block 17, Lot 40, Phirst Park Homes Tanza, Ph3, Batch 3, Brgy. Tanuan, Tanza Cavite

Published at: Cavite News Publishing
Dates: March 5, 12, & 19, 2026

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**Oil supply adequate amid
Mideast conflict – DOE chief**

MANILA – Energy Secretary Sharon Garin on Tuesday assured the public that domestic fuel supply remains adequate and measures are now being undertaken along with oil players to ensure stable supply amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

In a briefing at the Department of Energy (DOE) office in Taguig City, Garin said oil companies are compliant on the minimum of 15 days’ supply reserve, thus “we have enough supply.”

She said the DOE does not direct the oil companies to have one-year supply as this will be “very expensive” and additional supply requires more areas to store the fuel.

Garin said oil companies can easily increase their supply since it also takes a week to get their orders from the Middle East.

“But they have more than that. They don’t only have double the minimum requirement, they have three times the minimum requirement,” she added.

Garin said the upticks in global oil prices, with futures touching the USD80 per barrel Monday and declined to around USD79 Tuesday, were expected, but providing projections on how high these will increase is not needed since trading is done on a daily basis and price volatility is currently high.

She said DOE officials had a meeting with oil firms Monday and another one is set Wednesday to determine contingency plans.

“We are hoping for the best but we are preparing for the worst,” she added.

Garin said around 98

percent of crude oil domestic supply comes from the Middle East, while the balance of 2 percent comes from Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam.

The supply from the Middle East is currently experiencing disruptions due to closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

During the same briefing, DOE Director Rino Abad of the Oil Industry Management Bureau (OIMB), said oil companies are used to the need to increase supply as the conflict between Iran and Israel, among others, is not new anymore.

“In fairness to the oil companies, they agreed (to increase their supply) before. So, we had already that experience... So, we’ll just reinforce again that same kind of arrangement with the oil companies tomorrow,” he said.

Abad said they will also compute the possible domestic price hikes for next week starting Wednesday, adding that the full amount will be determined on Saturday when this week’s trading is done.

“And each company will have to decide if the standard increase will be done in two or three implementation(s). But what we want is at least the reasonable adjustment will be done on a weekly basis,” he added.

In an interview after the briefing, Abad told the Philippine News Agency they are already considering tapping, through the private oil companies, other areas for oil imports, such as Africa, Canada and other South American countries. (PNA)

Asian nations evacuate citizens, PH gov't liabilities hit P18.13 trillion as of January 2026

ISTANBUL – Governments across the Asia-Pacific region on Tuesday moved to evacuate citizens, secure energy supplies and monitor financial markets as an escalating war in the Middle East rattled global oil trade and sent regional stocks plunging.

China, Pakistan, India and Australia were among the countries rushing to assist nationals stranded in the region as airspace closures and security concerns disrupted travel.

While China evacuated over 3,000 of its citizens from Iran, an Air India flight from the United Arab Emirates brought home 149 passengers and eight crew members, marking the first Indian carrier arrival in New Delhi since widespread disruptions to Middle Eastern airspace began.

Regional tensions escalated Saturday following a joint US-Israeli military campaign against Iran, killing several senior Iranian officials, including Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

Tehran responded with drone and missile attacks targeting US-linked sites in Gulf countries, causing multiple fatalities -- including the deaths of six US service members -- and injuring many others.

Air and maritime routes in the region, including those through the Strait of Hormuz, have since been disrupted.

At least six people from Asia have been reported killed since the conflict intensified Saturday -- one each



from China, Pakistan, Nepal and India and two from Bangladesh. An Indian national was killed aboard a vessel near Oman, while five others died in the UAE.

Thousands stranded
Some 115,000 Australians are currently in the Middle East, ABC News reported and the country's Foreign Minister Penny Wong said the government was in discussions with airlines to help stranded citizens.

Wong acknowledged that evacuation efforts would remain difficult while airspace across much of the region remains closed.

Pakistan has evacuated over 650 of its citizens from Iran over the past two days.

Stock markets plunge

Stock markets across the region fell sharply amid fears of prolonged disruption to energy supplies. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 closed down 3.06 percent as investors reacted to rising geopolitical tensions.

In South Korea, shares plunged more than 7 percent to close at 5,791.91, while the local currency weakened sharply, according to Yonhap News.

South Korea's National Intelligence Service launched a round-the-clock emergency

response team to monitor developments and assist with evacuating nationals from the region. Officials said the agency is also tracking risks to supply chains and industries, including energy, logistics, defense manufacturing and shipbuilding, following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Indonesia has also urged caution for travelers, with Transportation Minister Dudy Purwagandhi calling on airlines operating to or through the Middle East to heighten vigilance as tensions between the United States, Israel and Iran disrupt air routes, according to Antara News Agency.

Indonesia's Deputy Human Rights Minister Mugiyanto said more than 100 Indonesian citizens were stranded at Hamad International Airport in Doha, while dozens or hundreds more remain stuck in Dubai and other Gulf cities.

Energy security

Energy security has become another major concern for Asian economies.

Pakistan has moved to stabilize domestic fuel markets by seeking alternative supply routes, even as the South Asian nation's oil stocks remain sufficient for only about 28 days. Two crude car-

MANILA – The Philippine government's total liabilities reached PHP18.13 trillion at end-January 2026, up 2.14 percent from end-2025, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) reported Wednesday.

Domestic debt accounts for 68 percent, while foreign currency-denominated loans make up 32 percent.

BTr said the rise in debt "reflects the government's strategy of frontloading domestic and external issuances to secure concessional financing terms ahead of global market uncertainties that can further raise interest costs."

"With domestic debt comprising 68 percent of the total debt stock, exposure to foreign exchange risks is effectively limited," it added.

Total domestic debt reached PHP12.32 trillion, up 1.72 percent from the previous month.

BTr attributed the PHP208.05-billion rise in domestic financing to the government's "commitment to prioritize domestic sources of funding, providing Filipinos with a safe and sta-

ble investment option while supporting national development."

BTr traced the rise to "the issuance of new global bonds and net availments of official development assistance from international partners, which contributed P191.02 billion to the increase in external obligations." On Jan. 21, the gov-



ment sold USD2.75 billion in fixed-rate global bonds — the largest issuance in over three years — with tenors of 5.5, 10, and 25 years, to international investors.

The increase in foreign debt was also due to the peso's depreciation against the U.S. dollar, adding around PHP26.61 billion. Amid the rise in foreign debt, BTr said the recent external borrowings "was a strategic and timely approach to capitalize on a narrow window of favorable international credit conditions."

"The successful issuance of the triple-tranche Global Bonds highlighted sustained investor confidence in the Philippines' creditworthiness and long-term growth prospects," the bureau added. (Joann Villanueva/PNA)

On Jan. 21, the gov-

On Jan. 21, the gov-

The island imports energy from more than 10 countries.

The conflict has also hit global energy production. QatarEnergy halted liquefied natural gas production after Iranian drone attacks struck some of its facilities.

Qatar is a key LNG supplier for several Asian economies.

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Amid the rise in foreign debt, BTr said the recent external borrowings "was a strategic and timely approach to capitalize on a narrow window of favorable international credit conditions."

"The successful issuance of the triple-tranche Global Bonds highlighted sustained investor confidence in the Philippines' creditworthiness and long-term growth prospects," the bureau added. (Joann Villanueva/PNA)

The widening conflict and disruption to shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz -- a channel that handles roughly one-fifth of global oil trade -- have raised fears of prolonged volatility in energy prices and financial markets across Asia. (Anadolu)

The widening conflict and disruption to shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz -- a channel that handles roughly one-fifth of global oil trade -- have raised fears of prolonged volatility in energy prices and financial markets across Asia. (Anadolu)

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PH athletes urged to limit travels amid Mideast tensions

MANILA – As the situation continues to worsen in the Middle East, the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) called on all the national teams to limit their travels, especially in countries affected by the ongoing tensions.

In an advisory on Wednesday, PSC chairman Pato Gregorio urged the national athletes not to make the flight to the Middle East if there are no important matters to attend to in the region.

“In view of the escalating conflict in the Middle East and its potential impact on international air routes and transportation corridors, the Philippine Sports Commission strongly discourages national teams, athletes, and sports personnel from undertaking non-essential travel abroad at this time,” Gregorio said.

He cited some cases of national athletes who found themselves stuck either in the Middle East or on the road to the said region, as many flights were canceled due to the heated encounters, highlighted by an attack by American and Israeli

military forces in Iran.

One situation was the case of the Philippine chess team at the Russian Chess Crown Standard A Tournament in Moscow.

Led by bronze medalist Mark Bacojo, who got his first norm in the road to being a grandmaster in the process, the squad got stuck in the Russian capital after its connecting flight back home from Abu Dhabi was canceled due to the closure of the United Arab Emirates' airspace.

The PSC saved the day, and the woodpushers booked a flight back to the Philippines on Tuesday.

“We extend our profound appreciation to PSC Chairman Hon. John Patrick C. Gregorio for his leadership and prompt attention to the matter. Our heartfelt thanks as well to Commissioner-in-Charge Hon. Edward L. Hayco for closely monitoring the situation and ensuring that solutions were acted upon without delay, together with Ma'am Anna Faye Lee, Executive Assistant, for her invaluable assistance in facilitating the reroute arrangements and closely coordinating the necessary travel adjustments. We

are equally grateful to Atty. Guillermo B. Iroy, Executive Director, whose coordination and behind-the-scenes efforts greatly facilitated the rerouting arrangements,” the National Chess Federation of the Philippines wrote in a statement.

Gregorio then advised all the national sports associations to reschedule their respective athletes' upcoming overseas trips out of safety concerns.

“National sports associations, team officials, and athletes are advised to reassess or postpone planned overseas travel on the basis of risk, safety, and necessity. The PSC continues to monitor developments and will issue further updates as needed. The safety and welfare of our athletes remain our highest priority,” Gregorio's memo read. (PNA)

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

Proverbs 28:1

NCRAA willing to include boxing, taekwondo in calendar



MANILA – The National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) is open to the suggestion of including Olympic sports such as boxing and taekwondo to its calendar.

Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chairperson John Patrick Gregorio, who graced the league's opening ceremony on Wednesday at the Dasmariñas Arena in Cavite, challenged the NCRAA to broaden its scope.

“I hope you will consider Olympic sports like boxing and taekwondo. PSC is here to help and to help us find someone who can win a gold medal at the Olympics in LA (Los Angeles 2028) and 2032 Brisbane,” said Gregorio in a news release Thursday.

The NCRAA has historically featured basketball, volleyball, cheerleading, futsal, table tennis and badminton.

NCRAA General Manager Buddy Encarnado responded with optimism, affirming the league's readiness to adapt.

“We are willing to hold boxing and taekwondo tournaments

this season, and with the help of the PSC, I believe it can be done,” he said.

Prior to the opening ceremony, the DL-SU-D Junior Patriots edged Emilio Aguinaldo College-Cavite Junior Vanguards, 76-75, with Dwayne Marasigan sinking clutch free throws in the dying seconds.

Meanwhile, the DL-SU-D Patriots defended home court with a 91-77 win over the AIMS Blue Sharks, while the University of Luzon Golden Tigers opened strong against Emilio Aguinaldo College-Cavite Generals in the marquee matchup.

The NCRAA's move aligns with trends in other collegiate leagues. The National Collegiate Athletic Association has adopted boxing, golf, weightlifting and gymnastics in its ongoing Season 101, while the University Athletic Association of the Philippines is set to stage a golf tournament for the first time.

By embracing Olympic sports, the NCRAA positions itself not only as a hub of regional competition but also as a pipeline for

national athletic development.

The Arena stands inside the sprawling, 11.5-hectare Dasmariñas Sports Complex, a modern, world-class athletic and event venue located in Barangay Burol Main.

It was developed as part of a massive city project—often called the “Dasmariñas University” or “Academic and Sports District,” which also includes the 5,000-seat indoor Arena, track and field oval, boxing gym, the new City Hall, a public university (KLD), and a grandstand. It was designed to support 16 different sports, including badminton, futsal, fencing, and swimming (with a pool complex included in the master plan).

With basketball and volleyball continuing as flagship events, the NCRAA's openness to Olympic sports signals a transformative season.

The league's embrace of boxing and taekwondo could mark the beginning of a new era, one where collegiate athletes not only chase championships but also dream of Olympic glory. (PNA)