

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

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Marcos gets emergency powers to cut, suspend oil taxes

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday signed into law Republic Act 12316, granting the executive emergency powers to temporarily suspend or reduce excise taxes on petroleum products in response to surging

global oil prices due to the Middle East conflict.

The measure, a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 1823 and House Bill No. 8220, takes effect immediately upon publication.

It amends Section 148 of the Nation-

al Internal Revenue Code of 1997, allowing the President, in coordination with the Department of Energy (DOE) and upon recommendation of the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), to adjust
(Turn to p. 2)

DSWD to register 493K families as new 4Ps beneficiaries

MANILA – Around 493,000 families from poor households based from the 2026 Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) list will be registered as new beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) after a stringent validation and verification process.

This is in line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to ensure that all poor Filipino families receive appropriate

government intervention.

The DSWD is set to begin the registration process within March after receiving the official CBMS' nationwide list of poor and near-poor families from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

“This is good news for all the qualified families who also seek to be included in 4Ps to help them in the health and education of their children, as

well in their daily expenses. We are also grateful to PSA for the CBMS list of poor and near-poor. This will be our basis in targeting new beneficiaries of the program,” DSWD spokesperson Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlaog said in a news release on Wednesday.

With the passage of Republic Act No. 11315, or the Community-Based Monitoring System Act, the DSWD has committed to institutionalize the



(Photo courtesy of DSWD)

use of the CBMS as its
(Turn to p.2)

DFA: No new Filipinos casualties in Middle East conflict

MANILA – The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Monday said it continues to closely monitor developments in the Middle East, assuring the public that no Filipinos have been reported injured amid recent incidents.

In a statement, the

DFA said authorities in Iraq have extended the closure of the country's airspace for all flights for 72 hours, from March 22 to March 25, while Iraqi Airways has suspended operations until April 2.

It added that no Filipino was harmed in

the eight attacks targeting a United States diplomatic and logistics facility at Baghdad International Airport on Sunday.

Iraqi authorities are also granting seven-day transit visas to stranded foreign nationals to facilitate their safe return, while

land borders with Türkiye, Kuwait and Jordan remain open.

In Bahrain, the Philippine Embassy in Manama reported that 89 Filipinos have safely arrived in Saudi Arabia as of March 20, with 79 set for repatriation to the Philippines, seven returning



CONFLICT. Smoke rises after air strikes in Tehran, Iran on March 13, 2026. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Monday (March 23) said it continues to closely monitor developments in the Middle East, assuring the public that no Filipinos have been reported injured amid recent incidents. *(Anadolu photo)*

via separate flights, other Gulf Cooperation and three bound for
(Turn to p.2)

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standardized targeting system in identifying the 4Ps beneficiaries.

This policy direction represents a key reform in ensuring that the selection of poor households is guided by a unified, data-driven, and transparent mechanism.

All households included in the new list will still undergo a thorough three-step process –pre-registration, registration proper, and post-registration phase.

During the pre-registration phase, a list of prospective beneficiaries will be posted for 15 days by respective barangays. This process aims to prevent duplication, ensure eligibility, and verify the accuracy and existence of listed beneficiaries.

The identification of the target beneficiaries will be authenticated through the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys), or National ID, while social workers will conduct assessments to confirm each family's eligibility.

"The names from the CBMS are still not considered as the final list of new 4Ps beneficiaries. Of course, we still need to assess and verify the status of these families with the help of our social workers," Dumlao said.

The DSWD's Field Office IV-A (Calabarzon) has begun validating around 11,000 families as potential beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, the DSWD's FO 12 (Soccsksargen) has started distributing lists of po-

tential beneficiaries to local chief executives (LCEs) for validation in coordination with 4Ps City and Municipal Operations Offices (MOOs).

Other regions have also commenced their respective validation processes.

After validation at the pre-registration phase, the registration of new beneficiaries will proceed.

"Once validated and registered, they will attend an orientation para malaman nila kung ano ang kanilang responsibilidad at benepisyong matatanggap sa programa (to know their responsibilities and the benefits they will receive under the program). There will also be signing of oath of commitment to ensure understanding of the program conditionalities, alongside truthful disclosure," Dumlao said.

For the post-registration phase, the new 4Ps beneficiaries will be notified by their municipal or city links on the next steps such as opening of their payroll accounts and other important announcements.

As more beneficiaries prepare to graduate from the program this year, the inclusion of newly qualified families will enable the 4Ps to continue extending support to those who need it most.

The 4Ps is the government's flagship poverty reduction initiative and conditional cash transfer (CCT) program.

It provides financial assistance to eligible

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tion Council countries.

Meanwhile, in the United Arab Emirates, the Philippine Consulate General in Dubai facilitated the repatriation of 50 stranded Filipino tourists on March 18 through a chartered flight organized by the Department of Migrant Workers.

A total of 317 repatri-

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excise taxes when the average Dubai crude oil price based on Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), reaches or exceeds USD80 per barrel for one month preceding issuance of the order.

The law permits both full suspension and partial reduction of excise taxes on specific petroleum products and limits the exercise of this authority until Dec. 31, 2028.

Under the act, oil companies are required to submit monthly cost-component reports of petroleum products to the DOE, which will forward them to Congress and DBCC.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs are also mandated to provide monthly updates for value-added tax computation purposes.

RA 12316 requires the President to submit

households to support the health, nutrition, and education of children aged 0–18, with the goal of breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty through sustained investment in human capital. (PNA)

ates boarded the flight, including 153 overseas Filipino workers, 114 dependents and 50 tourists.

Filipinos in affected areas are advised to remain vigilant, avoid restricted locations and coordinate with Philippine posts for assistance and updates. (PNA)

reports to both houses of Congress detailing the factual basis and policy objectives of the suspension or reduction, the estimated foregone revenues and expected social benefits, as well as the likely impact on inflation, fuel prices and the broader economy.

Earlier, Marcos said the executive will have to study "when is the best time to use that new authority," citing conditions within the law that have to be satisfied.

Marcos' signature comes amid rising global oil costs and follows his recent declaration of a national energy emergency to allow faster government intervention in supply and pricing.

Officials said the law will provide authorities more tools to stabilize domestic fuel prices and mitigate inflationary pressures on households and businesses. (PNA)

LET YOUR WORDS ALWAYS BE GRACIOUS, SEASONED WITH SALT, TO THAT YOU WILL KNOW HOW YOU SHOULD ANSWER EACH PERSON
Colossians 4:6

PAGASA announces start of dry season

MANILA – The weather bureau announced on Monday the termination of the northeast monsoon and the start of the warm and dry season.

Generally fair weather will prevail across the country and gradually, warmer days and isolated thunderstorms are expected, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said.

Some areas in Northern Luzon may still experience occasional northeasterly winds, it noted.

The bureau, in a statement, urged the public to take precautionary measures to minimize heat stress and optimize the use of water for personal and domestic consumption.

In a press conference, PAGASA Administrator Nathaniel Servan-

do said the bureau will continue to monitor and provide updates on the expected high heat indices not just in Metro Manila but also in other parts of the country.

Heat index refers to the temperature felt by the human body when relative humidity is combined with actual air temperature.

PAGASA forecasts most parts of the country, especially in Northern and Central Luzon, to experience high temperatures in April through May.

Senior weather specialist Joseph Basconillo said an extreme temperature of 40.5 °C may be experienced in Northern Luzon in May.

Hot and humid weather, lesser rains are expected until from April to May amid the dry season, he said. (PNA)

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Cavite stakeholders join Trabaho Para sa Bayan 2025–2034 Action Planning

Stakeholders from various sectors in the province of Cavite participated in the Trabaho Para sa Bayan (TPB) 2025–2034 Action Planning with Cavite Stakeholders conducted on March 4 at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City.

The activity was facilitated by the Department of Economy, Planning and Development – Regional Office IV-A in coordination with partner agencies and local stakeholders to discuss strategies and initiatives aimed at strengthening employment generation and workforce development in the region.

The action planning served as a venue for representatives from national government agencies, local government units, academe, private sector partners, and other stakeholders to share insights and provide inputs in crafting localized strategies aligned with the Trabaho Para sa Bayan Plan 2025–2034.

During the activity, participants discussed the labor market situation and environmental trends, identified key challenges affecting the workforce, and proposed priority programs that will support job creation, skills development, and inclusive economic growth in Cavite.

The Trabaho Para sa Bayan Plan, established under Republic Act No. 11962, serves as the country’s master plan for employment generation. It aims to promote productive and decent employment opportunities by strengthening collaboration among government agencies, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

Through the action planning workshop, Cavite stakeholders were able to contribute valuable inputs that will help ensure that regional and local employment initiatives are aligned with the national employment strategy, further reinforcing the commitment of partner institutions in advancing sustainable job opportunities for Filipinos.--- OPIO



Mendezeños availed free healthcare services

Continuing its commitment to provide accessible healthcare services to Caviteños, the Provincial Government of Cavite organized a medical and dental mission program serving residents of Barangay Panungyan II, Mendez recently.

Rendered by the medical and dental professionals from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, residents availed free medical consultation and dental ser-



PGC’s medical and dental mission rolls out to Barangay Col. P. Elises, GMA

Recently, the Provincial Government of Cavite successfully conducted a medical and dental mission in Barangay Col. P. Elises, GMA, serving a total of 442 patients.

Residents benefited from free medical check-ups, dental services, and diagnostic procedures such as fasting blood sugar (FBS) tests, electrocardiogram (ECG), and X-ray examinations. These services helped the medical team from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer assess the health conditions and concerns of the community.

Following the consultations, staff from the Office of the Provincial Governor distributed the necessary medicines and vitamin supplements to the patients.

Fifth District Board Member Aidel Paul Belamide graced the activity and expressed his appreciation to the medical and dental mission team for extending their services to the constituents of Barangay Col. P. Elises.

The Provincial Government of Cavite remains committed to promoting health and preventive care for communities across the province.



Local Recruitment Activity provides job opportunities to Caviteños

The Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OP-PESM) facilitated a Local Recruitment Activity in partnership with Yazaki EDS Manufacturing Inc. on March 6, at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City, providing employment opportunities for Caviteño jobseekers.

A total of 100 applicants participated in the recruitment activity, composed of 68 production applicants and 32 non-production applicants. The activity aimed to connect jobseekers with potential employment while supporting companies in sourcing qualified workers within the province.

During the screening process, all 68 production applicants successfully passed the qualifying examination, demonstrating their readiness to fill available positions in the company’s production workforce. Meanwhile, the 32 non-production applicants completed the initial screening and will have a separate qualifying examination as part of the next phase of the recruitment process.

vices, serving 261 and 43 patients, respectively.

In addition, 46 patients availed fasting blood sugar test, while 34 underwent electrocardiograms for further diagnostics.

Afterward, the team from the Office of the Provincial Governor distributed prescribed medicines and vitamins to the residents.

Vice Mayor Raygan Dimapilis and Councilor Rey Dimapilis joined the activity, expressing their gratitude and support for the services extended to Mendezeños.--- OPIO

Gov't population services continue amid energy conservation protocols

TAGAYTAY CITY, Cavite (PIA) — Population services in the region will continue as the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) adopts alternative work schemes and other energy-saving measures in the government.

Marilyn Ogaya, Regional Director for CPD CALABARZON, in an interview last March 18 assured that the agency is adopting various work schemes to ensure that their service will continue while optimizing government resources.

“Tinitingnan namin kung anong work scheme ang pina-ka-favorable sa buong agency. Nag-e-experiment kami para malaman kung ano’ng mas favorable dahil isang work scheme lang ang ipapatupad sa bansa.”

Ogaya further noted that all CPD offices in the country will follow one work scheme, depending on the ar-



range-ment that will best serve their clients and workforce alike.

The official further expressed support for other measures, such as turning off the lights during lunchbreaks and the airconditioning units after 4 p.m., and even carpooling.

“Bagama’t may pinagdaraanang krisis, hindi naman siguro ito panghabambuhay. Magpapatuloy ang mga serbisyo ng CPD, makakasiguro po kayong hindi matatapos ang ating mga serbisyo.”

Currently facing a variety of population issues such as the rising number of adolescent pregnancies, the CALABARZON region also reported the

highest birth rate of adolescent mothers or girls aged 10-19 years old.

Despite this, Ogaya assured the public and their local counterparts that their services will continue, such as skills training and partnerships with local government units.

Last March 6, Executive Secretary Ralph Recto signed Memorandum Circular 114 ordering all government agencies to adopt energy conservation protocols. The initiative aims to reduce the carbon footprint of government operations amid the rising cost of fuel products worldwide. (PB-PIA CALABARZON)

PH secures P1.9-B Australian grant to boost jobs, strengthen economy

MANILA – The Philippines is set to boost formal employment and economic resilience as the country successfully secured a 45 million Australian dollar (PHP1.88 billion) grant through the Department of Finance (DOF).

The DOF said the fund would support a program to improve the country’s policy and business environment.

“When businesses grow, jobs are created. When systems improve, services become faster and more accessible. When growth reaches more people, lives and communities are transformed,” the DOF said as quoted in a news release Wednesday.

It said the funding will back the Promoting Growth, Resilience, Economic Stability, and Sustainability in the Philippines Program (PROGRESS), signed by Finance Secretary Frederick Go and Aus-

tralian Ambassador Marc Innes-Brown PSM.

The program, Australia’s flagship initiative, aimed to help the Philippines achieve economic growth to benefit Filipinos and help the country achieve economic resiliency.

PROGRESS aims to make the economy more inclusive by addressing barriers to formal job creation, income inequality, and obstacles faced by women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups.

The program will focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and help them invest in clean energy, climate mitigation, and growth-enhancing sectors.

“The program will also strengthen government institutions and advance policy and regulatory reforms in strategic ar-

reas that enable sustainable growth, like energy transition and critical mineral resources,” the agency said.

The DOF will supervise and manage the program implementation to be undertaken by an Implementing Managing Contractor, with oversight from Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The program will provide technical assistance, climate finance for SME investments, and a Strategic Activities Fund for research and innovation.

The DOF will coordinate with the Anti-Red Tape Authority, the Department of Energy, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development, and the Australian Embassy in the Philippines to ensure results-oriented implementation. (PNA)

DOF, BIR grant VAT exemption for natural gas transactions

MANILA – The Department of Finance (DOF), upon the recommendation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), issued new revenue regulations granting value-added tax (VAT) exemption on indigenous natural gas and related power generation.

In a statement Monday, BIR said the move is part of the government’s push to develop the country’s natural gas industry.

This is in line with the directive of President

Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and the policy direction of Finance Secretary Frederick Go to support priority industries while strengthening revenue administration.

The regulations implement fiscal incentives under Republic Act 12120 or the Philippine Natural Gas Industry Development Act, which promotes natural gas as a safe, efficient and cost-effective energy source, while providing clear guidelines on the availment of VAT ex-

emptions.

Under the rules, VAT exemption applies to the sale and purchase of indigenous natural gas, aggregated gas, and electricity generated using such gas, including ancillary services tied to power generation.

The exemption for aggregated gas, however, applies only to the portion attributable to indigenous natural gas, ensuring that incentives are properly targeted.

Covered transactions include those under-

taken by suppliers, aggregators, resellers and generation facilities, as well as participants in the Philippine downstream natural gas industry, subject to certification by the Department of Energy (DOE).

The BIR said the issuance provides clear guidelines on the availment of VAT incentives, including documentation and certification requirements to verify compliance.

To qualify, participants must present an endorsement from the DOE’s Oil Industry Management Bureau, along with certification indicating the volume and percentage of indigenous natural gas sold during the taxable quarter.

Generation facilities must obtain certifica-

tion from DOE’s Electric Power Industry Management Bureau, confirming their use of indigenous natural gas and the amount of electricity produced from such gas.

Participants and generation facilities must attach their DOE permit to the endorsement documents.

The BIR regulations also include safeguards to prevent misuse of incentives.

Under the rules, availment of fiscal incentives under Title XIII of the Tax Code disqualifies entities from availing of similar incentives under Republic Act 12120 and other special laws, reinforcing proper compliance and accountability.

“The BIR acknowledges the potential of natural gas to lower

energy costs and help achieve national energy security. These regulations fully implement the mandates of RA No. 12120 by providing clear guidance on the availment of incentives that will support investment in the Philippine Natural Gas Industry,” BIR Commissioner Charlito Martin Mendoza said.

“By establishing transparent and well-defined processes for VAT incentives on indigenous natural gas, we strengthen both the competitiveness of cleaner energy sources and the integrity of our tax system.”

The regulations will take effect 15 days after publication in the Official Gazette or on the BIR website, whichever comes first. (PNA)

DOT Calabarzon upsills tourism frontliners ahead of summer tourist influx



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Department of Tourism (DOT) Calabarzon has continued to support local government units across the region in strengthening tourism excellence through capacity development programs.

In preparation for the expected influx of tourists this summer season, DOT Calabarzon successfully delivered the Filipino Brand of Service Excellence (FBSE) Training to the local government of Jomalig in Quezon on March 17, 2026.

This initiative aims to awaken and strengthen the innate Filipino values of warmth, respect, and genuine hospitality among the island's tourism frontliners.

A total of 40 participants took part in the training, including beach resort personnel, café staff, local vendors, habal-habal drivers, and members of the Local Tourism Office.

The training emphasized the importance of providing excellent service to visitors and ensuring that every tourist's experience in Jomalig Island is both memorable and meaningful.

“Through this initiative, Jomalig Island continues to prepare its tourism frontliners, ensuring that visitors will remember the island not only for its breathtaking golden sand beaches but also for the warm smiles and exceptional service of its people,” DOT Calabarzon said in a statement.

Meanwhile, DOT Calabarzon also capacitated tour guides in Taal, Batangas, under its community guiding course.

The training gathered aspiring and practicing tour guides from Taal and neighboring communities, equipping them with essential skills in heritage interpretation, visitor engagement, and sustainable tourism practices.

Participants were immersed in modules that highlighted Taal's rich cultural legacy, historic landmarks, and vibrant local traditions—ensuring that future tours will not only inform but also inspire.

The DOT Calabarzon-funded initiative reflects the government's commitment to strengthening local tourism by empow-

ering communities through professional training.

“By investing in human capital, the program aims to elevate visitor experiences while fostering pride of place among residents,” DOT Calabarzon said.

The agency added, “With this training, Taal continues to position itself as a premier heritage destination in the Philippines, ready to welcome travelers with warmth, knowledge, and authenticity.” (PIA4A)

Weak to moderate El Niño likely to develop this year

MANILA – A weather bureau specialist on Wednesday disclosed the 55 percent probability of an El Niño to develop in the next six months due to below-normal rainfall.

El Niño is characterized by warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures in the Central and Eastern Equatorial Pacific.

In a press conference, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) weather specialist Joseph Basconcillo said there is a

62 percent probability that a weak El Niño would prevail between June to August, and an 83 percent possibility that it will persist until yearend.

He said there is a 56 percent chance that moderate El Niño will prevail between September to November, and 60 percent likelihood between October to December.

During this period, reduced rainfall and drier-than-usual conditions may be experienced in some parts of the country.

In an advisory, PAGASA said the be-

Only 13 countries met global air quality standards in 2025: Report

ISTANBUL – A new global report has found that only 13 countries met safe air quality standards in 2025, as pollution levels worsened worldwide due to climate-related factors and continued reliance on fossil fuels.

According to the World Air Quality Report released by Swiss monitoring firm IQAir, just 14 percent of cities globally recorded air pollution levels within the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended limits for fine particulate matter (PM2.5), down from 17 percent the previous year.

The report analyzed data from 9,446 cities across 143 countries, regions, and territories, highlighting a widespread deterioration in air quality.

PM2.5 particles—measuring 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter, small enough to enter the lungs and bloodstream—are associated with serious



health risks, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, as well as cancer.

Only a handful of countries, including Andorra, Estonia, and Iceland in Europe, remained within the WHO's annual guideline of 5 micrograms per cubic meter. The remaining compliant countries were mostly island nations and territories such as Australia, Barbados, and Bermuda.

130 of 143 countries exceed safe limits

South Asia dominated the list of the most polluted countries, with Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Tajikistan ranking among the worst performers. The

report also found that the world's 25 most polluted cities were all located in India, Pakistan, and China.

Loni, a city in northern India, recorded the highest pollution levels, with PM2.5 concentrations more than 22 times higher than WHO guidelines.

Researchers attributed the worsening air quality to a combination of factors, including wildfire smoke, dust storms, and extreme weather events linked to climate change.

The report also highlighted gaps in air quality monitoring, noting that many regions lack access to real-time data. (Anadolu)



EL NIÑO PROBABILITY. The weather bureau announces on Wednesday (March 25, 2025) the increasing likelihood that a weak to moderate El Niño would develop in the coming months. It said some areas may experience dry spell and drought due to below-normal rainfall during this period. (PNA file photo)

low-normal rainfall could result in dry spell and drought in some areas.

PAGASA, however, said the western sec-

tion of the country may experience above-normal rainfall during the southwest monsoon or habagat season. (PNA)

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Asian track cycling championships unfold in Tagaytay CT velodrome

MANILA – Nearly 600 riders from 16 countries are seeing action in the Asian Cycling Confederation (ACC) Track and Para Track Championships that kicked off at the Tagaytay CT Velodrome in Cavite on Wednesday.

A total of 44 gold medals is at stake in the Asian championships, featuring individual and team pursuit, sprint, keirin, elimination race, omnium, points race, scratch race, Madison, and 1 km. for both men and women categories.

The events in the para track competitions offering 30 gold medals are individual pursuit, 1,000 meters time trial, sprint, elimination, scratch race, and mixed team and tandem sprints.

Participating countries are Chinese-Taipei, Hong Kong-China, Indonesia, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Macao-China, Malaysia, China, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and host Philippines.

According to Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Abraham “Bambol” Tolentino, the coun-



GAME ON. The Asian track cycling championships kicked off at the Tagaytay CT Velodrome in Cavite on Wednesday (March 25, 2026). Present during the opening rites were (from left) Tagaytay City Mayor Brent Tolentino, Philippine Paralympic Committee president Michael Barredo, Philippine Sports Commission chairperson John Patrick Gregorio, Philippine Olympic Committee and PhiCycling president Abraham Tolentino, Asian Cycling Confederation president Dato Amarjit Singh Gill, Uzbekistan Cycling Federation secretary-general Khurshid Atakulov Bakhodirjanovich (partly hidden), and Saudi Cycling Federation President Abdulaziz Al-Shahrani. (PhiCycling photo)

try’s track program “is starting from scratch” and the Filipino riders are not expected to get any medals.

“I don’t expect any medal or podium finish here for our track cycling team. We’re starting from scratch... we’re still calibrating and adjusting. So, we will learn, little by little, and we will soon learn it,” said Tolentino, the president of PhiCycling.

“We finally hosted this event after 31 long years. And it is really a dream come true for Philippines sports. We are thankful to ACC and UCI for helping us.”

ACC president Dato Amarjit Singh Gill,

Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chairperson John Patrick Gregorio, Tagaytay City Mayor Brent Tolentino, Philippine Paralympic Committee president Mike Barredo, Uzbekistan Cycling Federation secretary general Khurshid Atakulov Bakhodirjanovich, and Saudi Cycling Federation president Abdulaziz Al-Shahrani graced the opening ceremony.

Joining them were PSC commissioners Walter Torres and Eduardo Hayco, Vice Mayor Agnes Tolentino, and former Cavite governor Athena Tolentino.

For Gregorio, the

Titans survive Thunderbelles; Highrisers oust Solar Spikers

MANILA – Choco Mucho banked on Sisi Rondina and Maddie Madayag to prevail over ZUS Coffee, 21-25, 25-22, 13-25, 25-11, 15-11, in a do-or-die duel in the Premier Volleyball League All-Filipino Conference Tuesday night at the Playtime FilOil Centre in San Juan.

Rondina finished with 27 points and 15 excellent receptions in the one hour and 57-minute thriller.

Madayag added 19 points, including three blocks, while Eya Laure and Kat Tolentino contributed 13 and 12 points, respectively.

“I’m happy that the team is back. We really struggled and there were times when we were lost in the game. The mindset is different now and we really worked as a team today,” said Madayag, who earned the Best Player of the Game honors.

Choco Mucho will face Akari in another knockout match on Saturday, with a shot at one of the last two semifinal berths at stake.

Riza Nogales led the Thunderbelles with 16 points followed by

championships are a dream come true both for the country and Tolentino.

“It’s a dream come true for President Tolentino, and for the country,” Gregorio said in his speech during the well-attended, lively, and colorful opening ceremony ahead of the actual races at the velodrome’s infield.

The Tagaytay CT



STANDOUT. Choco Mucho outside hitter Sisi Rondina tries to score against two ZUS Coffee defenders in the Premier Volleyball League (PVL) All-Filipino Conference Tuesday night at the Playtime FilOil Centre in San Juan. She delivered 27 points and 15 excellent receptions in leading the Titans to victory. (PVL photo)

Thea Gagate with 12. Cess Robles, Chinie Arroyo and Kate Santiago scored nine points each.

Meanwhile, Galeries Tower shocked Capi-tal1, 25-16, 25-20, 30-28.

The Highrisers, who entered the Play-In stage with just two wins in nine games, will meet No. 5 Nx-led Chameleons in the next step-ladder showdown Saturday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

“We worked on our lapses, especially in blocking and defensive patterns. The team really wants to win. So just push – no one will give up,” said middle blocker Jean Asis, who led the Highrisers

Velodrome is a world-class cycling facility that replaced the then-iconic but now demolished Amoranto Velodrome in Quezon City – a facility that served cycling since the 1960s until Tolentino built a UCI-standard track at the heart of Tagaytay City that’s now rising to become the country’s “Olympic Center.” (PNA)

with 17 points on 12 attacks, three blocks and two aces.

Gayle Pascual chipped in 14 points followed by Aiza Pontillas (12) and Roselle Baliton (11), while Juju Coronel orchestrated the offense with 22 excellent sets.

Bella Belen paced the Solar Spikers with 20 points, 12 digs and nine receptions. Cherry Nunag scored seven, while Leila Cruz and Shaya Adorador added five apiece. (PNA)

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

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

Psalm 37:10-11