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DOE sets more measures to ease impact of oil supply issues

MANILA – The Department of Energy (DOE) is implementing additional measures to help cushion the impact of oil supply issues, including the fast-tracking of net metering application processes.

DOE, in a news release Wednesday, said distribution utilities (DUs) and electric cooperatives (ECs) are required to finish the processing at their end within 10 days, while local government units (LGUs) are required to accomplish it within three working days.

This is among the programs in line with issuance of Executive Order (EO) No. 110, which declared a state of national energy emergency due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, which has hampered the transit of oil supply from that region.

DOE said before the issuance of EO 110,

“DUs and ECs had 20 working days to complete the processing of net metering applications, while the prescribed period for LGU approvals varied per permit.”

Under the net metering program of the DOE, power consumers with the capacity to install their own power sources, such as solar panels, may do so, and their surplus power of up to 100 kilowatts (kW) may be transferred to the grid to boost supply in exchange for credits on their monthly electricity bill.

“Every unnecessary delay in net metering is a delay in savings for Filipino consumers,” Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said.

“Under the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. through Executive Order No. 110, we are pushing faster, simpler, and more responsive ap-

proval processes so that more households and businesses can benefit from rooftop solar, lower their electricity bills, and strengthen their resilience against global energy price shocks.”

Fuel station monitoring

The DOE has also issued special guidelines for deputized agencies in fuel station monitoring.

(Turn to p.2)

Sufficient PUVs available ahead of expected holy week rush, LTFRB assures

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The number of public utility vehicles (PUVs) operating across Calabarzon remains sufficient to meet current passenger demand, according to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Calabarzon.

LTFRB Calabarzon regional director Rudolph Dimas said

Gov't to impose P50/kg price cap on imported rice

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Tuesday said he will issue an executive order imposing a PHP50 per kilogram price cap on imported well-milled rice, as part of efforts to stabilize food prices amid global uncertainties.

“Ilalabas natin ang Executive Order para maipatupad na ito sa lalong madaling panahon (We will issue the Executive Order so this can be implemented as soon as possible),” Marcos said following a meeting of the Unified Package for

Livelihoods, Industry, Food, and Transport (UPLIFT) committee.

The move is in line with the recommendation of the National Price Coordinating Council, which is tasked to monitor and stabilize prices of (Turn to p. 2)



File photo

that while the agency continues to receive reports from various transport terminals, passenger volume remains at a “light to moderate” level, allowing existing PUVs to adequately serve commuters.

“As of now, reports indicate that passenger volume is still light to moderate, and the number of PUVs currently operating is

sufficient to accommodate our passengers,” Dimas said during the Philippine Information Agency’s Usapang PIA radio program.

He noted, however, that the expected surge of travelers has yet to begin, with a significant increase in passenger traffic anticipated by Wednesday evening to Thursday morning.

“We expect more pas-

sengers to arrive either tomorrow or in the following days, as people begin traveling to their provinces,” he added.

To ensure continuous and efficient transport service, the LTFRB Calabarzon is prepared to deploy additional units if necessary assuring the public that the agency stands ready to issue special permits to more PUVs

(Turn to p.2)

SUFFICIENT . . . FR. P. 1

should demand exceed current capacity.

“In case passenger volume increases significantly and exceeds the available units, we are ready to issue special permits to additional PUVs to fill in the gaps in various routes,” he explained.

LTFRB Calabarzon continues to closely monitor both passenger demand and vehicle availability to maintain a balance in

transport supply, ensuring that commuters will have safe, accessible, and reliable options throughout the Holy Week travel period.

Commuters are also advised to plan their trips ahead and stay updated with announcements from transport authorities as travel activity is expected to intensify in the coming days. (AM/PIA CALABARZON)

Batangas police ready for tourist surge this Holy Week, summer vacation

BATANGAS CITY (PIA) — The Batangas Police Provincial Office (BPPO) has intensified its efforts to ensure the safe observance of Holy Week and the summer vacation season.

In an interview, Col. Marlon V. Rufo, Provincial Director of BPPO, said they are continuously coordinating with all Chiefs of Police across the province as they finalize the security plan for Oplan SUMVAC 2026.

“We will deploy more than 900 police personnel across all convergence areas in the province to ensure that no untoward incidents occur and that peace and order are maintained,” Rufo said.

Areas with increased police visibility include pilgrimage sites, places of worship such as churches, transport terminals, major thoroughfares, commercial areas, and the Batangas Port.

The BPPO has also coordinated with other agencies such as the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and other government

agencies to strengthen efforts in maintaining peace and order in the province.

Police personnel have been placed on alert starting March 27, with deployment to convergence areas beginning March 29, in anticipation of the influx of tourists and travelers for the Holy Week.

All Chiefs of Police in cities and municipalities are also intensifying public information campaigns to ensure safety and prevent any disturbances.

Rufo reminded the public to follow safety tips, especially when leaving their homes, such as regularly checking vehicles for a smooth trip and securing their houses to ensure belongings are safe upon return.

He also advised the public to avoid posting their location on social media to prevent attracting criminals and signaling that homes are unattended.

Batangas remains one of the top destinations for tourists and devotees due to its well-known religious tourism sites, including Montemaria Shrine, the National Shrine of Padre Pio, Taal Basil-

DOE . . . FR. P. 1

toring and inspection to ensure that these activities are conducted “in a disciplined, coordinated, and orderly manner.”

Among those tapped by DOE for this program are representatives of the LGUs, the Philippine National Police (PNP), the National Electrification Administration (NEA), and the National Power Corporation (NPC).

“Under the Guidelines, deputized agencies are directed to coordinate closely with the DOE in the conduct of inspec-

GOV'T TO IMPOSE . . . FR. P. 1

basic necessities and prime commodities.

Marcos said prices of key goods, including rice, remain within suggested retail price levels, with the government continuing to monitor around 205 commodities.

He added that authorities are coordinating with manufacturers and retailers to defer price increases.

“Patuloy tayong nakikipag-usap sa manufacturer at retailer na hindi sila magtaas muna ng presyo hanggang sa susunod na buwan (We continue to engage manufacturers and retailers to hold off price increases until next month),” he said.

The President also announced the expansion of the government’s subsidized rice program.

“Pinalalawak din ang ica, the Immaculate Conception Basilica, and Lipa Cathedral.

In addition, the province is also known for its scenic beach resorts

tions, properly identify themselves and clearly communicate the purpose of their visit, observe fuel inventory levels, daily sales, and dispensing practices, verify unusual or bulk purchases when necessary, and document their observations for submission to the DOE for evaluation and appropriate action,” the DOE said.

The Energy department said the guidelines also “recognize the legitimate fuel requirements of essential sectors, including hospitals, transport, agriculture, telecom-

P20 rice program... umakyat na sa 2,000 tons dahil tumaas ang demand (The P20 rice program is being expanded... supply has increased to 2,000 tons due to higher demand),” he said, noting that 627 distribution centers are now operational nationwide.

The measure comes as the government ramps up interventions under the declared national energy emergency, triggered by the impact of the Middle East conflict on global oil prices.

Under Executive Order No. 110, the administration is implementing a whole-of-government response through the UPLIFT framework, which includes food security, transport support and price stabilization measures. (PNA)

located in San Juan, Lobo, Batangas City, Calatagan, Nasugbu, Lian, and other areas. (MPDC-PIA Batangas)

munications, and government services.”

Along with this move is the tightening of anti-hoarding policies in the downstream oil industry during a State of National Energy Emergency (SNEE) “to help ensure that fuel remains available and accessible to Filipinos” and prevent any artificial shortages.

Among the rules in the anti-hoarding measure are clear definitions of prohibited acts and hoarding indicators; preventive measures, such as temporary fuel purchase limits when necessary and tighter regulation of container-based transactions; enhanced monitoring through the Emergency Petroleum Monitoring System (EPMS) to track inventory levels, supply movements, and fuel distribution; and defined enforce-

ment procedures, including the issuance of Show Cause Orders and timelines for evaluation and case action.

DOE is also re-convening the DOE-Department of Justice (DOJ) Task Force “to receive and act on reports of suspected hoarding, determine violations, and initiate appropriate administrative and criminal actions under existing laws,” the DOE said.

“These Guidelines are meant to ensure that petroleum products continue to move where they are needed, when they are needed, and at a level that protects consumers, supports economic activity, and upholds public order amid the impact of the Middle East conflict on global oil markets,” Garin said. (PNA)

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The Provincial Government of Cavite, led by Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla, led the Ugnayan sa Barangay program recently, in Maragondon to bring the local government closer to the people.

The event was attended by Maragondon Mayor Lawrence "Umbe" Arca, members of the Sangguniang Bayan, and 8th District Board Member Jasmine Angelli Maligaya-Bautista, who expressed continued commitment to serve and uplift all Caviteños.

By bringing government closer to the people, the Provincial Government of Cavite continues to foster collaboration with local leaders and communities, reaffirming its dedication to responsive public service and meaningful development for all Caviteños.--- OPIO



Cavite Career Caravan Brings Job Opportunities to GMA Residents

The Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPEM) successfully conducted Cavite Career Caravan on March 11, 2026 at The Porta Mall in the Municipality of General Mariano Alvarez (GMA), Cavite, providing employment opportunities to hundreds of jobseekers in the area.

A total of 345 applicants registered during the activity, where 51 jobseekers were hired on the spot, reflecting the strong partnership between the government and private sector in addressing local employment needs.

The job fair gathered 52 participating companies, composed of 45 local companies and 7 overseas recruitment agencies, offering a combined total of 9,418 job vacancies for various positions across different industries.

Through initiatives like the Cavite Career Caravan, the Provincial Government continues to strengthen its commitment to generating employment opportunities and improving the livelihood of Caviteños by bringing job prospects closer to the community.--- OPIO



Mass Anti-Rabies Vaccination Conducted in Cavite in Celebration of Rabies Awareness Month 2026

The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian, joined the Nationwide Simultaneous Anti-Rabies Vaccination Drive for Animals in celebration of Rabies Awareness Month 2026. A mass anti-rabies vaccination activity was successfully conducted recently at the Osorio Animal Breeding Station in Trece Martires City, Cavite.

Anchored on this year's theme, "Rabies-Free na Pusa't Aso, Kaligtasan ng Pamilyang Pilipino," the activity aimed to strengthen public awareness on responsible pet ownership and highlight the importance of protecting pets and communities from rabies.

The activity provided free anti-rabies vaccination, deworming, and castration services to pets brought by residents from different localities in Cavite. The initiative forms part of the province's continuing efforts to prevent and control rabies, a fatal but preventable disease that poses risks to both animals and humans. By ensuring that pets are vaccinated and properly cared for, the program promotes safer households and healthier communities.

The Provincial Government of Cavite continues to encourage the public to support rabies prevention programs and participate in activities that promote animal welfare and the safety of every Filipino family.--- OPIO



PGC Conducts Medical and Dental Mission for Residents of Brgy. Pinagtipunan

More than 400 residents of Brgy. Pinagtipunan in Gen. Trias City benefited from a medical and dental mission conducted recently through the efforts of the Provincial Government of Cavite, led by the Office of the Provincial Governor (OPG) and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO).

A total of 419 residents received free medical consultations including electrocardiogram (ECG) tests for cardiac assessment. Dental services were also provided, with tooth extraction procedures, and pre-dental screenings (PDS).

The mission was carried out in collaboration with AMIGA District Hospital, Naic Medicare, and the Rural Health Unit of General Trias City (RHU), with the assistance of Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) who helped facilitate the activity.

Present during the mission were 6th District Board Member Kerby Salazar, City Councilor Kyle Salazar, and Brgy. Captain Sonny Dulce, who expressed support for initiatives that bring essential healthcare services closer to the community.

The activity reflects the continued commitment of the Provincial Government of Cavite to promote accessible healthcare services and improve the well-being of Caviteños through community-based medical outreach programs.--- OPIO

DA: Fertilizer supply stable, pushes biofertilizers use amid ME crisis

MANILA – Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has assured that fertilizer supply in the country remains stable despite escalating tensions in the Middle East, as the agency ramps up the use of alternative sources to cushion the impact of rising global prices.

In a news release Wednesday, Tiu Laurel said the country's exposure to supply disruptions is limited but noted that higher oil and freight costs are expected to drive up fertilizer prices following tensions affecting key trade routes such as the Strait of Hormuz.

"I reviewed all the figures on where our fertilizer comes from... supply is not the issue—it's really the price," he said.

He added that to cushion the impact, the DA is now prioritizing alternatives to reduce reliance on imported and inorganic fertilizers and advance the broader goal of sustainable, food-secure agriculture by boosting farm yields.

During his visit to the Agri Specialists Inc. facility in Santa Rosa, Laguna with Senator Francis Pangilinan on Tuesday, Tiu-Laurel highlighted locally produced biofertilizers.

He said the product, developed by researchers from the University of the Philippines Los Baños National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, can replace up to two 50-kilogram bags of urea fertilizer per kilogram.

"A kilo of the biofertilizer, based on com-

pany estimates, could replace two 50-kilo bags of urea-based fertilizer. Each kilogram costs PHP750—roughly a third of the current price of around PHP2,500 of a single bag of complete 14-14-14 fertilizer," he said.

Tiu-Laurel said the DA has been promoting biofertilizers, liquid fertilizers, and soil ameliorants even before the US and Israel airstrike on Iran in February 2026, which pushed oil prices higher as it heightened concerns over global supply chains.

Data show that only about 20 percent of the country's 713,000 metric tons of imported urea-based fertilizers in 2025 came from Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

He said the bulk of supplies was sourced from Asian countries such as Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia, China, and Vietnam.

Meanwhile, imports of ammonium sulfate fertilizers were entirely from China and Japan, further reducing dependence on Middle Eastern routes.

However, despite stable supply, the DA estimates that higher fertilizer and transport costs could push food prices up by PHP2 to PHP5 per kilogram, with rice expected to be the most affected due to its heavy fertilizer requirements.

The DA said field trials indicate that farmers can cut urea use by half or more without sacrificing yields, helping offset rising input costs.

"If you used to apply 10 sacks of urea, you might now be able to use only half or even just three," Tiu-Laurel said, citing successful

trials using bio-based and nanotechnology-driven solutions.

Meanwhile, Pangilinan said the energy crisis caused by the ongoing conflict in the Middle East could also threaten the country's food security if left unaddressed, particularly given its impact on fertilizer supply, noting that the DA's budget was already insufficient before the crisis.

Given the situation, Pangilinan called for a review of the 2026 national budget, adding that senators are prepared to pass a supplemental budget if necessary.

Tiu Laurel assured that the government will continue scaling up alternative inputs and other interventions to help stabilize production and protect consumers from sharper price increases amid the ongoing Middle East crisis. (PNA)

Batangas drivers find relief in DSWD's fuel subsidy

LIPA CITY, Batangas (PIA) – Public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers in Batangas Province are looking forward to easier access to the government as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) CALABARZON opened its office.

During the distribution of fuel subsidy for PUV drivers last March 26, tricycle driver Roberto Restor said the government aid is a big help amid the rising oil prices. With routes plying all over the city, the Lipa City Tricycle Operators Association (TODA) opted not to increase their fares as the riding public reels in the effect of oil prices to the price of basic goods.

"Malaking bagay 'yung pagtaas ng presyo ng langis sa amin dahil hindi naman kami pwedeng humingi ng dagdag pasaha sa mga pasahero namin dahil nakakaawa naman ang mga mananakay natin. Malaking bagay po ito sa katulad naming tricycle driver."

Without additional wages, Restor and the other drivers who have tightened their belts are thankful to the assistance the government provides



to transport groups.

"Maraming salamat po sa ating pangulo dahil nabigyan kami ng ganitong oportunidad at tulong. Kami ay nagpapasalamat nang malaki sa ating pangulo. Sana ay magpatuloy pa ang pagtulong ng ating pangulo sa ating maliliit na transport group."

Arcadio Massigna of the SM Lipa City TODA was also among the local tricycle drivers who received the Php 5,000 fuel subsidy from DSWD.

Massigna said the government aid will help their family buy their daily needs amid the rising oil prices.

"Nakakatulong po iyon para pandagdag pambili ng gasolina, lalo na sa pagbili ng pagkain at sa ibang pangailangan. Sa

ngayon, kahit paano po ay nakakatulong ito."

The increasing oil prices, fueled by the conflicts in the Middle East and other oil-supplying nations, has also affected the price of basic goods. Restor and Massigna expressed hopes that as the government continues to reel in the effects of fluctuating oil prices worldwide, help will continue to pour in for the transportation sector.

"Sana ay itutuloy lang po ang tulong sa mahihirap at sa mga drayber dahil sa pamasaha at taas ng presyo ng gasolina at bilihin. Sana ay magpatuloy pa ang pagtulong ng ating Pangulo [Ferdinand Marcos Jr.] sa ating maliliit na transport group." (PB-PIA CALABARZON)

Filipinos urged to espouse compassion, unity during Holy Week

MANILA – Government officials on Holy Wednesday called on Filipinos to embrace compassion, unity and reflection amid the observation of Holy Week.

Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. urged the public to extend support to vulnerable members of their communities during the Lenten season.

"In this holy season, let us stand in solidarity with those who are struggling, as we extend a helping hand to others in need. May our words and actions

reflect not only our faith in God, but also our shared resolve to uplift one another as followers of Christ," he said in a statement.

With the Lenten season underway, Galvez also encouraged Filipinos to pause and reflect on the significance of faith and sacrifice.

Amid ongoing challenges, he underscored the importance of hope and collective action.

"Even in the face of difficulties, let us remember there is always hope. Let us all stand in solidarity and work together to bring healing, unity, and lasting peace to our

nation," Galvez said.

National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict executive director Undersecretary Ernesto Torres Jr. echoed the call, urging Filipinos to reject division and embrace reconciliation.

"Peace is not built on violence or false promises — it is built on justice, respect for human dignity, and the collective resolve to protect our communities. We remember those who have suffered from conflict — families torn apart, lives misled, communities deprived of peace. Their stories

remind us: peace is not an option, it is a moral imperative," he added.

Torres also encouraged citizens to actively promote peace in their daily lives.

"As one nation, let us choose dialogue over division, compassion over hatred, and nation-building over destruction," he said. (PNA)

A TRUE FRIEND SHOWS LOVE AT ALL TIMES AND IS A BROTHER WHO IS BORN FOR TIMES OF DISTRESS

PHIVOLCS, foreign scientists conduct joint research on Laguna's ancient volcanic lakes

SAN PABLO CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS-DOST) led a joint research workshop on some of the country's volcanic lakes in San Pablo City, Laguna, aimed at discussing the latest advances in volcanic lake research, enhancing hazard assessment, and improving familiarity with monitoring techniques.

In partnership with the Geological Society of the Philippines (GSP) and the City Government of San Pablo, Laguna, the 12th International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI) Commission on Volcanic Lakes (CVL) Workshop (CVL12) was conducted in this city from March 16 to 17, 2026.

Scientists from Italy, France, Chile, El Salvador, the United States, and Indonesia joined their Filipino counterparts in studying the unique characteristics of Pandin Lake and Mojicap Lake, two of the city's seven crater lakes or maars.

During the workshop, researchers collected water samples for scientific analysis to better understand the lakes' physical and chemical properties.

According to Dr. Raymond Maximo of PHIVOLCS-DOST, the international workshop examined the characteristics and chemical composition of the lake waters. He explained that by analyzing the collected samples, scientists aim to gain a deeper understanding of the current condition of the volcanic lakes and the



natural processes that influence them.

"We want to study that because there are times when fish kills occur in these lakes. We will look into the reasons for those fish kills and also check if there are gases rising from beneath the lake," Maximo said.

The agency emphasized the importance of connecting local and international experts to strengthen monitoring, improve communication, and enhance community readiness for volcanic hazards, with the goal of ultimately helping to protect lives and livelihoods.

For the participating international scientists, the research carries significance beyond academic study. Dr. Rebecca Biagi, a scientist from the University of Florence in Italy, emphasized that the results of their analysis could help local communities better understand the condition of their lakes and the importance of protecting them, as the country remains vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

"I am here in San Pablo to study the fluxes of carbon dioxide and methane from volcanic lakes. It is a very interesting research because it allows us to monitor the activity state of volcanoes and also have a quantifica-

tion of the emissions of these greenhouse gases, so it is very important for climate change purposes."

The workshop not only showcased international scientific collaboration but also strengthened environmental awareness in San Pablo City's lakes which now serve as vital ecosystems that support biodiversity, tourism, and the livelihoods of local communities.

San Pablo City Mayor Arcadio Gapangada Jr. expressed his appreciation for the presence of scientists in the city, noting that the protection and preservation of the city's seven lakes is one of the local government's key environmental priorities.

"As scientists continue to analyze the samples they collected, their findings are expected to provide valuable insights that will help safeguard San Pablo's volcanic lakes for future generations," the mayor emphasized.

PHIVOLCS is optimistic that the workshop fostered stronger international collaboration and scientific partnerships to better understand and monitor volcanic hazards, and to help build safer, more resilient communities worldwide.

Aside from their research in Laguna, par-

FDA: Beware of cheap, uncertified anti-rabies shots

MANILA — The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Tuesday warned the public against a large-scale syndicate distributing counterfeit and compromised anti-rabies vaccines following a major enforcement operation in Taguig City.

FDA spokesperson Khay Ann Magundayao-Borlado said while the apprehended suspects claimed their products were legitimate, investigators discovered an illegal repacking and relabeling facility.

"Nakita natin na sila ay nagre-repack, sila ay nagre-relabel, meaning binabago po nila yung mga label, yung mga stickers nito (We observed they engaged in repacking and relabeling activities, where original product labels and stickers were being systematically altered)," Magundayao-Borlado said in a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon interview.

The FDA noted that even if the vaccines originated from legitimate sources abroad, their potency was severely compromised due to lack of proper cold chain management.

The facility lacked medical-grade "biorefrigerators" necessary to maintain a constant temperature of 2°C to 8°C.

Participants also took part in scientific sessions in Clark, Pampanga, and workshops at the Pinatubo Volcano Crater Lake via Capas, Tarlac. (CH/PIA-Laguna; with reports from San Pablo City Information Office)

"Napaka-delikado po kasi alam naman natin na kapag hindi po epektibo ang mga bakunang in-inject for anti-rabies, maaari din po itong magdulot ng death (It is extremely dangerous because we know that if the anti-rabies vaccines injected are not effective, it can also lead to death)," she said.

"Kung sabihin na natin na malakas ang immune system, pwede din magkaroon ng mga allergic reactions (Even if we say that the immune system is strong, allergic reactions can still occur)."

Magundayao-Borlado described the Taguig raid as a "big catch," targeting a significant syndicate that smuggled the vaccines by hiding them among licensed products to evade detection.

The suspects are facing criminal charges for violating Republic Act (RA) 8203 (Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs) and RA 9711 (Food and Drug Administration Act of 2009).

The FDA is currently conducting follow-up operations and product tracing using seized generic distribution lists to identify individuals who may have already been inoculated with the compromised vaccines.

Public safety reminders

To ensure the legit-

imacy of anti-rabies shots, the FDA advised the public and health facilities to:

- Verify via portal: Check the product's registration and batch number through verification.fda.gov.ph;

- Seek certified centers: Only visit Department of Health-certified treatment centers and facilities with a valid License to Operate (LTO) from the FDA;

- Inspect storage: Ensure the facility uses medical-grade biorefrigerators rather than household units, which are prone to temperature fluctuations; and

- Beware of cheap prices: Exercise caution if the vaccine is offered at an unusually low price.

Magundayao-Borlado urged those who have recently received anti-rabies vaccinations to monitor for adverse effects, such as rashes or unusual allergic reactions, and to report them immediately to the nearest health facility.

"Tayo po ay nag-aabiso sa publiko, maging mapagmatyag. Alamin po natin kung ito ay naka-flag sa ating mga public advisories (We are advising the public to remain vigilant. Let us check if these [products or entities] have been flagged in our public advisories)," she said. (PNA)

Better is a piece of dry bread where there is peace Than a house full of feasting along with quarreling.

Proverbs 17: 1

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China rules Asian track cycling in Tagaytay

MANILA – China dominated the medal tally with 18 gold, 10 silver, and one bronze medal at the 45th Asian Cycling Confederation (ACC) Track Cycling Championships and the 14th Asian Para Track Cycling Championships, which concluded Tuesday night at the Tagaytay CT Velodrome.

Japan finished second with 7 gold, 7 silver, and 10 bronze medals, followed by South Korea (5-9-7), Kazakhstan (4-5-2), and Chinese Taipei (3-4-5). Notably, Japan's riders used track bikes reportedly worth PHP7 million each.

Hong Kong, China, and Uzbekistan secured three gold medals each, while Malaysia collected two. India and Singapore each earned one silver medal, and Indonesia took home two bronze medals.

Uzbekistan dominated the para cycling competition with 17 gold, 10 silver, and seven bronze medals. Malaysia placed second (9-6-2), followed by South Korea (9-1-3), Japan (7-2-3), and the United Arab Emirates (3-5-2).

Asian Cycling Confederation (ACC) president Dató Amarjit Singh praised Tagaytay City and



CYCLING TILT. PhilCycling president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino awards medals to winners from Kazakhstan during the 45th Asian Cycling Confederation (ACC) Track Cycling Championships and the 14th Asian Para Track Cycling Championships, which concluded Tuesday (March 31, 2026) at the Tagaytay CT Velodrome in Cavite. China topped the medal tally with 18 gold, 10 silver, and one bronze medal. (PhilCycling photo)

PhilCycling president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino for successfully hosting the event.

Athletes, coaches, and team managers also commended both the organization of the championships and the city's hospitality.

"The Philippines, specifically the Tagaytay CT Velodrome, now has its own niche on the global track cycling map," Tolentino said in a news release on Wednesday.

Barely a year after its inauguration in June last year, the Tagaytay CT Velodrome has already made a significant mark on the international cycling scene by hosting the Asian championships, which featured nearly 600 world-class athletes

from 16 nations.

"We are now in the company of global destinations for competitions and training in the track cycling community. The next big step is to sustain the momentum—not only in hosting international events but also in fully developing our own track cyclists," said Tolentino, who also serves as president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

He tempered expectations by noting that the country's track cycling program is "starting from scratch," but emphasized that the championships are expected to spark greater interest in the discipline among athletes, the public, and spon-

Junior PH Golf Tour kicks off April 6 in Batangas

MANILA – The country's top and rising young players are set to join the Junior Philippine Golf Tour, featuring the same two-series format for Luzon and Visayas-Mindanao contenders.

All eyes are set on the prestigious North vs. South Elite Junior Finals later this year, where the best of each region will once again battle for supremacy.

To maximize participation and performance, the organizing Pilipinas Golf Tournaments, Inc. has scheduled the competition during the summer months. The adjustment allows student-athletes to fully commit to competition without the burden of missing school—a major challenge in previous editions when tournaments were held during the academic year.

The shift also addresses persistent weather concerns. Last year, several legs were disrupted or postponed due to the rainy season, affecting momentum

sors.

"It has been 31 years since the Philippines last hosted this event—1995 at the now-defunct Amoran-to Velodrome and now in 2026 at the Tagaytay CT Velodrome. It's historic," Tolentino said, thanking the Philippine Sports Commission, MVP Sports Foundation, Sports Plus PH, Toyota, and Peak for their support.

Tolentino highlighted the bronze medal won by Patrick Gerard Lee in the para men's elite scratch race and the new national record set by Zedrick Ivan Honorica in the flying 200 meters as signs of a promising future for Philippine track cycling.

"Yes, a Filipino rider can compete in track



YOUNG TALENTS. Patrick Tambalque and Gabriela Sison won the 15-18 category of the ICT-SI Junior Philippine Golf Tour (PGT) Series at the Riviera Golf Club, Inc. in Silang, Cavite last year. The 2026 Tour will kick off with the Luzon leg on April 6 to 8 at Mt. Malarayat in Lipa City, Batangas. (Contributed photo)

and overall scheduling.

The dual-series format kicks off simultaneously, with the Luzon leg opening April 6 to 8 at Mt. Malarayat in Lipa City, Batangas, while the Visayas-Mindanao campaign begins April 8 to 10 at Mactan Island in Cebu.

The Vis-Min series continues from April 13 to 15 at Alta Vista in Cebu, while Luzon players head to Summit Point in Lipa from April 14 to 16.

The Tour then moves north to Baguio, with John Hay Golf Club hosting the third Luzon leg from April 28 to 30, as Vis-Min players compete at Del Monte in Bukidnon from April 29 to May 1.

Subsequent stops include Sherwood Hills in Cavite (May 4 to 6) and Pueblo de Oro in Cagayan de Oro (May 5 to 7), followed by Riv-

cycling," Tolentino said, adding that both athletes received cash incentives.

When asked about the future of the Tagaytay CT Velodrome, Tolentino said: "There's a long list—from completing track equipment to regularly hosting local, national, inter-club, and international championships. This was a dream that became reality, and we will continue to build on it." (PNA)

iera and Bacolod.

The final eliminations will be held at Eagle Ridge for Luzon and Negros Occidental for Vis-Min.

Each series features six legs played across premier championship courses, offering young golfers a true test of skill, consistency and mental toughness.

The JPJT is open to players aged 7 to 18 and follows a stroke play format for both boys and girls. Competitions in the 7-10 and 11-14 divisions will be contested over 36 holes, while the premier 15-18 category will be played over 54 holes.

Participants may compete in only one regional series, choosing either where they reside or were born. Points are awarded to the top eight finishers in each division per leg, with trophies given to the top three.

As the race toward the North vs. South Finals intensifies, players can join multiple legs, but only their best three results will count toward their final ranking, provided they compete in at least three tournaments.

At stake are coveted spots in the Elite Junior Finals set for Sept. 15 to 18 at The Country Club, where the top four players in each age category from both Luzon and Vis-Min will face off. The North won last year's title. (PNA)