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DOH urges public to step up dengue prevention

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Department of Health (DOH) in Calabarzon is urging residents to intensify preventive measures against dengue as the rainy season approaches.

Emphasizing the 4S strategy against den-

gue, DOH Calabarzon stressed that community participation is vital in preventing outbreaks.

“With the rainy season approaching, the risk of dengue transmission remains high. Community participation is key to



preventing outbreaks,” DOH Calabarzon said in a statement.

The agency urged
(Turn to p. 2)

PBBM: PH making deals with other countries to sustain P20/ kg. rice

MANILA — “Watch me sustain it.” This was what President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. had to say on the PHP20 per kilogram rice initiative dubbed “Benteng Bigas Meron (BBM) Na” Program, as he welcomed public elation over its implementation.

Speaking to the media before returning to the country from Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, Marcos said negotiations with other countries are underway to keep the price for rice

cheaper until the end of his term in 2028.

“And then, we’ll talk in May of 2028, natuloy ba o hindi (if it happens or not). We found a way. We found a way to do it. We found a way to do it. We could not do it before. Hindi kaya kasi hindi pa kaya ng sistema. Iba pa ‘yung presyo ng bigas noon (It’s not achievable because of the system. The price of rice before was different),” Marcos said.

“We’re making deals



AFFORDABLE RICE. Members of vulnerable sectors, including senior citizens, line up to buy PHP20 per kg. rice during the launch of the Department of Agriculture’s “Benteng Bigas Meron Na” program at the Navotas Agora Complex in Navotas City on May 14, 2025. The Department of Agriculture said it aims to make cheaper rice available in 42 Kadiwang Pangulo sites within the month. (PNA photo by Robert Oswald P. Alfiler)

with different countries para ‘yung presyo mapako na, na hindi pabago-bago.

Kahit anong mangyari down the road, naga-wa na ngayon natin. Wala tayong ganoon noon eh. Ngayon may-roon na. Kaya’t kaya na nating gawin ‘yung PHP20 (so that the price will be fixed and will not change. Whatever happens down the road, we have done it now. We didn’t have that before. Now we have it. So we can do the PHP20),” he added.

Marcos said it is “not surprising” that those who are qualified to buy the cheaper rice

are “happy” about the government’s implementation of the “Benteng Bigas Meron Na” program.

While Marcos said it is also “fair” for some to think that the initiative is not sustainable, he clarified that the government is offering a PHP20 kilo of rice to the vulnerable sectors not just to “look good.”

“[The Department of Agriculture or] DA is able to sell rice. The price has come down. But at the same time,
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OCD: No major damage from Luzon quake

MANILA — No major damage has been initially recorded from the magnitude 4.6 earthquake that jolted Quezon province and other areas in Luzon, including Metro Manila, on Tuesday afternoon, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said.

The OCD cited data from the Philippine In-

stitute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) indicating that the quake was caused by a local fault in the Sierra Madre Range and is not connected to the West Valley Fault.

At least 19 aftershocks had been recorded, it added.

“The situation remains under close watch. Authorities

continue to urge the public to stay calm and follow official safety guidelines,” the OCD said in a statement.

“Dam operators in Central Luzon continue to monitor Angat, Ipo, Bustos, and Pantabangan dams, which no damages have been reported.”

No damage was also reported in the Cali-

raya Dam, it added.

In Calabarzon, no damage was reported in General Nakar, Quezon, or neighboring provinces.

“Authorities responded quickly, suspending classes at Our Lady of Fatima University campuses in Valenzuela and Quezon City, and declaring a work
(Turn to p. 2)



SAFE PLACE. Government employees get out of the Philippine Information Agency building along Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City following an earthquake past noon Tuesday (May 27, 2027). The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the magnitude 4.6 tectonic quake struck 24 km. northwest of General Nakar, Quezon at 12:17 p.m. (PNA photo by Ben Briones)

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on the other side, tinityak natin na ang pambili, ‘yung pagbili – ang presyo ng pagbili sa farmers ay magandang presyo naman para naman ‘yung farmers natin, maganda ang kanilang hanapbuhay (we’re making sure that the purchase price to the farmers is a good price so that the farmers’ livelihood is good),” he said.

The PHP20 per kilo of rice is currently available in 38 Kadiwa ng Pangulo sites in Metro Manila, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, and Mimaropa.

Sixteen local government units in Cebu are also rolling out the program.

The first phase of the program intends to cover areas in Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental; Samar, Eastern Samar, and Northern Samar; Southern Leyte and Leyte; and Bohol,

Antique, Cebu, Iloilo, Capiz Biliran; Guimaras, Siquijor, Aklan and Mindoro.

Phase 2 will be implemented in July in Zamboanga del Norte, Basilan, Cotabato City, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao del Sur, Maguindanao del Norte, Maguindanao, Davao Oriental, and Sorsogon, while the third and final phase will cover Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte, Catanduanes, Agusan del Sur, Sarangani and Dinagat Islands.

On Tuesday, the DA said minimum wage earners may soon avail of the cheaper rice.

To date, the PHP20 per kilo of rice can only be sold to the members of the vulnerable sector, including the members of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and solo parents. (PNA)

CCC: Continuous training key strategy for climate resilience

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has underscored the significance of conducting continuous training as a vital strategic step in strengthening the country’s climate resilience.

In a news release on Tuesday, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert EA Borje shared the commission’s engagement in a series of capacity-building training to advance and strengthen climate action initiatives.

“Training is essential. At the Climate Change Commission, we highly value these learning

opportunities because they equip the agency to face the climate-related challenges our country encounters, adopt new knowledge, and develop strategies as part of our climate response,” he said.

He added that as climate impacts grow more complex and urgent, the development of skills and knowledge is essential to crafting effective, adaptive climate policies.

Borje also cited the importance of recognizing that tackling climate change requires innovation, integration, and embedding continuous capacity

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suspension in Calamba City,” the OCD said.

It added that public transportation in Metro Manila resumed normal operations after brief suspensions, and several schools, including the Polytechnic University of the Philippines - Sta. Mesa and Our Lady of Fatima University branches, reopened.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Operations Center held virtual meetings with regional offices in the NCR, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, and Mimaropa to coordinate response efforts. Local disaster councils in Aurora, Quezon, and neighboring areas are conducting damage assessments.

“OCD-Calabarzon continues to monitor the zones and issue safety advisories via social media and IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) materials. As of

this report, no significant effects have been reported in Central Luzon and Mimaropa,” the OCD said.

Defense Secretary and NDRRMC chairman Gilberto Teodoro Jr. ordered that communication between central and regional offices be established within 30 minutes of impact.

He emphasized that all agencies must stay alert, follow the “Duck, Cover, and Hold” protocol, and prepare for possible evacuation.

Teodoro also reminded agencies to check the functionality of alarm systems and ensure policies on alarm system redundancy are in place and properly enforced.

Regional DRRMCs and Local DRRMCs are responsible for maintaining alarm system readiness and ensuring the timely dissemination of disaster information. (PNA)



CAPACITY-BUILDING. *The Climate Change Commission conducts a capacity-building training to advance and strengthen climate action initiatives, in this undated photo. On Tuesday (May 27, 2025), CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert EA Borje said as climate impacts grow more complex and urgent, the development of skills and knowledge is essential to crafting effective, adaptive climate policies. (Photo courtesy of CCC)*

building into the agency’s core mandate.

He said that through a series of focused programs, the CCC enhances internal systems and builds the

backbone of effective climate governance.

“Take the Complete Staff Work (CSW) training, for example. This initiative im-
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residents to follow the 4S strategy: Search and destroy mosquito-breeding sites, Secure self-protection measures, Seek early consultation, and Support fogging/spraying only in hotspot areas.

DOH Calabarzon also reiterated its commitment to working closely with local government units, schools, workplaces, and households to sustain dengue prevention efforts.

The public is likewise encouraged to stay informed and actively engage in community-wide initiatives to help protect their families and neighbors.

In Cavite, health officials continue to call on residents to take preventive actions, including eliminating mosquito breeding sites and seeking ear-

ly medical attention for symptoms, as the province sees a surge in dengue cases.

According to the Provincial Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit of the Provincial Health Office, there has been a sharp rise in dengue cases across the province from January 1 to May 10, 2025. A total of 5,168 cases have been recorded—a 376% increase compared to just 1,085 cases during the same period last year. Seventeen deaths have been confirmed as a result of the outbreak.

The City of Bacoor has reported the highest number of cases with 718, or 14% of the total, followed by Dasmariñas City with 667 cases, and General Trias City with 619. (PB/RBF/PIA4A)

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Provincial Agri Trade Fair cum Kadiwa ng Pangulo 2025

In a collective effort to further enrich and promote the agricultural industry in the province, the Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA), spearheaded a two-day Provincial Agri Trade Fair and Exhibits cum Kadiwa ng Pangulo, themed “Masiglang Negosyo at Maunlad na Kalakalan, Susi sa Pagkamit ng Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita”, at the OPA Compound, Trece Martires City, on May 15-16, 2025.

The event kicked off with a mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Ross Layugan, celebrating the feast of the patron saint of farmers and agriculture, Saint Isidore the Labrador.

The program proper commenced with the welcome message from Engr. Anna Pamela Nova-Cruz, Officer-in-Charge of the OPA, for everyone who made time and effort to participate in the activity. She underscored the significance of agriculture as it provides food security for the community.

Engr. Nova-Cruz was joined by representatives from various partner agencies – Dr. May Magno, Cavite Provincial Veterinarian; Dr. Nellie Ilas, PAFC Chairperson; Ms. Lilibeth Chavez, OIC-Provincial Director of DTI-Cavite; Ms. Marivic Martinez, Director II of DOLE; Mr. Jaypee Patricio of ATI; Ms. Marren Bautista of DILG-Cavite; Ms. Lorena Jimeno of AP-CO-Cavite; and Ms. Antonette Ariole, representative of Board Member Paolo Crisostomo, displaying their enthusiasm and cooperation in providing assistance and space to the farmers, fisherfolks, and agri-exhibitors across Cavite.

The event culminated with a message from Vice Governor Shernan Jaro, commending the farmers for continuously striving for the benefit of Caviteños, “Binabati ko ang mga magsasaka na patuloy na lumalaban para itaguyod at ma[i]bigay ang masusustansya at murang pagkain para sa ating mga kababayan.”

The Agri Trade Fair and Exhibit booths lined up in the venue, showcasing wide-range of fresh goods and produce, boosting the marketing opportunities and productivity of the agricultural industry, and building strong connections among the stakeholders.

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proves coordination, analytical rigor, and institutional efficiency. It enables teams to move beyond reactive problem-solving and toward anticipatory, strategic planning,” he explained.

Meanwhile, Borje said that the Open Government Partnership (OGP) training helps enhance transparency

and community engagement, while Power 101, a workshop that connects the dots between energy policy and climate resilience, deepens knowledge of the energy sector ,and empowers staff to help craft policies that promote efficiency, emission reduction, and support sustainable development.

He said each training initiative empowers the commission’s personnel to anticipate and address climate risks proactively rather than reactively.

“At its core, staff development prepares individuals to meet today’s complex challenges with clarity, competence, and confidence. We will remain committed to



PGC employees parade in glamour at Santacruzán 2025 celebration

In a dazzling celebration of faith and Filipino heritage, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) staged the Santacruzán 2025 on May 26 at the New Capitol Building in Trece Martires City. Spearheaded by the Workplace Organization Committee, the event was part of the Monthly Theme celebration, aiming to foster unity, cultural appreciation, and spiritual reflection among PGC employees.

The iconic Filipino religious-cultural tradition came to life as various PGC participated with representatives dressed in glamorous gowns, embodying the grace and elegance of the “Reynas” they portrayed. The event featured a grand parade of Reynas, each symbolizing virtues and biblical characters, such as Reyna Elena, Reyna Delos Flores, Reyna Emperatriz, and Reyna De Las Virgenes, among others. They gracefully walked through the aisles of the Provincial Capitol and offered flowers to the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a solemn act symbolizing devotion and reverence.

Another highlight of the event was the Bara Alta turnover ceremony, a cherished tradition signifying the passing of leadership and commitment. Ms. Emily Rivera of the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), who served as Hermana Mayor 2025, formally handed over the responsibilities to Ms. Imelda Dimaranan of the Cavite Municipal Hospital (CMH), the designated Hermana Mayor 2026. The turnover signified the continuation of dedication to faith-based and cultural activities within the workplace.

The program was graced by inspiring messages from Mr. Ferdinand A. Belamide, OPGSO Head and WOC Chairperson, Atty. Rodolfo D. Uy III, Provincial Administrator, Board Member Chelsea Jilian G. Sarno, SK Federation President and the Reyna Elena 2025, and Ms. Michelle F. Alcid, Quality Management Representative and Pasada Hermana 2018. They commend the efforts of all participants and organizers. They emphasized the importance of keeping cultural and religious traditions alive within government institutions, as a way to not only uplift the spirit of public service but also to strengthen camaraderie and unity among employees.

The celebration concluded with a spirit of joy and reflection, as the PGC community came together to honor both cultural identity and shared values. Santacruzán 2025 was a beautiful reminder of how traditions can thrive even in professional spaces, inspiring devotion, pride, and a deeper connection to Filipino roots.--- OPIO

continuous learning and to improving our work, guided by the vision of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for a climate-smart and climate-resilient Philippines,” Borje said. (Marita Moaje/PNA)

*Pride is before a crash,
and a haughty spirit
before stumbling*

Prov. 16:18

88 barangays in Calabarzon enrolled in DILG's peace, dev't program



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) continues to support the development of barangays affected by armed conflict through the implementation of the Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP).

DILG IV-A Regional Director Ariel O. Iglesia said that a total of 88 barangays in Batangas, Laguna, Rizal, and Quezon, cleared of insurgency threats, have been enrolled in the RCSP.

“RCSP aims to sustain peace and security in cleared areas and introduce government services to prevent resurgence. The program includes several levels, such as strengthening barangay basic institutions, conducting Ugnayan sa Barangay, and implementing Serbisyo Caravan to deliver essential services,” Iglesia told the Philippine Information Agency Calabarzon.

He also emphasized the role of barangays in mobilizing the community to identify both basic and long-term development needs from the grassroots level.

Through the RCSP, communities are given the opportunity to raise concerns, which the government then addresses.

Iglesia noted that commonly raised is-

suues include land disputes and limited access to services. Basic needs requested by barangays include social and medical services, health care, education, and food packages. Long-term needs include road construction, farm-to-market roads, health centers, evacuation sites, and community centers.

The DILG regional said that these immediate issues and needs are addressed through Serbisyo Caravan, wherein services are delivered by participating government agencies.

“Some agencies even go beyond their scope and mandate. For instance, the Armed Forces of the Philippines provides services such as free haircuts, circumcision, and medical assistance,” Iglesia added.

He underscored that through the whole-of-nation approach, it is not only government agencies but also communities, civil society, and non-government organizations that contribute to achieving peace and development.

“Our strategy is a whole-of-nation approach, not just a whole-of-government one. The local government unit plays the lead role in implementation to ensure sustained peace, while the DILG and other agencies are always ready

PH, Cambodia pledge stronger trade, defense cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet on Tuesday acknowledged the enduring friendship between the two countries and expressed their shared commitment to further enhancing bilateral trade and cooperation across key areas of mutual interest.

On the sidelines of the 46th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Kuala Lumpur, President Marcos highlighted improvements in trade relations since 2023, attributing the positive development in part to the increase in Philippine automobile exports to Cambodia.

President Marcos also underscored the importance of ex-

panding collaboration into other key areas, including defense, to strengthen the strategic partnership and ensure regional peace and stability.

“I hope that we can move forward with those discussions in terms of trade, defense, and potential defense cooperation,” he said.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet expressed his appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to him during his official visit to the Philippines in February 2025.

The Cambodian leader encouraged ASEAN member states to embrace emerging opportunities amid global trade disruptions, emphasizing the region’s collective potential for resilience and growth.

The Prime Minis-

ter said, “There are thousands of products where we can find complementarities” as trading partners.

Established in 1957, bilateral relations between the Philippines

and Cambodia have steadily progressed across multiple domains, including trade, tourism, education, and defense. (PND/PNA)

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given **TO THE PUBLIC** of the deceased spouses **ANTONIO G. ERMENO**, who died on June 20, 1998 at Kayquit, Indang, Cavite, and **MARINA M. ERMENO** who died on January 20, 2000 at Bagumbayan, General Trias, Cavite, and the deceased spouses left two (2) parcels of land described as **TCT No. T-55604** with an area of **Three Hundred Twenty Five (325)** square meters located at Barrio Manggang Bukol, General Trias, Cavite, and **TCT No. T-325414** with an area of **Two Hundred Sixteen (216)** square meters located at Barrio Poblacion, General Trias, Cavite, and has been extrajudicially settled by among their heirs through Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate of **ANTONIO G. ERMENO AND MARINA M. ERMENO** with Waiver of Rights executed on May 18, 2025 by **Atty. Nathalie T. Almazan** as per Doc. No. 102, Page No. 22, Book No. II, Series of 2025 in General Trias City, Cavite.

Published at: Cavite News Publishing
Dates: May 22, 29, - June 5, 2025

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given **TO THE PUBLIC** of the deceased **ARNEL VILLANUEVA MOYA** who died on June 27, 2010 in Bagumbayan, General Trias, Cavite and the deceased left one parcel of land described as **TCT No. T-916375** with an area of **eighty -six (86)** square meters located at Brgy. Umboy, Tanza, Cavite, and has been extrajudicially settled by among his heirs through Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate of “**ARNEL VILLANUEVA MOYA**” with Waiver of Rights executed on May 8, 2025 by **Atty. Nathalie T. Almazan** as per Doc. No. 48, Page No. 11, Book No. II, Series of 2025 in General Trias City, Cavite.

Published at: Cavite News Publishing
Dates: May 15, 22, & 29, 2025

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given **TO THE PUBLIC** of the deceased **DANILO DELA CRUZ CASOR** who died on March 15, 2024 in Malate, Metro Manila and the deceased left one personal property, an Alinma Bank check in the amount of **Eleven Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Five**, Saudi Arabian Riyal Currency (11565) and has been extrajudicially settled by among his heirs through Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate of “**DANILO DELA CRUZ CASOR**” executed on May 1, 2025 by **Atty. Nathalie T. Almazan** as per Doc. No. 512, Page No. 104, Book No.I, Series of 2025 in General Trias City, Cavite.

Published at: Cavite News Publishing
Dates: May 15, 22, & 29, 2025

EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH DONATION

NOTICE is hereby given that the ESTATE of the deceased **LORETO DEL ROSARIO RODIL**, single, died intestate on July 12, 2010 at 256 San Miguel St., Poblacion II, Indang, Cavite; Whereas, at the time of her death, the deceased left a two parcel of land with improvement situated in Indang, Cavite and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-223644 of the Register of Deeds of the Province of Cavite with Tax Declaration of Real Property with TD No. 10 001400443 containing an area One Hundred Eighty (180) square meters (sq.) and One Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Nine (1,269) square meters, respectively; HAD BEEN SETTLED BY HE HEIRS/DONORS through EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH DONATION executed on 26th day of May 2025 with Doc. No 291; Page No. 59; Book No. VII, Series of 2025 by Notary Public of Atty. Teresita Sese Ruelos in Trece Martires City, Cavite.

Published at: Cavite News Publishing
Dates: May 29, -June 5, & 12, 2025

to provide support,” he said.

This RCSP is in line with Executive Order No. 70, which institutionalizes the whole-of-nation approach to

achieving inclusive and sustainable peace, and created the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict. (KA, PIA-4A)

MPT South Kicks Off Road Safety Month with 'Drayberks: Ready 4 Safety' Campaign

May 22, 2025—With the goal of building a safer future on Philippine roads, Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South) marked Road Safety Month by unveiling its latest theme for road safety advocacy campaign “Drayberks: Ready 4 Safety,” in a ceremonial launch held at the Golden Phoenix Hotel in Pasay City.

Over 100 stakeholders from both the public and private sectors attended the celebration, in partnership with national agencies including the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), PNP Highway Patrol Group Region IV-A, Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), and PEA Tollway Corporation (PEATC). Local government units in Metro Manila and CALABARZON also joined the celebration, including representatives from Taguig, Parañaque, Pasay, Las Piñas, Bacoor, Imus, Kawit, General Trias, Dasmariñas, Silang, Santa Rosa, and Biñan.

The following major transport and terminal partners also attended the event: Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX), One Ayala Terminal, and advocacy organizations like ACTO; bus companies such as TAS Trans Corp., Erjohn & Almark Transit Corp. Co., Don Aldrin Transport Inc., Saulog Transit, and Jasper Jean Services Inc.;



UV groups such as DIPTA-MOA, United 12 Corp., TVTAP; modern and traditional jeepney groups such as Paliparan 3, Kapit Bisig Transport, PABODA, CAMBIO, and Universal Transport; and Philippine Multimodal Transport and Logistics Association Inc. as a representative for the logistics sector.

Mr. Jose Ma. K. Lim, the President and CEO of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), delivered the welcome remarks. He emphasized the critical role expressway operators play not just in building infrastructure, but also in promoting a culture of safety on and beyond their roads. He stated, “This project is just one of the many ways

MPTC demonstrates its unwavering commitment to the safety of all road users. We believe that true progress in road safety comes through collaboration—by working hand-in-hand with government, private partners, and the communities we serve.”

The main event was the unveiling of the new Road Safety Campaign of MPT South, “Drayberks: Ready 4 Safety” Campaign, which was led by Ms. Arlette V. Capistrano, MPT South Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management. The Drayberks program, first introduced in 2018, has evolved into a well-regarded platform for promoting road discipline. Now in its sixth

UK health service spends \$15B yearly to identify, treat diabetes

LONDON – Britain’s National Health Service (NHS) spends some USD14.5 billion a year on identifying and treating diabetes as more than 900,000 adults at high risk of developing Type 2 diabetes have applied for a nationwide health initiative, new figures showed Tuesday.

According to new data, a record 166,360 more adults in England began receiving support last year from the NHS public health initiative, which helps people lose weight and make lifestyle changes to prevent or delay developing Type 2 diabetes.

In a statement, the NHS said more than 900,000 adults at high risk of developing Type 2 diabetes have started using the NHS’s Healthier You Program to improve their health since it was launched in 2016.

Developing Type 2 diabetes can have a dev-



astating impact on people and their families, it warned.

It is also a leading cause of preventable sight loss in people of working age and a major contributor to kidney failure, limb amputation, heart attack, nerve damage, stroke, and many of the most common cancers.

Citing research by Manchester University, the statement noted that completing the Healthier You Program reduces someone’s chance of developing Type 2 diabetes by 37 percent, and participants typically achieve an average weight loss of 3.3kg.

“Alongside the human cost, the NHS in England typically spends around £10.7 billion (some USD14.5 bil-

lion) a year on identifying and treating diabetes,” it added.

Meanwhile, health leaders urge people to become more aware of their risk of developing Type 2 diabetes during Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Week 2025, taking place on May 26-June 1.

Type 2 diabetes is largely preventable through lifestyle changes, said the NHS, adding that around nine out of 10 people with diabetes have Type 2, and there are around 2 million people in England at high risk of developing it.

“We know that prevention is better than treatment, and that tackling the root causes of type 2 diabetes, such as obesity and inactivity, is one of the keys to tackling cardiovascular-related illness,” Ashley Dalton, the minister for public health and prevention, said in the statement. (Anadolu)

year, Drayberks has been recognized as a model road safety program, most recently earning a Bronze Stevie® Award in the Innovation in Communications/Public Relations category at the 2025 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards. With the refreshed Ready 4 Safety campaign, MPT South aims to reach drivers of all classifications—from public utility drivers and logistics operators to private motorists—through updated modules grounded in four key points: Responsible driving, expressway rules, pre-trip vehicle inspection, and practicing discipline on the road.

“Ready 4 Safety” strengthens our promise to equip every

driver with the knowledge and values needed to navigate roads safely—not only for their own benefit, but for everyone’s,” Capistrano shared during the unveiling.

The event culminated in a powerful moment as participants stood together to recite the Drayberks Pledge, led by MPT South OIC Elnora D. Rumawak. This collective commitment to safe, disciplined, and responsible driving was further solidified with a symbolic pledge signing, uniting government agencies, transport groups, and local leaders under one shared goal.

As the curtains closed on this milestone celebration, MPT South reaffirmed its mission:

that beyond building roads, it is building a culture of safety, accountability, and readiness—one driver, one community at a time.

About MPT South

MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the infrastructure arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC). Beyond its management of the CALAX and CAVITEX networks, MPTC’s domestic portfolio encompasses concessions for the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the NLEX Connector Road, the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

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PBBM urges ASEAN, GCC, China to boost digital, trade, agri, RE collab

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has emphasized the importance of trilateral cooperation among Southeast Asian nations, Gulf states, and China on digital transformation, trade, agriculture, and renewable energy to spur economic development.

During the inaugural Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) - China Summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Malaysia on Tuesday, Marcos urged his fellow leaders to close connectivity gaps, strengthen digital infrastructure, and promote an open and responsible innovation.

“Let us also deepen cooperation in digital trade, cybersecurity, and the development of digital skills so that our youth, our entrepreneurs, and our workers are equipped to thrive in an AI-driven world,” Marcos said in his intervention.

Marcos called for joint investments in digital infrastructure, innovation, and digital skills development, stressing that artificial intelligence (AI) emerges as a powerful force for transformation.

He also acknowledged that the six GCC member-countries and China have emerged



TRILATERAL COOPERATION. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. joins his fellow Southeast Asian leaders in the inaugural Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) – Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) – China Summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia on Tuesday (May 27, 2025). During his intervention, Marcos urged the ASEAN, the GCC, and China to close connectivity gaps, strengthen digital infrastructure, and promote an open and responsible innovation. (Photo courtesy of the Presidential Communications Office)

as global leaders in AI innovation.

Marcos said the Philippines is also open to expanding its collaboration with fellow ASEAN members, the GCC countries, and China in the development of renewable energy, carbon capture, and advanced storage technologies to ensure an energy future that is integrated, secure and sustainable.

He also stressed the importance of safeguarding and strengthening global food systems through climate-resilient agriculture, innovation, and investments that empower rural communities and ensure long-term food security.

“As we navigate an increasingly complex global landscape, the Philippines remains

firmly committed to deepening our engagement with partners across the Gulf, China, and our fellow Member States,” Marcos said.

“Yet beyond trade and technology, we must nurture the human ties that sustain us. Deeper cooperation in education, in tourism, cultural exchanges that will enrich our understanding, that will build trust, and bind our regions together in friendship and in peace,” he added.

Marcos said he expects the trilateral ties to create “a future shaped not by competition, but by collaboration, especially given our shared values, shared aspirations, and shared growth,” fostering economic leverage while maintaining

Van Sickle headlines PVL Press Corps Awards Night

MANILA – Two-time All-Filipino MVP Brooke Van Sickle of Petro Gazz headlines the honorees in the Pilipinas Live Premier Volleyball League (PVL) Press Corps Awards Night on Wednesday at the Novotel Manila.

The awardees include Alas Pilipinas middle blocker Thea Gagate, who was named Rookie of the Year for helping ZUS Coffee reach the quarterfinals.

“We shine the spotlight on those who stood tallest, leapt highest, and dug deepest – the first-ever awardees of the PVL Awards Night,” league president Ricky Palou said in a statement released on Tuesday.

“But in truth, each of you, every player, coach, staff member, and team, emerged victorious. You elevated the game. You inspired a nation.”

The PVL Awards Night will be streamed live at 7 p.m., only on the Pilipinas LIVE app.

The Creamline Cool Smashers, who swept the 2024 season, was voted Team of the Year, and their mentor, Sherwin Meneses, as Coach of the Year.

Rebisco vice chairperson and chief executive officer Jonathan Ng will be honored as Executive of the Year

balanced and mutually beneficial relations with international partners.

Speaking to reporters after his participation in the 46th ASEAN Summit, Marcos said he is doing his best to strengthen the Philippines’ relations not just with the European Union or the United States but with other countries.



STANDOUT. Brooke Van Sickle of Petro Gazz (right) tries to score against Cignal’s Judith Abil in the PVL All-Filipino Conference at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City on Dec. 14, 2024. Van Sickle headlines the honorees in the Pilipinas Live PVL Press Corps Awards Night at the Novotel Manila on Wednesday (May 28, 2025). (PVL photo)

while Choco Mucho superstar setter Dean-na Wong was voted as Fan Favorite.

The other awardees are Eli Soyud of Akari (Most Improved Player), Alyssa Eroa of ZUS Coffee (Comeback Player of the Year) and Chie Saet of Petro Gazz (Ms. Quality Minutes).

Voted Pilipinas Live Game of the Year was the game match between Choco Mucho and PLDT in the 2024-25 AFC quarterfinals. A Star of the Night will be chosen during the ceremony.

The PVL and its press corps will also honor the best performers in the Spikers’ Turf, with Jude Garcia of Criss Cross voted as MVP of the Season.

Garcia, named Best Outside Hitter along with Savouge’s Sherwin Caritativo, leads

the Mythical with Best Setter Ish Polvorosa of Criss Cross, Best Middle Blockers Gian Glorioso (Criss Cross) and Giles Torres (Savouge), and Cignal’s Best Opposite Spiker Steven Rotter and Best Libero Vince Lorenzo.

PVL Press Corps President Lance Agcaoil of INQUIRER.net said the Awards Night celebrates greatness as well as honors the league’s journey.

“From an empty arena in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, when the PVL debuted as a professional league under a bubble format amid the pandemic, to reaching greater heights with record-breaking attendance and intense, dramatic, and heart-stopping games, we celebrate it all,” he added. (PNA)

ASEAN member-states include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The GCC, on the other hand, is composed of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, and Kuwait. (PNA)