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Pag-IBIG offers promo housing loan rates under Expanded 4PH

MANILA – The Pag-IBIG Fund has introduced promotional home loan interest rates aimed at making homeownership more affordable for Filipino workers under the Expanded Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program.

In a news release on Thursday, the agency said the move follows its previous decision to raise its maximum housing loan limit to PHP10 million per borrower for financing

options expansion to better match members' needs, income and family situations.

Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary and Pag-IBIG Fund Board Chairman Jose Ramon Aliling noted that these promotional rates are part of continuous efforts to widen access to affordable home financing and revitalize the local housing industry.

“Under Expanded

4PH, Pag-IBIG Fund has made socialized housing more affordable for low-income earners through our 3 percent subsidized housing loan rate for eligible socialized housing borrowers,” he said.

“We then increased our housing loan limit to PHP10 million per borrower to give more members, particularly those in the middle class, a better opportunity to choose a home that matches

their needs and capacity,” he added.

Under the new scheme, housing loan or installment amounts above the socialized housing price ceiling—currently up to PHP950,000 for house-and-lot units and up to PHP1.8 million for condominium units—and up to the low-cost housing ceiling of PHP2.5 million will carry a promo-

tional interest rate of 4.5 percent per annum, fixed for three years.

Meanwhile, loan amounts ranging

above the PHP2.5 million low-cost housing ceiling up to PHP10 million will have an

(Turn to p.2)

June 24 declared holiday in Manila for 455th founding anniversary

MANILA – Malacañang has declared June 24, 2026 a special non-working day in the City of Manila in celebration of its 455th founding anniversary.

Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, by authority of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., signed Proclamation No. 1320 declaring the holiday to al-



(PNA file photo)

low Manileños to fully participate in the city's anniversary activities.

“It is but fitting and proper that the people (Turn to p.2)

Noveleta PNP launches e-vehicle fleet

NOVELETA, Cavite (PIA) – Law enforcement and environment conservation go hand in hand, especially in the Municipality of Noveleta where local police launched its brand new electric vehicles.

Last June 11, the Municipal Government formally turned over two (2) units of brand



new electric vehicles to the Noveleta Municipal Police Station. (Turn to p. 4)

DOLE identifies poverty as leading cause of child labor in CALABARZON

CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA (PIA) — Poverty remains the leading cause of child labor in CALABARZON and across the country, according to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) IV-A, as it renewed its call for stronger interventions during the observance of the World Day Against Child Labor.

During the Sulong Southern Tagalog pro-



gram of the Philippine Information Agency and Radyo Pilipinas, DOLE IV-A Senior Labor and Employment Officer Raymond

DOLE identifies poverty as leading cause of child labor in CALABARZON



Ramos highlighted the correlation of poverty and child labor, stressing that efforts to eliminate child labor come

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interest rate of 5.75 percent per annum, also fixed for three years.

Following the three-year fixed period, the loan will be repriced based on the borrower's chosen repricing framework.

Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene Acosta emphasized that the promotional rates will directly translate to lower monthly amortizations, particularly during the initial three years of the housing loan.

For instance, a PHP2.5-million loan payable over 30 years will carry an estimated monthly amortization of about PHP12,667 under the 4.5 percent promotional rate.

This reflects a monthly savings of around PHP2,726 compared to the PHP15,393 amortization under the previous 6.25 percent rate.

For a PHP10-million loan stretched over 30 years, the monthly payment drops to approximately PHP58,357 under the 5.75 percent promotional rate, yield-

ing around PHP3,215 in monthly savings against the previous rate's PHP61,572 amortization.

"By lowering our three-year fixed rates from 6.25 percent to as low as 4.5 percent, we are helping our members save on their monthly amortization during the first three years of their loan," she said.

She added that the savings can help families manage their daily needs, or have them placed in their Pag-IBIG Regular Savings or MP2 Savings.

Qualified members can avail themselves of the promo for Pag-IBIG Housing Loan and Pag-IBIG Acquired Assets Long-Term Installment Payment applications received until Dec. 31, 2026.

Citing that members have different needs, incomes and capacities, Acosta said the promotional rates would give them wider access to affordable home financing which would, in turn, revitalize the local housing industry. (PNA)

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of the City of Manila be given full opportunity to participate in the occasion and enjoy the celebration," the proclamation read.

Founded on June 24, 1571 by Spanish conquistador Miguel López de Legazpi, Manila is considered the country's capital and remains the center of government, commerce, education, culture, and history.

The city government

is expected to hold various commemorative activities marking the anniversary of the country's premier city.

Meanwhile, Malacañang also declared June 24 a special non-working day in the municipality of Lian, Batangas through Proclamation No. 1321 in celebration of the annual Sambuhos Festival, a thanksgiving event honoring the town's patron saint, St.

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from addressing vital economic challenges faced by vulnerable families.

"Kung saan may kahirapan, may child labor, at kung saan may child labor, may kahirapan," Ramos said, emphasizing how economic hardship often pushes children into work at the expense of their education, development, and well-being.

Despite ongoing interventions, Ramos noted that child labor remains a concern in the region. To address the issue, DOLE continues to conduct profiling and monitoring activities to identify children engaged in child labor and connect them with appropriate assistance and support services.

The agency noted that while child labor cases still exist, sustained interventions from government and partner organizations have helped reduce the number of affected children.

Interventions implemented by DOLE include livelihood assistance for parents and families, medical and dental services,

John the Baptist.

The Palace likewise declared June 18 a special non-working day in the municipality of Montevista, Davao

mini job fairs, advocacy seminars, and skills demonstrations conducted in partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and other government agencies.

Ramos said these initiatives aim to provide families with alternative sources of income, improve access to essential services, and equip communities with knowledge to help prevent child labor.

The discussion formed part of the observance of the World Day Against Child Labour, which carries the international theme, "Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults," led by the International Labour Organization (ILO). In the Philippines, the campaign was localized through the theme, "Ikaw, Ako, Tayo: Sama-samang Pagkilos para sa Batang Malaya."

The observance reflects the call of DOLE Secretary Francis Tolentino to government agencies, communities, and stakeholders to work together in

de Oro through Proclamation No. 1319 for the observance of Araw ng Montevista. (PNA)

ending child labor and protecting the rights and welfare of children.

Ramos then clarified that not all forms of work involving children are considered child labor. While children may perform light and age-appropriate tasks that help teach responsibility, child labor refers to work that is hazardous or negatively affects a child's education, health, growth, and overall development.

Among the worst forms of child labor identified by the Labor department are prostitution, involvement in illegal gambling activities, and hazardous occupations such as mining, charcoal production, and deep-sea fishing.

Meanwhile, the agency recognized the challenge of address-

ing child labor practices that may be linked to cultural traditions, particularly in some indigenous communities.

While respecting cultural practices, DOLE emphasized that the welfare and best interests of children must remain the top priority.

"Kinikilala natin ang kanilang kultura ngunit ang pinakamahalaga ay maibigay natin ang tamang pangangalaga sa mga kabataan sapagkat sila ang magmamana ng ating hinaharap," Ramos said.

DOLE-4A encouraged the public to support initiatives that protect children from exploitation and ensure that they are able to enjoy their right to education, development, and a safe environment. (ZLL, CH/PIA-Laguna)

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

Proverbs 17: 1



491 residents benefit from Medical and Dental Mission in Carmona

A total of 491 residents of Brgy. Poblacion 9 (Maduya), City of Carmona gained access to essential healthcare services during the Medical and Dental Mission conducted recently, reaffirming the commitment of the Provincial Government of Cavite and its partners to fostering healthier and stronger communities.

The outreach initiative delivered a comprehensive range of healthcare services, including 324 medical consultations, 76 dental services, 6 electrocardiogram (ECG) procedures, and 85 fasting blood sugar (FBS) screenings, bringing quality healthcare closer to residents and promoting preventive care at the community level.

Medical and dental services were provided by the dedicated healthcare professionals of the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), with the assistance of Barangay Health Workers (BHWs). Meanwhile, free prescribed medicines were distributed by the staff of the Office of the Provincial Governor (OPG), ensuring that beneficiaries received both immediate medical attention and access to essential medications.

The activity was graced and supported by 5th District Congressman Roy Loyola, Carmona City Mayor Dahlia Loyola, Board Members Ivey Jayne Reyes and Aidel Paul Belamide, whose presence underscored the collective commitment of local and provincial leaders to advancing accessible healthcare and enhancing the quality of life of Caviteños.--- OPIO



PGC delivers healthcare services to the people of Naic

Recently, the Provincial Government of Cavite, through its Medical and Dental Mission Team, participated in the People's Caravan organized by the National Housing Authority (NHA) at Malainen Bago Integrated School, bringing essential healthcare services closer to the residents of Naic.

A total of 623 Naiceños received medical consultations from healthcare professionals from the General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital, Naic Rural Health Unit, Philippine National Police, and Philippine Navy. In addition, 127 individuals underwent fasting blood sugar testing, while 10 residents availed themselves of electrocardiogram (ECG) services for further health assessment and diagnosis.

The Office of the Provincial Governor Team, under the supervision of Mr. Gerry Olaes, also distributed prescribed medicines and vitamin supplements to help address the health needs of the patients.

Eighth District Board Member Jasmin Maligaya-Bautista, Naic Mayor Rommel Magbitang and Punong Barangay Lito Catibayan attended the caravan and expressed their appreciation for the services extended to their constituents.

The People's Caravan offered a wide range of government services, transforming the venue into a hub of hope, assistance, and opportunities for the residents of Naic.--- OPIO



Imuseños gathered in a medical and dental mission in their community

Another collaborative effort between the Provincial Government of Cavite and the Local Government Unit of Imus was successfully carried out through a health outreach program held on May 23 at Treelane III Covered Court in Brgy. Bayan Luma VI, benefiting a total of 1,141 Imuseños.

Healthcare professionals from the Imus City Health Office conducted free medical consultations and dental services, while also providing patients with proper medical advice and guidance regarding their health concerns.

Through the LAB for ALL Van, diagnostic tests, including FBS and ECG, were also provided during the program to help medical professionals further assess and identify the patients' health conditions.

Following the consultations, the Office of the Provincial Governor's mission team handed out the prescribed medicines and vitamins needed by the patients.

Mayor Alex Advincula, Congressman AJ Advincula, and members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod also joined the activity and expressed their gratitude to the Provincial Government of Cavite for bringing accessible healthcare services closer to the people of Imus.



Community health initiative brings free services to Silangueños

A total of 399 residents of Brgy. Adlas, Silang benefited from the Medical and Dental Mission spearheaded by the Provincial Government of Cavite recently, at the barangay covered court.

The outreach provided 301 medical consultations, 51 dental services, 12 ECG procedures, and 25 fasting blood sugar tests, delivering essential healthcare services to the community. The activity was conducted by medical professionals from GEAMH and CarSiGMA District Hospital, with assistance from barangay health workers.

The event was graced and supported by 5th District Board Member Ivey Jayne Reyes and Punong Barangay Joelito A. Generoso, together with other local officials, underscoring strong collaboration between local leaders and health partners in bringing accessible healthcare services to residents of Silang.--- OPIO

A kind man benefits himself, But the cruel person brings trouble on himself.

Proverbs 11:17

PH nutrient profile model vital to combatting obesity, NCDs

MANILA – The final approval of the Philippine Nutrient Profile Model (PNPM) has established the framework for robust food policies aimed at protecting Filipinos, particularly low-income families, from noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), a health group said Wednesday.

The Healthy Philippines Alliance (HPA), a patient-led network, issued the statement after the National Nutrition Council (NNC) Governing Board, chaired by the Department of Health (DOH), finalized the PNPM following extensive public consultations with medical groups, civil society and the food industry.

“Sadly, many Filipino families, especially poor and vulnerable households, are forced to consume unhealthy packaged foods because they are cheap and convenient. But no Filipino family or child deserves to die or suffer from the physical and financial burden of preventable NCDs like heart disease, diabetes, or cancer,” HPA lead convenor Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan said.

The model sets strict limits for sugar, sodium and saturated fats based on World Health Organization guidelines to curb obesity and chronic illnesses.

It establishes a mechanism to identify pre-packaged, processed and ultra-processed food products that exceed these thresholds, signaling a need for regulatory



CONSUMER PROTECTION. Department of Trade and Industry personnel inspect canned food products at a supermarket in Makati City on June 10, 2026. The inspection, held by the DTI in line with the Department of Agriculture’s Nationwide Simultaneous Market Visit, aims to monitor the availability, pricing, and proper labeling of basic commodities to help protect consumers. (PNA photo by Robert Oswald P. Alfiler)

oversight and product reformulation.

It categorizes food items based on the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) registration system using the CODEX General Standards for Food Additives (CODEX GSFA).

Under the guidelines, exemptions are granted to infant and follow-on formula, complementary food for children aged 6 to 35 months, food for special medical purposes and single-ingredient culinary products.

Per food category, the approved nutritional thresholds are set as follows:

Total Fat: Less than 30 percent of energy or calories per serving
Saturated Fat: Less than 10 percent of energy

Total Sugar: Less than 10 percent of energy
Added Sugar: 0 grams
Non-Sugar Sweeteners: 0 grams

Sodium: 1 mg per 1 kcal

Galvez, who is also a former DOH secretary,

noted that the PNPM is a critical consumer protection measure that prioritizes the people’s health.

“Through this tool, our policymakers are guided in improving our food environment where nutritious options become the choice for every Filipino family to avoid obesity and other NCDs. Every Filipino deserves access to food that supports rather than harms their health,” he added.

The alliance urged implementing agencies to maintain transparency, eliminate conflicts of interest, and reject food industry interference as the PNPM begins to guide regulatory policies, such as mandatory front-of-pack food warning labels and marketing restrictions.

Addressing concerns raised by commercial sectors, Galvez Tan clarified that the model has not yet been applied to specific regulations, making claims of negative economic

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tion. Aside from the new police vehicles, the package includes drone, ammunition, and bulletproof vests for its personnel.

Mayor Davey Chua and Vice Mayor Dino Chua personally handed over the donation for the local police station.

In a statement, Chua underscored the municipal government’s commitment to aid the Noveleta Municipal Police in their efforts to keep their town safe. Through the donation of electric vehicles, community pa-

impacts premature.

“So it is premature for the food industry to claim that it will negatively impact the poor, businesses, and the livelihood of farmers or fisherfolk.

Citing the experience of other countries that used their nutrient profile model to implement policies like front-of-pack labeling, Galvez Tan argued that no ill effect on food costs, food supply, business operations, or the agricultural sector were reported in such countries.

Meanwhile, Diabetes Philippines (DP), an HPA member organization, emphasized that stringent nutrition standards are critical to countering the rise of metabolic conditions linked to ultra-processed foods.

“Traditional Filipino diets once helped protect people from chronic diseases. Today, however, the growing consumption of ultra-processed foods has contributed to an alarming rise in

trols will become less costly and more sustainable.

“Turnover Ceremony para sa donation ng dalawang (2) brand new electric car sa PNP Noveleta para maging mas matipid at efficient ang pagpapatrol ng ating masisipag na kapulisan. Kasabay rin nito ang turnover ng Drone, Bulletproof Vest, Handheld Radios at Ammunitions upang mas lalo pang mapalakas ang Peace and Order sa ating Mahal na Bayan ng Noveleta.”

As part of their efforts to help improve the patrolling capacity of the Noveleta Municipal Police, the Munic-

metabolic conditions such as hypertension and diabetes, even among younger Filipinos,” DP Board of Trustees member Jennina Duatin said.

Duatin, a nutritionist-dietitian, explained that the PNPM could encourage Filipino families to return to dietary patterns centered on a variety of nutritious, whole foods, as reflected in the Pinggang Pinoy model.

She added that these policy interventions are expected to drive the reformulation of packaged items while simultaneously boosting domestic demand for fresh produce, agricultural goods, and local catches.

NNC officer-in-charge Executive Director IV Rosalina Bascao expressed the council’s commitment to supporting the framework as a foundational element for future public

ipal Government also turned over additional equipment including drone, bulletproof vests, handheld radios, and ammunition to further strengthen peace and order within the municipality.

The new equipment for Noveleta Police was personally received by PLt. Col. Rafael Torres of the Police Regional Office CALABARZON Regional Logistics and Research Division, and PLt. Col. Willy Salazar, Deputy Provincial Director for Cavite Provincial Police. (PB-PIA CALABARZON, Municipality of Noveleta/Facebook)

health legislation.

“We are pleased to champion a policy framework designed to foster healthier consumer choices and contribute to curbing the prevalence of obesity and diet-related diseases. We look forward to supporting legislative proposals that harness this tool to strengthen public health regulations,” Bascao said. (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

New BSP rules aim to make e-payment fees fairer, more transparent

MANILA – The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has lifted the moratorium on increases in InstaPay and PESONet transaction fees and issued new rules aimed at making electronic payment charges fairer, more transparent and reflective of actual costs.

In Memorandum No. M-2026-025 issued on June 17, the BSP said the Monetary Board, through a resolution dated June 4, approved the lifting of the moratorium on fee increases for InstaPay and PESONet transactions.

The lifting of the moratorium will take effect concurrently with BSP Circular No. 1238, also issued on June 17, which provides amendments to the National Retail Payment System Framework and the Regulatory Framework for Merchant Payment Acceptance Activities.

“The lifting of the moratorium is grounded in the implementation of zero fees for small merchant payments, and the establishment of a pricing structure for person-to-person electronic fund transfers under the Circular which aims to reduce fees for this segment and provide parameters for responsible pricing and market conduct,” the BSP said.

“Consistent with the BSP’s broader policy direction to promote digital payments, financial inclusion, and innovation, the lifting of the moratorium enables a more responsive and sustainable



pricing environment, while ensuring that adequate regulatory oversight and consumer protection mechanisms remain firmly in place,” it added.

Under the circular, BSP-supervised financial institutions (BSFIs) are required to adopt reasonable and fair market-based pricing mechanisms for electronic payment services.

The BSP said the pricing framework should uphold fairness across end-user groups and ensure that fees remain aligned with the actual cost of providing services.

The circular also states that fees for electronic payments are expected to be lower than those charged for manual or over-the-counter (OTC) transactions, given the greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness of digital payment channels.

According to the BSP, BSFIs are still required to disclose fees for electronic payment services in accordance

with Memorandum No. M-2018-013 issued in March 2018.

BSFIs may also be required to submit additional documentation to justify pricing mechanisms for fees deemed unreasonable following a review of their periodic disclosures.

Finance Secretary Frederick Go, meanwhile, said he is in favor of further reductions in digital transaction costs.

“Here in the Philippines, I get upset when I see that the transaction cost can go as high as PHP50. But I think the normal is between PHP10 to PHP20,” he said during a recent briefing.

Go said he is in discussions with industry stakeholders on possible ways to reduce costs further, adding that consumers should only shoulder switching fees.

“Digital payment should be fast, secure, convenient, and affordable,” he said. (PNA)

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

Proverbs 28:1

DepEd assures direct support for teachers serving as ARAL tutors

MANILA – The Department of Education (DepEd) on Wednesday assured direct support to teachers serving as tutors in public schools under the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program.

This is in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s directive to ensure the welfare of public school educators and advance quality education.

In a statement, Education Secretary Sonny Angara said proper compensation will be provided to teachers who are rendering service to the agency’s remediation program, which focuses on Reading, Science, and Mathematics.

“Sinisiguro natin na sa pagpapalawak ng ARAL program, hindi ma-overburden ang ating mga guro – mananatili sa itinakdang limitasyon ang kanilang workload at mababayaran nang tama ang kanilang extra service (We are ensuring that amid the expansion of the ARAL program, our teachers will not be overburdened – the set limitations on workload will remain and their extra service will be properly compensated),” he said.

Under the program, teachers serving as tutors during weekdays will be entitled to teaching overload pay, provided they exceed the prescribed six-hour actual classroom teaching load.

During weekends, holidays, and long vacation periods, teachers may earn Vacation Service Credits (VSCs), with one hour of service equivalent



SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS. A public school teacher holds classes in this undated photo. The Department of Education (DepEd) on Wednesday (June 17, 2026) assured direct support to teachers serving as tutors in public schools under the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program. (File photo courtesy of DepEd)

to 1.5 hours of VSC. “Magiging matagumpay lang ang pagbabago sa ating sistema ng edukasyon kung sabay nating aalagaan ang ating mga mag-aaral at ang mga gurong gumagabay sa kanila (The reforms in the education system will only be successful if we do it while upholding the welfare of our learners and the teachers guiding them),” Angara said.

Nearly PHP2 billion has been earmarked to expand tutor support under the ARAL program.

The budget increase is a major scale-up from the PHP150 million previously sourced through the Department of Labor and Employment’s (DOLE) Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers (TUPAD) Program and Government Internship Program (GIP).

Schools currently have access to PHP1.09 billion in existing ARAL funds, while an additional PHP1.77 billion is scheduled for release. This will cover teach-

ing and learning resources, session support materials such as flashcards, visual aids, and essential monitoring activities.

For 2026, the ARAL Program has a total budget of PHP8.94 billion, with more than PHP2.25 billion allocated for learning materials.

While DepEd acknowledges that current funding remains insufficient to cover all requirements, the agency is maximizing the available budget to address critical expenses and support schools.

To further alleviate the pressure on school-level resources, the department is actively processing support funds to facilitate both the training and prompt mobilization of tutors.

The DepEd is also set to launch an online platform for applicants within June.

The platform seeks to simplify the mobilization and training of tutors, including qualified external professionals, to supplement school personnel. (PNA)

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Baltazar, Phillips, Rosario reinforce Gilas for World Cup qualifiers

MANILA – Gilas Pilipinas will be tapping the services of Justine Baltazar, Mike Phillips and Troy Rosario for the upcoming window of the 2027 FIBA World Cup Asian Qualifiers, with the Philippines looking to shore up its frontline amid key absences.

The trio earned call-ups as Gilas grapples with manpower issues in the frontcourt, with 7'1 Kai Sotto and 6'10 Quentin Millora-Brown expected to miss the July road games against New Zealand and Australia.

National team mainstay Calvin Oftana has also ruled himself out due to a scheduled toe surgery.

Baltazar, a 6-foot-9 forward center currently suiting up for Converge, returns to the national team fold after emerging as one of the PBA's most impactful big men.

Phillips, a 6-foot-8 athletic forward currently playing for the San Juan Knights in the MPBL, also gets the nod for the national team's final 12-man roster.

The former De La Salle University stand-out was named UAAP Finals Most Valuable Player during his collegiate career and is expected to provide energy, rebounding and defensive versa-



GILAS ROSTER. The Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas bares the final 12-man roster of Gilas Pilipinas for the upcoming window of the 2027 FIBA World Cup Asian Qualifiers next month. Gilas Pilipinas will be getting the services of Justine Baltazar, Mike Phillips and Troy Rosario for the upcoming window of the FIBA World Cup Asian Qualifiers. (SBP photo)

tility.

Rosario, meanwhile, adds size, athleticism and experience to a retooled Gilas frontline as the Philippines prepares for two physically demanding assignments away from home.

Leading the roster is naturalized player Justin Brownlee, who joins the national team shortly after powering Barangay Ginebra to the PBA Commissioner's Cup championship.

Also included are Ginebra guards Scottie Thompson and RJ Abarrientos, veteran San Miguel center June Mar Fajardo, and Meralco stalwart Chris Newsome.

Completing the lineup are Japan B.League campaigners Dwight Ramos, AJ Edu, Kevin Quiambao and Carl

Tamayo.

Coach Tim Cone earlier bared they are exploring the possibility of holding a media day and an open workout for fans, tentatively scheduled for June 22, before the team departs for New Zealand.

Gilas is set to leave for Auckland on June 23 for a week-long training camp aimed at helping the squad adjust to winter conditions before opening the window.

The Philippines will face New Zealand on July 3 in Auckland before taking on Australia on July 6 in Perth.

Gilas currently shares second place in Group A with New Zealand at 2-2, behind unbeaten Australia at 4-0.

Guam remains at the bottom of the standings with an 0-4 record. (PNA)

Ginebra ends 'TNT curse,' wins PBA Commissioner's Cup title

MANILA – Ginebra ended the TNT curse, outlasting the Tropang 5G, 88-76, in Game 7 of the PBA Season 50 Commissioner's Cup finals in front of 24,617 fans at Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City on Wednesday night.

It was the franchise's first title since a record 54,589-strong crowd at Philippine Arena in Bocaue, Bulacan watched Ginebra turn back Bay Area, 114-99, in the Commissioner's Cup finals Game 7 in January 2023.

Since that championship three years ago, the Gin Kings lost to the Tropang 5G thrice in the finals -- Season 49 Commissioner's Cup, and Season 47 and Season 49 Governors' Cup finals.

Best Import award-ee Justin Brownlee led Ginebra with 30 points and 14 rebounds in the clincher, including 16 points in the second half to fuel a 48-29 run that erased a 49-47 halftime deficit.

Brownlee scored 54 (Game 5) and 52 (Game 6) points in earlier games.

"These beautiful fans, they gave us the energy to go out there and win," Brownlee said. "We were down and TNT



Barangay Ginebra, PBA Season 50 Commissioner's Cup champion (PBA Images)

gave us a battle. But as coach Tim kept telling us, 'this is our time.'"

"Stephen Holt said it before the series started, 'this is our time.' And it was our time."

The win gave Brownlee his seventh PBA championship.

"Ten years ago I would never have thought I'd be still playing at 38 years old and winning championships," Brownlee said. "But these fans, they give me the energy to go out there play for them, play for my family and give my best."

Scottie Thompson finished with 19 points, 11 rebounds and 8 assists and was named Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) by the PBA Press Corps.

"Ito yata 'yung pinaka-emotional na panalo ko ng finals MVP kasi

(This is probably my most emotional finals MVP win because it is) unexpected. I've been battling through ups and downs," Thompson said.

Best Player of the Conference RJ Abarrientos added 13 points to win his first PBA title.

TNT was led by import Chris McCullough's 28 points. Jordan Heading scored 21 and RR Pogoy had 15.

The scores: GINEBRA 88 — Brownlee 30, Thompson 19, Abarrientos 13, Rosario 13, J. Aguilar 7, Pinto 6, Gray 0, Holt 0, Cu 0.

TNT 76 — McCullough 28, Heading 21, Pogoy 15, Oftana 5, Aurin 4, Nambatac 3, Galinato 0, Khobuntin 0, Williams 0.

Quarters: 18-16; 40-47; 68-63; 88-76 (PBA/PNA)

Huge oil price rollback expected next week – DOE exec

MANILA – A significant cut in domestic fuel prices is expected next week as international oil prices have declined by around USD20 per barrel as of Wednesday, ahead of the scheduled signing of a U.S.-Iran peace deal on Friday.

Department of Energy (DOE) Director Rino Abad, in an interview on Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon on Thursday, said oil prices are expected to decrease further in the coming days due to improvements in the situation

in the Middle East.

"We expect a huge rollback next week. A huge chunk has been reduced from prices of petroleum products in the first three days of this week's trading and this is not expected to be revised," he said in Filipino.

This week, domestic fuel prices posted mixed movements, with diesel prices cut by around PHP3 per liter and kerosene by around PHP0.50 per liter, while gasoline prices increased by more than PHP1 per

liter.

Abad denied claims that price increases are being implemented more frequently than rollbacks.

He said oil price adjustments depend on several factors, primarily demand and supply conditions in relation to developments in the Middle East, as well as foreign exchange movements.

He stressed that fuel price adjustments are driven by market factors and not by the preferences of stakeholders. (PNA)