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P10.00

PBBM studying extension of P50/kilo cap on imported rice

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is studying a recommendation to extend the government's PHP50 per kilo maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) on imported rice beyond its scheduled expiration as part of efforts to keep food prices stable amid global uncertainties, Malacañang said Wednesday.

Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said the National Price Coordinating Council has recommended extending the price cap, which was initially

imposed to temper rising rice prices and protect consumers.

"Inaaraal pa po ito ng Pangulo para sa kanyang approval dahil tinitignan na malapit na ang anihan sa September kaya kino-consider ito ng Pangulo (The President is still studying it for his approval because he is taking in consideration the imminent harvest season in September)," Castro said during a Palace briefing.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) earlier recommended a

60-day extension of the PHP50 per kilo MSRP for 5 percent broken imported rice beyond June 30 to sustain gains in curbing rice inflation.

The government implemented the MSRP in May following a sharp increase in rice prices driven by supply concerns and global market disruptions linked to the conflict in the Middle East.

Castro said the administration is also pursuing additional interventions to stabilize food prices amid expectations of higher



(PNA file photo)

inflationary pressures in the second half of

DA pushes data-driven preps ahead of El Niño peak

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Tuesday underscored the need to advance data-driven planning and faster execution of programs ahead of another El Niño episode expected to peak in November.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel

Jr. made the call after the agency posted better results in internal assessments and evaluations by the Commission on Audit (COA) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the first half of 2026.

In a statement, Laurel urged DA personnel to

sustain such momentum as the government braces for looming weather and food security challenges.

"Preparedness prevents a challenge from becoming a crisis, and a crisis from deteriorating into a catastrophe. That must be our (Turn to p. 2)

DOT launches 'Discover More to Love' domestic tourism campaign



SANTA ROSA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — As part of its efforts to boost domestic travel and further

support local tourism stakeholders, the Department of Tourism (DOT) launched its new domestic tourism

campaign, Discover More to Love, through a new platform developed in partnership with public and private sector stakeholders nationwide.

Featuring a new website that serves as a repository of around 3,000 special travel deals for accommodations, attractions, dining, tours, transportation, and wellness services, the platform

offers discounts of up to 70 percent off regular prices.

DOT Secretary Dita Angara-Mathay led the launch of the campaign during the opening ceremony of the Central Philippines Tourism Expo on Friday, June 26, in Santa Rosa City, Laguna. The event brought together DOT officials, local tourism officers from the country's

the year due to continuing geopolitical tensions and volatility in global commodity markets.

She said Marcos has directed the DA to en-

sure an adequate supply of fertilizer amid rising global demand partly caused by the ongoing crisis in the Middle East.

(Turn to p.2)

18 regions, tourism stakeholders, business owners, and content creators.

Angara-Mathay said that the platform addresses concerns about the affordability of traveling to domestic destinations as compared to international travel.

"We have created a shared platform which we hope will give travelers more

choices while helping tourism enterprises particularly those in emerging destinations to attract more visitors throughout the year including the lean travel months," she said.

According to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), domestic tourism expenditure reached P3.256 trillion in 2025, a 2.98 percent (Turn to p.2)

PBBM... FR. P. 1

“Sa kasalukuyan po, ang ating gobyerno ay nagbibigay ng mga abono at pataba sa ating mga magsasaka dahil planting season na so mas mababa ang cost production nila, which would mean lower po ang cost ng palay once harvest season (At present, the government is providing fertilizers and soil inputs to our farmers because it is planting

season, this is to lower production costs, which would mean lower palay costs during harvest season),” she added.

Castro also said the government continues to invest in post-harvest facilities and cold storage infrastructure to reduce food losses and improve supply chain efficiency. (PNA)

SENATE... FR. P. 4

alone.

“Susi rin dito ang pagtulong ng mga komunidad para mapalakas ang kaligtasan sa ating mga paaralan (Community support is also key to strengthening safety in our schools),” Aquino said.

The bill also seeks to strengthen anti-bullying and child protection policies, expand access to mental health services and psychosocial support and require informed parental consent for school-sanctioned activities such as educational field trips.

It also proposes standardized school safety

training programs for teachers, administrators and other school personnel, along with clear response and recovery protocols during emergencies.

The Senate Committee on Basic Education is set to deliberate on the proposed School Safety Act on July 9.

The hearing will also cover related measures on student safety and welfare, including bills expanding the Anti-Bullying Act, promoting digital literacy and internet safety, regulating the use of mobile devices in schools and protecting student-athletes. (PNA)

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

Proverbs 17: 1

HEART... FR. P. 5

PSA-Provincial Statistical Offices and subsequently processed by the PSA-Civil Registration Service.

The figures exclude deaths of Filipinos abroad.

However, the report included deaths

of foreign nationals as well as Filipinos whose usual residence is abroad, provided the deaths occurred within the country during the reference period.

The current results are still provisional and may differ from

DOT... FR. P. 1

increase from P3.162 trillion in 2024.

The new campaign also forms part of the DOT's efforts to encourage Filipinos to support local destinations by offering greater travel deals, ensuring more enjoyable travel experiences, and helping regional tourism enterprises maintain steady bookings, sustain jobs, and strengthen local economies throughout the year.

“Makikipagtulungan

DA... FR. P. 1

guiding principle in the months ahead,” he said.

Tiu Laurel said the government has more lead time than it did during the previous El Niño episode and should utilize that window to ensure that mitigation measures are in place.

He also noted that external conditions have become more favorable, with eased fuel and fertilizer prices.

By August, domestic retail prices are expected to return to near pre-US-Iran-war levels of PHP1,600 to PHP2,000 per bag, according to the DA.

Tiu Laurel said the lower input costs will help encourage farmers to maximize planting before the dry spell intensifies.

He also ordered the Department to fast-track irrigation, water impounding and other climate adaptation projects, including small farm reservoirs that can also support fisheries and provide

the final report, which is scheduled for re-

lease in January 2027. (PNA)

farmers with additional food and income.

Beyond immediate climate preparations, Tiu Laurel outlined a broader shift toward a food systems approach where production, storage, logistics, weather information and market demand are managed as one integrated network supported by real-time data.

Modernized facilities like additional cold storage, blast freezers, and logistics facilities are also seen to preserve local harvests, and help meet domestic demands, as well as reduce import dependence.

The DA chief also directed regional offices to identify each province's strongest agricultural and fisheries commodities, quantify production capacity, and measure post-harvest losses to guide investments in storage, processing, and cold chain infrastructure. (PNA)

lease in January 2027. (PNA)

retary said.

The platform also addresses the risk of fraudulent travel deals found online and on third-party applications, as all promotions featured on the website are legitimate and validated by partner tourism stakeholders and companies.

Laguna Tourism Council President and Enchanted Kingdom Chief Operating Officer Dr. Cynthia Mamon expressed support for the program and in conducting tourism exhibitions nationwide, saying it reinforces the government's push for stronger public-private partnerships and collaboration in promoting tourism while fostering national pride in the country's diverse destinations.

“We must focus on what we do best—all

our talents, our hospitality, our service-orientedness, ang ganda ng ating bayan, at ng ating bansa. We are blessed with national resources. I think we have our unique attractions in each of our regions so that we look forward to a more vibrant tourism in our country,” Mamon added.

The Discover More to Love campaign is anchored on the DOT's existing national tourism brand, Love the Philippines, which aims to ensure that the compelling stories, unique culture, and breathtaking destinations leave a lasting positive impression and inspire more Filipinos to explore the country through meaningful travel experiences. (CH/PIA-Laguna)

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National Career Fest connects of STI graduating students to job opportunities

The National Career Fest, spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM) in partnership with STI College Rosario, successfully connected jobseekers with employment opportunities last June 15, 2026.

The event brought together 315 jobseekers, composed mainly of graduating students, who were given the opportunity to explore various career paths and engage directly with potential employers. A total of 12 local companies participated in the activity, offering an impressive 3,957 job vacancies across different industries.

Beyond providing employment opportunities, the career fest also served as a platform for participants to acquire valuable career insights that are essential in navigating today's competitive job market. Jobseekers were able to gain a better understanding of industry expectations, required skill sets, and the qualifications needed to succeed in their chosen fields.

The event likewise enabled participants to establish meaningful connections with industry professionals, including recruiters and company representatives. Through direct interaction, attendees received guidance, advice, and firsthand information about potential career pathways, internships, and future employment prospects.

In addition, the career fest opened doors for jobseekers to explore a wide range of employment opportunities suited to various academic backgrounds and skill sets. This initiative provided graduating students and other applicants with a clearer direction as they prepare to enter the workforce.

Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM) head Ms. Rizalie Pinpin Enero encouraged jobseekers to look beyond salary and focus on opportunities that build experience, nurture skills, and support long-term personal and professional growth. She emphasized that meaningful career choices are those that provide learning, development, and a strong foundation for future success.--- OPIO



Newly hired, promoted, and transferred PGC employees attend SPMS Orientation

To strengthen employees' understanding of performance management and accountability in public service, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through its Performance Management Team (PMT), conducted the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) Orientation for newly hired, promoted, and transferred employees on June 17, at the OPE Conference Room, New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires



PGC Conducts Top Management Review

The Provincial Government of Cavite successfully conducted its Top Management Review (TMR) to assess the effectiveness and continual improvement of its Quality Management System (QMS), bringing together department heads, unit heads, and representatives from various offices on June 16 at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City.

Provincial Administrator, Engr. Gilbert V. Gandia welcomed the participants and emphasized the significance of the Top Management Review as a strategic platform for evaluating the organization's QMS performance and identifying opportunities for enhancement. He encouraged active participation from all attendees in strengthening the delivery of government services.

Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla likewise conveyed his message, highlighting the provincial government's commitment to quality governance, innovation, and excellence in public service. He acknowledged the collective efforts of all offices, particularly the Cavite Quality Management Office, in sustaining and improving the Quality Management System.

The review proper was facilitated by Ms. Michelle Alcid, Quality Management Representative, and attended by thirty-five (35) department heads, unit heads, and office representatives. Key agenda items included the approval of the minutes of the previous Top Management Review, matters arising and follow-up actions, results of the Recertification Audit, committee reports, performance evaluation of external providers, employee welfare updates, and other organizational concerns.

Committee representatives presented their accomplishments, observations, and recommendations, with discussions focusing on the performance of the Quality Management System, customer feedback mechanisms, workplace organization initiatives, records management improvements, training and education programs, and employee welfare concerns.

The participants also identified operational challenges and opportunities for improvement. Updates on awards, recognitions, and formal citations received by various offices were likewise presented, reflecting the Provincial Government of Cavite's continuing pursuit of organizational excellence and quality public service.--- OPIO

City.

The orientation aimed to equip employees with the necessary knowledge and skills in the implementation of the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS), a performance evaluation mechanism that aligns individual employee targets with organizational goals and priorities. The activity served as an avenue for employees to better understand their roles in achieving the provincial government's commitment to quality service and organizational excellence.

Serving as resource speakers during the orientation were Mr. Mark Lester Carada, Ms. Claudette Trixia Flores, and Ms. Angelica Joy Balanguit, who discussed the key components and processes of the SPMS. Their presentations covered performance planning and commitment, target setting, monitoring and coaching, performance review and evaluation, as well as the preparation and submission of performance commitment and review forms. The speakers also emphasized the importance of setting measurable targets and documenting accomplishments to ensure a fair and objective assessment of employee performance.

Participants were given the opportunity to clarify concerns and gain practical insights on the implementation of the system, enabling them to better understand their responsibilities and contributions to the achievement of the Provincial Government's strategic goals.

The activity builds upon the provincial government's continuing efforts to strengthen its performance management system.

Senate bill on school safety goes beyond bullying

MANILA – Sen. Bam Aquino is seeking the immediate passage of a wider School Safety Act that will go beyond bullying, as violent incidents and reports of students bringing deadly weapons to school raise fresh concerns over campus security.

Aquino, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, said on Wednesday his proposed measure was initially meant to strengthen anti-bullying policies but has since been expanded to cover other forms of violence, school security, emergency preparedness and emerging threats involving students.

“Sa harap ng mga nangyayaring insidente ng karahasan at pagdiskubre ng mga patalim at baril sa bag ng ilang mga estudyante, lalo’t higit na kailangan nating madaliin ang pagsasabatas ng School Safety Act (In the face of violent incidents and the discovery of knives and firearms in the bags of some students, we need to hasten the passage of the School Safety Act),” Aquino said.

Aquino said the measure aims to address safety problems in schools, including bullying and other forms of violence that endanger students and teachers.

“Umaasa tayong makatutulong ang panukalang ito para maresolba ang mga problemang nararanasan sa ating mga



SCHOOL SAFETY. School security personnel inspect the bags of students in an undated photo. Sen. Bam Aquino on Wednesday (July 1, 2026) sought the immediate passage of a wider School Safety Act as violent incidents and reports of students bringing deadly weapons to school raise fresh concerns over campus security. (Photo courtesy of DepEd)

paaralan, gaya ng bullying at iba pang uri ng karahasan na naglalagay sa panganib sa ating mga estudyante at mga guro (We hope this proposal will help address the problems being experienced in our schools, such as bullying and other forms of violence that place our students and teachers in danger),” he said.

Under the expanded bill, schools would be equipped with stronger security measures, improved emergency preparedness and response systems and

programs promoting the safety and well-being of learners and school personnel.

Aquino’s initial proposals include the installation of more closed-circuit television cameras, metal detectors and other security equipment, as well as the deployment of additional barangay tanods and security personnel in school areas.

He said school safety must also involve communities, noting that prevention should not be left to schools

(Back to p.2)

AFFIDAVIT OF DISCREPANCY (ONE AND THE SAME PERSON)

Notice is hereby given to the public that I, Elizabeth De Leon Reyes of legal age, Filipino with address at 162 Highway, Partida, Norzagaray, Bulacan depose and state that I am the sister and Atty.In-Fact/representative of Concepcion De Leon Reyes that there is discrepancy therein because her maiden name while Concepcion R. Sebastian is here married name and has been the subject of affidavit of Discrepancy Before Notary Public Atty. Lorelie M. Santos; Doc. No. 69; Page No. 15; Book No. 12; Series of 2026

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MMDA to tap 10K TUPAD beneficiaries for NCR waterways cleanup

MANILA – The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Wednesday signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) that will provide emergency employment to 10,000 beneficiaries under the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers (TUPAD) program.

DOLE Secretary Francis Tolentino and MMDA Chairperson Romando Artes led the signing of the joint initiative, backed by a PHP220-million budget.

The beneficiaries will be tapped to clear Metro Manila’s drainage systems under the Bayanihan sa Estero program to mitigate urban flooding.

“It’s really timely that we’re signing a memorandum of agreement today between our Department and the MMDA because the rainy season is approaching,” Tolentino said during the signing ceremonies at the MMDA Children Road Safety Park along Adriatico Street in Malate, Manila.

“Coming together for an initiative to clean waterways like esteros, canals, and drainage systems isn’t just about keeping our citizens safe from possible flood damage, but also about preventing any diseases that can come from it, like dengue, leptospirosis, and others,” the DOLE chief added.

The DOLE will de-



CLEANUP DRIVE. Department of Labor and Employment Secretary Francis Tolentino (in blue polo barong) meets with some of the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers (TUPAD) program beneficiaries at the MMDA Children Road Safety Park in Malate, Manila on Wednesday (July 1, 2026). TUPAD beneficiaries are tapped to clear Metro Manila’s drainage systems under the Bayanihan sa Estero program to mitigate urban flooding. (Photo from DOLE)

ploy an initial 500 beneficiaries on Wednesday to declog drainage systems, clean local waterways, and implement waste segregation.

The MMDA will support the team by conducting orientation sessions on efficient waste segregation and material recovery practices.

The DOLE, through its National Capital

Region office, along with MMDA and concerned local government units, are also in the process of profiling 3,600 beneficiaries for deployment.

“I am sure that the massive clean-up drive and Bayanihan sa Estero program under the TUPAD will really help our community a lot,” Tolentino said.

(PNA)

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE with ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given to the public that the late Leonardo F. Sebastian left a one half (1/2) ownership as conjugal share over a parcel of land located in Dasmarinas, Cavite with an area of Two Hundred (200) square meters and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-431572 issued by the Registry of Deeds of Cavite and has been the subject of Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate with Absolute Sale for and in consideration of the sum of Six Hundred Thousand Pesos Only (Php 600,000.00) Philippine Currency hand-paid by the buyer Nena Consador Tarayao to Concepcion De Leon Reyes, Christopher Reyes Sebastian, Leonardo Reyes Sebastian Jr. (Seller) Before Notary Public Atty. Lorelie M. Santos Doc. No. 70; Page No. 15; Book No. 12; Series of 2026.

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Laguna solon pushes for stronger school-based counseling, mental health programs

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Following recent incidents of school violence, Calamba City Lone District Representative Charisse Anne Hernandez-Alcantara has filed two House resolutions seeking to strengthen the implementation of school security protocols, mental health programs, and inter-agency interventions for values formation to ensure the safety, protection, and well-being of students.

In one resolution, Hernandez-Alcantara urged the stronger implementation of school security protocols, as well as more effective school-based counseling and mental health interventions to safeguard students.

She also called on the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), local government units, and educational institutions to fully implement the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013, which seeks to protect students from physical, verbal, and cyberbullying both on and off campus.

“Bilang nanay, ramdam ko ang halaga na alam ng mga anak natin na nandito lang tayo para sa kanila. Walang lugar ang anumang uri ng karahasan, bullying, at mga gawaing naglalagay sa panganib ang ating mga kabataan,” Hernandez said in a social media post.

In a separate resolution, she urged the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), DepEd, CHED, and

LGUs to conduct regular awareness campaigns, school-based training programs, and capacity-building activities for students, parents, teachers, and other school personnel on child protection, bullying prevention, and mental health awareness. These initiatives aim to promote positive discipline and strengthen values formation among learners.

She added, “Ang paaralan ay dapat mag-ing tahanan ng pagkatuto, paghubog ng pangarap, at pagkatao, hindi lugar ng takot at karahasan,”

Hernandez-Alcantara reiterated that no child should ever feel unsafe and emphasized that instilling discipline in children is not solely the responsibility of the government but also begins at home.

“But the work starts at home. Sa mga kapuwa kong magulang: Let’s check on our kids. Kausapin, pakinggan, at gabayan natin sila. Iparamdam natin na sa kanilang paglalakbay, hindi sila nag-iisa,” she stressed.

Supporting the initiative is another Calamba lawmaker, City Councilor and Laguna Board Member Arvin Manguiat, who has filed a proposed ordinance seeking the institutionalization of a comprehensive school-based mental health program.

Under his proposal, Manguiat seeks to mandate periodic mental health assessments and establish a reporting mechanism for self-harm risks or potential mass violence incidents through a

School Threat Assessment and Violence Prevention Program. The measure adopts a proactive, rather than reactive, approach to mitigating harmful student behavior.

“Sa usapin ng mental health, hindi dapat huli ang aksyon. Dapat isang hakbang tayong nauuna. Because protecting our students is not just good governance, it’s common sense,” Manguiat said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the DepEd Schools Division Office of Calamba City urged students not to hesitate to report cases of bullying, which includes cyberbullying, gender-based, social, or psychological bullying, to their teachers, learner formation officers, or school principals.

The department reaffirmed its commitment to protecting learners and fostering an environment conducive to learning and personal growth. (CH/PIA-Laguna)

Heart disease, cancer, stroke lead causes of death in 2025

MANILA – Ischemic heart diseases, neoplasms (cancer), and cerebrovascular diseases remained the top three leading causes of death in the Philippines in 2025.

In a Facebook post on Monday, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) noted that the findings are consistent with the data recorded during the same period in 2024, the PSA said.

Ischemic heart diseases topped the list,

MANILA – As the country enters the peak of the rainy season when leptospirosis cases typically surge, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) is expanding its benefit coverage for moderate to severe infections beginning July 15, in line with the government’s thrust to improve access to treatment and reduce out-of-pocket medical expenses.

Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said the expanded coverage comes as health authorities continue to warn of increased risks of leptospirosis during periods of heavy rainfall and flooding, when exposure to contaminated water becomes more common.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection most commonly spread through water or soil contaminated by the urine of infected animals. It is a major cause of acute kidney injury.

Under the enhanced



(PNA file photo)

package, PhilHealth will provide up to PHP63,000 for hospital care, up to PHP170,000 for hemodialysis, and up to PHP230,000 for peritoneal dialysis.

Qualified patients requiring a combination of critical interventions, including dialysis, mechanical ventilation and pulmonary rehabilitation, may receive benefits of up to PHP411,000.

“Alinsunod ito sa hangarin ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. na mas marami ang makakuha ng kinakailangang gamutan nang hindi nalulubog sa napakalaking gastusin (This is in line with President Ferdinand

R. Marcos Jr.’s goal of ensuring that more Filipinos can access necessary treatment without being burdened by enormous medical expenses),” Castro said in a Palace briefing.

The Palace official also announced that consultations with accredited Yaman ng Kalusugan Program para Malayo sa Sakit program providers will be free, while doxycycline prescribed for leptospirosis prevention will be covered under PhilHealth’s “Gamot Package,” which provides up to PHP20,000 annually per member for necessary medications. (PNA)

with 60,947 recorded cases, constituting 9.8 percent of the overall mortality figures.

Completing the top five leading causes of death were pneumonia with 43,106 cases (6.9 percent) and diabetes mellitus with 37,978 deaths (6.1 percent).

The PSA said the data were obtained from timely and late registered deaths at the Office of the City or Municipal Civil Registrar nationwide.

The records were submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar General through the **Back to p.2**



(PNA file photo by Robert Oswald P. Alfiler)

claiming 122,339 lives, which accounted for 19.7 percent of the country’s total nationwide deaths in 2025.

Neoplasms followed

as the second leading cause, with 70,668 deaths, or 11.4 percent of the total.

Cerebrovascular diseases ranked third

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DA, DILG partner for tax exemption rules for agri structure

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Wednesday partnered with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to implement tax exemption rules for agricultural structures nationwide.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. signed a joint memorandum circular (JMC) with DILG Secretary Jonvic Remulla to establish the guidelines and operationalize Section 12(b) of the Sagip Saka Act.

In a press conference, Tiu Laurel said the JMC provides a uniform framework that will help advance the benefits of tax incentives in the agriculture sector.

“Every peso counts kaya makakatulong talaga ito na mabawasan ang (that’s why this is a huge help to reduce the) operating costs or cost of production. Of course, dapat mas malaki ‘yung kikitain ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda (the income of farmers and fishers must be higher),” he said.

For his part, Remulla ordered the immediate information dissemination of the tax exemption rule across local government units (LGUs) nationwide.



TAX EXEMPTION. Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. signs a joint memorandum circular with Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla for the implementation of real property tax exemption for agricultural structures, buildings, and warehouses under the Sagip Saka Act on Wednesday (July 1, 2026). Tiu Laurel said the guidelines will benefit Filipino farmers and fishers, as it seeks to strengthen the value chain and reduce post-harvest losses through dedicated facilities. (PNA photo by Stephanie Sevillano)

“Inaatasan ko ang ating Undersecretary (Marlo) Iringan na ikalat kaagad-agad sa ating lahat ng local government units, lahat ng barangay ang tungkol dito sa (I am now ordering Undersecretary Iringan to disseminate it to all our LGUs and all barangays, forthwith, all the information about this) joint memorandum circular,” he said in a separate speech.

Under the circular, structures, buildings and warehouses used for storing farm inputs and outputs are qualified for tax exemption, provided that the assessed value does not exceed PHP3 million.

Tiu Laurel said the

tax exemption can help boost savings of local farmers, fishers, cooperatives, associations and agricultural enterprises across the country.

“I would say a range of PHP500 per year up, sa (in) rural areas, up to PHP12,000 per year,” he said, citing the potential annual savings depending on the agricultural structure.

Tax savings can also be redirected toward better farm inputs, modern storage systems, post-harvest facilities, equipment, technology adoption and enterprise expansion, particularly for small farmers, fisherfolk, cooperatives and

PH beats Iran to kick off pool play in AVC Girls’ U18 in Thailand

MANILA – The Philippines defeated Iran, 29-19, 19-25, 25-23, 25-18, for its first victory in Pool C Wednesday in the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Girls’ U18 Championship at the Terminal 21 Hall in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand.

Xyz Ellen Rayco top-scored with 19 points on 14 attacks, three blocks and two aces, followed by Ma. Ellanie Lorraine Gonzalvo with 15 points on 12 attacks and two aces in the one hour and 50-minute match.

Jhayna Love Bulandres and Adelaine Terese Agustin chipped in nine points for the team, which clinched the bronze medal in the Princess Cup.

Sana Naghipour led the Iranians with 15 points, 13 on attacks, followed by Setayesh Nasr Esfahani with 15 points on eight points and two aces.

“We had expected Iran to play well, they beat us in the semifinal at the Asian Youth Games in Bahrain,” said head coach Rey

agricultural enterprises, he added.

Besides savings, the tax exemption rule also seeks to encourage the establishment of more structures, which will help minimize post-harvest losses, ease production costs and boost farmers and fishers’ income.

“What is important is magkaroon ng maraming storage, di bale na sigurong gamitin



Ma. Ellanie Lorraine Gonzalvo (Contributed photo)

Karl Dimaculangan, who is assisted by Keenan Quitco and Marco Ely Maclang.

The Philippines—sent to the tournament through the Philippine Olympic Committee and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Boysen and Monolith—will next face Japan at 10 a.m. Thursday and Indonesia at 4 p.m. on Friday.

Dimaculangan stressed the importance of mindset.

“We need to be more focused on the game and be more aggressive, especially on the floor,” he said.

Most of the players are members of the 2026 Palarong Pambansa champion National University,

ng tao ‘yung batas at magtayo ng maliliit (to have many storage, regardless if the people will use the law to build small structures), all over the place, it still benefits the country,” Tiu Laurel said.

The DILG, meanwhile, expressed commitment to a swift nationwide information campaign to ensure LGUs’ compliance.

“Third quarter, tapos na ‘yung dissemina-

while Lleses is a player of King’s Montessori of Quezon City, while Gonzalvo is with the Adamson University.

Six of the players—Rayco, Bulandres, Lleses, Princess Khaira Manzano, Irish May Mahinay and Frances Dianne Ramos—are part of the national team that qualified for the FIVB World Girls’ U17 in Chile from Aug. 6 to 16.

Kazakhstan defeated Hong Kong, 25-3, 25-23, 25-15, in Pool B at the Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University gym.

The semifinalists in the championships will qualify for the U19 world championships next year—the FIVB has yet to announce the venue. (PR)

tion sa ating local governments. And then they have to revisit their tax code, their revenue code. And then enact the order in proper ordinances,” Iringan said. (PNA)

A TRUE FRIEND
SHOWS LOVE AT
ALL TIMES AND IS A
BROTHER WHO IS
BORN FOR TIMES OF
DISTRESS
Prov. 17:17