

# CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

VOL. XXVII NO. 17 AUGUST 6-12, 2026 P10.00  
ISSN: 2651-7450

## Silang mushrooms gain prominence after PBBM nod

SILANG, Cavite (PIA) — Receiving a seal of approval from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. himself, Silang town is slowly gaining prominence for producing commercial-scale enoki mushrooms that provide job and invest-

ment opportunities.

During recent his visit at Tan's Farm, Mayor Ted Carranza lauded the Salad Time processing facility as the country's first commercial-scale enoki mushroom production facility. Owned by Basic Necessity, Inc.,

the facility showcases agricultural innovation in the municipality.

"Isa itong patunay na patuloy na kinikilala ang [bayan ng] Silang bilang sentro ng inobasyon sa agrikultura at magandang lugar para sa pamumuhunan.

(Turn to p. 2)

# DSWD ready for immediate response as Maymay threatens parts of Luzon

MANILA — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Wednesday assured the public of its readiness to respond to families that may be affected by Tropical Storm Maymay (international name Kujira) even as ongoing disaster response operations for the 7.8 magnitude earthquake,

Mayon Volcano threat and other calamities continue.

Based on Tropical Cyclone Bulletin No. 5 issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) at 11 a.m., Signal No. 2 has been raised over locos Sur, the northern and central portions

of La Union, the northwestern portion of Pangasinan, the southwestern portion of Abra, the western portion of Mountain Province, and the northwestern portion of Benguet.

Aside from Maymay, PAGASA also warned that the enhanced southwest monsoon or "habagat" will continue. (Turn to p.2)

## Nearly 10,000 Bacooreños benefit from BBM Rice Augmentation Program rollout



BACOR CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The Bawar Bayan Makikinabang Rice Augmentation Program promises relief for Bacoar City families for their daily meals.

As part of the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF), a pri-

ority initiative of the Office of the President through the Office of the Executive Secretary, the Bawar Bayan Makikinabang Rice Program rollout in Bacoar City aimed to provide 10 kilos of rice to around 10,000 individuals.

With a goal to provide food for every Filipino family, Director Katherine Enriquez of the Office of the Executive Secretary underscored that the Bawar Bayan Makikinabang Rice Augmentation Program reflects President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s commitment to provide for the needs of every Filipino through fast, responsive, and meaningful services.

"Ang programang ito ay sumasalamin sa malinaw na paninindigan ng administrasyon na



**DISASTER RESPONSE.** Volunteers help repack family food packs at the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) Luzon Disaster Resource Center in Pasay City in this undated photo. The DSWD on Wednesday (Aug. 5, 2026) assured the public of its readiness to respond to families that may be affected by Tropical Storm Maymay (international name Kujira). (Photo courtesy of DSWD)

ang mga pangunahing pangangailangan ng bawat pamilyang Pilipino ay dapat natutugunan sa pamamagitan ng mabilis, maayos, at makabuluhang serbisyo ng pamahalaan."

Following the launch of the Bawar Bayan Makikinabang Rice Augmentation Program last July 29, Mayor Strike Revilla expressed his support for the program that

aimed to provide rice benefits to residents who need it most.

Revilla added that the local government provided an additional P50-M to provide benefits for an additional 40,000 beneficiaries, ensuring that all Bacooreños will receive rice support from the government.

"Bahagi ito ng programa ng ating Pangulong BBM na Bawat

Bayan Makikinabang Rice Augmentation Program. Ang pondong ito ay nagbigay ang national government, ang ating Pangulo, ng P100-M para po dito. Dinagdagan po 'yan ng City Government ng P50-M para mas maraming magbigyan. Supposedly, 80,000 lang ang magbibigyan, so nagdagdag po tayo ng P50-M

(Turn to p.2)

## DSWD... FR. P. 1

ue to bring moderate to heavy rains over areas in Metro Manila, most of Luzon and Visayas, and parts of Mindanao, raising the risk of flooding and landslides in areas all over the country.

In a radio interview, Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao of the DSWD's Disaster Response Management Group (DRMG) said the department has intensified its monitoring and coordination with local government units (LGUs) and other partner agencies to ensure the immediate delivery of assistance should the need arise.

"Patuloy po nating mino-monitor ang galaw ng Maymay at ang patuloy na epekto ng habagat sa iba't ibang bahagi po ng ating bansa. Nakaalerto na po ang disaster response teams, gayundin ang iba pang mga personnel ng ating Central Office at Field Offices nationwide para agad na makapagbigay ng kinakailangang tulong sa mga pamilyang maaaring maapektuhan ng malakas na pag-ulan, pagbaha, at iba pang panganib dulot ng sama ng panahon (We continue to monitor the movement of Maymay and the continuing effect of the habagat in various parts of the country. The disaster response teams and other personnel of our Central Office and Field Offices nationwide are on alert to immediately provide needed assistance to families that may be affected by heavy rains, flooding and other threats posed by the inclement weather)," the DSWD spokesperson said.

Based on the latest Disaster Response Operations Monitoring, Information and Communication (DROM-IC) report as of 6 a.m. Wednesday, the

DSWD has 4.999 million family food packs (FFPs) strategically prepositioned across disaster resource centers, regional warehouses, and hubs nationwide.

The DSWD also has sufficient stocks of ready-to-eat food (RTEF) boxes and other food and non-food items (FNFI), as well as PHP1.66 billion worth of Quick Response Fund (QRF) available at the DSWD Central Office to support immediate disaster response operations.

"Ang kautusan ng Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. sa DSWD (ay) tiyakin na maging mabilis at sapat ang tulong na naipapaabot natin sa atin pong mga kababayan na naapektuhan ng iba't ibang mga kalamidad. Kaya po tinitiyak ng DSWD na mayroon tayong sapat na prepositioned goods sa iba't ibang warehouses sa buong bansa. Nasa 4.9 million family food packs ang nasa ating stockpile sa kasalukuyan (The order of President Marcos to the DSWD is to ensure the prompt and ample provision of assistance to our countrymen who will be affected by various calamities. That's why the DSWD ensures that we have enough prepositioned goods in various warehouses nationwide)," Dumlao said.

"So nakikita natin na hindi lamang po naghahanda ang DSWD kapag may mga kalamidad na. Araw-araw nagpo-produce tayo ng food packs para madaali tayong makatugon sa mga pangangailangan ng ating mga kababayan na naapektuhan (The DSWD does not only prepare if there is a calamity. We produce food packs daily so that we can imme-

## PH logs nearly 4-decade record-high palay harvest in Q2 – DA

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Wednesday highlighted a record-high palay (unhusked rice) harvest for the second quarter, marking the highest volume in nearly four decades.

The Philippines logged a record 4.63 million metric tons (MT) of palay output from April to June, according to the Philippine Statistics Au-

thority (PSA).

This is equivalent to a 5.7 percent year-on-year hike, which is considered the highest second-quarter harvest since 1987.

In a statement, DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said government intervention has helped advance stable supply and support to farmers.

This is in line with the directives of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

to ensure food security and profitability of Filipino food producers.

"The agency is applying lessons from the 2024 El Niño, shifting its strategy from crisis response to early preparation to safeguard both food supplies and farmer incomes," Tiu Laurel said.

In particular, an unprecedented 1.04 million hectares of harvested area contributed to the record-high second-quarter harvest.

This area helped lift overall production despite the slight drop in the average yield, equivalent to a 0.7 percent drop to 4.47 MT per hectare from 4.50 MT per hectare.

The high harvested area, which expanded by 6.5 percent, demonstrated the country's favorable growing conditions and improved market profitability, which have intensified farmers' cropping intention, as well as the sustained govern-

ment support.

Tiu Laurel attributed the improved market conditions to the four-month rice import ban from September to December last year, prompting better earning opportunities for palay farmers.

The second-quarter harvest also offset the weaker first quarter, resulting in a 9 million MT overall first-semester palay output.

**Bracing for a strong El Niño**

The agency assured preparations for the impact of the looming strong El Niño phenomenon, both for Filipino farmers and consumers.

This comes as the PSA projected a 13.3 percent drop in third-quarter palay output, based on the standing crops as of July 1.

According to the PSA, palay output may fall to 3.25 million MT by the third quarter, lower than 3.75 million MT in the same period last year.

(Turn to p.3)

## SLANG... FR. P. 1

Sa bawat proyektong dumarating sa ating bayan, mas maraming oportunidad sa trabaho at mas lumalakas ang ating lokal na ekonomiya."

Farmer-entrepreneur Lyndon Tan, with the help of the Department of Agriculture (DA), developed the project in a bid to reduce the country's reliance in importing enoki mushrooms.

Spanning eight ( 8 ) hectares, this modernized facility is also cited as a center for agricultural innovation in Silang.

To recall, during his 2026 State of the Nation Address, President Marcos Jr. highlighted the

enoki mushroom among the list of farm products that are gaining prominence in global export.

"We have also maintained export competitiveness for our indigenous farm products, such as ube, coconut, bananas, and other tropical fruits. And we have now ventured into new and viable ones, like enoki mushrooms."

Commonly growing in colder areas, enoki mushrooms grows best in temperature ranging between 10-18 °C. (PBPIA CALABARZON/with reports from Gen. Ted Carranza)

## NEARLY 10,000... FR. P. 1

para madagdagan na maging 120,000. Actually, 240,000 ang mabibigyan, pero dalawang beses. Bawat pamilya ay mabibigyan natin."

Revilla emphasized the city's support to the government's thrust in ensuring that all families will receive rice benefits under the Bawat Bayan Makikinabang Rice Augmentation Program.

Meanwhile, Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista echoed the residents' sentiment on the importance of government programs

that directly benefit their basic needs.

"Malaking tulong po ito sa ating pang-araw-araw at makakabawas sa gastusin ng ating pamilya. Alam nating ang bigas ang pangunahin nating pagkain kaya ang gani-tong programa ay tunay na nakapagpapagaan ng ating buhay. Taos-puso ang ating pasasalamat kay President Bongbong Marcos at sa lahat ng ahensya ng national government na naging katuwang sa programang ito." (PB/PIA Cavite)

diately respond to the needs of families that may be affected."

The DSWD advised the public to monitor official weather bulletins issued by PAGASA and an-

nouncements from the respective LGUs while taking necessary precautions against the possible effects of Maymay and the habagat. (PNA)

## CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

raquel.cavitenews@gmail.com  
0997409432/09329770888  
Website Cavitenews.com

**RAQUEL M. MAGTIBAY**  
*Publisher*

**JESSIEL M. RAVANA**  
*Editor-In-Chief*

**JOHN JEPREE MAGTBAY**  
*Lay-out-Artist*

**LAURO M. MAGTIBAY**  
*Circulation Manager*

**ATTY. RACQUEL C. LARA**  
*Legal Counsel*



MEMBER of PRIME ALLIANCE of PUBLISHERS, EDITORS, & REPORTERS of the Philippines Inc.

THIS NEWSPAPER IS EDITED, PUBLISHED AND CIRCULATED IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE AT BLK. 8 LOT 19 SAINT FRANCIS ST. CARDINAL VILLAGE SALITRAN 3 DASMARIÑAS CITY OF CAVITE

Commercial Advertising Rate: P200.00/col.cm  
Legal Rate P160.00/col.cm.



### 36 Students Attend SPES Orientation in McDonald's - Anabu

Thirty-six (36) student beneficiaries participated in the orientation for the Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES) on July 27, 2026, held at McDonald's Anabu in the City of Imus.

The orientation equipped participants with essential information on the program, including workplace policies, expected conduct, job responsibilities, and employment guidelines to help prepare them for their temporary work assignments.

SPES is a youth employment-bridging program of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) that provides temporary employment opportunities to poor but deserving students, out-of-school youth, and dependents of displaced or would-be displaced workers. The program aims to help beneficiaries augment their family's income, continue their education, and gain valuable work experience while developing practical skills, discipline, and a positive work ethic.

The orientation also emphasized the importance of professionalism, punctuality, teamwork, and customer service, preparing the student beneficiaries to adapt to a professional work environment. Through their deployment, participants will have the opportunity to acquire hands-on experience that can strengthen their employability and readiness for future careers.



### Cavite Arbor Day Tree Planting Strengthens Environmental Conservation Efforts

In observance of Cavite Arbor Day, the Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (OPENRO), spearheaded a tree planting activity recently, along the Naic-Ternate via Bancaan Road in collaboration with the Municipal Government of Ternate.

The initiative was part of the provincial government's continuing commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development by promoting greener and healthier communities. The activity gathered representatives from various national government agencies, private sector organizations, environmental volunteers, local government officials, and community stakeholders who joined hands in planting tree seedlings along the identified provincial road.

Ternate Mayor Llamberto Bambao graced the activity and actively participated in the tree planting, expressing the Municipal Government of Ternate's full support for the initiative. In his message, he underscored the importance of collective action in protecting the environment and emphasized that collaborative efforts among government agencies, the private sector, and local communities are essential in ensuring a greener and more sustainable future for the municipality and the province.

The tree planting activity aims to establish greenbelts along selected provincial roads to promote ecological awareness, enhance roadside landscapes, and encourage active community participation in environmental conservation initia-



### Federation of the Deaf – Cavite Province, Inc. holds oathtaking ceremony for newly elected officers

The Federation of the Deaf – Cavite Province, Inc., a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)-registered disability organization, formally inducted its newly elected officers during an Oath-Taking Ceremony held recently, at the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City.

Leading the organization is its newly inducted President, Mr. Mark Kelvin Marcial, together with the federation's officers who pledged their commitment to advancing the rights, welfare, and inclusion of the Deaf community across the Province of Cavite. The oathtaking was administered by Governor Abeng Remulla, whose presence underscored the Provincial Government's continued support for programs and initiatives that promote accessibility, empowerment, and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

The ceremony was also graced by Ms. Marie Shiela Antenor, Head of the Office of the Provincial Persons with Disabilities (OPG-OPPDO), whose steadfast advocacy and partnership continue to strengthen programs that foster inclusivity and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in community development.

The event marked a significant milestone for the Federation as it embarks on a new chapter of leadership, dedicated to serving the Deaf community through collaboration, advocacy, and sustainable programs that uphold the principles of equality, accessibility, and empowerment.--- OPIO

### PH...FR. P. 2

"Food security means being proactive. We must keep farmers planting despite higher costs and the threat of El Niño," Tiu Laurel said.

For farmers, the agency vowed to strengthen domestic support through an expanded palay procurement under the National Food Authority (NFA).

About 500,000 metric tons of palay will be procured at a higher price, pegged at PHP21 per kg. for wet palay, and PHP25 to PHP27 per kg. for clean and dry palay.

On Tuesday, Tiu Laurel said the grains agency has about PHP20 billion in allocation for palay procurement, more

than twice as high as last year's PHP9 billion funding.

Besides stronger NFA buying, the DA will sustain the provision of financial assistance, crop insurance, irrigation support, quality seeds, mechanization services, and intensified investments in drying, storage, and other post-harvest facilities.

Close monitoring, field validation, and remote sensing will also be in place to prepare for the impact of the strong El Niño.

Moreover, members of the vulnerable sector may also benefit from the sustained PHP20 per kg. rice under the Benteng

Bigas Meron (BBM) Na in Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) sites and accredited outlets nationwide.

To ensure a stable supply of affordable retail rice nationwide, the DA also assured that no rice import ban will be imposed amid the wet harvest season.

Tiu Laurel earlier said rice stocks in local markets must remain adequate until April next year, or ahead of the dry-season harvest in 2027.

As of Aug. 2, rice import arrivals were logged at 3.5 million MT, according to the DA. (PNA)

tives. The newly planted trees are expected to contribute to cleaner air, provide natural shade, reduce soil erosion, and support local biodiversity in the years to come.

By observing Cavite Arbor Day through meaningful environmental initiatives, the Provincial Government of Cavite reaffirms its commitment to preserving natural resources while fostering a culture of environmental stewardship among Caviteños. The collaborative undertaking highlights the vital role of partnerships among the provincial government, local government units, national government agencies, the private sector, and environmental advocates in building a greener, more resilient, and sustainable Cavite.

## ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity credits regional, multi-sectoral cooperation for mangrove forest gains



LOS BAÑOS, Laguna (PIA) — After decades of being considered among the world's most threatened ecosystems, mangrove forests are showing signs of recovery, with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) reporting a steady increase in mangrove forest cover worldwide and across the ASEAN region through natural regeneration supported by restoration initiatives.

In observance of the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, ACB highlighted this achievement while reiterating its call for sustained cooperation to strengthen ecosystem conservation and restoration efforts.

Dr. Jerome Montemayor, Executive Director of the ACB, said sustaining and accelerating the progress achieved in the ASEAN region requires continued collaboration among governments, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth, women's groups, civil society organizations, and the private sector to protect and enhance mangrove ecosystems, which are vital to both wildlife and human communities.

"In addition to being home to a diverse range of wildlife species, mangroves provide food and other raw materials, sustain livelihoods, and have protected shorelines and those who live in coastal areas from large waves, storms, and tsunamis,"

Montemayor said the ASEAN region is home to the world's largest blue carbon ecosystems and the highest concentration of mangroves, accounting for around 40 percent of global mangrove cover, or more than seven million hectares.

As a demonstration of collective action, ASEAN member states developed the ASEAN Strategy on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystem Management, recognizing the critical role of mangroves as part of the region's blue carbon ecosystems.

"This document offers a strategic framework that guides actions and integrates science, policy, community engagement, and international cooperation to promote the resilience and vitality of the region's mangrove ecosystems, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and

continue to contribute to the well-being of coastal communities and those who depend on these resources," the ACB director explained.

Some biodiversity conservation initiatives are also spearheaded by the centre in selected communities, including a partnership with the Global Environment Centre in implementing the Enhancing Conservation and Restoration of Wetlands and Peatlands in ASEAN as Effective Sinks and Reservoirs of Greenhouse Gases project, an initiative funded by the UK Mission to ASEAN through the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund.

The project aims to develop science-based and practical approaches to protect wetlands and peatlands, conserve biodiversity, and support sustainable livelihoods in protected areas, including the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in Agusan del Sur, where micro-grants are provided to help safeguard natural resources.

Montemayor also highlighted the ACB's support for Mangrove Matters PH, a youth-led environmental organization that promotes marine conservation in the country, through the publication of Mangroves for YOUTH.

The book aims to help elementary school students understand the importance of mangroves, their unique

## DepEd ensures healthy, safe meals for school-based feeding program

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — To improve the health and nutrition of Filipino learners, the Department of Education (DepEd) in Calabarzon continues to strengthen the implementation of its School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP), ensuring that meals served in public schools are nutritious, safe, and prepared in accordance with food safety standards.

DepEd Calabarzon regional director Carlito Rocafort said the program supports the agenda of the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in its broader effort to address child malnutrition, improve school attendance, and enhance learning outcomes by providing healthy meals to undernourished students.

"Now, all students from Kindergarten and Grade 1 up to the higher grade levels are included in the School-Based Feeding Program, unlike before when only those with health and weight issues participated," Rocafort said during an interview with the Philippine Information Agency.

SBFP is part of the

characteristics, and their vital role in protecting coastal communities and supporting biodiversity.

Although significant progress has been made globally, the ACB chief emphasized that mangrove ecosystems continue to face threats, with substantial losses still being reported in different parts of the world.

He added that changes in individual behavior and public mindset



President's commitment to improving the welfare of Filipino children, which is among the key initiatives being implemented to combat malnutrition.

Beyond improving learners' nutritional status, the program aims to increase classroom participation, reduce absenteeism, and create a more conducive environment for learning.

The Education department has identified 684,039 learners in the Calabarzon region that seek to benefit from the program.

Rocafort ensures that all food served to students meets the agency's nutrition standards and contributes to the overall health and development of learners.

"DepEd has issued nutrition standards that we must follow and implement; these in-

remain essential in fulfilling the shared responsibility of conserving these valuable natural resources.

"One can participate in mangrove planting and growing activities, ensuring that the right species are used in the appropriate areas, promote and patronize sustainable businesses, reduce plastic pollution, actively take part in public awareness activities, and generously support the youth movement en-

volve cycle menus that are evaluated and reviewed by our regional nutritionist-dietitians prior to implementation to ensure they meet the standards and nutritional requirements of our beneficiaries," he added.

To ensure proper implementation, DepEd conducts regular monitoring through Schools Division Offices, which oversee food preparation, quality control, food safety practices, and the proper distribution of meals in schools.

The Education director added that by ensuring the provision of safe, nutritious, and fortified meals, the program contributes to the holistic development of learners and supports the goal of building a healthier and more productive generation of learners. (AM/PIA-CALABARZON)

gaged in biodiversity conservation, climate action, and blue economy solutions,"

The ACB remains optimistic that the momentum gained by ASEAN in recent years will be sustained and further accelerated, adding that the recovery of mangrove ecosystems should inspire more people across the ASEAN region to become stewards of biodiversity. (CH/PIA-CALABARZON)

## SSS, BIR strengthen interagency cooperation through landmark partnership

QUEZON CITY—The Social Security System (SSS) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on Friday formalized a landmark partnership to strengthen compliance with tax and social security laws, enhance data sharing, and improve public service delivery.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed by SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph M. De Claro and BIR Commissioner Atty. Charlito Martin R. Mendoza at the BIR National Office in Quezon City, establishes a framework for stronger institutional coordination in carrying out the agencies' respective mandates.

The MOU also lays the groundwork for a Memorandum of Agreement that will govern specific collaborative initiatives, in-

cluding the establishment of the Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) as a common and reliable identifier across the BIR and the SSS to enhance data integrity, strengthen compliance monitoring, and improve ease of doing business.

PCEO De Claro said the MOU marks a significant step in aligning the mandates, expertise, and resources of the SSS and the BIR.

"We all recognize that taxes provide the resources that enable our government to deliver essential programs and services to the Filipino people. Likewise, the social security contributions are the lifeblood of SSS operations, allowing us to provide meaningful protection and financial security to millions of workers, pensioners, and their families," De Claro said.

"By strengthening our collaboration between our agencies, we are creating a more coordinated and responsive government, one that makes compliance easier, improves service delivery, and ultimately benefits every Filipino."

BIR Commissioner Mendoza said the MOU provides a strong foundation for sustained collaboration between the two agencies, adding that its success will ultimately be measured by "simpler processes, stronger coordination, better informed decisions, and more effective public service."

"Our mandates may be different, but our work is closely connected. Government works best when institutions trust one another enough to share responsibility, information, and expertise," Mendoza said. PR

## DOH hosts confab to advance reg'l action on noncommunicable diseases

MANILA — The Department of Health (DOH) on Tuesday opened the ASEAN Conference on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) 2026, where member states are expected to adopt a regional action plan to strengthen the prevention and control of diseases that remain the leading health burden in Southeast Asia.

The three-day hybrid conference, held from Aug. 4 to 6 under the Philippines' 2026 ASEAN chairship, has

gathered about 100 on-site delegates and 500 virtual participants from across the region.

A key outcome of the meeting is the expected adoption of the Call to Action on Accelerating NCD Prevention and Control in ASEAN 2026-2030, which commits member states to expand evidence-based interventions, strengthen primary health care and intensify regional collaboration.

Delegates will also review and consoli-

date successful national initiatives into the ASEAN Compendium of Scalable NCD Best Practices.

The DOH said noncommunicable diseases—including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and mental health conditions—continue to pose a major public health challenge in the region.

The agency said addressing the growing burden of NCDs requires stronger prima-

## ERC confirms around P8.7B in under-recoveries for Meralco

MANILA — The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) on Monday said publicly-listed Manila Electric Company (Meralco) has around PHP8.71 billion in under-recoveries in pass-through charges, allowing the distribution utility (DU) to collect from its customers.

In a news release, ERC noted that Meralco has around PHP30.14 million worth of over-recoveries that it needs to refund to its customers.

The under-recoveries are for generation cost, PHP7.3 billion; transmission cost, PHP615.93 million; system loss, PHP595.05 million; and real property tax, PHP228.88 million.

These over-recoveries are to be refunded within one month to 36 months.

The over-recoveries, in turn, are for lifeline subsidy worth PHP554,786; senior citizen discount subsidy, PHP2.245 million; and PHP27.337



million of local franchise tax, tasked to be collected over a three-year period.

ERC said these decisions are part of Meralco's second to fifth compliance filing applications, stated under ERC Case No. 2014-050 CF, 2017-060 CF, 2020-018 CF, and 2023-046 CF.

Pass-through charges are expenses that DUs collect from power consumers in lieu of other entities such as transmission facilities and government agencies.

ERC Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer lawyer Francis Saturnino Juan said the "pass-through charges are meant to be revenue-neutral for distribution utilities

— these are not sources of profit, but merely costs that Meralco collects on behalf of generation companies, the transmission provider, and government authorities, and simply passes on to consumers."

"Through this confirmation and verification process, the ERC closely scrutinizes every peso that Meralco charges under these components against its actual, allowable costs. This mechanism protects consumers from any unapproved or excessive charges, while ensuring that distribution utilities recover only what they are legitimately entitled to — no more, no less," he said. (PNA)

ry health care, sustainable health financing, effective regulatory measures to reduce risk factors, and a whole-of-society approach involving government, communities and the private sector.

With the theme "Accelerating Whole-of-Society Action for NCD Prevention and Control in ASEAN," the conference supports ASEAN Health Cluster 1, the Sustainable Development Goal 3.4 target on reducing premature deaths from NCDs, and the ASEAN Post-

2025 Health Agenda.

"Noncommunicable diseases are the region's biggest health burden, and no ministry, sector or country can turn the tide alone. This conference is ASEAN acting as one—governments, partners, communities and our youth—to make the healthy choice the easy choice for every family, dahil sa Bagong Pilipinas, Pasyente Muna (because in the New Philippines, Patients Come First)," Health Secretary Jose Pujalte Jr. said.

The conference has brought together health ministers and senior officials, technical experts, development partners, youth delegates and civil society organizations from ASEAN member states.

Representatives from the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization and the ASEAN Secretariat are also participating in the event. (PNA)

# CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

VOL. XXVII NO. 17

AUGUST 6-12, 2026

P10.00

## Senate honors Eala's historic WTA title

MANILA – The Senate on Wednesday unanimously adopted a resolution honoring Alex Eala for becoming the first Filipino to win a Women's Tennis Association Tour-level singles championship, turning her historic triumph into both a celebration of national pride and a rally for stronger sports development.

The Chamber adopted Proposed Senate Resolution No. 554, taking into consideration 36 related resolutions, congratulating and commending Eala for winning the 2026 Mubadala DC Open women's singles championship.

Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said Eala's breakthrough proved that Filipino athletes could prevail against the world's best through sustained training, persistence, and commitment to excellence.

"Alex has shown all of us that the Filipino can stand among giants and prevail," Gatchalian said in sponsoring one of the resolutions considered under PSR No. 554.

He traced Eala's rise from learning tennis at four years old and entering the Rafael Na-



Alexandra Eala (WTA photo)

dal Academy in Spain at 13 to becoming the first Filipino to win a Grand Slam junior singles title.

Gatchalian said the championship was not a single brilliant act but the product of years of work built "one game, one set, and one hard-fought match at a time."

Eala defeated several highly ranked opponents on the way to the title, including defending champion Leylah Fernandez, former world No. 3 Elina Svitolina, four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka and world No. 3 Jessica Pegula.

Senator Joel Villanueva, principal author and sponsor of PSR No. 554, said the championship completed a journey that was years in the making and transformed a long-held Filipino dream into reality.

"Four Top 10 players.

Five world-class opponents. One historic championship," Villanueva said.

He stressed that Eala's victory was not a stroke of luck but the result of discipline, sacrifice, perseverance and belief in her abilities.

Senate Senior Deputy Majority Leader JV Ejercito said the triumph offered Filipinos a rare moment of unity amid political divisions and national challenges.

"Walang kulay. Walang paksyon. Walang kampo; iisa ang ating bandila, iisa ang ating bayan (No political color. No faction. No camp; we have one flag and one country)," Ejercito said.

He described Eala's determination and ability to recover from setbacks as a reflection of the Filipino spirit.

**Beyond the tribute**

Senator Robin Padi-

## Tagaytay City gov't grateful for Aero Gymnastics Asian tourney hosting

MANILA – The Tagaytay City government is grateful for hosting the 10th Aero Gymnastics Asian Championships presented by the Philippine Sports Commission.

Mayor Brent Tolentino thanked PSC chairman Patrick Gregorio and Gymnastics Association of the Philippines (GAP) president Cynthia Carrion for choosing Tagaytay.

"It helps us to raise our profile as a tourist destination, especially with foreigners. This is why we have been pushing strongly for sport tourism because we have world-class facilities and amenities to go with it," the son of Philippine Olympic Committee president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino said in a news release Wednesday.

He cited the UCI-certified Tagaytay CT Velodrome, the current site of the meet organized by the GAP and sanctioned by the Asian Gymnastics Union, and the Tagaytay Combat Center as two of the modern sports arenas the pic-

la said honoring Eala should go beyond resolutions and speeches and result in stronger funding and support for athletes from the barangay level to international competitions.

Padilla said families should not be forced to sell property, incur heavy debts, or plead for financial assistance to fund their children's training.

"Ito po ang maituturing na tunay na pagbati kay Alex – kung mababago natin ang



turesque city south of Manila has to offer.

"We want to highlight these competition arenas as available venues for both top local and international events because staging them here is a major boost to our economy and our businesses," the mayor said.

"During Tagaytay's lean months, having sports events such as these also provide opportunities for our establishments and local industries so this (Asian meet) is a godsend," he added.

PSC Chairman John Patrick Gregorio said this was the reason why selecting Tagaytay City as the site of the 10th Aero Gymnastics Asian Championships was a "no-brainer."

"For one, who does not want to go to Tagaytay because of its

accessibility to Metro Manila, a tourist's haven where one can relax, renew, and enjoy the beautiful scenery," Gregorio said.

"It also gives us the opportunity for our foreign visitors to sample a different ambiance outside of the Big City while providing opportunities for those engaged in the Tagaytay tourism industry. This is a win-win situation for all," he added.

The preliminaries in individual men and women, groups, mixed pair, trio, aerobic dance and aerobic steps across the senior (18-year-old and above), junior (15 to 17 years old), and youth (12 to 14 years old) began Wednesday. Some of the finals are set for Thursday morning and afternoon. (PNA)

sistema (This would be the genuine way of congratulating Alex – If we can change the system)," he said.

Padilla said Eala's breakthrough had already inspired children to pick up rackets and imagine themselves representing the Philippines.

Senator Risa Hontiveros likewise praised Eala as a powerful role model, particularly for young Filipino girls who now see that they can dream big, com-

pete fearlessly and stand confidently on the world's biggest stages.

Hontiveros said Eala carried not only her personal ambitions but also the hopes of the country while elevating Filipina talent before the world.

Senators said Eala's championship was not the end of her journey but a milestone that could open the door for a new generation of Filipino athletes. (PNA)