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PAGCOR extends P66M worth of assistance to storm, flood victims

MANILA – The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) released PHP65.60 million in food and non-food assistance to communities in Luzon and Metro Manila affected by tropical cyclones Luis and Maymay and the enhanced southwest

monsoon ('habagat'). In a statement Thursday, PAGCOR said it distributed 47,192 relief items consisting of 23,596 food packs worth PHP28.91 million and 23,596 non-food packs worth PHP36.69 million. PAGCOR Chairperson and CEO Alejan-

dro Tengco said the agency started distributing relief packs to affected areas as early as Aug. 8, as part of its continuing disaster response efforts. The relief goods have either reached or are on their way to Bulacan, La Union, Baguio (Turn to p.3)

GSIS widens calamity aid as LGU declarations come in

MANILA – The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) is ready to extend its emergency loan program to more areas affected by Typhoon Maymay and the southwest monsoon as local government units (LGUs) issue state-of-calamity declarations.

GSIS Executive Vice President Joseph Philip Andres said Wednesday that the pension fund is continuously updating the

program's coverage, with Cavite currently among the areas whose qualified government workers and pensioners may avail of the assistance starting Thursday.

"Tuloy-tuloy po ang pagpapalawak namin sa coverage nito as soon as there is a declaration from the local government unit, ina-update po namin ito (We continuously expand its coverage as soon as there is a declaration from the local

government unit. We update it accordingly)," Andres said in an interview over Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon.

He said GSIS is also monitoring possible declarations from other areas affected by heavy rains and flooding, noting that Pampanga and several LGUs may follow suit.

Qualified active members must either work or reside in an area placed under a state of calamity, while pensioners must be re-



(File photo)

siding in a declared calamity area.

48% of waste generated daily ends up in bodies of water, streets

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Thursday said at least 48 percent of the 65,000 tons of waste generated daily nationwide ends up in waterways, bodies of water and streets.

In a television interview, DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said the Philippines generates an estimated 61,000 to 65,000 tons of waste every day, but only about 52 percent

is collected.

"Medyo seryoso yung ating problema sa basura. Base sa aming data, at least 52 percent of our generation, yun lang yung nakokolekta natin. But the rest, about 48 percent of our garbage generation, either napupunta sa waterways, napupunta sa water body, at yung mga iba naman nakakalat sa daan (Our problem with waste is quite serious. Based on our data, we collect only at least 52 per-



LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS. An excavator clears tons of garbage that washed into the Redemptorist Water Channel in Baclaran, Parañaque City on Aug. 12, 2026. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Friday (Aug. 13) pushed for long-term solutions to address the country's garbage problem. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

cent of our generation. But the rest, about 48

Andres said even members with an existing emergency loan may still obtain fresh assistance, with GSIS allowing them to bor-

row up to PHP40,000.

"Para sa mga existing members natin na may existing loan ay pwede po silang (Turn to p.2)

up in waterways, ends up in bodies of water, and the others are scattered on the streets)," he said.

In Manila Bay alone, Leones said there are 333 creeks connected to it, including 17 major tributaries, noting the seriousness of the problem.

He explained that every person in the country generates approximately 0.7kg of waste every day, based on conservative data, resulting in very high

waste generation.

During the summer season, he said garbage doesn't flow with the water and mostly remains in the drainage or in bodies of water.

"But pagdating ng malakas na ulan at yung tubig talagang umaagos na, dala-dala na yung mga basura. So ganoon kaseryoso. Kung di talaga magkaroon ng magandang programa para dito, talagang magtuturo (Turn to p.2)

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loy-tuloy at magiging seryoso ito (when the heavy rain comes, and the water really starts to flow, it carries away the trash. So that's how serious it is. If there really isn't a good program for this, it will definitely continue and become serious)," he said.

Long-term solutions

He said the DENR is pushing a mix of recycling, waste reduction, private sector participation, and possible waste-to-energy technologies as long-term solutions to the country's worsening garbage problem.

Leones said the shift from what he described as a "linear economy," where waste is discarded after use, to a circular economy that focuses on recycling and recovering materials is one of the long-term solutions.

He said many sanitary landfills are reaching their maximum capacity, with some already becoming large mounds of garbage.

To address this, he said the DENR is promoting the conversion of landfills into integrated facilities that can recover value from waste, instead of serving solely as disposal sites.

"Meaning, hindi na lang siya disposal (it is not just disposal), we are reintegrating it with facility that can recycle and repurpose or upcycle this solid waste, event plastics," he said.

The goal, Leones said, is to extend the life of landfills while reducing the volume of garbage that ultimately requires disposal.

Cutting at the source

Through the implementation of the Republic Act 11898 or Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law, the DENR is also working with the private sector, specifically the manufacturing

companies, to reduce waste before it enters the waste stream.

The EPR law requires companies to take a greater role in managing the waste generated by their products, particularly plastic packaging, including sachets.

The agency is also encouraging manufacturers to reduce the amount of plastic used in packaging to prevent additional waste from accumulating.

Exploring waste-to-energy technology

During an inspection of the garbage-clearing operation at the Baclaran River in Parañaque City on Wednesday, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. thumbed down calls for stiffer penalties for improper waste disposal, saying that the government must first ensure that there are adequate garbage facilities.

Marcos said the administration is pursuing a waste-to-energy program that would process collected garbage and convert it into electricity, reducing the country's dependence on landfills.

Leones said countries like Singapore and the United States generate more waste than the Philippines, but noted that they have adopted technologies to address their solid waste.

"They adopt waste-to-energy technology and may facilities sila for effective recycling and recovery facilities. Dito sa atin kulang yon. So bagamat maliit ang ating generation per capita, pero yung atin medyo nalilimit (they have facilities for effective recycling and recovery facilities. Here, we lack that. So even though our generation per capita is small, ours is somewhat limited)," he said.

Leones also noted the need to revisit RA

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makapag-loan up to PHP40,000. Para ang mangyayari dyan, isasarado po iyong kanilang existing loan at magkakaroon sila ng proceeds na at least na PHP20,000 po (Our members with an existing loan may borrow up to PHP40,000. Their existing loan will be closed, and they will receive proceeds of at least PHP20,000)," he said.

9003, or the Solid Waste Management Act, to strengthen the country's approach to waste management.

With some groups raising concerns about compliance with the Clean Air Act (RA 8749 and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, he said there are Supreme Court rulings that have clarified that waste-to-energy facilities may be allowed if they meet environmental standards.

"Ang sabi ng SC sa interpretation sa mga batas natin, (The SC said in the interpretation of our laws), for as long as the technology will not violate our emission standards, may thresholds tayo dyan, pwede naman din, ina-allow (we have thresholds for that, it is allowed)," he said.

He added that the DENR, the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) are discussing possible policy measures and legislation that could help advance technologies that comply with environmental regulations.

Proper waste disposal

Leones emphasized that addressing the garbage problem in the country will also require changing public behavior.

He stressed that prop-

Members without an existing emergency loan may borrow PHP20,000. The facility carries a 6-percent interest rate payable in 36 equal monthly amortizations.

Beyond emergency loans, Andres said, the GSIS Balik Ginhawa 2 program remains available to provide additional financial breathing room to members and pensioners with existing obli-

er waste disposal habits should be developed at an early age and reinforced through education.

Leones said environmental awareness and proper waste management should be taught to children until it becomes their habit.

"Dapat ito talaga behavioral change. Even sabi nga ni Mayor (Francis) Zamora, talagang disiplinang, magsisimula yan dapat sa kabataan pa lang (This should really be a behavioral change. Even Mayor (Francis) Zamora said, discipline should really start at a young age)," he said.

"So kailangan dito pa lang sa level ng kabataan sa ating curriculum, dapat na-instill na natin itong mga disiplinang particularly sa mga environmental laws, itong pagdidispose ng mga waste. Dapat alam nila na may mga lugar na dapat pagtapunan at hindi basta-basta kung saan-saan lang tinatapon (So it is necessary that at the level of the youth in our curriculum, we should have already instilled these disciplines, particularly in environmental laws, waste disposal. They should know that there are designated places for disposal and that waste should not just be thrown anywhere)," he added. (PNA)

gations.

Under the program, qualified borrowers may recover loan amortizations paid from December 2025 to May 2026, with the corresponding repayment period extended and no additional interest imposed.

"Open pa rin po ang aming Balik Ginhawa 2 Program para po lubos na makatulong sa ating mga members, both active and pensioners (Our Balik Ginhawa 2 Program remains open to further help our members, both active and pensioners)," Andres said.

Applications for emergency loans may be filed through the GSIS Touch mobile application.

Andres said approved proceeds may be credited to members' LandBank or Union-

Bank accounts within one to three banking days.

Members who cannot access the application because of disrupted telecommunications services may also visit GSIS offices for assistance.

Andres advised government workers and pensioners in calamity-hit areas to monitor GSIS official channels as additional LGUs submit their state-of-calamity declarations.

"Dadami pa po iyan, asahan po natin dadami pa. But for the meantime po, Cavite, as early as tomorrow, pwede na po sila (The number will increase; we expect more areas to be added. But for the meantime, those in Cavite may avail of it as early as tomorrow [Thursday])," he said. (PNA)

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McDonald's Recruitment Activity Opens Employment Opportunities to Caviteño

The Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OP-PESM) successfully facilitated the McDonald's Recruitment Activity recently, at the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City, providing employment opportunities to Caviteños.

A total of 41 jobseekers participated in the recruitment activity, where they underwent screening and interviews for various positions offered by McDonald's. The one-stop recruitment process enabled qualified applicants to complete the initial hiring requirements in a convenient and accessible venue.

Demonstrating the success of the initiative, all 41 applicants were hired on the spot (HOTS), allowing them to immediately proceed with the next steps toward employment.

The recruitment activity is part of the Provincial Government of Cavite's continuing efforts to strengthen employment facilitation services by partnering with private companies to connect jobseekers with available career opportunities. Through initiatives such as this, the OPPESM continues to make employment services more accessible while contributing to workforce development and local economic growth.--- OPIO



The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Governor (OPG) Medical Mission Team and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), conducted a medical and dental mission recently, at Palazzo Bello 2, Barangay Carsadang Bago II, Imus City, bringing essential healthcare services closer to the community.

A total of 856 beneficiaries availed free medical consultations, dental services, electrocardiogram (ECG) procedures, fasting blood sugar (FBS) testing, and other basic healthcare services. Free medicines were likewise distributed to beneficiaries to help address their immediate healthcare needs. Health professionals from the OPHO rendered their expertise and services to ensure that residents received quality and accessible medical care.

The successful conduct of the medical and dental mission reflects the Provincial Government of Cavite's continued commitment to making healthcare services more accessible, particularly for communities with limited access to medical and dental care. Through sustained outreach programs, the provincial government remains steadfast in improving the quality of life of every Caviteño by providing compassionate, people-centered, and accessible healthcare services.--- OPIO



PGC strengthens performance management through orientation on revised SPMS guidelines

In its continuing commitment to promote excellence, accountability, and results-driven public service, the Provincial Government of Cavite gathered department heads and administrative officers for the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS): Revised Guidelines and Implementation orientation on July 21, 2026, at the 2nd Floor Function Hall, New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City.

Chief of Staff Ferdinand A. Belamide welcomed the participants and underscored the importance of the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) in strengthening organizational performance, fostering professional growth, and cultivating a culture of continuous improvement in the Provincial Government.

The orientation equipped participants with a comprehensive understanding of the revised SPMS guidelines through a series of lectures delivered by members of the Provincial Government's Performance Management Team (PMT). Engr. EnP Lorna R. Leyran, Chair of the PMT Secretariat, introduced the Strategic Performance Management System, followed by Niko R. Montenegro, who discussed the framework and operational guidelines. Jasmin B. Magallanes presented the submission requirements and implementation timelines, while Angelica Joy A. Balanquit and Mark Lester A. Carada facilitated discussions on target setting, rating standards development, and accomplishments monitoring.

An open forum concluded the activity, allowing participants to raise questions, clarify implementation concerns, and gain a deeper understanding of the revised policies to ensure consistent and effective application of the SPMS across all Provincial Government offices.--- OPIO

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produce over 60 tons per hectare, while Kinampay remains as the gold standard for flavor.

Other varieties excelled in aroma, color, or anthocyanins, the natural compounds

behind ube's vivid hue and antioxidant punch.

These genetic mappings are considered beneficial for future varietal identification and certification.

For its part, the DA has earlier stated its

intensifying efforts to support local ube farmers and advance appropriate Geographical Indication (GI) to boost global export opportunities for the industry. (PNA)

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io City, Isabela, Nueva Ecija, Cavite and Rizal provinces, as well as parts of Pangasinan, Quezon, Batangas, Camarines Norte, Abra, Laguna and Pampanga.

In Metro Manila, assistance has also been allocated to the cities of Parañaque and Marikina.

"Calamities cause

immediate burden on families, particularly when basic needs become difficult to secure. PAGCOR is committed to providing timely assistance to communities that need them most," Tengco said.

Tengco said PAGCOR will continue to work with government partners to extend assis-

tance to communities affected by calamities.

"We will continue to stand with our kababayans in times of need. Through our continuing disaster response efforts, PAGCOR will do its part to help affected communities recover and get back on their feet," Tengco said. (PNA)

Laguna gov't, DSWD extend food assistance to families displaced by storm Maymay, Habagat

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The provincial government of Laguna, together with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), continues to provide assistance to families temporarily displaced by the recent Typhoon Maymay that intensified the southwest monsoon or Habagat.

On August 10, provincial government personnel distributed family food packs to evacuees in Calauan town and other affected areas as part of the continuing response to communities affected by flooding.

According to Doland Castro, a representative for Laguna Governor Sol Aragones, the provincial government is conducting continuous assessment and assistance operations to reach residents who were evacuated from danger zones.

"Tuloy-tuloy po ang ginagawang aksyon ng gobyernong may solusyon ni Governor Sol Aragones katuwang po ang DSWD sa pamamahagi ng family food packs para sa ating mga kababayan na inilikas dahil sila ang nasa danger zone," Castro said in an official social media post.

He added that personnel from the provincial government have been deployed across Laguna's congressional districts to ensure that affected families receive immediate assistance.

"Ang aksyon po ng ating gobernador,



suyurin lahat at mabigyan ng tulong at ayuda ang ating mga kababayan. Kaya naman po mula District 1, 2, 3, and 4 ay umiikot po ang ating staff ng kapitolyo upang maibahagi sa ating mga kababayan na naapektuhan po nitong Habagat," he said.

The assistance comes as several communities in Laguna experienced flooding brought by persistent rains associated with the southwest monsoon or Habagat, prompting the evacuation of families living in flood-prone and other danger areas.

During a situation briefing with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Monday, August 10, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rex Gatchalian reported that the agency has at least five million family food packs in its nationwide disaster stockpile as part of the government's preparedness measures to ensure the immediate provision of food assistance to families affected by disasters and emergencies.

The DSWD then has been coordinating with local government units in the distribution of

relief assistance to communities affected by Habagat, including those who were forced to evacuate due to rising floodwaters.

According to a situational report from the provincial government, in the City of San Pedro, 82 families from four barangays received relief assistance. These included 61 families in Lantayan, seven in San Roque, eight in Cuyab, and six in Nueva.

Meanwhile, in San Pablo City, 98 families temporarily staying in seven evacuation centers received assistance to help meet their basic needs as they continue to cope with the effects of the inclement weather.

In the Municipality of Bay, six families staying in three evacuation centers likewise received relief assistance from the Provincial Government of Laguna.

The relief operation also reached Barangay Dela Paz in Biñan City, where 80 families were provided with assistance.

Calauan Vice Mayor Dong Sanchez expressed gratitude to the provincial government for immediately extending assistance to residents who had to

SSS, CFO strengthen partnership for Overseas Filipino

Quezon City- The Social Security System (SSS) and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) have strengthened their partnership to expand access to social security protection for Overseas Filipinos (OFs) and their families through the signing of Understanding (MOU).

SSSPresident and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph Montes de Claro and CFO Chairperson Secretary Dante "Klink" Ang II led the signing ceremony, reaffirming both agencies' shared commitment to advancing the welfare and interest off Filipinos overseas through stronger inter-agency cooperation.

Under the MOU, SSS and CFO will collaroate on information, education, and communication (IEC) initiatives to increase awareness among OFs on SSS membership, benefits, loan programs, and the MySSS Pension Booster. The partnership also aims to enhance access to

social security services and empower Filipinos abroad to make informed decisions in securing their financial future and protecting their families.

"This MOU marks another significant step in strengthening the partnership between SSS and CFO," de Claro said. "Through this collaboration, we aim to reach more Overseas Filipinos and provide them with the knowledge they need to access SSS programs and services that support their financial security and well-being."

The agreement builds on the agencies' existing collaboration since 2025 through the KaSSSangga Collect Program, which supported the expansion of SSS coverage among the Job Order and Contract of Service workers of CFO.

Through this strengthened partnership, SSS andCFO will continue to work together in promoting social protection programs and ensuring that more Overseas Filipinos and their families can benefit from enhanced access to social security services. PR

"Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need, since the Kingdom of the heavens belongs to them.

"Happy are those who mourn, since they will be comforted.

"Happy are the mildtempered, since they will inherit the earth.

"Happy are those hungering and thirsting for righteousness since they will be filled.

"Happy are the merciful, since they will be shown mercy.

"Happy are the pure in heart, since they will see God.

"Happy are the peacemakers, since they will be called sons of God.

Psalm 37:10-11

leave their homes.

"Ang bayan po ng Calauan ay nagpasalamat po sa ating mahal na Gobernador, Governor Sol Aragones, sa tulong po niyang ipinaabot sa aming mga kababayan na na-evacuate po during kahapon na nagkaroon ng Habagat," Sanchez said.

For the evacuees, the food packs provided vital support as they remained in evacuation centers while

waiting for conditions to improve.

One evacuee from Calauan thanked Aragones for the swift delivery of assistance, saying the support was a significant help to families affected by the flooding.

"Ako po ay nagpasalamat kay Gob. Sol sa biyayang ipinagkaloob niya ngayon na talagang napakabilis ng aksyon. Sana ay magtuloy-tu-

loy ang kaniyang panunungkulan dahil talagang napakaganda ng ginagawa ni Gob. Sol," the evacuee said.

Through coordination with local government units and the DSWD, assistance is being brought closer to communities to help address the immediate needs of displaced residents. (AM, PIA CALABARZON/with reports from Laguna PIO)

QC intensifies disease monitoring in evacuation centers

MANILA – The Quezon City Health Department (QCHD) has intensified its disease surveillance in evacuation centers to prevent diseases from spreading and ensure the health of the evacuees displaced by flooding due to the enhanced southwest monsoon or “habagat.”

In a social media post Tuesday, the city government said as of 9 a.m. Tuesday, a total of 2,326 families or 8,209 individuals were staying in the city’s 42 evacuation centers across 21 barangays.

“Maliban sa paghahatid ng mga pangangailang pangkalusugan tulad ng libreng check-up, gamot, at vitamins, katuwang din ng mga doktor ang mga Disease Surveillance Officers sa mga evacuation center na nagsagawa ng (Aside from delivering health needs such as free checkups, medicines and vitamins, the doctors were also accompanied by Disease Surveillance Officers in the evacuation centers who conducted) Surveillance in Post-Extreme Emergencies and Disasters (SPEED),” it said.

“Layunin ng SPEED na malaman kung sino at ilan ang mga indibidwal na nakaranas ng sintomas ng leptospirosis, dengue, flu, at water-borne diseases, at iba pang mga sakit (SPEED aims to determine who and how many individuals are experiencing symptoms of leptospirosis, dengue, flu and water-borne diseases,



DISEASE SURVEILLANCE. *Quezon City health workers are intensifying disease surveillance in evacuation centers, checking evacuees for leptospirosis, dengue, flu, water-borne diseases and other illnesses amid habagat-related flooding. The city government on Tuesday said (Aug. 11, 2026) said it has recorded 139 leptospirosis cases, including 18 deaths, from Jan. 1 to Aug. 6. (Photo courtesy of QC Health Department)*

as well as other illnesses),” it added.

The SPEED personnel visited the Manggahan Fire Station Evacuation Center in Barangay Bagumbayan, District 3; basketball court in Barangay Project 6, Apolonio Samson Multi-Purpose Hall; and the Sanville and Casanova Multi-Purpose Hall in Barangay Culiati.

Based on the latest data from the QC government, the largest number of evacuees was recorded in District 2, with 1,244 families or 4,520 individuals, followed by District 5, with 654 families or 2,373 individuals.

Aside from the evacuation centers, community health workers are also going around to distribute post-exposure prophylaxis against leptospirosis to affected residents and to look for people with possible symptoms of leptospirosis and den-

gue.

From Jan. 1 to Aug. 6, the city government has recorded a total of 139 leptospirosis cases, including 18 deaths linked to the disease.

Leptospirosis is caused by leptospira bacteria that can be spread through the urine of infected rats and contaminate floodwater.

The city government advised residents who have waded through floodwater to go to the nearest health center for a free checkup and assessment for post-exposure prophylaxis.

Those who develop fever, body aches, red eyes, or other symptoms after exposure should immediately seek medical attention.

QC health centers are open Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and residents may also call QC Helpline 122 for emergencies and immediate assistance. (PNA)

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

Proverbs 11:17

DA backs investment in PH enoki mushroom facility in Cavite

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Tuesday expressed its support for the country’s first-ever modern enoki mushroom facility in Silang, Cavite.

The department is advancing its “import substitution” policy by supporting the investment of the Filipino-owned and highly automated enoki mushroom facility under Basic Necessity Inc.

This is still in line with the directives of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to help boost investments in the agriculture sector, citing enoki mushroom as one of the country’s export potential commodities during his fifth State of the Nation Address.

In a statement, DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. underscored the need for local expansion with the significant volume of domestic demand.

For the domestic market alone, the Philippines has an annual enoki mushroom import volume of more than 6,000 metric tons.

“We have a large domestic market that is still supplied by imports. Once local demand is met, we see opportunities to export to markets such as Singapore and the Middle East,” he said.

In 2025, the Philippines imported 6,536 metric tons of fresh mushrooms, while import dependence for formal commercial mushrooms stood at 95 percent.

For her part, Agricul-



ture Undersecretary for High-Value Crops Cheryl Marie Caballero said import substitution through support in local enoki mushroom production can boost wider economic opportunities and job generation.

About 50 workers are expected to be employed while creating additional livelihood opportunities for farmers supplying agricultural biomass and other raw materials.

“This is not just about producing mushrooms. It is about building a local industry that creates jobs, supports farmers supplying agricultural biomass, and transforms materials that previously had little economic value into productive inputs,” she said.

About 5 tons of agrowastes from corn cobs and rice hulls are used per week as mushroom substrates.

Besides this, the company’s investment also led to the affordability of the local enoki mushroom, which is now sold at PHP29.75 at retail, much lower than the previous PHP80 per 200-gram level.

To date, the Silang facility integrates controlled-environment cultivation, processing, packing, cold stor-

age and refrigerated distribution.

Its production is distributed to supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, institutional buyers and online grocery platforms, which improves freshness, food safety and product traceability.

Enoki mushroom, which has an emerging local popularity alongside its demand in Korean, Japanese, Chinese and hotpot cuisine, is considered to be a low-calorie, nutrient-dense food that seeks to help address malnutrition and under nutrition.

Ube research

The University of the Philippines Los Baños, meanwhile, has highlighted 10 purple yams which stood out of the 188 greater yams (*Dioscorea alata*) accessions from farms and gene banks nationwide.

The institution has worked on the research as part of the country’s efforts to boost the ube industry amid its emerging global presence.

Among the cited ones are Villasis 2 and Kinampay for their significant yield and flavor, respectively.

Villasis 2 is considered as the yield champion, which can

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TRB approves toll collection for CALAX Subsection 3

After providing toll-free access for three (3) months, the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) has approved the start of toll collection for the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) Subsection 3, covering Silang (Aguinaldo) to Governor's Drive in General Trias, effective August 9, 2026.

Since its opening on May 4, 2026, the new segment has provided free passage to almost 9,000 motorists daily, offering a more convenient and efficient travel option for residents, workers, students, and businesses in Cavite.

The 7.88-kilometer CALAX Subsection 3 was built to provide a faster alternative route for commuters and businesses, bypassing heavily congested local roads along Cavite's growing industrial and residential corridors.

Starting August 9, motorists using the CALAX Subsection 3 from Silang (Aguinaldo) Interchange to

NEW CALAX TOLL FEES Effective August 9, 2026		
	Greenfield to Governor's Drive	Silang (Aguinaldo) to Governor's Drive
CLASS 1	P117.00	P35.00
CLASS 2	P234.00	P70.00
CLASS 3	P351.00	P106.00

Governor's Drive will be charged the following rates: P35 for Class 1, P70 for Class 2, and P106 for Class 3 vehicles.

Meanwhile, the following toll rates will apply for motorists traveling from Governor's Drive in General Trias, Cavite, and going straight to Greenfield in Laguna: P117 for Class 1, P234 for Class 2, and P351 for

Class 3 vehicles.

The opening of CALAX Subsection 3 brings the operational length of CALAX to 26 kilometers, starting from the Greenfield-Mamplasan Entry in Biñan, Laguna. Once fully completed, the entire expressway network is projected to serve up to 65,000 vehicles per day, strengthening regional connectivity and sup-

PH in must-win duel vs Venezuela at FIVB Girls U17 worlds

MANILA – The Philippines faces a must-win showdown with Venezuela at the close of pool play on Tuesday in the FIVB Volleyball Girls U17 World Championship at Liceo Mixto San Felipe in Chile.



Sharina Rhyza Lleses (Volleyball World photo)

World No. 6 Peru beat the Philippines, 26-28, 25-22, 25-23, 25-20, last Monday to join China in the Round of 16.

The loss put Alas Pilipinas Girls in a precarious situation to reach the knockout phase.

Nahir Cueva Coaguila topscored for Peru with 19 points on 17 attacks and two blocks. Fernanda De Los Angeles Pinto Tellez added 16 points on 13 attacks and three aces, while Cielo Yamileth Quispe Venegas had 10 points on nine attacks and a block.

Sharina Rhyza Lleses led Alas Pilipinas with 18 points, all on attacks, followed by Caera Celis with 17 points on 15 attacks and two aces, while Xyz Rayco scored 12 on 10 attacks and two aces.

China defeated Mexico, 25-12, 25-15, 25-17, to keep the top spot at 4-0, while Peru holds provisional second with a 3-1 win-loss record in Pool B. They face off on Tuesday.

Venezuela and the Philippines both stand

at 2-2, with the Venezuelans occupying the No. 3 spot on seven points and the Alas Girls in fourth with six points. That gives Alas Pilipinas and Venezuela a shot at moving up the ladder and avoiding the top team from Pool D.

The top four from each six-team pool advance to the Round of 16. Mexico is running fifth with a 1-3 record and three points, but can still raise its total to six with a three- or four-set victory over Tunisia.

For Alas Pilipinas Girls, a convincing victory over Venezuela will vault them back up to No. 2. Even a five-set loss would yield one point and earn them a spot in the Round of 16. A three- or four-set defeat, coupled with a Mexico sweep of Tunisia, would relegate the Philippines to the classification phase.

Korea leads Pool D at 4-0 followed by Italy at 3-1. Chinese Taipei and Puerto Rico have similar 2-2 slates. (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