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Slight uptick in veggie prices may be tamed in 30 days

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Tuesday said the slight uptick in vegetable prices may be tamed in a month's time.

The price adjustment is seen following heavy rains and flooding due to the effects of inclement weather on local production.

In a phone interview, DA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Arnel

de Mesa said the recovery will depend on the replanting speed in affected areas.

“Siguro mga (Perhaps around) three weeks to one month iyan, magstart tayo na makikita ng (we can start seeing) recovery,” he told the Philippine News Agency, citing timelines for both production and market retail prices.

About a 10 percent

to 15 percent uptick in prices of ingredients of the vegetable dish “pinakbet” as well as some lowland and upland vegetables have been monitored in local markets, according to the DA.

“May mga paggalaw na, halimbawa, ‘yung sa talong tumataas ng PHP20 hanggang PHP50 kada kilo. Ganun din ‘yung ibang

(Turn to p.2)

Laguna tech-voc institutes back TESDA initiatives under Marcos administration

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Technical-vocational institutes and technology institutions in Laguna reaffirmed their support for the programs of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) aimed at improving technical and vocational education and training in the country and providing alternative employment and livelihood opportunities to many Filipinos.

During the World Café of Opportunities held at the Jose Rizal Coliseum in Calam-



ba City, Laguna, on August 18, a group comprising 176 technical-vocational institutions (TVIs) and TESDA technology institutions (TTIs) in the province attended the program together with private companies,

government agencies, and other organizations to strengthen their convergence initiatives in boosting Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and expanding employment opportunities.

DOH put CALABARZON hospitals on alert as typhoon Saudel enters PAR

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Anticipating the uptick of influenza-like illnesses and waterborne diseases, the Department of Health (DOH) is mobilizing its public hospitals and other health facilities as typhoon Saudel is expected to enter the

Philippines.

John Gumabao of DOH Center for Health and Development in CALABARZON, during the pre-disaster risk assessment meeting of the CALABARZON Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRPMC) last Au-

gust 24, noted that all the public hospitals and health facilities are still in code white. As part of its protocol, hospital staff, medical teams, and operations centers are placed on 24/7 standby to ensure rapid response.

Since August 8, all
(Turn to p.2)



SLIGHT UPTICK. Fresh vegetables are displayed at a stall in Tondo, Manila on Aug. 3, 2026. The Department of Agriculture on Tuesday (Aug. 25) said the slight uptick in vegetable prices may be tamed in a month's time. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

Association of Laguna Technical Institutions (ALTIS) President Lored Amansec said the group supports TESDA's efforts to enhance workers' skills, including the P19-billion budget allotted by the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for the agency, which is expected to expand scholarship opportunities.

“Nagpapasalamat kami doon kung matutupad talaga ang mas malaking budget. Kasi mas marami kaming matutulungan lalo na

(Turn to p.2)

DENR backs WTE; pushes for tech proven safe for environment, health

MANILA — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is open to waste-to-energy (WTE) technology to address the country's growing waste volume but said no machinery should move forward unless it is tested safe for the environment and public health.

In a Radyo Pilipinas interview on Tuesday, DENR Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs, Enforcement,

Human Resources and Field Operations-Luzon Norlito Eneran said the agency agrees with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s assessment that the Philippines is facing a waste crisis.

“Kami naman dito sa DENR dahil wala pa nga tayong batas patungkol sa waste-to-energy, kaya open tayo dun sa mga teknolohiya na sa tingin natin magpapabawas dun sa vol-

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gulay, for both lowland and upland ito (There's a price movement already, for example, eggplant's price rose by PHP20 to PHP50 per kilogram. That's similar for other vegetables, both lowland and upland)," De Mesa said.

Of the affected areas, Central Luzon and Calabarzon were the most affected regions for losses in high-value crops, with more than PHP409 million worth of combined damage in high-value crops.

Central Luzon incurred the highest losses, amounting to PHP237 million, with Pampana being the hardest-hit with losses valued at PHP128 million.

Other areas with sig-

nificant losses in the region are Bulacan at PHP45 million; Nueva Ecija, PHP37 million; and Bataan, PHP19 million

For Calabarzon, the amount of high-value crop losses is at PHP172 million, with Batangas logging the highest volume loss valued at PHP71.6 million.

Cavite followed with PHP44.5 million worth of losses; Rizal, PHP30 million; and Laguna, PHP25 million.

De Mesa said other less damaged areas may serve as alternative sources for high-value crops while recovery is underway in affected provinces. (PNA)

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ume ng basura (Since we do not yet have a law regarding waste-to-energy, we at the DENR are open to technologies that we believe will reduce the volume of waste)," Eneran said.

"But of course we're very careful especially dun sa effect or impact nito sa ating environment kaya we are assuring the public na i-evaluate natin at masusi nating pag-aaralan itong mga technologies na ito and make sure that walang adverse impact sa environment at sa kalusugan ng tao (But of course, we're very careful especially regarding its effect or impact on our environment, so we are assuring the public that we will evaluate and thoroughly study these technologies and make sure that there is no adverse impact on the environment and human health)," he added.

Waste management

Eneran said the immediate challenge now is the volume of garbage entering waterways and eventually reaching landfills.

He said the DENR has installed 196 trash traps across Metro Manila to

catch floating waste and help identify its possible source.

The agency has also deployed 1,387 estero rangers in 364 priority waterways across 448 barangays in Metro Manila.

He said estero rangers patrol their assigned areas and collect garbage as part of the DENR's continuing cleanup operations.

Eneran said the DENR also agrees with the President that the waste collection and disposal system should be fixed first.

"Kasi kung maayos ang sistema natin, matutulungan ang ating mga kababayan na maitapon nang maayos ang kanilang mga basura (Because if our system is in order, we can help our fellow citizens dispose of their waste properly)," he said.

Currently, he said the waste management hierarchy is still being followed, particularly reduction, segregation, recycling and composting, recovery and disposal.

Waste-to-energy

Waste-to-energy tech-

LAGUNA... FR. P. 1

ang mga grassroots na walang kakayanang mag-aral. Kahit na sabihin nating libre lahat ang pag-aaral, minsan kasi kung konti naman ang available slots for scholarships ay konti ang makaka-avail, hindi lahat mabibigyan ng pagkakataon,"

Amansec also ex-

DOH... FR. P. 1

hospitals and government health facilities in the region were placed under white alert following widespread typhoons and flooding. It has also activated a leptospirosis case tracker to determine logistics support especially in flood-prone communities.

As of reporting time, the DOH CALABARZON said they are still finalizing the number of leptospirosis cases that have been reported during the onslaught of tropical cyclones Luis, Maymay, and Neneng.

The DOH has also

nologies are commonly classified as burn (thermal combustion) or non-burn (non-combustion) methods.

Eneran said several proponents have already approached the DENR to ask about requirements for WTE projects, particularly those involving burning waste.

He clarified, however, that no burn-type WTE process has been approved in the country so far.

"Yung burn, ito yung pino-propose ngayon pero wala pa tayong naaaprubahan (What is being proposed now is the burn, but we haven't approved anything yet)," he said.

"As of now, wala pa tayong na-approve na waste-to-energy sa Pilipinas pagdating sa burn waste-to-energy na process. Pero may ibang klase ng waste-to-energy, yung non-burn, using plasma and microwave para sa pag-convert ng

pressed support for an 'enrollment-to-employment' approach to better align TESDA graduates and National Certificate holders with the needs of private companies, especially in CALABARZON, where many economic hubs are located.

"Pero dahil nga lalaki

launched a massive information, education, and communication campaign especially in preventing leptospirosis.

To recall, the enhanced effects of the Southwest Monsoon (Habagat) and tropical cyclones Luis, Maymay, and Neneng brought heavy rainfall in most parts of the CALABARZON region. The continuous rains brought flooding in 171 barangays, 141 of which have noted that floods have already subsided, according to authorities. (PB-PIA CALABARZON)

basura into energy. So wala pa rin tayong ganon (we have not yet approved any waste-to-energy in the Philippines when it comes to the burn waste-to-energy process. But there is another type of waste-to-energy, the non-burn, using plasma and microwave to convert waste into energy. But we still don't have that)," he added.

Eneran said the DENR's assessment will focus on whether the technology can reduce waste without creating new environmental and health problems.

He stressed that even as the government explores WTE, the DENR wants households to focus first on producing less waste and properly separating what they throw away.

He also called for greater participation from businesses and households, stressing that government cleanup efforts alone will not solve the problem. (PNA)

ang pondo, nagpapasalamat kaming lahat at dadami talaga ang mas makakakuha ng sinasabi naming proper training and skills. Dahil doon, mas maraming opportunities ang mapupunta sa mas marami nating kababayan,"

The group added that it supports TESDA's industry-driven TVET curricula and its regular consultations with private industries and corporations to unlock employment opportunities as early as the training or apprenticeship stage and lessen the need for skilled workers to seek employment abroad.

"Na-fi-fill 'yung gap at hindi kaagad pumupunta sa abroad kasi kung nabibigay naman dito sa Pilipinas at nakukuha naman sila ng industries, so bakit pa sila aalis. Kaya talagang proper training at skills ang tinututukan naming mabuti. Sabi nga namin, knowledge, skills, and right attitude."

TESDA CALABAR-

ZON Regional Director Engr. Jovencio Ferrer Jr. expressed optimism that TVET, through partnerships and coordination with TVIs and TTIs and by being responsive to industry trends, will open more livelihood and economic opportunities for TESDA graduates.

"Once na maipakita natin ang kagandahan na nandito sila with their families, with their jobs with them, kikita sila ng sapat para sa kanilang pamilya. Maaring hindi biglaan, pero darating ang panahon na ma-appreciate nila na more companies are available in our country, more job opportunities," Ferrer added.

The agency urges technical institutes and educational institutions to continue serving learners and further strengthen their efforts to provide programs that will be truly beneficial to the people. (CH/PIA-Laguna)

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PGC Empowers Resettlement Community Leaders Through Capability-Building Program

Recently, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through the Provincial Housing Development and Management Office (PHDMO), successfully conducted the day 2 of the “Lead and Inspire: Capability Building for the Leaders of the Provincial Government Resettlement Project” at the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City.

Resource speaker Ms. Sheryll Loyola, Development Management Officer IV of the Office of the Provincial Cooperatives Development Officer (OP-CDO), discussed leadership, community management, and the roles and responsibilities of HOA officers and block leaders. She also highlighted effective leadership qualities, communication, accountability, teamwork, and decision-making in addressing community concerns.

Provincial Administrator Engr. Gilbert V. Gandia expressed his support and appreciation to the participants for their active participation and commitment to strengthening their leadership capabilities.

On behalf of PHDMO Department Head Ms. Karen Camanag-Tupas, Ms. Jerela Bielle A. Austria, Housing and Homesite Regulation Officer I, expressed her gratitude to the participants for their cooperation, effort, and time in attending the seminar. She emphasized that their active participation and commitment contribute to strengthening leadership and fostering better-managed and more responsive resettlement communities.

The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer portion, allowing participants to share experiences, raise concerns, and exchange practical insights on addressing leadership challenges in their communities.--- OPIO



PGC's medical mission serves 583 residents in Brgy. Osorio

On August 24, a medical mission was successfully conducted by the Provincial Government of Cavite in Brgy. Osorio, Trece Martires City, serving a total of 583 patients.

Residents received medical consultations, FBS testing, and ECG services through the dedicated efforts of GEAMH and AMIGA District Hospital healthcare professionals, with assistance from Barangay Health Workers (BHWs). Free medicines were also dispensed by the Office of the Provincial Governor's Medical Mission Team.



PGC Employees Month celebration kicks off with general assembly, ISO Certification awarding, and new branding launch

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) officially kicked off its celebration of Provincial Employees Month, bringing together provincial government employees in a series of activities aimed at recognizing their valuable contributions, promoting employee well-being, and strengthening camaraderie in public service.

The highlight of the opening celebration was the PGC Employees General Assembly, which served as a venue for employees to come together, reflect on their shared commitment to public service, and celebrate important milestones of the provincial government.

One of the major highlights of the program was the launching of the new PGC branding, symbolizing the provincial government's continuing efforts to strengthen its identity and present a unified image across its various offices, programs, and services. The new branding reinforces the PGC's vision of a progressive, service-oriented, and people-centered provincial government while fostering a stronger sense of unity among its employees.

The activity also featured the ceremonial awarding of the ISO 9001:2015 Certification, marking another significant milestone in the PGC's continuing pursuit of quality, efficiency, and excellence in government service. The certification reflects the provincial government's commitment to maintaining effective systems and processes that promote consistent, responsive, and quality public service for the people of Cavite.

Beyond the formal program, the celebration placed equal importance on the health, wellness, and overall well-being of provincial employees. A stress management seminar was conducted to provide employees with practical ways to manage workplace pressures, maintain a healthy mindset, and achieve better balance in their professional and personal lives. The activity underscored the importance of taking care of employees who, in turn, play a vital role in delivering efficient and responsive services to the public.

Employees were likewise encouraged to stay active and healthy through a lively Zumba activity, providing an enjoyable opportunity for physical exercise, relaxation, and interaction with colleagues. The energetic session brought employees together in a fun and engaging atmosphere, promoting both physical wellness and workplace camaraderie.

As part of the celebration's Personnel Care activities, employees were also treated to various personal wellness services, including haircuts, massage, and manicure and pedicure services. These activities provided employees with an opportunity to relax, recharge, and enjoy a well-deserved break from their daily work responsibilities.

Adding excitement to the celebration were various games and recreational activities designed to encourage teamwork, friendly competition, and stronger relationships among employees. The games provided a venue for employees from different offices and departments to interact outside their usual work environment, strengthening cooperation and camaraderie within the provincial government workforce.

The kick-off activity was attended by Governor Francisco Gabriel “Abeng” Remulla, Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista, and members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, who joined provincial employees in celebrating their important role in advancing the programs and services of the provincial government.

The Provincial Government of Cavite continues to recognize its employees as essential partners in advancing the province's development and in delivering programs and services that respond to the needs of the Caviteño community.--- OPIO

The activity was also supported by Board Member Aldrin Anacan, highlighting the provincial government's continued commitment to making essential healthcare services accessible to residents.--- OPIO

Amadeo LGU assures all families receive 10-kilo rice benefits

AMADEO, Cavite (PIA) — Indigent residents of Amadeo, Cavite have received their 10-kilo rice benefits under the ongoing Local Government Support Fund – Financial Assistance to Local Government Units.

Mayor Jose “Jojo” Domingo, Jr. said the “Bawat Bayan Maki-kinabang” initiative was able to reach 26 barangays, where each family received 10 kilos of rice.

Domingo assured an equitable delivery of the rice benefits where every household will receive the 10-kilo



rice packs.

“Wala po tayong pinipili. Malaki man o maliit ang bahay, simple man o malawak ang tahanan ay makakatanggap, bilang pagpapakita ng patas at pantay na serbisyo sa bawat Amadean.”

Funded through the Local Government

Support Fund (LGSF), the program aims to strengthen food security for families in need and help ease the impact of rising living costs. (PB-PIA CALABARZON, with reports from Mayor Jojo Domingo, Provincial Government of Cavite)

DOH reports 39% drop in HIV cases in Q2 2026

MANILA – Newly reported human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) cases in the country decreased by 39 percent in the second quarter of 2026 compared to the same period last year, according to the latest surveillance report from the Department of Health (DOH).

In a Facebook post on Tuesday, the Philippine National AIDS Council shared that data from the One HIV/AIDS & STI Information System (OHASIS) showed that 2,994 confirmed HIV-positive cases were registered from April to June 2026, down from previous quarterly figures.

This brings the average daily rate to 33 cases per day, reflecting a 35 percent drop from the preceding quarter.

Among the newly re-



FACE YOUR FEARS. Blood samples for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing line up in a small tray at a social hygiene clinic in Quezon City in this undated photo. The Philippine National AIDS Council on Tuesday (Aug. 25, 2026) shared the latest surveillance report from the Department of Health showing a 39 percent decrease in newly reported HIV cases to 2,994 in the second quarter of the year. (PNA photo by Joan Bondoc)

ported cases, 2,865 or 96 percent were males and 129 or 4 percent were females.

Ages ranged from under one year to 79 years old, with a median age of 28.

The 25–34 age bracket accounted for the largest share at 43 percent or 1,294 cases, followed by youth

aged 15–24 at 31 percent or 918 cases.

Of the total Q2 diagnoses, 828 individuals or 28 percent had advanced HIV disease at the time of testing, marking a 45 percent decline compared to the same period in 2025.

Since the country recorded its first HIV

Cavite strengthens child protection advocacy through school-based information campaign

The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Provincial Council for the Protection of Children (PCPC), strengthened its advocacy for the protection and promotion of children’s rights through a school-based information campaign on laws protecting children held in selected schools across the province from August 3 to 5, 2026.



The advocacy campaign was participated in by Grade 10 students of Imus National High School, Trece Martires City National High School, and Carmona National High School. The sessions focused on key issues affecting children and adolescents, including school safety, the safe and responsible use of media and the internet, anti-bullying, mental health, and preventing child abuse.

Serving as resource speakers were PMSG Angelie Cruza of the Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) of Imus City Police Station; PMSG Aileen Peal Gonzalez of the Cavite Provincial Police Office (Cavite CPPO); PMSG Ma. Cristina Pere of the WCPD of Trece Martires City Police Station; Ms. Jessie Rose Cruto, PCPC Focal Person; and Ms. Danica Shaira Pontimar, PCAT-VAWC Focal Person.

The speakers provided students with practical information on recognizing unsafe situations, protecting themselves from abuse and exploitation, and seeking help from trusted adults and appropriate authorities. Discussions also highlighted the importance of maintaining a safe school environment and promoting respect, responsibility, and kindness among students.

The campaign likewise addressed the responsible use of social media and the internet, emphasizing the need for students to protect their personal information, practice safe online behavior, and be mindful of the possible risks associated with online interactions and content.

Anti-bullying was also given emphasis, encouraging students to understand the impact of bullying and to take an active role in preventing and reporting bullying incidents. The sessions further underscored the importance of taking care of one’s mental health, recognizing emotional and psychological concerns, and seeking support when needed.

The advocacy also reinforced the message of “No to Child Abuse,” reminding students that every child has the right to protection from physical, emotional, and other forms of abuse. Participants were encouraged to speak up, report incidents, and seek assistance from trusted adults, school authorities, law enforcement agencies, and other appropriate service providers.

Through the initiative, the PCPC emphasized that child protection is a shared responsibility among children, parents, schools, government agencies, law enforcement authorities, and communities. Strengthening awareness among young people was identified as an important step toward preventing abuse, violence, bullying, and other threats to children’s safety and well-being.--- OPIO

case in 1984, cumulative diagnoses reached 171,066 as of June 2026.

Males comprise 94 percent or 161,529 of all cumulative cases, while females account for 6 percent or 9,527.

The National Capital Region (NCR) accounted for 19 per-

cent or 567 cases of the new Q2 diagnoses, followed by Calabarzon with 11 percent or 338 cases, Central Luzon with 9 percent or 280 cases, Soccsksargen with 8 percent or 235 cases and Western Visayas with 6 percent or 189 cases.

Together, these five

regions comprised 54 percent of all newly detected infections during the quarter.

As of June 2026, the DOH estimated that 288,000 People Living with HIV (PLHIV) reside in the country.

Of this estimated total, 159,997, or 56 per-

(Turn to p.5)

DOE eyes P7-B plan to address electricity losses

MANILA – The government aims to address electricity losses reflected in consumers' bills through a four-phased approach needing approximately PHP 7 billion.

Energy Secretary Sharon Garin, in an online briefing Monday, said they are also proposing the increase of the anti-pilferage penalty from PHP5,000 to PHP50,000 to deter crimes that disadvantage power consumers.

"We are also working with the PNP (Philippine National Police) as well as DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government) and LGUs (local government units) and the electric cooperatives to campaign and enforce the anti-pilferage measures that we have. As part of this effort, we are calling on the public to report suspected electricity theft and electrical safety hazards through the E-GovPH platform," she said.

These measures are



in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s State of the Nation Address (SONA) commitment to address system losses and the removal of the value-added tax (VAT) on system loss charges.

Garin said they are meeting with all stakeholders to address the issue, which involves removing factors that result in loss of electricity through technical ways such as transfer of electricity from generators, through the power lines, and eventually to end-users, as well as non-technical reasons such as pilferage.

"In essence, the plan is (that) there will be

four stages. Stage 1, 25 percent reduction in system loss, 50 percent by the next stage and 75 percent and 100 percent ultimately," she said.

Garin said assessments on the budget needed for these measures continue to ensure that the proposal is ready by next year, with eventual reduction of non-technical charges eyed in one year.

"We have just finished the estimates, and we are looking for the sources, and we will talk to DBM (Department of Budget and Management) and the Executive Secretary for sourcing this," she added. (PNA)

18 to 34 comprised 84 percent of new PrEP enrollees for the quarter.

NCR facilities accommodated the majority of new enrollees at 55 percent, followed by Calabarzon at 15 percent, and Central Visayas at 6 percent.

Since PrEP was introduced in the Philippines in March 2021, a total of 107,567 clients have accessed the preventive medication.

The DOH noted that testing infrastructure has expanded nationwide, with reporting

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cent, have been formally diagnosed.

About 69 percent or 111,154 of the diagnosed individuals enrolled in life-saving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART).

About 57 percent of all PLHIV on ART achieved viral suppression (59 percent tested for viral load, of whom 97 percent achieved viral suppression).

Compared to the first quarter of 2026, diagnosis coverage im-

proved by 2 percentage points and viral suppression among those on ART rose by 7 percentage points, though treatment coverage dipped by 3 percentage points.

Uptake of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) continued its upward trajectory, with 9,640 new enrollees recorded in the second quarter.

This reflects a 10-percent increase from the first quarter.

Young adults aged

Up to P2.31/L fuel price hike set this week

MANILA – Fuel prices will increase by as much as PHP2.31 per liter this week due to effects of renewed hostilities in the Middle East.

Ceiling hike for this week is PHP1.08 per liter for gasoline, PHP2.31 per liter for diesel and PHP0.95 for kerosene, data released by the Department of Energy (DOE) on Monday showed.

Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said the price upticks are driven by global market forces, not domestic supply constraints.

"This is the difficulty with Philippines' long-time dependence on imported fuel. And this is the reality the Department of Energy is working to change because we know that every increase at the pump is felt by Filipino families and businesses," she said in an online briefing.

In separate advisories, oil firms have announced their price adjustments effective 6 a.m. on Tuesday.

Jeti Petroleum said it will increase diesel prices by PHP2.30 per liter and gasoline by PHP1 per liter.

Seaoil will hike gasoline prices by PHP1.08 per liter and diesel by PHP2.31 per liter, and kerosene by PHP0.91 per liter.

Petron will increase gasoline prices by PHP1.10 per liter, diesel by PHP2.30 per liter, and kerosene by PHP1 per liter.

Garin said that because of the lower chances of a peace

Certified Rapid HIV Diagnostic Algorithm



PRICE UPTICKS. A fuel station attendant fills an oil tank of a customer. Domestic oil prices are set to increase by as much as PHP2.31 per liter Tuesday (Aug. 25, 2025) due to the impact of the renewed tensions in the Middle East. (PNA file photo)

deal between the U.S. and Iran, "prospects for the normalization of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz have weakened".

"These developments are driving up international prices and the impact ultimately reaching consumers at the pump in our country. A conflict thousands of kilometers away can still affect the jeepney driver filling up for the day," she said.

Thus, the government is resolved to limit the war's impact on domestic fuel prices, partly by "strengthening our energy security so that the country is better prepared for future external shocks."

"This means investing in stronger domestic energy infrastructure and over the long term pursuing the measures such as Philippines Strategic Petroleum Reserve," Garin said, referring to the proposal to have a government-operated facility to ensure a 60-day stockpile for fuel supply that will help address external risks

Confirming Laboratories (CrCLs) increasing from 26 facilities

on supply and prices.

DOE data show that domestic diesel supply is currently adequate for 47 days of average daily consumption. Supply levels for other fuels stand at 44 days for gasoline, 122 days for kerosene, 75 days for jet fuel, 54 days for fuel oil, and 34 days for liquefied petroleum gas.

Fuel subsidy

During the same briefing, DOE Director Rino Abad said around 98,000 public utility vehicles (PUVs) drivers nationwide who are beneficiaries of the fuel subsidy program have been extended a total of PHP537 million as of Aug. 21, 2026.

Under the program, the qualified drivers are given PHP12 per liter discount for a total of 150 liters per week, which can be availed in 3,383 fuel stations nationwide.

"This is one of the measures in place to help ease the impact of higher fuel prices on our public transport sector," Garin said. (PNA)

in 2021 to 195 as of mid-2026. (PNA)

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Historic Coconut Palace revitalized ahead of 49th ASEAN Summit

MANILA – The historic Coconut Palace has been revitalized ahead of the Philippines' hosting of the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Leaders' Summit in November.

The Coconut Palace was relaunched on Tuesday following extensive enhancements to preserve the landmark's distinctive Filipino architectural design while upgrading its facilities for the regional gathering.

In a statement, Malacañang said the landmark, also known as Tahanang Pilipino, will serve as one of the venues for the 49th ASEAN Leaders' Summit from Nov. 10 to 12.

Commissioned in 1978 by then-First Lady Imelda Marcos and designed under the supervision of National Artist for Architecture Francisco "Bobby" Mañosa, the Coconut Palace stands as a testament to Filipino ingenuity and craftsmanship.

The landmark was originally built as a guesthouse for foreign dignitaries and later gained international recognition for its innovative use of coconut and other indigenous materials in



REVITALIZED. The revitalized Coconut Palace in Pasay City, Metro Manila, stands ready to serve as one of the venues for the 49th ASEAN Leaders' Summit on Nov. 10-12, 2026. The historic landmark, known for its distinctive Filipino architecture and use of indigenous materials, has undergone enhancements in time for the regional gathering. (Photo from MPC pool)

its architecture and interior design.

Coconut shells, coconut wood, and other elements of the coconut tree are featured throughout the structure, alongside traditional Filipino resources, such as capiz shells, solihiya or woven rattan, and Narra wood.

The palace also features seven bedrooms, each inspired by a Philippine region – Ilocos, Iloilo, Mountain Province, Zamboanga, Pampanga, Marawi, and Bicol.

Each room showcases the distinct textiles, furniture, and artworks associated with its respective region.

Over the years, the Coconut Palace has witnessed significant milestones in Philippine history and

served as the official residence and office of the Vice President.

On June 23, 2023, the National Museum of the Philippines declared the landmark an important cultural property, recognizing its historical, architectural, and cultural significance.

The recent renovations preserved the palace's heritage features while improving its facilities and functionality in preparation for the ASEAN Leaders' Summit.

The relaunch underscores the Marcos administration's commitment to showcasing its cultural heritage and Filipino craftsmanship as it prepares to welcome ASEAN leaders and delegates for the November summit. (PNA)

PH young fencers eye Asian, World meets

MANILA – After dominating the Southeast Asian Fencing Federation (SEAFF) Junior and Cadet Championship in Malaysia, the country's young fencers are hoping to join the World and Asian championships in junior and cadet levels next year.

The Philippines garnered 25 medals – five golds, seven silvers, and 13 bronzes – in the tournament held from Aug. 6 to 14.

Oscar Del Castillo led the team, winning the men's epee gold (U17 cadet) and silver (U21 junior).

"It's not just the medals, but equally important is the points we'll get from the SEAFF, because points we earned will be added to our overall ranking points," the 16-year-old Del Castillo said during the Philippine Sportswriters Association Forum at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Malate, Manila on Tuesday.

Willa Galvez, a bronze winner in junior women's foil, was also present, along with silver medalist Hagia Del Castillo (women's foil), and bronze medalists Yuna Canlas and Victoria Ebdane (women's foil), Papina Torre (women's epee), Jethro Chan (men's



PROMISING. Some members of the national team who won medals at the Southeast Asian Fencing Federation (SEAFF) Junior and Cadet Championships join the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) forum at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Malate on Tuesday (Aug. 25, 2026). The country's young fencers hope to join the World and Asian championships at the junior and cadet levels next year. (PNA photo by Jean Malanum)

foil), and Don Reyzel Geronimo (men's epee) in the cadet category.

The points they earned in the SEAFF will be added to other international events they joined, such as the Asian Cadet Cup and the Philippine Fencing Association (PFA) Junior and Cadet tournament.

"It's important as an athlete to compete in as many international competitions as we can, especially in a competition that allows me to have the exposure. Playing against players from other countries (are) things that will push me to be better (as a fencer), both locally and internationally," said the 16-year-

old Ebdane, a Grade 11 student at Home School Global.

The third and final leg of the PFA Junior and Cadet tournament is set to be held at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum from Aug. 29 to 30.

"It's going to be an exciting third leg because it's the final leg, and the points every fencer will get is very crucial," said 15-year-old Galvez, a Grade 10 student at the University of the East.

The top four fencers in cadet and junior categories will see action in the Asian Championships in China and the World Championship in Estonia in March and April next year, respectively. (PNA)

"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 mild-tempered, 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.

Matthew 5: 3-9