

Lawmaker backs petition to restore PhilHealth sin tax share

MANILA – Senator Pia Cayetano on Monday backed calls to restore the mandatory allocation of sin tax revenues to the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), warning that the government’s failure to do so may violate existing laws and affect healthcare access for millions of Filipinos. Cayetano’s statement comes in support of a petition filed before the Supreme Court by the Medical Action Group and Social Watch Philippines, which challenged the removal of PhilHealth’s sin tax allocation in the 2025 national budget. The groups asserted that the move violates Republic Act

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Cavite Monday Times

crusading militant truthful

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Industry, infra key drivers to CALABARZON economy — DepDev

SEE PAGE 3

Cavite town forms multisectoral alliance for child protection

GMA, Cavite (PIA) — The local government of General Mariano Alvarez has entered into a partnership with Save the Children Philippines and the Frere Saint Benilde Romancon Education Foundation of De La Salle University – Dasmariñas to strengthen child protection measures in the municipality.

The partnership aims to implement programs focused on combatting online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC), a growing concern in communities nationwide. The collaboration outlines a multi-sectoral approach involving community stakeholders to implement awareness campaigns, educational initiatives for parents and children, training for local authorities, and the development of victim support systems. Mayor Maricel Echevarria-Torres said the partnership marks the beginning of meaningful programs aimed at protecting the youth.

“Through this collaboration, our barangays, schools, service providers, and parents will be trained to help create a safer, more dignified future for our children,” she said.

She expressed optimism that the initiative will serve as a model for other municipalities seeking to address the rising threat of on-line child exploitation through community-based solutions and sustained collaboration.

For Save the Children Philippines, the partnership is a “crucial step” in its Protect Children Philippines project, which aims

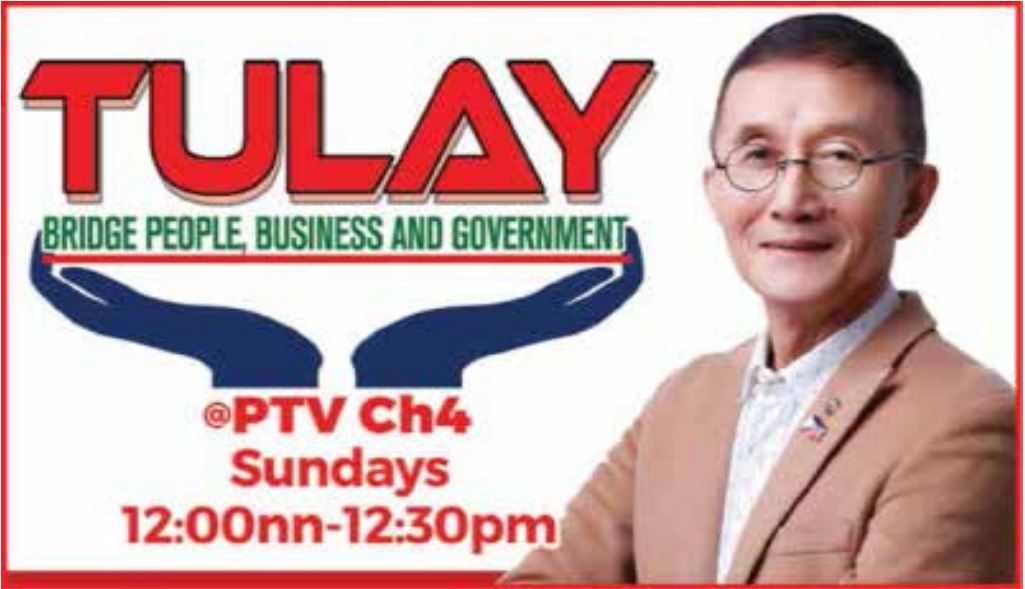


to safeguard children of all ages and genders in the province. The DLSU-D also lauded the initiative saying that the partnership will reinforce local government and stakeholders’ commitment to creating a safer online environment for children and serving as a model for other communities. This initiative aligns with Republic Act No. 11930, the “Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act.” (RBF, PIA Cavite)

Guarantee letters for medicines now accepted in select Mercury Drug stores in Calabarzon

Clients of the Department of Social Welfare and Development’s (DSWD) Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) and Ayuda para sa Kapos ang Kita (AKAP) can now access medicines in select outlets of the leading drugstore chain Mercury Drug around the Calabarzon region using guarantee letters (GLs). The DSWD said that the GL serves as an assurance that the government will cover the cost of products and services including medicines given by partner service providers to DSWD beneficiaries. In Calabarzon, participating Mercury Drug branches accepting GLs are Bayanan in Bacoor City, Sta. Cruz P. Guenvarra in Laguna, and Antipolo Cathedral in Antipolo City, Rizal. Other Mercury Drug outlets that accept GLs are in the National Capital Region, Central Luzon, Mimaropa, Central Visayas, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao Region, SOCSK-SARGEN, and Caraga. For Victoria, Laguna resident Donna Talucod, 43, whose husband is a kidney transplant patient, the letter offers much-needed relief. “Unlike the usual cash aid, which is often limited, the guarantee letter covers a much larger amount. We can now avail of his post-transplant medicines without worrying about how to pay. We are very thankful to the DSWD and Mercury Drug for making this possible,” she said.

TURN TO PAGE 3



PSA taps media for stories that go beyond numbers

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Recognizing the media’s role as story tellers, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Calabarzon organized a briefing that seeks to break down statistical data and help the public make sense of the numbers.

Attended by local media practitioners, the ‘Knowing the PSA: A Media Briefing’ aims to enhance their capacity in interpreting, reporting, and contextualizing official statistical data in time with the release of the 2024 Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) conducted by the agency.

Philippine News Agency reporter Jo-Anne Stephanie Sevillano who served as the resource speaker in the event emphasized the importance of the media in bridging the gap between complex, scientific data and public understanding and education.

“That’s why the role of the media is so important—because we help make sense of the numbers. For example, if inflation rises, it’s the media’s job to go to the market, ask real people how they stretch ₱500 now compared to a year ago. That’s how we humanize the data,” she stated.

Sevillano gave importance to the role of journalists in accurately translating technical information into compelling narratives that resonate with



diverse audiences, particularly at the local and grassroots levels.

Sevillano said: “Data should be the spine of the story, but not the body. We need to humanize the figures, go beyond percentages and tell the real stories behind the numbers so people at the grassroots can truly understand what’s happening around them.”

PSA also acknowledged that media practitioners play a vital role in shaping public understanding of data, and regarded them as essential partners in the agency’s efforts to promote statistical literacy and responsible reporting.

“Through this media briefing this afternoon, we aim to deep-

en our collaboration with you, with all of you, our partners in the press and media, so that together we can translate this data into accurate, relevant, and engaging stories for the public. By working closely with you, we ensure that the data we gather not only informs policy, but also reaches the public in ways that are clear, accessible, and impactful,” PSA Calabarzon regional director Charito Armonia said.

Topics including basic literacy and functional literacy, Consumer Price Index (CPI), inflation rate and Public-Private Partnership (PPP), employment and poverty indicators, as well as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) and the Provincial Product Accounts

(PPA) were also among the points discussed by the PSA IV-A as key statistical indicators vital to national and regional development.

Meanwhile, PSA also introduced its official data release protocols and online portals, including the PSA website and OpenStat database as official sources for accurate and updated information on demographics, labor, health, education, and the economy.

PSA reminded the public on the importance of getting their sources only from verified PSA platforms to avoid the spread of inaccurate or outdated figures, which can cause confusion or mislead the public. (AM,CA/PIA-4A)

Manila launches caravan for school supplies

MANILA – The city government of Manila, together with the national government, on Monday launched a program allowing the public to purchase school items at very low prices.

Mayor Honey Lacuna, in cooperation with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

and the Department of Education (DepEd), launched the “Diskwento Caravan: Balik Eskwela Edition,” aimed at helping residents, city employees, teachers and school personnel to buy school supplies and other products at much cheaper prices.

“The city government of Manila extends its sincere gratitude to the DTI together with the DepEd for the successful implementation of the Diskwento Caravan: Balik Eskwela Edition here in our city,” Lacuna said in a statement.

“This initiative has truly helped parents and students in preparing for the opening of classes.”

The outgoing Manila mayor urged the people, especially residents, to take advantage

of the caravan, which offers school supplies such as notebooks, writing materials, bags, and uniforms at discounted prices under Department Order (DO) No. 12, series of 2025.

The caravan was launched on Monday, the first day of School Year 2025-2026, at the Manila City Hall’s inner court and was attended by Lacuna, DTI Secretary Cristina Roque, and representatives from the DepEd. (PNA)



AFFORDABLE SCHOOL SUPPLIES. Trade Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque (left) and Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna (right) hold a press conference at the launch of the “Diskwento Caravan: Balik Eskwela Edition” at the Manila City Hall on Monday (June 16, 2025). Lacuna urged the people, especially residents, to take advantage of the caravan, which offers school supplies such as notebooks, writing materials, bags, and uniforms at discounted prices. (Screengrab from Manila PIO video)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 128
CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE
rtc1das128@judiciary.gov.ph

IN RE: PETITION FOR CANCELLATION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH WITH REGISTRY NO. 2012-6802 DAVID JOHN BIBAOCO under the guidance of his mother Ma. Angela Bibaoco, MA. ANGELA BIBAOCO HUNG and MA. VICTORIA BIBAOCO CHIU, all represented by their ATTORNEY-IN-FACT ENRIQUE DE LA TORRE,

Petitioners, SPEC. PRO. NO. DC-1498-22

PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY and THE CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR OF DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE and all persons who may have claim or interest herein,

Respondents.

ORDER

Before this Court is a Manifestation and Compliance to the Order dated December 23, 2025(sic) filed on March 7, 2025 by the petitioners, through counsel Atty. Rosiebelle V. Torrano.

In the Order dated December 23, 2024, the Court directed the petitioners and counsel to submit the Proof of Service of the copy of the Petition and its Annexes to the Office of the Solicitor General and the Office of the City Prosecutor, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite within fifteen (15) days from the receipt of the said Order.

In conformity to the said Order, petitioner filed the instant Manifestation and Compliance attaching thereto an Affidavit of Service executed by Jewel Bouvier Atienza, paralegal of Z. Soriano & Associates Law Office together with the Philpost Registry Receipts as proof of service of the copies of the Petition and its Annexes that were sent on February 24, 2025 to the Office of the Solicitor General and Office of the City Prosecutor of the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Taking into consideration the said compliance, the petitioners are directed to coordinate with regard to the submission of the Notice of Appearance of the Office of the Solicitor General and Deputization to the Office of the City Prosecutor of Dasmariñas City, Cavite to ensure receipt of the Court before the scheduled hearing date.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the Manifestation and Compliance [to the Order dated December 23, 2025(sic)] is hereby NOTED. The Notice of Appearance filed by the petitioners on March 7, 2025 in compliance with A.M. No. 10-3-7-SC and A.M. No. 11-9-4-SC is likewise NOTED.

Finding the petition as well as the corresponding annexes to be sufficient in form and substance, let the instant petition be set for hearing on the jurisdictional requirements on September 25, 2025 at 8:30 in the morning at the 2nd Floor of Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Bldg., Congressional Rd., Brgy. Buro I, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite on which date, time and place any interested party who may have opposition to the instant petition may appear and show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted. Let a copy of this Order and its corresponding Notice of Hearing be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Cavite, at the expense of the Petitioner.

The Petitioner is also directed to furnish a copy of the Order, Notice of Hearing and Petition to the Office of the Clerk of Court – Regional Trial Court for the inclusion in the raffle of publication. SO ORDERED. City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, March 14, 2025.

HELEN B. CONSTANTINO-BALBUENA
Presiding Judge

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
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PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY and THE CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR OF DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE and all persons who may have claim or interest herein,

Respondents.

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: Office of the City Prosecutor 3rd Floor DASCA Bldg., Brgy. Buro I, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite
Office of the Solicitor General No. 134 Amorsolo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
Atty. Rosiebelle V. Torrano
Z. Soriano Law & Associates Law Office G/F Lemanz Building, Km. 21 Aguinaldo Highway, Bayan Luma VII, Imus City, Cavite
Philippine Statistics Authority PSA Complex, East Avenue Diliman, Quezon City
Local Civil Registry of Dasmariñas Office of the Local Civil Registrar City of Dasmariñas, Cavite
David John Bibaoco
Ma. Angela Bibaoco Hung
Ma. Victoria Bibaoco Chiu
Represented By Attorney-In-Fact Enrique De La Torre
Blk. 17 Lot 27 Ph2 Solar Homes Subd. Brgy. San Agustin I, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: WHEREAS, a petition was filed with this Court by petitioners DAVID JOHN BIBAOCO under the guidance of his mother Ma. Angela Bibaoco, MA. ANGELA BIBAOCO HUNG and MA. VICTORIA BIBAOCO CHIU, all represented by their ATTORNEY-IN-FACT ENRIQUE DE LA TORRE, through counsel, for the Cancellation of the Certificate of Live Birth with Registry No. 2012-6802 of the Local Civil Registrar of Dasmariñas City, Cavite, most respectfully praying that this Court grant the instant Petition and order the Local Civil Registrar of Dasmariñas City and Philippine Statistics Authority to cancel the simulated Certificate of Live Birth of the petitioner with Registry No. 2012-6802.

GREETINGS: You are hereby notified that the hearing of above-entitled petition is set on September 25, 2025 at 8:30 in the morning at the 2nd Floor of Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Bldg., Congressional Rd., Brgy. Buro I, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite. WITNESS THE HON. HELEN B. CONSTANTINO-BALBUENA, Presiding Judge of this Court this, 14th of March 2025 at the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite.

ROXANNE C. MILLORA
Clerk of Court V
IIBC/rm
Copy furnished:

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Industry, infra key drivers to CALABARZON economy — DepDev



Ongoing infrastructure programs and a growing industrial sector continue to drive economic growth in the CALABARZON region as it remains in its position as a top contributor to the national economy.

Ray Michael Abuso, Supervising Economic Development Specialist at the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DepDev) — formerly the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) — noted that ongoing infrastructure developments in the provinces of Laguna, Cavite, and Batangas have significantly bolstered the Regional Gross Domestic Product, valued at Php 3.10 trillion.

“All provinces in the region showed positive economic growth, reflecting growth-based economic momentum.”

Cavite Province recorded the highest growth rate in the region with 6.7 percent. Meanwhile, the City of Lucena—the region’s only highly urbanized city—posted an even higher growth rate at 8.9 percent.

DepDev reported that the industry sector—valued at Php 1.53 trillion—contributes the largest share in the Gross Regional Domestic Product, followed by the services sector at Php 1.42 trillion and the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector at Php 138 billion.

“Economic performance in the provinces is slightly influenced by manufacturing, infrastructure development, and sector diversification. With their industry-based economy, Laguna and Cavite, offer opportunities for residential and commercial development.”

Meanwhile, Batangas Province which hosts several power plants supplying the region also shows increasing growth potential in the tourism sector.

“Overall, the CALABARZON region’s economic growth is shaped by infrastructure and industry focused in the urban expansion.”

To sustain economic growth, DepDev recommended long-term and province-specific solutions. These include expediting critical infrastructure projects, diversification of economic activities, comprehensive economic partnerships, and modernizing the agriculture sector—particularly in the provinces of Laguna and Cavite.

Meanwhile, the provinces of Batangas and Quezon were encouraged to invest further in the

agriculture sector by modernizing agricultural practices, developing value-added processing, upgrading farm-related infrastructure, and establishing agribusiness and agro-biotechnology centers.

On the other hand, Rizal Province—known for its burgeoning tourism industry—may further boost its growth by enhancing tourism infrastructure and integrating modern techniques and practices into its agricultural activities.

Housing major economic zones, the CALABARZON region contributes 14.7 percent to the National Gross Domestic Product, making it the second-largest contributor in the country. (PB/PIA4A)

Lawmaker backs petition to restore PhilHealth sin tax share..from page I



11346, which mandates earmarked funds from tobacco and sugar-sweetened beverage taxes for PhilHealth.

They also demanded the remittance of unaccounted shares since 2019.

She signed the bicameral report of the General Appropriations Act “with reservations,” objecting to the removal of government subsidy for the agency.

“The sin tax law is clear. A portion of revenues from tobacco and sugar sweetened beverages must go to PhilHealth to fund the delivery of healthcare services to the Filipino people. Ignoring this is a violation of the law and a disservice to our most vulnerable sectors,” Cayetano said in a news release.

As Senior Vice Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Finance handling the health budget, Cayetano flagged the issue during deliberations, noting that at

Cayetano also acknowledged concerns about PhilHealth’s alleged accumulation of excess funds but said this issue should be tackled independently.

“Fiscal discipline and accountability are important, but they cannot justify abandoning funds legally designated for PhilHealth,” he said.

“This is about upholding the law and protecting the rights of millions of Filipinos who rely on PhilHealth coverage.” (PNA)

Guarantee letters for medicines now accepted in select Mercury Drug stores in Calabarzon...from page I



Another client, Rowena Espiritu, a mother of four, thanked the government for the initiative, stressing that the provision of GLs is a big help for someone like her who needs maintenance medicine for hypertension.

“It eases my worries since I no longer have to think about where to get money to buy medicine. Thanks to the DSWD and Mercury Drug for this initiative,” Rowena shared.

Oliver Alub, store manager of the Mercury Drug-Pedro Guevarra branch in Sta. Cruz, Laguna shared that customer

visits have increased since the program’s announcement.

“Many customers are coming in for quotations, typically for anti-hypertension, anti-angina, and diabetes medications. These quotations are then submitted to the DSWD, which determines the amount to be covered by the guarantee letter,” he explained.

He also assured the public that their staff are trained and ready to assist all customers with GL-related transactions.

The DSWD encourages the public to visit their nearest field office to learn more about the program and how to avail of GLs for medical assistance. (CM, PIA4A)

Senator wants further probe on online games despite POGO ban

MANILA – Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Monday urged the incoming 20th Congress to continue investigating online gaming activities in the country.

Cayetano said in a news release that despite the passage of the measure that will ban Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGO), online gaming activities persist and are getting bigger.

“Ang problema, ipinagbawal na natin ang POGO, pero lumalaki naman ang online industry na puro mga Pilipino ang tumataya (The problem is we were able to ban POGO but there is an increase of on-line industry where Filipinos placed their bets.) I hope the next Congress can look into this,” he said.

During the last session of the 19th Congress, the senator praised his colleagues with the passage of the Anti-POGO bill. He also praised opposi-



tion Senator Risa Hontiveros for spearheading a series of hearings and investigations that led to the passing on June 11.

The Senate on June 9, approved on third and final reading a bill seeking to permanently ban POGO operations in the country after 23 senators unanimously voted in favor of the

measure.

Once enacted, the law will establish an Administrative Oversight Committee, to be led by the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission, tasked with ensuring the law’s effective implementation.

The House of Representatives then adopted the Senate ver-

sion, which bans the establishment, operation and provision of services related to offshore gaming and POGO activities.

“I want to honor those who warned us against POGO 15, 20 years ago, whatever it was called. But we acted on it only now. Sana po (Hopefully), we will act on online gaming soon in the 20th Congress,” he said. (PNA)



EDITORIAL

Quad com debacle

Lying, deception and treason was unearthed at the Senate committee hearing chaired by Sen Imee Marcos regarding the surrender of FPRRD by the Administration high officials to the foreign agents.

Some Filipinos, again, displayed mediocrity, it's subservience to foreigners, who are traitors, no less. Although these negative traits does not apply, in general to all, but mainly with government officials whose main focus in their respective posts is power and pocket. I don't think there will be disagreement here.

Power because the objective, this early, is to annihilate the main bulwark of opposition led by FPRRD. This is pretty obvious because what used to be the strong stand against cooperation with the International Criminal Court became the reverse or diametrically.

So far, the three Senate hearing conducted, showed nothing but a complete turned around with even DILG Secretary pointing to NSC Eduardo Ano, DOF Jesus Remulla, DND Secretary Gilbert Teodoro and himself do the planning and execution using the abusive and traitor General Torre as the hatchet man. It's a national shame that one Filipino, a PNP police general who should live up with the motto "to serve and protect," did also the reverse and lick the international tribunal agents. Firstly, so that by doing so, he will be appointed successor to the current CPNP who has the same blood type.

The Office of the Ombudsman acted already after Senator Imee Marcos urged the OMB to file charges against several top government officials involved in the arrest of FPRRD. She asked the graft body to investigate Justice

Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla, PNP Chief Gen. Rommel Marbil and CIDG Director Maj. Gen. Nicolas Torre III.

Sen. Marcos thinks Justice Secretary Remulla may be liable for violations of RA 3019, or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, for allegedly authorizing or initiating what she described as the invalid administrative arrest of former President Duterte.

"I don't even know if that's a real committee report. We're not afraid of it," was the response of the justice secretary and committed to cooperate with the OMB investigation. Good answer. Additionally, Sec. Remulla may also be charged of usurpation of judicial functions, grave misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of public service. Oh that's a lot for the full bloodied Cavitenito to handle, who may even projected ahead what is in store for him before the bar of justice.

As most expected, as fruit of the poisonous tree, recommended too is the filing of charges against Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla for arbitrary detention and the Anti-Graft, and Corrupt Practices Act for inducing Torre and his Boss Marbil to violate the law aside from grave misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service.

Torre, who forcibly arrested Duterte, may be charged for arbitrary detention and violation of Republic Act 7438 for not allowing Vice President Sara Duterte to see her father and for forcing his lawyers to leave him. He, too, faces complaint of grave misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of public service.

Special Envoy on Transnational Crimes Markus Lacanilao, who appear to be better called a Special Liar may face charges for usurpation of official functions under Article 177 of the Revised Penal Code, false testimony and perjury.

FPRRD faces crimes against humanity at the ICC over his war on drugs during his terms as Davao City Mayor and Philippines President from 2011 to 2019 at the ICC. But what really is crime against humanity? No admission but maybe, the case authors think we have no justice system at works. Because, not even one of the so-called victims families, not even one grandstanding Reps Flores, Castro, Paduano, Ortega, Chua, Abante came out to file case/s against FPRRD. Maybe, just maybe, or perhaps, there was no money, then, on the take.

My readers may know better why it's a nasty, shameful consequence.

Ang tulay mo

by Billy Andal



Cabinet Re-organization

The result of the recent midterm elections, by any measure, is clearly readable even by ordinary folks. Some of the President's alter egos, either, isn't doing well or doing nothing.

The statement of PBBM when he asked for courtesy resignation, indicates that something isn't the way it should be leading to his decision to shuffle or re-organize the entire executive department.

The President was at the forefront campaigning personally for Alyansa ng Bagong Pilipinas bet. And surveys pointed to a perfect 12 potential winners from the Admin bets. The Administration, without saying, has all the manpower and logistical resources, financially reinforced with the AKAP, AICS or Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation Program, among others. Billions in pesos of taxpayer's monies, were made as dole outs. By any measure, such could be considered, without winking, that it was vote buying under the cover of broad sunlight. The COMELEC was inutile, legally or otherwise and failed to control or stop.

Given the objective condition presented and the votes going more to Duterte bets, money failed miserably to sway voters to the Alyansa side. The vulnerable impoverished poor, closer to the government officials were

pampered, though. Shamelessly, most representatives made it appear that the funds were from their own pockets. 'Ang kapal ng mga mukha.'

Goin back to the re-organization of the Executive Department, the courtesy resignation asked by President Marcos, Jr., covered the entire executive apparatus of this government from Cabinet Members to the National Government Agencies, especially those appointed by the President. As it is still ongoing, no sacred cow appeared to be spared. Hopeful. By its speech tone, PBBM seems disturbed calling the act as response to the inadequacy of government services by its officials on their respective mandate.

With poor election outcome of his Alyansa bets, he stressed that it's time "to recalibrate his Administration, not business as usual, the people have spoken and they expect results not politics." PBBM further said it's time to re-align government with the people's expectations." Of course, it must.

But not only that some executive officials are underperforming in pursuing their mandate for the Filipinos. Corrupt activities are unabated and appears to be the norm. In particular, corruption at DPWH sucks

billions of taxpayers money with overpriced contracts and purchases. It's surprising that resigned Sec Manuel Bonoan does nothing and with that, who would not think that he is part and parcel of the thievery in the Department which he heads.

With the opportunity presented by the demand for courtesy resignation of all Cabinet Members and their adjutants, so long as the acts indicates real good governance the President may have in mind and not a mere huge PR shot, I stand with him squarely and may even, with all humility, suggest who should be retained and who should be the replacement to the ass in the Palace.

Really, there are ass in the Cabinet which is pulling down whatever may be, if any good which the President is doing. As I sit down doing this piece, a couple few Cabinet Secretaries have been re-appointed already. DHSUD Secretary Acuzar has been replaced with a veteran and expert construction manager, Engr Jose Ma Aliling. Expect more houses for the homeless.

DTI Secretary Cris Aldeguer Roque, re-assumed already her post, a good thing in the ongoing re-organization. There is undoubtedly neither reason nor factual basis to consider her courtesy resignation. Sec Roque is up to the task, a silent, efficient, competent and visionary worker who has contributed significantly in providing more trade, business and economic opportunities, especially the MSME's which is closer much to her heart.

tions. That the President stated that the move was to weed out non-performing heads and then retained most of the cabinets, re-assigned some to other positions and accepted the resignation of only a few has brought confusion to everyone. It did not help that this events came at the heels of the midterm election where the administration senatorial bets performed below expectations.

The downside of this is that it creates demoralization. Those who are let go would be perceived as having underperformed and will bring this stigma all their lives. Those retained would not feel safe either as they can be removed anytime.

I sincerely hope that these changes will redound to the benefit of the people who are reeling from increasing cost of basic commodities, horrible traffic, rising electricity, etc. I really do. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, as they say, and we will see in the coming days if this was a brilliant move or just a smokescreen and optics.

God bless the Philippines!

Voices and Views: The conversation continues

By MGen Delfin Lorenzana (Ret)



The Cabinet Changes: For the better or smokescreen

The on going cabinet revamp ordered by the President of May 26 that included the heads of the 168 GOCCs on 26 May are hailed by some as a step in the right direction to recalibrate the machinery of the government. However, others see it as a smokescreen or optics to cover up overall underperformance by some agencies and to counter the continued slide of the President's approval rating.

The President's action is unprecedented in the history of

the country. No prior President had ordered the tendering of courtesy resignation of the entire cabinet and the heads of the GOCCs (Government Owned and Controlled Corporations).

Changes in the cabinet are within the prerogative of the President and they are necessary measures to insure that the engine of the government keeps purring efficiently. But it must be done very deliberately and carefully. In the first place those in position

are there after a thorough vetting and selection before they were appointed. Everyone is assumed to be fit for the job until they prove otherwise. It is the job of the President to constantly evaluate the heads of his departments and change those who should be replaced. But it must be done judiciously allowing people to go with dignity.

But the timing and the wholesale manner of the order evoked various reac-



KADIWA ng Pangulo 2025!

Join us on June 26, 2025 at 6 AM for the KADIWA ng Pangulo event at PN Samonte Park, Cavite City! This initiative, a joint project of the Cavite City LGU headed by our top performing Mayor Denver Reyes Chua and the Department of Agriculture, aims to support micro, small, and medium enterprises and local vendors while providing caviteño consumers with affordable and fresh local produce. Support our local businesses and vendors and enjoy the best of Cavite’s agricultural offerings.

DA, DOLE to hire TUPAD workers for wider Kadiwa ng Pangulo rollout

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on Monday partnered to hire workers for the wider rollout of Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) programs alongside the target expansion of PHP20 per kilogram rice under Benteng Bigas Meron (BBM) Na.

DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. and DOLE Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to help both local farmers and consumers in line with the directives of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

In an interview, Tiu Laurel said the partnership will allow DOLE to supplement the DA’s need for additional manpower.

“Let’s say, 3,000 (KNP) outlets. 3,000 outlets na dalawang tao (two individuals) per outlet, that will entail 6,000 workers,” he said.

In particular, the DOLE eyes the hiring of Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD).

On top of the 6,000 KNP operators or sellers, Tiu Laurel said at least 1,000 personnel are needed for logistics, including drivers and porters.

Laguesma, however, clarified that the total number of TUPAD workers for KNP is yet to be determined.

“Kasi po ang implementasyon po ng TUPAD ay meron pong guidelines. May minimum days (of work) na pwede at maximum days. So, ang minimum is 10 days at 90 days ang (Be-



PARTNERSHIP. Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. and Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma sign a memorandum of agreement in a press conference on Monday (June 16, 2025). The agreement aims to hire workers for the continuous and wider rollout of Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) program alongside the target expansion of PHP20 per kilogram rice under Benteng Bigas Meron (BBM) Na. (PNA photo by Stephanie Sevillano)

cause the implementation of TUPAD has guidelines. There are minimum and maximum days. So the minimum is 10 days and 90 days is the maximum,” he said.

Besides this, the partnership will also allow the agencies to supply PHP20 rice to more minimum wage earners under the BBM Na.

“Ang target ngayon sa mga (Our target now for the) minimum wage earners instead of 120,000 in initial, towards the end of the year, as per request of Sec. Benny, targetin na mga (we will target) almost 500,000 to 600,000 workers ang bigyan ng (we will grant them) allocation,” he said in a press conference.

On June 13, at least 16,000 minimum wage earners in about 100 establishments benefited from the nationwide simultaneous launching of BBM Na for minimum wage earners.

“Eventually nga, papasok din yan iyong pork, yung chicken,

itlog, vegetables, isda, bangus, tilapia, tsaka mga iba’t iba pang mga produkto na baka pati cooking oil isama dyan sa expansion ng Kadiwa ng Pangulo program natin (Eventually, the sale of pork, chicken, eggs, vegetables, fish, milkfish, tilapia, and other products, perhaps even the cooking oil will be included in the expansion of our KNP program),” Tiu Laurel said.

Aside from more companies with BBM Na, the DA and DOLE will also allow labor unions and federations to roll out KNP programs.

To date, seven labor organizations have been accredited for KNP operations, benefitting 152 members in Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Eastern and Central Visayas; while six more are targeted to be included from other regions.

The DA also partnered with the Philippine Carabao Center to integrate 48 dairy box outlets for the continuous KNP expansion. (PNA)



IMPOUNDED. A Taxi Hub Transport unit, similar to the one driven by an opportunist driver who charged PHP1,260 for a six-kilometer trip between Terminals 2 and 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City. The unit has been impounded while the license of the driver will be revoked. (Photo courtesy of Radyo Pilipinas)

DOTr suspends cab driver’s license for overcharging, probes operator

MANILA – Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon on Monday announced the immediate license suspension of a taxi driver who was caught on video trying to charge PHP1,260 for a ride from Terminal 2 to Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Pasay City.

In a press conference at the Land Transportation Office (LTO) headquarters in Quezon City, Dizon said the driver has already been slapped with a temporary license suspension, with the process for permanent revocation ongoing.

“Dahil ginawa mo ‘yan, irevoke ang lisensya mo. Hindi ka na makakapag-maneho ulit ng taxi. Pasensya ka na. Kasi niloko mo kababayan natin (Because of what you did, we’ll revoke your license. You won’t be able to drive a taxi ever again. I’m sorry but you took advantage of the public),” he said.

The unit under Taxi Hub Transport has already been impounded as it was found it be unregistered. All 15 units under the company were found to have expired provisional authorities since March and are thus considered “colorum.”

“Dalawa at kalahating buwan ng expired. So makakasuhan na ‘yung Taxi Hub Transport na nagpapatakbo na ng colorum. Hindi ka pwede magpatakbo ng taxi ng walang prangkisa (They’re expired for two and a half months now. So, we’re

going to file a case against Taxi Hub Transport for operating unregistered taxis. You can’t operate a taxi without a valid franchise),” he said.

He noted that both the driver and operator showed disdain for the law through overcharging while being unregistered. The distance between Terminal 2 and Terminal 3 is about six kilometers and would take approximately 10 minutes.

“‘Yan ang problema kapag iniisip nila na walang consequence or walang kaparusahan ‘yung ginagawa nila. Ngayon maramdaman nyo ‘yung full force ng batas against this operator. Lahat na ng fleet nila, wala na ‘yun. And I think, hindi na ‘yan makakapag-operate uli ng taxi (That’s the problem when they think there’s no consequence for their actions. Now, you’ll feel the full force of the law against this operator. All of their fleet, it’s gone. And I don’t think they will ever operate tax- is again),” he said.

He warned other public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers and operators that public transport is a privilege granted by the government and comes with rules and responsibilities that they must adhere to or else face severe consequences.

“Every action has a consequence and these are the consequences. And they will be enforced to the full extent of the law against these drivers, these operators,” he said.

Crackdown vs. overcharging

To help avoid similar incidents in the future, the LTO and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) were ordered to conduct anti-overcharging operations at NAIA, other airports, and other transport facilities such as ports throughout the country.

“I’ve asked the LTFRB and LTO to coordinate with Manila International Airport Authority and San Miguel Corp. through New NAIA Infra Corporation para mahuli natin lahat ng gani-to (so we’ll catch these violators),” he said.

He also called on the public to continue recording violations related to public transport and tag the social media pages of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and other relevant agencies.

“Sinisigurado ko sa inyo makikita namin ‘yan at aaksyunan namin ‘yan, kagaya ng pag-aksyon namin nitong mga nakaraang buwan. Hindi kayo ma-iipit. ‘Wag kayo matakot. Way ito para maprotesyunan namin kayo (I guarantee that we’ll see your posts and we’ll take action, similar to how we took action this past month. You won’t be harassed. Don’t be afraid. This is a way for us to protect you),” he said.

In a video that went viral on social media, two female passengers were heard arguing and bargaining with the taxi driver, who charged them PHP1,260. The rate was lowered to PHP1,100. (PNA)

Wellness Tip

of the Week

with the Area Agency on Aging District 7

Healthy Holiday Eating Tips

- Stay hydrated - drink lots of water.
- Eat a protein-packed snack an hour before your Holiday meal.
- Fill-up on salad and fresh vegetables first.
- Have smaller bites and portions.
- Watch the calories you are drinking.
- Get active! Stand up and move around!



Happy 127th Independence Day!

Today, we are celebrating the 127th year independence of the Philippines with the theme, “Kalaayaan. Kinabukasan. Kasaysayan.” Let’s honor the bravery of each Filipino, the courage and the sacrifices for our nation’s freedom.

Angara: 1st day of school smooth under close gov’t watch

MANILA – The first day of classes in all public schools nationwide was generally smooth under the close watch of the various government agencies, Education Secretary Sonny Angara said on Monday.

More than 27 million learners are expected to return to 48,000 public schools and 12,000 private schools in the country.

“So far, okay naman ang reports (The reports are okay), more or less smooth. May mga minor repair lang sa ibang schools na kailangan (There are minor repairs needed in other schools),” Angara said in an ambush interview on the sidelines of his visits for the opening of the School Year 2025-2026.

Angara said close coordination among government agencies is in full swing to address the needs and safety of both learners and teachers, in line with the directives of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

“Lahat ng ahensya this week, nakabantay sa ating mga paaralan, sa ating mga estudyante... Iyong buong makinarya ng gobyerno ayon sa Pangulo ay nakatutok dito sa pasukan (All of the agencies, this week are focusing in our schools, in all of our students. The entire government machinery, according to the president, are focused in the school opening),” he said. Angara lauded the efforts of key offices, including the Departments of the Interior and Local Government, Health, Information and Communication Technology, Energy, Trade and Industry (DTI), Social Welfare and Development, Public Works and Highway, National Disaster Risk and Reduction



SMOOTH SCHOOL OPENING. Students are back at Santiago Elementary School in Barangay Santiago, City of General Trias, Cavite on Monday (June 16, 2025), the first day of Academic Year 2025-2026. Education Secretary Sonny Angara said the first day of classes in all public schools nationwide was generally smooth under the close watch of the various agencies of the government. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

Management Council, PAGASA, Meralco, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, and Philippine National Police (PNP). The DTI launched its Balik-Eskwela Diskwento (Back to School Discount) Caravan in Ermita, Manila to provide students, parents, and teachers with school supplies at lower prices. Concerns Angara, meanwhile, assured they are addressing the needs of San Francisco High School in Quezon City after a fire damaged a building Sunday. “Daan-daang tables and arm-chairs ang kailangan. So, in-umpisahan na namin. Nag-so-sourcing na kami ngayon (Hundreds of tables and arm-chairs are needed. So, we have already started. We are now sourcing),” he said. Of the 22 damaged rooms, Angara said eight are used as classrooms. DepEd Media Relations chief Dennis Legaspi reported that 344 concerns nationwide were

reported to the command center. “The top category was enrollment concerns, comprising 97 (28.20 percent) of all concerns. Most of these involved inquiries regarding requirements for the transfer of learners,” he told the Philippine News Agency in a Viber message.

PNP Chief Gen. Nicolas Torre III said students and parents could seek police assistance through 911 for bullying-related incidents, including those happening outside the school premises. He said 27,000 cops were deployed nationwide, while over 5,000 police assistance desks were set up for the school opening. “We assure the parents that your PNP will be watching over your children with the goal of protecting them and ensuring that their learning environment is safe and peaceful,” he said in a statement. (With a report from Lloyd Calivan/PNA)



June 1st Monday Flag Ceremony

The Mayor’s Monthly Accomplishment Report was presented as part of the monthly flag ceremony held today, June 2, 2025, highlighting the successful activities and projects accomplished during the past month (May). The monthly flag ceremony also served as an opportunity to recognize and award the outstanding employees of the City Government of Cavite. The flag ceremony and awarding were led by Mayor Denver Reyes Chua, with Vice Mayor Raleigh Rusit and the entire Unlad Cavite City Team also present.

Comelec moves resumption of voter registration period to Oct



Comelec moves resumption of voter registration period to Oct

MANILA – The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has reset the scheduled voter registration for the upcoming Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) from July to late October this year.

“Surely, this voter registration from July 1 to 11 will not push through. It will happen in the last week of October after the Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections and will last until July 2026,” Comelec Chairperson George Garcia said in an interview on Monday.

The first-ever Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections (BPE) sets on Oct. 13.

“Voter registration cannot continue because 11 days are not enough. The Bangsamoro (vot-

ers) might get confused if voter registration will be conducted and they won’t be able to vote in the BPE. The registration is for BSKE, we will just continue voter registration after the BPE, last week of October,” Garcia said.

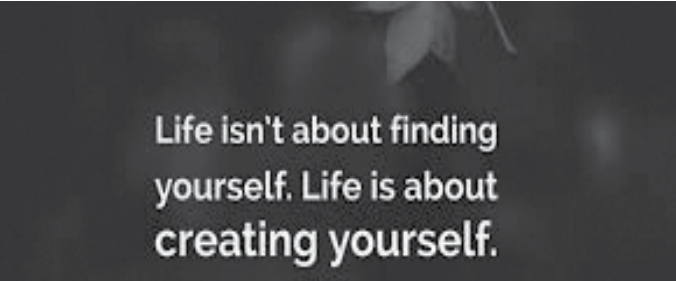
Garcia reiterated that they will continue to prepare for the BSKE, which is set on Dec. 1, until President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. signs a law postpon-

ing it. “What if we stop our preparations but the law isn’t signed or someone goes to the Supreme Court and gets a temporary restraining order (TRO)? We will be the ones facing the problem,” he said.

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives ratified last week the bicameral conference committee report on the bill extending the term of incumbent barangay and SK officials.

Under the proposed law, the term of office of all elected barangay and SK officials shall be extended to four years. At present, barangay and SK officials serve a three-year term.

According to Garcia, they will push through with their procurement activities but with a condition. (PNA)



HEALTH TIPS FOR RAINY DAYS

Eat fresh fruits

Drink boiled water

Eat healthy & balanced diet

Do not eat street food

Keep your home clean

Avoid getting wet in rain

Don't play in rain water

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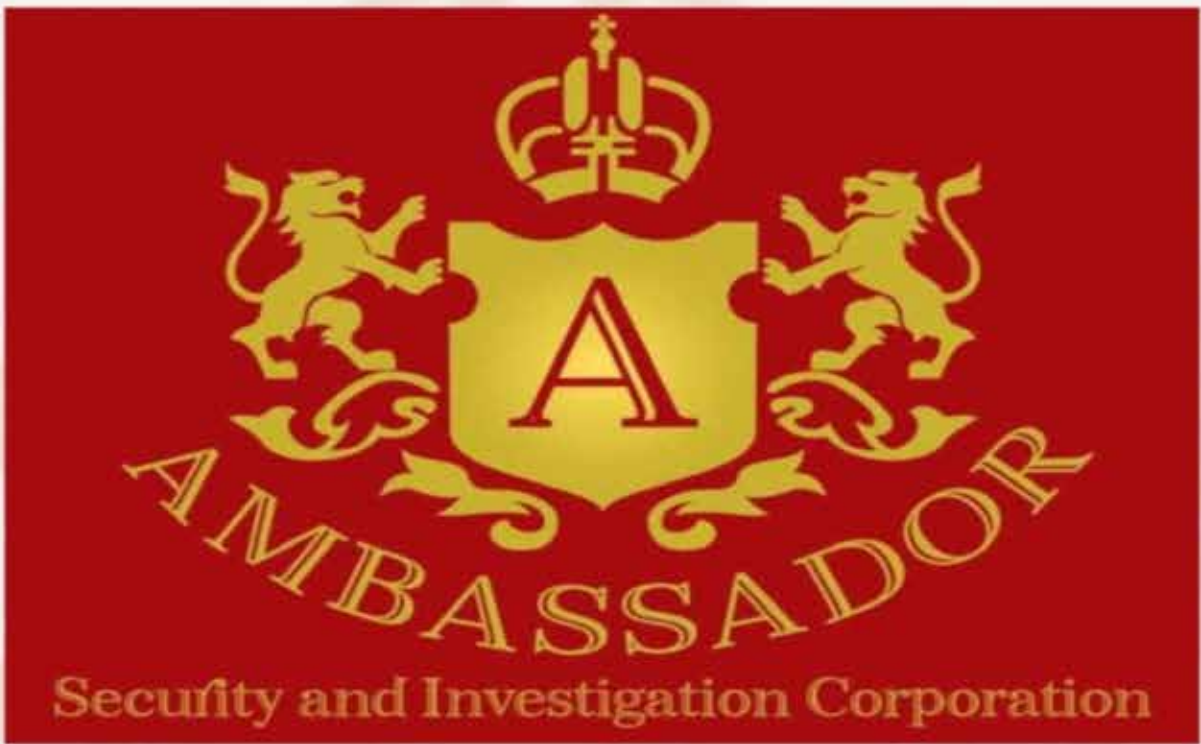
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