

TOWN in FOCUS

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2 Chinese nabbed for alleged kidnapping of fellow nationals in Cavite

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan

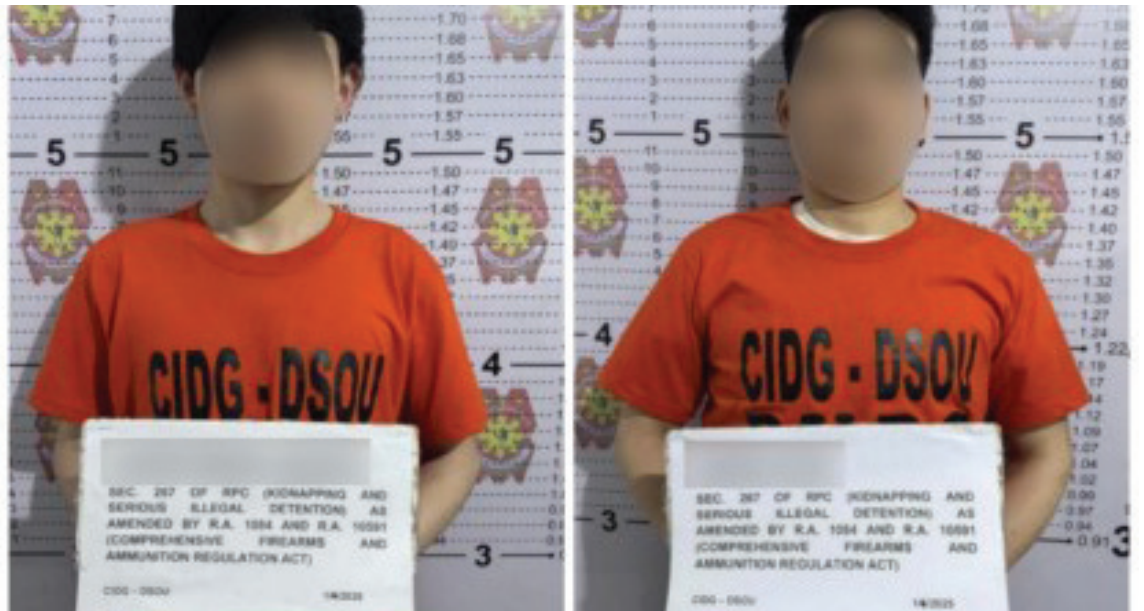
MANILA – Police authorities have arrested two Chinese nationals in Cavite for the alleged kidnapping of their two fellow Chinese citizens.

In a report on Wednesday, Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection

Group (PNP-CIDG) Director Brig. Gen. Nicolas Torre III identified the two suspects only as Zhou and Juncheng, while the victims were known as Yuanjie and Yuanhao.

Torre said the police operation was launched following a complaint from a certain "Mak" who revealed

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SUSPECTS. Police on Wednesday (Jan. 8, 2025) announce the arrest of two Chinese nationals, identified only as Zhou and Juncheng, for the alleged kidnapping of two fellow Chinese nationals in General Trias, Cavite on Monday (Jan. 6, 2025).

Marcos sympathizes with California wildfire victims

By Darryl John Esguerra

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. expressed his condolences to the victims of wildfires that devastated Southern California in the United States, extending his sympathy on behalf of the Filipino people.

In a statement Sunday, Marcos highlighted that many Filipinos call the affected region home, underscoring the impact on the local community.

"On behalf of the Filipino people, I extend my deepest sympathies to all who have been affected by the devastating wildfires in Southern California, USA -- a place that many of our kababayans (compatriots) call home," Marcos said.

"May the community's

road to recovery begin with strength, compassion, and solidarity," he added, urging all to stay safe and vigilant in the face of the ongoing disaster.

The President's message comes as the wildfire crisis in the area continues to unfold, leaving residents and emergency responders struggling to contain the damage.

The city of Los Angeles has been engulfed in uncontrollable wildfires for several days, even as winter approaches, leaving thousands homeless and causing significant damage.

The damage has been estimated to cost as much as USD150 billion, according to US private forecaster AccuWeather. (PNA)

DOH: NCR, nearby regions in code white alert for Traslacion

By Marita Moaje

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on January 7, 2025, said a code white alert is in effect until Jan. 10 for the celebration of the Feast of Jesus Nazareno.

"Ang alertong ito ay nagsisiguro na ang lahat ng itinalagang medical personnel, kagamitan, at pasilidad sa NCR (National Capital Region) at mga karatig rehiyon gaya ng

Central Luzon at Calabarzon ay nakaantabay upang mabilis na tumugon sa mga emerhensiya o insidenteng may kaugnayan sa kalusugan sa panahon ng malaking pagtitipong panrelihiyon (This alert would ensure that designated medical personnel, equipment, and facilities in the NCR and neighboring regions like Central Luzon and Calabarzon are on standby to quickly respond to health-related emergencies during

the religious procession)," according to a news release on January 7, 2025.

The DOH would deploy medical teams and health stations along key areas of the Traslacion procession route on Jan. 9, including Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park, SM Manila, Ayala Bridge, P. Casal Street and Quinta Market, on Jan. 9.

It added that 201 personnel from the Health Emergency Response Team of 20 DOH hospitals in Metro Manila, including Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Tondo Medical Center

and Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila and East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City, will be assigned to provide medical support.

Partner agencies such as the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, National Capital Region Police Office, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine Coast Guard and Metro Manila Center for Health Development will play key roles in ensuring coordinated and effective health responses.

Marcos to Filipinos: Overcome challenges with faith, grace

By Darryl John Esguerra

MANILA – As Filipinos once again gather to mark the annual Feast of Jesus Nazareno on January 9, 2025, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. called on the public to find strength in unity and compassion and hurdle challenges with faith and grace.

In his message for the traditional Catholic gathering, Marcos said the Feast of Jesus Nazareno "puts into our mind

the strength that allows us to find harmony in our faith as a people."

Jesus Nazareno is a life-sized image of Jesus Christ carrying the cross. It has been a symbol of strength and devotion for Filipino Catholics for over 400 years.

The feast, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, sees millions of devotees participating in the Traslacion (procession),

often barefoot, as they make their way through the streets of Manila in an expression of unwavering faith.

Marcos reflected on the significance of the image itself, saying that the act of carrying Jesus Nazareno and His cross serves as a poignant reminder of the immense sacrifices made by Jesus Christ.

"It also speaks of the immense power and

Continued on page 3...

Health stations installed along the Traslacion route will provide basic and advanced care, with ambulances on standby.

The DOH also encouraged devotees to refrain from attending the Traslacion if they are feeling unwell or showing symptoms such as cough and colds, to prevent worsening their conditions and spreading virus.

It also emphasized the importance of following health and safety precautions during the event, recommends frequent drinking of water

Continued on page 3...



# Sufficient resources allocated to secure INC rally



(PNA photo by Avito C. Dalan)

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA – The Office of Civil Defense-National Capital Region (OCD-NCR) on Sunday said sufficient resources have been allocated to ensure that the Jan. 13 Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) National Rally for Peace will be orderly and peaceful.

“Safety is our utmost priority as we prepare for this significant event,” OCD-NCR head Director George Keyser said in a statement.

He added that they have mobilized resources and personnel to ensure that “every participant can engage in the rally peacefully and without concern.”

Over 120 personnel, along with two light urban search and rescue teams from the Philippine Army’s 525th Engineer Combat Battalion, will be present, supported by 4,418 police officers and 1,200 personnel from the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Keyser also inspected the MMDA Mobile Command Center stationed along TM Kalaw St..

He also met with Edwin Nasol, vice president for disaster preparedness and emergency response of the Society of Communicators and Networkers (SCAN) International, to discuss the security preparations in detail.

Nasol confirmed that 17,000 INC members are deployed for emergency preparedness and response efforts.

Keyser also met with Arnel Angeles, Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) head and Incident Commander, who provided an update on the deployment of additional resources.

In anticipation of this event, the Manila DRRMO and the Metro Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MMDRRMC) have raised their alert status to “red”.

This move aims to ensure comprehensive safety measures for the event, which is expected to draw 500,000 to 1 million participants to the Quirino Grandstand.

As the afternoon progressed, Keyser noted that INC members had begun to arrive at the venue, with parking areas from Anda Circle to Roxas Boulevard quickly filling up.

“The collaboration between various agencies and local government units is crucial in ensuring a smooth operation,” Keyser added. “We are also facilitating a Virtual Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) meeting via Zoom for continuous monitoring of the event.” (PNA)

## November...

plans to enhance workforce engagement through various employment programs aimed at improving job readiness and skills.

The recently enacted Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy (CREATE MORE) Act is expected to provide additional income opportunities and stimulate economic growth.

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Additionally, the Enterprise-Based Education and Training Framework Act aims to address labor sector gaps by expanding training and upskilling programs in collaboration with the private sector.

Looking ahead to 2025, Laguesma expressed optimism for continued economic growth and job creation, particularly for vulnerable groups. The

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) will prioritize upskilling and reskilling to equip Filipino workers with the necessary skills for the evolving job market.

“As we strive for a Bagong Pilipinas, we remain steadfast in our efforts to foster inclusive growth and ensure equitable access to job opportunities,” Laguesma said. (JCO/PIA-NCR)



Photo courtesy of PIA

## DPWH...

from page 8

it’s about time that we need to rehabilitate EDSA once and for all.”

Bonoan said they expect the rehabilitation project to be completed within the year.

Flood control

During the same briefing, Bonoan said President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ordered a holistic approach in addressing flood problems in the country.

“Utos ni Presidente that we have to address

actually ‘yung mga flood control projects natin (The President ordered that we have to actually address our flood control projects),” he said.

Bonoan said Marcos wants the flood control projects to be “resilient and implemented holistically.”

The DPWH is planning to build three dams in the mountains of Sierra Madre to confine flood waters and regulate its flow to protect Metro Manila from

flashfloods.

“Dito sa Metro Manila, dapat siguro tingnan kung puwede nating magawan ng mga (Here in Metro Manila, maybe we should look into having) infrastructure facilities that will impound water in the watershed,” Bonoan said, adding that the department will continue pursuing the Pasig-Marikina Flood Control Program.

Bonoan added they are currently rehabilitating about 37 regional pumping stations in the country, 15 of which

## Mayor...

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testament to the strong partnership between the City Government and RCBC, both dedicated to promoting economic growth and development in the city.

The opening of the new RCBC branch is expected to bring numerous benefits to the community, including

increased access to financial services, job creation, and enhanced economic activity in the area. The City Government welcomes RCBC’s investment in Bacoor, recognizing its contribution to the city’s progress and prosperity. (bacoor.gov.ph)

have been completed while the rest “may be completed within the year”.

“These pumping stations have been there long time ago and kailangan natin ma-increase ‘yung carrying capacity nila, ‘yung pumping capacity (we need to increase their carrying and pumping capacities)” he said.

Some 21K projects in 2024

Meanwhile, the DPWH chief reported that for 2024, they have implemented around 21,000 projects amounting to PHP900 billion. The projects are locally funded and foreign-assisted.

“I think about 70 percent of these have been already accomplished. The projects include road rehabilitation, flood control, local projects, among others,”

Bonoan said.

Among the undertakings that have been completed are the Integrated Risk Reduction Flood Control Management in low-lying areas in Pampanga and flood control project in Cagayan de Oro, which was constructed after Typhoon Sendong.

“We have completed the (Phase 1) flood control in Pampanga. It will help mitigate flooding in Masantol, Macabebe, Santo Tomas areas. Then Phase 2 of the project will start this year,” he said.

“The people in Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro were very, very happy to see that it is already a completed project and already protecting iyong (the) areas that were flooded before.” (PNA)



## OCD to LGUs: Risky decision to let Kanlaon evacuees return home

By Darryl John Esguerra

MANILA – The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) is appealing to local officials of Bago and La Castellana, Negros Occidental to reassess their decision to allow over 4,000 evacuees to return home near Mt. Kanlaon, as the volcano shows increasing signs of eruption.

OCD Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno warned that the situation remained too risky.

*“We must take anticipatory actions to prepare for the worst-case scenario of a more violent eruption. Achieving zero casualties is our utmost priority,”* Nepomuceno said in a statement Sunday.

The urgent appeal came amid warnings from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) that the volcano could reach Alert Level 4, from the current Level 3, expanding the danger zone

from six to 10 kilometers.

According to OCD, data from the Upper Pantao Observation Station showed troubling signs of volcanic inflation and a sharp drop in sulfur dioxide emissions, signaling growing internal pressure and the risk of a catastrophic eruption.

Nepomuceno emphasized that if an eruption occurs, no resident in the danger zone can escape pyroclastic flows traveling at speeds of 30 to 600 kilometers per hour.

He warned that rescue teams may not be able to penetrate danger zones if an eruption takes place.

He also appealed to residents, including those just outside the danger zone, to *“take the situation seriously and evacuate immediately.”*

*“We want no casualties in the event of an eruption,”* Nepomuceno said. (With Priam Nepomuceno/PNA)



*STILL TOO RISKY.* The explosive eruption of Mt. Kanlaon on Dec. 9, 2024. The Office of Civil Defense on Sunday (Jan. 12, 2025) appealed to the local officials in Bago and La Castellana, Negros Occidental to reassess their decision to allow over 4,000 evacuees to return home as Mt. Kanlaon shows increasing signs of eruption. (Photo courtesy of Viscom-PIO)

### 2 Chinese...

from page 1

that two of his friends were illegally detained and extorted by the two suspects.

He said the suspects were arrested on Monday around 11:15 p.m. in Brgy. Pascam 1, General Trias, Cavite leading to the successful rescue of the victims.

Confiscated from the suspects were two genuine PHP1,000 bills, 300 pieces

of PHP500 boodle money, 298 pieces of PHP1,000 boodle money, a pistol, a magazine for a .45 caliber, and ammunition.

The arrested suspects are facing kidnapping and serious illegal detention charges under Article 267 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended by Republic Act (RA) 1084, and for Violation of

the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act under RA 10591.

The case has been referred for inquest proceedings.

*“This operation reflects our resolve to uphold justice and ensure that perpetrators of such heinous crimes are held accountable,”* Torre said. (PNA)

### Marcos...

from page 1

*compassion of God who walks with us and hears our prayers, especially in our time of need,”* he said.

The President encouraged Filipinos to extend the spirit of compassion, urging devotees to *“reach out to those around us who need our kindness and empathy.”*

He also called on the faithful to not only focus on their spiritual journeys but to actively work towards serving their communities, echoing the example set by the Nazarene.

*“This colossal gathering of Filipinos in the streets of Manila is a testament to our people’s solidarity and camaraderie,”* Marcos said.

*“Let us remember that we are all called to hurdle the challenges that test our resolve with faith and grace as well as to reach out to those around us who need our kindness and empathy.”*

His hope is for every devotee in the procession — whether in person or in spirit — to have a deeper bond with the Almighty and a higher purpose in serving others.

*“I am confident that we are able to epitomize the example of the Nazarene in our daily walks in this world as hope bearers, peacemakers,*

*and builders of society who will change their respective communities with one good deed at a time,”* he said.

The ‘andas’ or the carriage of the image of Jesus Nazareno started its way through the crowd of devotees and the streets of Manila around 4:40 a.m.

From the Quirino Grandstand, it will make its way to Quiapo Church in a procession expected to last for hours.

Red Cross gives medical aid to 100 devotees

Meanwhile, a total of 119 devotees in the Feast of Jesus Nazareno sought medical help as of 7:30 a.m. on Thursday.

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) said some experienced difficulty in breathing, chest pain, hyperventilation, headache, elevated blood pressure and dizziness.

About 10 were brought to their emergency field hospitals, two of which were transported to the nearest hospitals for medical treatment.

The PRC also attended to other patients and took their vital signs. (With Ma. Teresa Montemayor/PNA)

### DOH: ...

from page 1

to stay hydrated, wearing comfortable clothing, and limiting prolonged exposure to the heat to avoid heatstroke and other heat-related illnesses.

*“Ang taunang Traslacion ay panata na ng milyun-milyong mga Pilipinong deboto. Kasama niyo ang DOH sa pagtitiyak ng maayos na kalusugan at kaligtasan ng lahat (The yearly Traslacion is a sacred tradition for millions of Filipino devotees. The DOH is committed to ensuring the health and safety of everyone),”* Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa said.

Quirino Grandstand inspection

MMDA officials, headed by Chair Don Artes, inspected Quirino Grandstand where the traditional *“pahalik”* (veneration by kissing or touching the image) began Tuesday.

The MMDA placed plastic barricades to ensure orderliness of the queue and tents to serve as shade for the devotees.

Emergency response is on standby for those who’ll be needing immediate medical attention.

Security cameras are also installed around the areas where the procession will pass to monitor traffic situations and ensure peace and order, in cooperation with the police.

*“We have deployed 1,200 personnel for the procession alone, including those who are tasked to maintain the cleanliness of the*

*road right after the procession passes through a certain route,”* Artes said.

Artes assured that clearing and cleaning operations are being undertaken to eliminate not just illegally parked vehicles but also trash and other obstructions in the road.

*“We appeal to our kababayans (countrymen) not to throw trash which can cause injury or harm fellow devotees who will join the procession on Thursday, especially since majority of them join the Traslacion barefoot,”* he said in a news release.

The number coding scheme will be suspended in Manila on the feast day, declared a special non-working holiday.

The MMDA also advised rerouting for affected motorists:

Light vehicles  
Coming from the south (Roxas Boulevard and Taft Avenues), take United Nations Avenue, straight to Nagtahan Street-(Paz Guanzon Street (Otis), left to Mabini Bridge towards Magsaysay Boulevard and Lacson Avenue to destination and vice versa.

Noming from the north ( Malabon-Navotas and Port Area), take Anda Circle then take Soriano Avenue (Intramuros), Magallanes Drive towards Chinatown

Trucks  
Going to North Harbor from SLEX, straight ahead to Osmeña Hiway then right turn to Quirino Avenue,

straight to Nagtahan Street, going to Lacson Avenue, left to Yuseco Street, and straight ahead to Capulong Street. Right turn or turn left to R-10 Road to destination.

Trucks coming from Parañaque area, right to Quirino Avenue to Mabini Bridge, then Lacson Avenue to destination. Same route may be utilized by going to south.

*‘Ready’*

Meanwhile, the Office of Civil Defense-National Capital Region (OCD-NCR) is ready for the annual religious festival, establishing a virtual emergency operations center for real-time communication among response clusters and local government units.

In a statement Tuesday night, the OCD said NCR Director George Keyser visited the Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office Emergency Operations Center, the Kartilya ng Katipunan Regional Incident Management Team Incident Command Post, the Quiapo Multi-Agency Command Center, and the Quirino Grandstand to ensure that the facilities were prepared.

*“OCD-NCR outlined extensive plans established by Quiapo Parish Officials and the Manila local government unit, which include deployment strategies for the Incident Management Team, road closures, designated evacuation centers, and robust contingency plans in case of emergencies,”* the OCD said. (With Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)

Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.



# EDITORIAL

## The AKAP's politicization

*INSTEAD of addressing structural issues, politicians leverage short-term handouts to project themselves as benefactors, ensuring loyalty at the ballot box.*

The Ayuda Para sa Kapos ang Kita (AKAP) program was conceived as a lifeline for the most vulnerable members of society, addressing poverty and unemployment with cash assistance.

However, its noble intentions have been overshadowed by allegations of abuse as critics claim it is being weaponized for political gain.

Reports suggest that AKAP has earned a new moniker, Ayuda para sa Kaibigan sa Politika, reflecting how some leaders manipulate the program to secure political loyalties. Such practices undermine the program's integrity, erode public trust, and distort the principles of democracy.

The problem lies in the selection process for beneficiaries. Ideally, AKAP recipients should be chosen through a transparent mechanism based on clearly defined criteria such as income level, employment status and overall need.

Reports, however, indicate that some barangay councils have raised concerns over the lack of proper training and guidelines for those tasked with identifying beneficiaries. Instead, partisan considerations allegedly dominate decision-making, with assistance prioritized for those aligned with local political leaders.

This favoritism has turned AKAP into a political tool rather than a public service. The aid, intended as a social equalizer, becomes a carrot dangled before impoverished communities to secure votes for incumbent politicians and their allies.

By exploiting the desperation of the poor, these leaders manipulate AKAP into patronage politics, perpetuating a cycle of dependence. This tactic not only violates the program's objectives but entrenches the very inequalities it seeks to address.

Moreover, the timing of these allegations — amid the lead-up to the 2025 elections — raises red flags. It is no coincidence that such schemes are emerging as politicians seek to strengthen their hold on their constituencies.

Cash aid programs like AKAP offer a convenient avenue to curry favor with voters, bypassing the arduous process of implementing

long term, sustainable poverty alleviation measures.

Instead of addressing structural issues, politicians leverage short-term handouts to project themselves as benefactors, ensuring loyalty at the ballot box.

The call for the Ombudsman to investigate these irregularities is both timely and necessary. A thorough probe can establish accountability, deter future abuses, and restore the integrity of the AKAP program.

Furthermore, the investigation must extend beyond local leaders to include national policymakers who may have facilitated or turned a blind eye to these practices. Without accountability, the credibility of government aid programs as tools for social justice will continue to erode.

To safeguard programs like AKAP, reforms are essential. First, beneficiary selection processes should be depoliticized, relying on third-party organizations or non-governmental agencies to ensure fairness and transparency.

Second, implementing strict oversight mechanisms, including digital tracking and public reporting, can prevent manipulation. Finally, educating citizens about their rights regarding government aid is crucial to empower them against coercion and exploitation.

The broader implications of AKAP's politicization are deeply troubling.

If programs designed to alleviate poverty are co-opted for political gain, the government risks losing the trust of the people. Citizens will no longer view these initiatives as genuine efforts to uplift their lives but as cynical tools of manipulation.

This erosion of trust will further alienate the marginalized sectors, exacerbating societal divisions.

The allegations surrounding AKAP, therefore, highlight the urgent need to address the intersection of poverty and politics in the Philippines. Turning aid into a political weapon not only betrays the program's intended beneficiaries but also undermines the democratic process.

The government must act decisively to investigate and reform AKAP, to ensure that it serves its true purpose: To provide ayuda para sa kapos, not ayuda para sa kaibigan sa politika (aid for the needy, not aid for friends in politics).

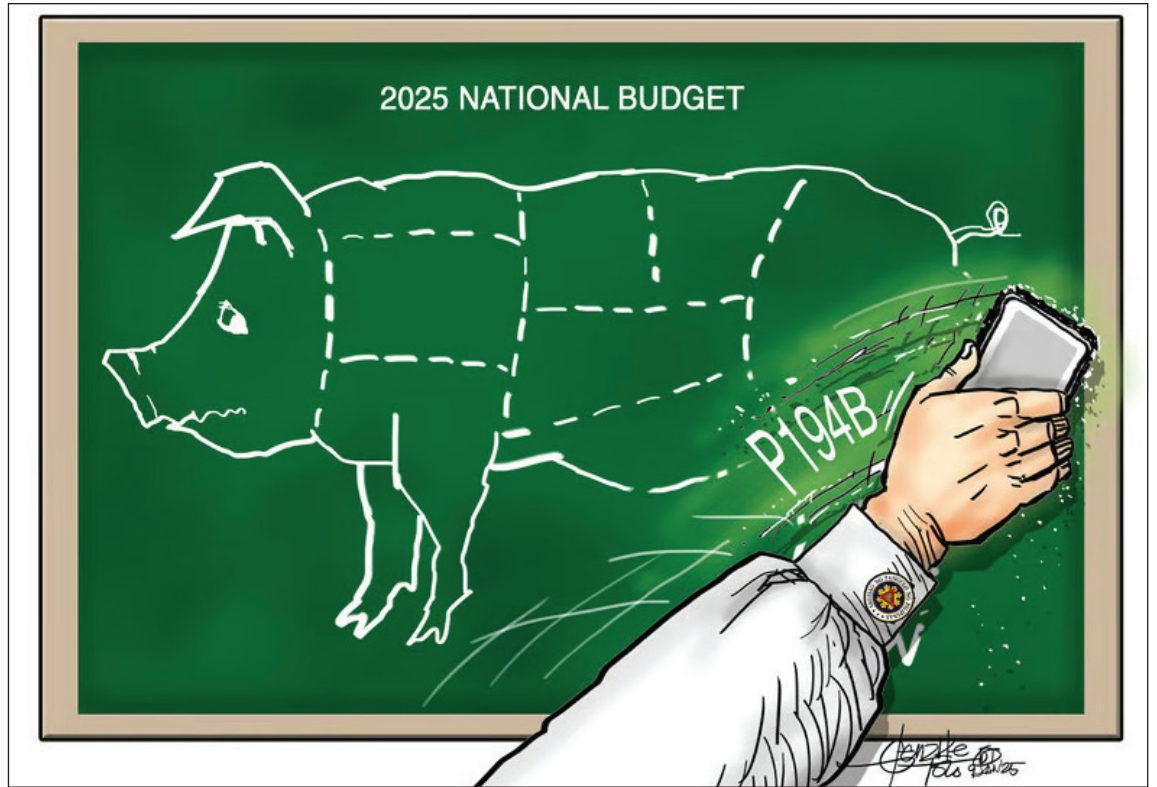


Photo courtesy of tribune.net.ph

# KAPIRASONG kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

## Kontraktwalisasyon 101

PART 4

TULAD ng DO 18-A Series Of 2011, hindi tinatapos ng DO 168 ang kontraktwalisasyon. Pinapanatili nitong ligal ang kontraktwalisasyon at katunaya'y binibigyan pa ang iskema ng papogi para magmukhang katanggap-tanggap sa mga manggagawa at mamamayan.

Noon, ipinagyabang ng DOLE ni Aquino na may mga manggagawang naregular dahil sa DO nito, taliwas sa aktwal na paglaganap ng kontraktwalisasyon.

At ganito na rin ang ginagawa ng DOLE ni Duterte: nagsasabi ng mga gawa-gawang datos ng nareregular umano sa ilalim ng bagong DO.

Kapitalista. Tandaan: ang World Bank ang unang malakas na nagpahayag ng pagtutol sa pangako ni Duterte na tapusin ang kontraktwalisasyon.

Sinundan ito ng mga maka-kapitalistang komentarista sa bansa: Gerardo P. Sicat, Raul J. Palabrica, Peter Wallace. Ang kanilang linya: Ang problema ay hindi ang kontraktwalisasyon, kundi ang "pag-abuso" rito. Ang kailangan ay hindi ang ibasura ang kontraktwalisasyon, kundi ang mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng DOLE sa mga probisyon ng batas laban sa mga agency na ilehitimong kontraktor.

Anila, magdurusa ang mga manggagawa kapag nawala ang kontraktwalisasyon dahil mababawasan ang mga trabahong nariyan. Mas maraming manggagawa raw ang nabibigyan ng trabaho dahil sa katayuang kontraktwal; kung magiging regular anila ang mga manggagawa, kaunti lang ang matatanggap sa trabaho. Sa madaling sabi, kapag ipinagbawal ang kontraktwalisasyon, magkakaroon ng maramihang tanggalan.

P a g - b l a c k m a i l ito sa mga manggagawa para tanggapin ang kontraktwalisasyon at ang busabos na kalagayan sa paggawa na kaakibat nito.

Lumang tugtugin na ito, katulad ng laging tugon ng malalaking kapitalista kapag lumalakas ang panawagan ng mga manggagawa para sa dagdag-sahod. Balewala sa ganitong pagdadahilan ang masamang kalagayan at mga batayang karapatan ng mga manggagawa.

Totoong dahil sa malaganap na kawalang-trabaho sa bansa ay madali para sa mga kapitalista na magtanggap ng mga manggagawa at palitan ang huli ng mga bago.

Totoo ring dahil sa ganitong kalagayan ay pinupwersang mga kapitalista ang mga manggagawa na tanggapin ang kontraktwal na katayuan at busabos na

kalagayan sa paggawa. Pero hindi dahilan ang ganitong pananakot para maniwalang hindi kayang ibigay ng mga kapitalista ang kahilingan ng mga manggagawa para sa regularisasyon, lalo na sa harap ng pagtaas ng tubo ng mga kapitalista sa bansa.

Sa pagdadahilan ng mga kapitalista at tagapagsalita nila, i p i n a g p a p a l a g a y na makatwiran at mapagmalasakit ang mga kapitalista: magreregular sila batay sa kakayahan at mag-cempleyo ng pinakamaraming kakayanin.

Saan ibinabatay ng mga kapitalista ang pagsasakatuparan ng naturang mga hakbangin? Walang iba kundi sa tubo nila. At sino ang nakakaalam kung magkano ang tunay na tubo nila? Walang iba kundi sila. Nakabatay samakatwid ang ganitong pagdadahilan sa kalkulasyon ng mga kapitalista sa kanilang tubo at sa katapatan o kabutihang loob nila.

Hindi makatao at makatotohanan na ibatay ang kalagayan ng mga manggagawa sa kalkulasyon ng tubo o kabutihang loob ng mga kapitalista; kaya nga sa kasaysayan ay ipinaglaban ng mga manggagawa ang paniyak laban sa mga ito — ang kanilang mga karapatan.

At mahalagang idiin, laban sa ganitong pangangatwiran: ang... ipagpapatuloy...

Ang  
**CAVITENO**

NEWSWEEKLY

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# TOWN in FOCUS

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## Licayan captures President's Cup Masters boys' U16 title



CHAMPION. Al Tristan Licayan makes a two-handed backhand return during the boys' 16-under final in the President's Cup Masters at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center on Thursday (Jan. 9, 2025). Licayan defeated Gavin Kraut, 6-3, 6-3, to win the title. (PNA photo by Jean Malanum)

By Jean Malanum

MANILA—Al Tristan Licayan accomplished his mission to win the boys' 16-under title in the President's Cup Masters after beating Gavin Kraut, 6-3, 6-3, in the final Thursday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

"I am so happy, after two years as a semifinalist, I finally made it to the final and eventually won the title," the 15-year-old Licayan, who lost to JB Lim in the Final Four in 2023 and 2024, said.

"It was not an easy match because Gavin also played well. I just did what I had to do to win," added the son of University of the East coach, Roel Licayan.

Licayan defeated Kraut, 6-1, 6-1, in the round robin elimination to take the No. 1 spot in the crossover semifinal, where he prevailed over Julio Yñigo Naredo, 6-3, 6-1.

For his title victory,

Licayan earned 120 points to improve at No. 3 in the Philippine Tennis Association (Philta) rankings.

"I heard that the Top 3 will play in the Junior Davis Cup, I will be honored to represent the country," the Grade 10 student at the Gov. Ferrer Integrated National High School in General Trias City, Cavite said.

Licayan bagged two medals at the Batang Pinoy National Championships in Puerto Princesa, Palawan last November.

He got a bronze in the mixed doubles with Jana Jelena Diaz and a gold in the team event with Ariel Cabral, Samuel Davila and Kenjie Kue.

The President's Cup Masters tournament, held in honor of Philta president Eric Olivarez, kicked off the 2025 season of the Palawan Pawnshop National Tennis Championships. (PNA)

# CAVITEVIEW

## DOTr: LRT-1 fare hike petition will go through public consultation

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz

MANILA—The petition of the Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC) to increase the Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) fare will be studied and decided by the Department of Transportation (DOTr), with its possible implementation to begin by April.

In a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon interview over PTV on Thursday, DOTr Secretary Jaime Bautista said the fare hike petition will go through public consultation and will be studied by both the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) and the DOTr's Rail Regulatory Unit (RRU).

"Kaninang umaga po ay nagkaroon ng unang hearing ang RRU para dinggin nga iyong petition, kasi po kailangang mayroon consultation iyan eh, bago natin payagan na mag-increase and sa kasalukuyan po ay continuous iyong consultation (This morning, the RRU held a hearing for the petition because there needs to be a consultation before we allow an increase and for now, the consultation continues)," Bautista said.

If approved, he said, the fare hike will likely be

implemented by April at the earliest.

"Kung sakali mang magkakaroon ng increase, ang pinakamaaga nito ay siguro start ng second quarter, mga April (If there will be a fare increase, the earliest implementation will probably be by the second quarter, around April)," he added.

Bautista said the concession agreement signed

by the government and LRMC in 2016 allows for a fare increase at the LRT-1 every two years.

However, he said a fare increase for the LRT-1 was only approved in 2024 despite repeated petitions by the LRMC in 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024.

"Dapat naman siguro ay i-respect ng gobyerno at dapat payagan din natin

*sila magkaroon ng increases dahil tumataas din naman ang kanilang cost of operations (Perhaps the government should allow for a fare increase since their cost of operations are increasing)," he said.*

Part of these increased costs is the LRT-1 Cavite Extension project, which has increased its capacity with an additional 80,000 passengers and five more stations since its inauguration in November.

"Dati it takes siguro almost an hour because of traffic from Baclaran to Sucat. Ngayon kapag sumakay sila sa train, mga 15 minutes (In the past, it would take almost an hour to travel from Baclaran to Sucat because of traffic. Today, it's a 15-minute train ride)," he said.

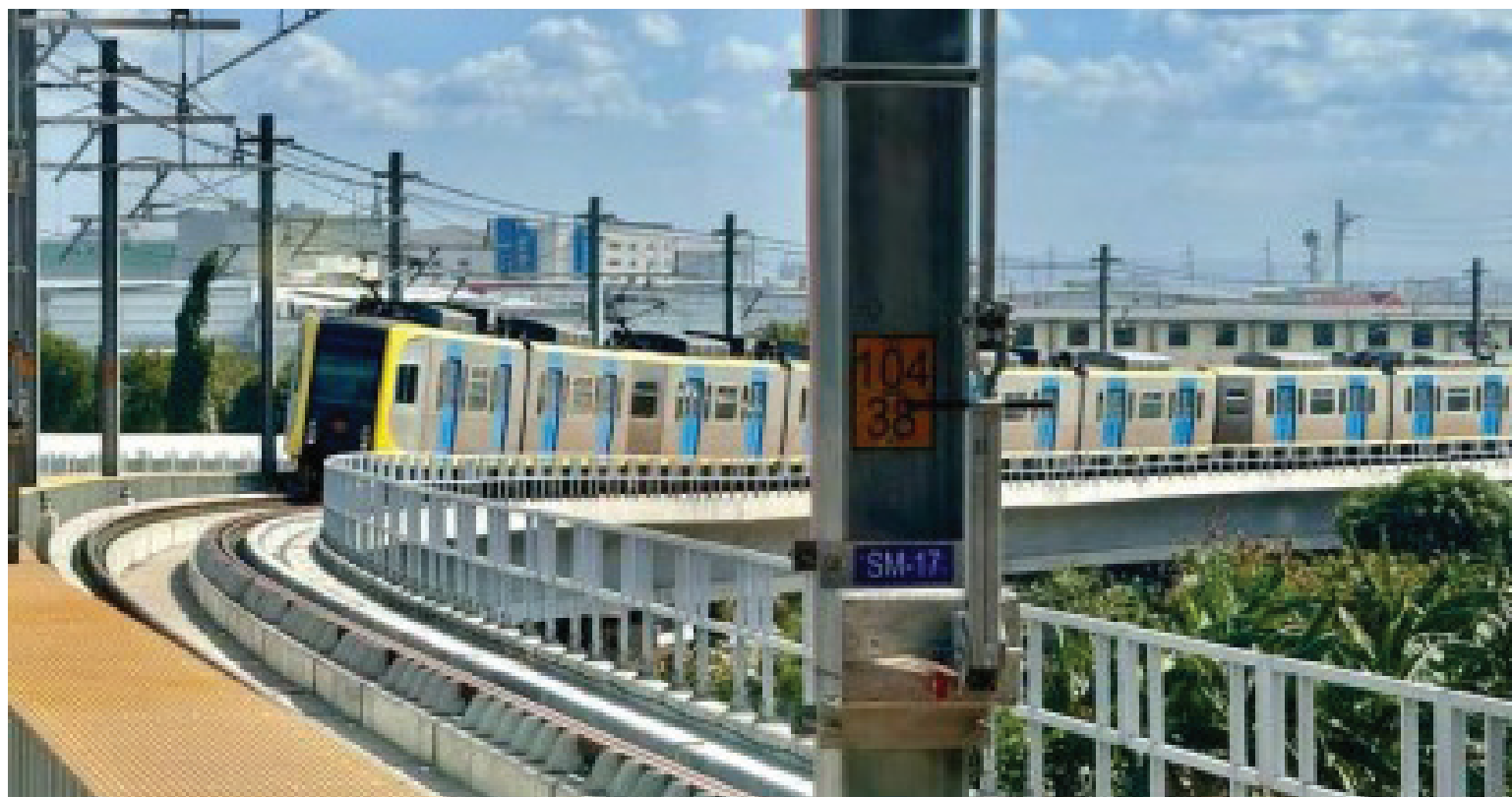
A study by the Japan

International Cooperation Agency (JICA) found that vehicular traffic in the National Capital Region (NCR) costs the economy PHP3.5 billion per day.

"With the operation or the extension of LRT 1, medyo mababawasan po iyong economic cost ng traffic sa atin (the economic cost of traffic will slightly lessen)," he said.

On Wednesday, the LRMC, operator and maintenance provider of LRT-1, announced its filing of a petition for a fare increase.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan chair Renato Reyes opposed the proposed fare hike "in unequivocal terms" and said the petition had an average fare increase of PHP7.48 per passenger. (PNA)



LRT-1 FARE HIKE PETITION. A Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) train approaches the Baclaran Station in Parañaque from the newly built south extension track in this undated photo. Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Jaime Bautista on Thursday (Jan. 9, 2025) said the LRT-1 fare hike petition will go through consultation and be studied by regulatory bodies before approval by the DOTr, with its possible implementation by April. (Photo courtesy of DOTr)



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE  
CORPORATION (NHMFC),

Petitioner/Mortgagee,

File No. FC-DC-1571-24

For: EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE

OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER  
-versus-  
ACT 3135, AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

SPS. MIRAFLOR A. MADINO & RAFAEL B. MADINO,  
Respondents/Mortgagors.

x-----x

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION (NHMFC), a government owned and controlled corporation created under P.D. No. 1267, with postal address at 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City against respondents/mortgagors SPS. MIRAFLOR A. MADINO & RAFAEL B. MADINO with postal addresses at Lot 16 Blk. 11, Golden City Dasma 4, Brgy. Salawag, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and Umiray General Nakar, Quezon City and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of OCTOBER 31, 2024 amounts to FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY SEVEN PESOS &

13/100 (Php556,867.13), exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on February 13, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the Ground Floor Lobby of Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Buro I, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite to the highest bidder and for CASH or CERTIFIED CHECK, in Philippine Currency, the following described real property together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-530641

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in the Mun. of Dasmariñas, Province of Cavite, bounded and described as follows:

A parcel of land (Lot 16, Blk. 11 of the subd. plan, Psd-042106-068306, being a portion of Lot 5777-C-1, Psd-042106-059852, L.R.C Rec. No. ), situated in the Brgy. Salawag, Mun. of Dasmariñas, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 15, on the SE., along line 2-3 by Lot 14 both Blk. 11; on the SW., along line 3-4 by Rd. Lot 5; & on the NW., along line 4-1 by Lot 18 Blk. 11, all of the subd. plan. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being S. 46 deg. 52'E., 602.57 m. from Mon. 171, Imus Estate; thence S. 82 deg. 5'E., 3.75 m. to pt. 2; thence S. 7 deg. 55'W., 9.50 m. to pt. 3; thence N. 82 deg. 5'W., 3.75 m. to pt. 4; thence N. 7 deg. 55'E., 9.50 m. to the pt. of beginning, containing an area of THIRTY FIVE SQ. METERS & SIXTY TWO SQ. DEC. (35.62). All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by P.S. cyl. conc. mons. 15x60 cm; bearings true; date of original survey July 27, 1905 to June 11, 1908 and that of the subd. survey; October 1 – Nov. 30 1993 and was approved on Feb. 10, 1994. is registered in accordance with the provisions of the Property Registration Decree in the name of"

MIRAFLOR A. MADINO, of legal age, Filipino, married to RAFAEL B. MADINO.

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real property and the encumbrance thereon, if there be any.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event that the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on February 27, 2025 at the same time and place without further notice.

Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite, January 8, 2025.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO C. ESTOGERO, JR.

Sheriff IV

(Sgd.) ATTY. MARCELA L. BAYBAY

Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

Copy furnished:

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION (NHMFC)  
104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

SPS. MIRAFLOR A. MADINO & RAFAEL B. MADINO  
Lot 16 Blk. 11, Golden City Dasma 4, Brgy. Salawag, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and  
Umiray General Nakar, Quezon City

Ang Caviteño Newsweekly  
January 13, 20 & 27, 2025

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
BRANCH 90  
DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE  
CORPORATION (NHMFC),

Mortgagee,

File No. FC-DC-1596-24

For: EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE

OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER  
-versus-  
ACT 3135, AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

RENATO A. BATULA,

Mortgagor.

x-----x

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION (NHMFC), a government owned and controlled corporation created under P.D. No. 1267, with postal address at 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City against mortgagors RENATO A. BATULA with postal address at (1) Lot 03 Blk 22, Molino Homes Salitran, Dasmariñas, Cavite; (2) San Miguel St., Noveleta, Cavite and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of OCTOBER 31, 2024 amounts to FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FORTY THREE PESOS & 14/100 (Php551,243.14), exclusive

of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on February 18, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the lobby of Branch 90, Regional Trial Court, Ground Floor, Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Buro I, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite to the highest bidder and for CASH or CERTIFIED CHECK, in Philippine Currency, the following described real property together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-457041

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in the Mun. of Dasmariñas, Province of Cavite, bounded and described as follows:

A parcel of land (Lot 3, Blk. 22 of the cons.-subd. plan, Pcs-042106-007934, being a portion of the cons. of Lots 8110 & 8113, Psd-19868, L.R.C Rec. No. ), situated in the Bo. of Salitran, Mun. of Dasmariñas, Province of Cavite. Bounded on the S., along line 1-2 by Lot 4, Blk. 22; on the W., along line 2-3 by Lot 5, Blk. 22; on the N., along line 3-4 by Alley 13; on the E., along line 4-1 by Lot 1 Blk. 22, all of the cons.-subd. plan. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being S. 74 deg. 07'E., 1032.49 m. from Mon. 134, Imus Estate; thence S. 85 deg. 07'W., 4.00 m. to pt. 2; thence N. 04 deg. 53'W., 9.50 m. to pt. 3; thence N. 85 deg. 07'E., 4.00 m. to pt. 4; thence S. 04 deg. 53'E., 9.50 m. to the pt. of beginning, containing an area of THIRTY EIGHT (38) SQUARE METERS. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by P.S. cyl. conc. mons. 15x60 cm.; bearings true; date of original survey, July 27, 1905 - June 11, 1908 and that of the cons.-subd. survey; June 12-Aug. 15, 1993 and was approved on Oct. 22, 1993.

is registered in accordance with the provisions of the Property Registration Decree in the name of"

RENATO A. BATULA, of legal age, Filipino, single.

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real property and the encumbrance thereon, if there be any.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event that the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on March 4, 2025 at the same time and place without further notice.

Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite, January 6, 2025.

(Sgd.) ARLYN P. BARCELON

Sheriff IV

(Sgd.) ATTY. MARCELA L. BAYBAY

Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

Copy furnished:

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION (NHMFC)  
104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

RENATO A. BATULA

(1) Lot 03 Blk 22, Molino Homes Salitran, Dasmariñas, Cavite;  
(2) San Miguel St., Noveleta, Cavite

Ang Caviteño Newsweekly  
January 13, 20 & 27, 2025

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE  
RIGHT TO THE ESTATE OF DECEASED  
ABDUL GAFUR MAMA AMEROL WITH  
WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ABDUL GAFUR MAMA AMEROL who died intestate on AUGUST 5, 2021 in Imus City, Cavite who left a 2018 TOYOTA FORTUNER 2.4L4 and particularly described as ENGINE NO. 2GC353404, M FILE NO. 138000001027794, PLATE NO. NCT3112, BODY TYPE WAGON, which has been extra judicially settled by his heirs with waiver of rights in favor of RASMIAH ALIM MALAYO as per Doc No. 408, Page No. 83, Book No. 108, Series of 2024, Notary Public Atty. Epifanio M. Almada.

Ang Caviteño Newsweekly  
January 6, 13 & 20, 2025

## Everybody welcome in 'Walang Gutom' Kitchen – DSWD chief

By Zaldy De Layola

MANILA – Department of Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rex Gatchalian on Monday said no verification process is required for anyone who wishes to go to the 'Walang Gutom' (No Hunger) Kitchen.

"Everybody is welcome kasi wala namang may gusto ng kagutuman at kailangan lahat ay natutulungan (because nobody wants to be hungry and everybody should be helped)," Gatchalian said in

an interview on PTV-4's Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon.

Those who wish to avail of the free food, however, will be asked their basic information for monitoring purposes, Gatchalian said.

The Walang Gutom Kitchen in Pasay City is the country's first public and private food bank collaboration/soup kitchen. It aims to address involuntary hunger and reduce food wastage by turning donated surplus food from hotels, restaurants, and organizations into hot meals for individuals experiencing hunger.

Since its launching on Dec. 16, 2024, Gatchalian said more than 10,000 individuals have availed of the hot, nutritious and healthy food the soup kitchen is offering.

Asked about the agency's plans for 2025, the DSWD chief said they are considering opening more similar soup kitchens in other parts of the country.

Republic of the Philippines  
Fourth Judicial Region  
Regional Trial Court of Cavite  
Office of the Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff  
New Justice Hall, J.P. Rizal Avenue, Kaybagal  
South, Tagaytay City

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND  
(otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund),  
EJF NO. TG-24-078

Petitioner/Mortgagee,  
FOR: Extrajudicial Foreclosure of Real

Estate Mortgage under Act 3135 as  
-versus-  
amended by Act 4118

MARINEL S. REGALADO married  
to ROGER A. REGALADO,  
Borrowers/Mortgagors.

X-----X

#### NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial foreclosure sale under Act No. 3135, as Amended by Act No. 4118, filed by Petitioner/Mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund), a government financial institution duly organized and existing under and by virtue of Republic Act No. 9679, with principal office and place of business at The Petron Mega Plaza Building No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Loan and Mortgage Agreement ("MORTGAGE") executed and notarized on January 11, 2008, by Borrowers-/Mortgagors, MARINEL S. REGALADO married to ROGER A. REGALADO, of legal ages, Filipino citizens, with residence and postal addresses at: (1) 204 Biga I, Silang, Cavite 4118; and (2) Lot 5, Blk. 1, Gaudence Hills Subdivision, Brgy. Sabutan, Silang, Cavite, in favor of the Mortgagee, over a real estate property including improvements thereon, described in and covered by TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-17126 of the Registry of Deeds for the Tagaytay City, to satisfy the outstanding loan obligation of the Borrowers-Mortgagors, in

the amount of THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY-THREE PESOS AND 47/100 (Php367,593.47), inclusive of interest and other charges, as of May 15, 2024, the undersigned Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff of the Regional Trial Court of Cavite thru her deputy, Baby Leem B. Maristela, will sell at public auction on March 4, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, at the New Hall of Justice of Tagaytay City, to the highest bidder, for Cash or Manager's Check and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all its improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-17126  
Registry of Deeds for the Tagaytay City

"IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in the Mun. of Silang, Province of Cavite, bounded and described as follows:

A parcel of land (Lot 5, Blk. 1 of the cons./subd. plan Pcs-04-020797, being a portion of lot 2700-A & 2700-B, Psd-04-170226 LRC Rec. No. ), sit. in the Brgy. of Sabutan, Mun. of Silang, Prov. of Cavite, Is. of Luzon. Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 4, Blk. 1; on the SE., along line 2-3 by Rd. Lot 3 (6.50 m. wide); on the SW., along line 3-4 by Lot 6 and on the NW., along line 4-5 by Lot 20; along line 5-1 by Lot 3 all of Blk. 1, all of the cons. subd. plan. Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan being N. 35 deg. 43'E., 1950.03 m. from BLLM No. 1, Cad. 452-D, Silang Cadastre. Thence S. 40 deg. 34'E., 11.79 m. to pt. 2; thence S. 33 deg. 39'W., 4.11 m. to pt. 3; thence N. 84 deg. 03'W., 11.39 m. to pt. 4; thence N. 08 deg. 11'E., 8.56 m. to pt. 5; thence N. 60 deg. 03'E., 5.45 m. to pt. of beginning, containing an area of ONE HUNDRED NINE (109) SQUARE METERS. All pts., referred to are indicated on and are marked on the ground by PS cyl. Conc. Mons. 15x60cm. bearing true; date of orig. survey, May 27-Aug. 30, 1981 and that of the subd. survey, Jan. 27-28, 2005 and was approved on March 7, 2005.

is registered in accordance with the provisions of section 103 of the Property Registration Decree in the name of MARINEL S. REGALADO, Filipino, of legal age, married to Roger A. Regalado."

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on March 11, 2025 without further notice.

Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate and verify for themselves the TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-17126, the encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above stated time and date.

Tagaytay City, Philippines, January 10, 2025.

ATTY. APRIL GRACE M. TENORIO  
Clerk of Court V & Ex-Officio Sheriff

BABY LEEM B. MARISTELA  
Sheriff-in-Charge

Copy Furnished:

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND  
(otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund)  
Petitioner-Mortgagee  
The Petron Mega Plaza Building No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

MARIA VICTORIA D. CAPIRAL c/o  
JEFFREY A. RAMIENTAS, C.P.A.  
Attorney-in-Fact of the Mortgagee  
GREATSOURCE CORPORATION  
2546 A. Bonifacio St., Bangkal, Makati City

MARINEL S. REGALADO married to ROGER A. REGALADO  
Borrowers/Mortgagors  
(1) 204 Biga I, Silang, Cavite 4118  
(2) Lot 5, Blk. 1, Gaudence Hills Subdivision, Brgy. Sabutan, Silang, Cavite

WARNING: IT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED TO REMOVE, DEFACE OR DESTROY THIS NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF THE AUCTION SALE UNDER THE PENALTY OF LAW

Ang Caviteño Newsweekly  
January 13, 20 & 27, 2025

*"Alam natin na pag pumupunta ka sa iba't ibang lugar, marami pa rin ang nakikitang wastage ng pagkain. We want to make sure na walang nasasayang na pagkain at nabibigay natin sa nangangailangan (We know that when you go to other places, there are still so many food wastages. We want to make sure that no food is wasted and that food is given to the needy)," Gatchalian said.*

The Walang Gutom Kitchen is located at the Nasdake Building, a former Philippine Offshore Gaming Operator hub in Pasay City. (PNA)

## House of Representatives to probe rice, power prices

By Filane Mikee Cervantes

MANILA – The House of Representatives would conduct investigations to address increasing rice and power prices.

At the resumption of session following the Christmas recess, Speaker Martin Romualdez on Monday said the investigations will focus on smuggling and hoarding that harm farmers and inflate food prices, as well as the PHP206 billion in disallowed expenditures by the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP).

*"Good governance demands transparency and accountability. This chamber is the vanguard of that principle. In the coming weeks, we will hold oversight hearings to ensure that the people's money serves the people's needs,"* Romualdez said in his speech.

The quinta committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means have started looking into the high cost of rice and other agricultural products and of electricity and alleged violations by NGCP of its legislative franchise.

The quinta committee is composed of Ways and Means, Trade and Industry, Agriculture and Food, Social Services, and Special Committee on Food Security.

Romualdez said the chamber would also

scrutinize PHP11.18 billion in expired medicines and underutilized Philippine Health Insurance Corporation funds, as well as alleged misuse of confidential funds.

*"No peso must go unaccounted for,"* he said. *"Let this be our promise: Public trust is sacred and this House will never betray it."*

Legislative milestones

Romualdez touted the House's achievements, noting that 183 measures were enacted into law in 2024, including economic reforms, national security initiatives, and education programs.

*"True success lies not in the quantity of laws passed but, in their quality -- how they change lives,"* he said.

Among these were the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy Act, Self-Reliant Defense Posture Act, Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act, Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act, Philippine Maritime Zones Act, and the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning Act.

*"These are not just policies. They are commitments to a better, fairer and stronger nation,"* he said.

Economic gains

Romualdez lauded the country's economic resilience, citing a projected growth rate of 5.9 percent to 6.5 percent despite global uncertainties and natural disasters.

He attributed this performance to the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and the administration's infrastructure program, which injected PHP1.2 trillion into the economy.

*"This growth is the fruit of visionary leadership under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and his transformative Build, Better, More infrastructure program, which injected over PHP1.2 trillion into projects that now connect dreams to opportunities across the archipelago,"* he said.

Romualdez, however, stressed that economic growth should benefit ordinary Filipinos.

He said that while inflation remains a concern, though it eased to 4.9 percent in December,

government programs such as Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita Program and Kadiwa ng Pangulo aim to mitigate its impact.

Global stage

Romualdez, meanwhile, underscored the Philippines' growing role on the international stage as the country is set to host the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum next month, with 96 countries discussing issues such as counter terrorism and cybersecurity.

In 2026, the Philippines will chair the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and host the 47th Inter-Parliamentary Assembly General Assembly.

He further highlighted that the USD100 billion in investments secured through President Marcos' state visits reflect international confidence in the country's future

*"These investments will transform industries, generate employment, and push the Philippines toward a new era of prosperity,"* Romualdez said.

He called on his colleagues to rise above partisanship and to continue working to uplift their constituents.

*"Let us legislate with empathy, govern with integrity, and lead with vision. Let us build a nation where every Filipino, no matter their station, feels the hand of government working for their benefit... Together, we will ensure that no Filipino is left behind,"* he said. (PNA)

Never be a  
prisoner  
of your past.  
It was just a  
lesson, not  
a life sentence.



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Enero 13-19, 2025

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## Mayor Strike B. Revilla graced the inauguration of RCBC's new branch in Bacoor Boulevard



Photo courtesy of bacoor.gov.ph

## DPWH to rehabilitate EDSA this year



(PNA file photo by Joan Bondoc)

By Ferdinand Patinio

MANILA – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on Wednesday announced that the rehabilitation of EDSA will be the main project of the Marcos administration this year.

DPWH Secretary Manuel Bonoan said the restoration of the major thoroughfare in Metro

Manila is among the major infrastructure projects that will be undertaken in 2025.

*“The President wants to improve the riding quality of EDSA. We will rehabilitate the entire EDSA starting 2025,”* he said in the Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon briefing.

*“At present, if you pass through EDSA, it’s difficult for a person to send a text message... So, I think*  
*Continued on page 2...*

By MISS-STAFF

BACCOOR CITY, January 13, 2025 – Mayor Strike B. Revilla joined RCBC officials and staff today for the grand inauguration of their new branch located in Bacoor Boulevard, Princeton Heights.

The event, which included a ribbon-cutting

ceremony led by Mayor Strike B. Revilla, marked a significant milestone for RCBC’s expansion in Bacoor City.

The new branch, strategically located in a bustling area, aims to provide convenient and accessible banking services to the growing community.

Atty. Edith Napalan, head of the City Finance Department, was also present to witness the inauguration, signifying the City Government’s support for RCBC’s commitment to serving the residents of Bacoor.

The event was a  
*Continued on page 2...*

## November labor force survey shows employment gains

By Alice V. Sicat

MANILA, (PIA) — The results from the November 2024 Labor Force Survey indicate a significant rise in employment rates, reflecting the government’s commitment to creating quality job opportunities for Filipinos.

According to a statement from Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Bienvenido E. Laguesma, the employment rate reached 96.8% in November 2024, an increase from 96.4% during

the same period last year.

The number of employed individuals rose by 1.385 million compared to October 2024, while the unemployment rate improved from 3.6% in November 2023 to 3.2% this year.

The underemployment rate also saw a decline, dropping from 11.7% in November 2023 to 10.8% in November 2024.

Despite these positive trends, challenges remain, particularly regarding the impact of technological advancements, the rise of

artificial intelligence, and climate change on labor force participation among youth and women.

Year-on-year figures reveal a decrease in participation, with the number of employed youth falling from 6.92 million to 6.516 million, and their participation rate dropping from 55.4% to 53.9%.

Key sectors contributing to job growth include manufacturing, accommodation and food services, health and social work, transportation, and other services. The government  
*Continued on page 2...*