

TOWN in FOCUS

8,402 jobs up for grabs in Cavite, Laguna
p. 5



VOLUME XLI No. 39

Marso 31-Abril 06, 2025

P6.00

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Thousands of college students in Cavite receive educational assistance

THE Provincial Government of Cavite continues its commitment to supporting students in their pursuit of higher education through the distribution of educational assistance to deserving beneficiaries across several municipalities.

On March 25, 2025, a total of 698 college students from the Municipality of Magallanes received financial aid to help cover their academic expenses.

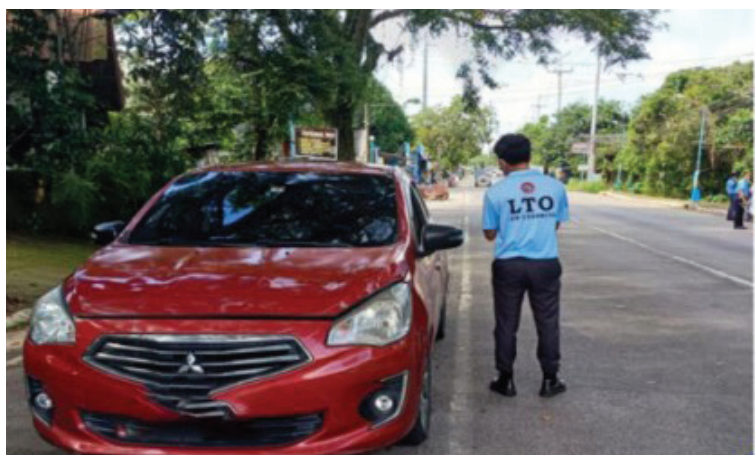
The following day, March 26, 573 college students from Ternate were granted the same support, ensuring that they have the necessary resources to continue their education without financial burden.

Meanwhile, on March 27, educational assistance was extended to 269 students from Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and 834 qualified students from Maragondon, further
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Photo courtesy of PIO Cavite/Facebook post

LTO apprehends 18.8K unregistered vehicles in March



JOINT EFFORTS. Police Regional Office and Bureau of Internal Revenue Central Visayas units seize PHP20 million worth of smuggled cigarettes and arrested two individuals during a joint operation in Mandaue City on March 26, 2025. In a news release Sunday (March 30), PRO-7 chief Brig. Gen. Redrico Maranan said smuggling undermines legitimate businesses poses a serious risk to public health. (Photo courtesy of PRO-7)

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz

MANILA – The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has apprehended a total of 18,882 motor vehicles in March as part of its continuing campaign against unregistered or ‘colorum’ vehicles across the country.

The campaign is in line with the directives of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to maximize efforts to protect all road users.

In a statement on April 2, LTO Chief Assistant Secretary Vigor Mendoza II said the owners of each vehicle are fined with a standing penalty of PHP10,000.

“We have been making our presence felt on the roads

across the country. And this will be more aggressive once our enforcers complete the refresher courses that we have been conducting,” he said.

“We are appealing to our motorists to make sure that the registration of their motor vehicles are updated because once you are caught, you will surely shell out more money because you will have to pay the fines and penalties.”

According to LTO data, most of the vehicles apprehended were motorcycles at 11,437, tricycles at 3,315, vans at 2,056, and private cars at 1,059.

Most of the apprehensions were made in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon. (PNA)

Comelec: Deployment of ACMs, ballots starts April 4

By Ferdinand Patinio



Comelec Chairperson George Erwin Garcia (Photo courtesy of Comelec)

MANILA – The Commission on Elections (Comelec) will start on April 4 the deployment of the over 110,000 automated counting machines (ACMs) and official ballots to be used in the May 12 midterm elections.

Comelec Chairperson George Erwin Garcia said Monday that the poll body wants to make sure that

Continued on page 3...

4 OFWs missing post-Myanmar quake; all Filipinos safe in Thailand

By Darryl John Esguerra

MANILA – The Philippine Ambassador to Thailand assured March 30, that the Filipino community there remained safe, with no reports of adverse effects, following a powerful earthquake that

hit Myanmar and rattled Thailand.

In an interview over state-run Radyo Pilipinas World Service, Philippine Ambassador to Thailand Millicent Cruz Paredes said the situation has “calmed down” two days after the

tragedy.

“I could feel that the situation is better compared to the day (March 28) itself when the earthquake happened,” Paredes said.

However, the Philippine Embassy in
Continued on page 3...

Eid'l Fitr time for reflection, thanksgiving, renewed faith: Romualdez



EID MUBARAK. Filipino Muslims gather in prayer at the Blue Mosque in Maharlika Village, Taguig on Monday (March 31, 2025) as they celebrate Eid'l Fitr. Speaker Martin Romualdez called Eid'l Fitr a time for reflection, gratitude, and renewed faith as he extended his greetings to Muslim Filipinos. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

DSWD's...

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response agency, the DSWD addresses the needs of families and individuals who are affected by sudden disasters. While doing so, we are also mitigating the impacts of slow onset disasters through the implementation of the Project LAWA and BINHI," Dumlao said.

She said the WFP nomination is a product of the "whole-of-nation collaboration" between different stakeholders, the national government, local government, community-based organizations, and down to the beneficiaries themselves.

"This partnership is what makes the Project LAWA and BINHI one of the biggest climate mitigation and adaptation programs in the country, benefitting more

than 140,000 households," she added.

The Project LAWA and BINHI programs focus on climate change adaptation and disaster risk resilience.

"It lessens the economic vulnerability of marginalized communities through the creation of small farm reservoirs that serve as water harvesting facilities and the establishment of communal diversified integrated farming systems to promote sustainable agricultural practices across the nation," Dumlao said.

Since the project's launch in 2023, a total of 1,932 LAWA sites or water reservoirs were able to cater to over 7,234 hectares of agricultural land by providing irrigation and water support to target communities.

A total of 4,317

BINHI sites or gardening projects were also established in the same period, yielding 21,024,130 kilos of produce that helped feed more than 876,200 individuals.

A short list for the Sasakawa Award will be posted on April 30, and the winner or winners will be announced on June 5 at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The jury will be assessing candidates on the following criteria: relevance to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; demonstration of leveraging science and technology to build community resilience; degree of innovation and sustainability; coherence between sectors, groups, communities and practitioners; and potential for scaling up. (PNA)

Candidates...

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violating campaign posters guidelines.

"As for the Comelec, we are limited to what is stated in the law. Maybe in the future, our LGUs will be able to have an ordinance, whether there is an election or not, that will increase the penalties, if not increase the fines that they can impose," Garcia said.

In Manila, reelectionists Mayor Honey Lacuna and Vice Mayor Yul Servo held their proclamation rally in front of Our Lady of Loreto Church in Sampaloc District.

They also went house-to-house, joined by 4th District Edward Maceda whose wife, Dr. Giselle Maceda, will eye

to replace him.

In her brief rally speech, Lacuna touted her accomplishments.

"We have accomplished so much and we will not allow anyone to belittle or insult us. Even though it is not perfect, our Manila is not a failure. Our Manila is full of promise and hope," Lacuna said. (PNA)



OPLAN BAKLAS. Commission on Elections Chairperson George Erwin Garcia (left), accompanied by a village official, takes down campaign materials hanging from a non-common poster area in Tondo, Manila on Friday (March 28, 2025). The confiscated materials will be recycled, in coordination with the Metro Manila Development Authority, EcoWaste Coalition and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

MANILA – House Speaker Martin Romualdez on March 31, described Eid'l Fitr as a time for reflection, thanksgiving, and renewed faith following the month-long fasting of Ramadan, as he extended his greetings to Muslim Filipinos nationwide.

"This is a time of thanksgiving, reflection, and renewal of faith, as we celebrate the successful completion of the Holy Month of Ramadan," he said in a statement.

Romualdez acknowledged the dedication and sacrifices of Muslim Filipinos during Ramadan, emphasizing their spiritual discipline and commitment.

"May the devotion and sacrifices made throughout this sacred period bring forth abundant blessings, strengthened faith, and renewed hope for all," Romualdez said. "May its conclusion usher in peace, prosperity, and divine grace in your lives."

Romualdez also highlighted the significance of unity, compassion, and generosity, calling these values essential in strengthening national solidarity.

"Eid'l Fitr is a reminder of unity, compassion, and generosity – values that

bind us together as a nation. It is through these principles that we foster understanding and strengthen the ties between all Filipinos, regardless of faith and background," he said.

"Our Muslim communities play a vital role in shaping our nation's future. Your commitment to peace, progress, and nation-building is deeply valued," he added.

"In the House of Representatives, we reaffirm our commitment to policies that promote equality, respect, and opportunity for all. We will continue to support initiatives that uplift Muslim Filipinos and ensure that your rights and aspirations are safeguarded," he said.

He encouraged Filipinos to embrace diversity and unity.

On Sunday evening, Bangsamoro Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdulrauf Guialani announced that Eid'l Fitr would officially be observed on March 31, after the crescent moon was sighted in various locations in the Bangsamoro Region. Monday has been declared a regular non-working day in the region.

Malacañang earlier declared Tuesday, April 1, as a national holiday for Eid'l Fitr. (PNA)

DOST...

from page 10

The session aimed to teach participants how to navigate STARBOOKS, which offers a vast collection of science and technology resources in text, video, and audio formats.

Cerebro Solutions Inc., led by CEO Mr. Jonas Justine U. Itugot, donated the STARBOOKS unit. This generous contribution supports education by providing students and teachers access to valuable learning materials.

After the lecture, participants engaged in a hands-on session where they

applied their newly acquired knowledge by operating the STARBOOKS system. Mr. Bago encouraged them to integrate STARBOOKS into their educational activities, maximizing its potential as a tool for research and learning.

DOST remains committed to providing science and technology interventions to ensure the adoption of technologies and their application for maximum economic and social benefits. (DOST CALABARZON)

Gov't...

from page 10

Castro said.

The report from the BSP showed a mixed sentiment for the first quarter of 2025, with the CI dropping to 31.2 percent from 44.5 percent in the last quarter of 2024.

The decline was attributed to concerns over post-holiday demand and the potential return of inflationary pressures. However, the outlook for the second quarter was significantly brighter, signaling a renewed confidence in the business climate.

Castro emphasized that the government is

focused on maintaining and even surpassing this positive outlook for the remainder of the year.

"We will try our best, the administration will try its best to maintain the status or to be better than that. So, that we can encourage more investors to invest in our country," she said.

Looking ahead to the next 12 months, the survey revealed that the overall business outlook remains strong, with a CI of 56.4 percent, holding steady from the fourth quarter of 2024. (PNA)

DA vows to address soaring retail prices of imported garlic



SPIKING GARLIC PRICES. Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. (left) holds garlic during a joint market inspection with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) at the Mega Q-Mart in Quezon City on Monday (March 31, 2025). Tiu Laurel vowed to address the spiking prices of retail imported garlic as it hit PHP140 to PHP150 per kg. level. (PNA photo by Ben Briones)

By Stephanie Sevillano

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Monday vowed to address the spiking prices of garlic in local markets.

Imported garlic accounts for 95 percent of the market supply, with significant volume being sourced from China, while the remaining 5 percent comes from local production.

“Iyong garlic ay pinag-aaralan ngayon ng DA kung paano ma-address iyan

at mapababa pa iyong presyo niyan dahil imported iyan (The DA is now looking into how to address it and bring down the prices of garlic since it’s imported),” DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said in an ambush interview after the joint market inspection with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) at the Mega Q-Mart in Quezon City.

Tiu Laurel said the latest price monitoring showed that the retail price of imported garlic ranges from PHP140 to PHP150 per kg.

The price range gives retailers around a PHP30 per kg. profit margin based on a PHP110 per kg. wholesale price from importers.

“Aalamin natin kung may PHP30 pesos na iyon bawat kilo, mataas ba o hindi? Malamang fair naman iyon eh (We will assess if there’s a profit margin of PHP30/kg., if it’s high or not? Perhaps it’s just fair),” Tiu Laurel said.

He raised a possible unreasonable profit margin or undervaluation at the end of the importers.

“Ang cost nila niyan is PHP80 lang eh. Tapos ibinibenta nila ng PHP110 iyong imported. Kung nagde-declare silang tamang halaga, eh ang alam ko nag-a-under value pa iyong mga iyan. So baka margin nila, baka nasa PHP40 to PHP50 per kilo (Their cost is only at PHP80. And then they are selling it at

PHP110, the imported (garlic). If they are declaring the actual value. But as I know they are undervaluing it. So, maybe their margin is around PHP40 per kg. to PHP50 per kg.) I think that’s too much,” Tiu Laurel said.

The DA will meet with garlic importers to consult and assess the reason behind the price spikes.

A garlic MSRP, however, may be imposed if importers are found to be uncooperative.

Local production Tiu Laurel, meanwhile, cited the possibility of adopting innovations from South Korea to boost local production.

“We are actually looking at (South) Korea as a model. Dahil alam nyo naman ang Koreans, ang hilig sa (You know Koreans, they are fond of) garlic,” he said.

In 2024, the East Asian nation’s garlic production hit 284,936 tons, according to Statistics Korea.

“Iyong garlic production nila per hectare ang ganda, mga (Their production per hectare is good, around) 12 to 15 tons per hectare... So pinag-aaralan natin if ma-a-adapt natin iyong teknolohiya na iyon dito (So, we are studying if we can adapt their technologies here),” Tiu Laurel said.

The Philippines can only produce around 1 to 2 tons of local garlic per hectare, according to the DA.

Tiu Laurel attributed the challenges to the need for more temperate weather and the lack of innovative planting materials.

He, however, assured support for garlic-producing areas, including the Ilocos region. (PNA)

Thousands...

from page 1

demonstrating the provincial government’s dedication to fostering educational growth and development.

This initiative underscores the provincial government’s unwavering commitment to empowering Cavite’s youth by alleviating financial constraints and promoting academic

excellence. Local officials expressed their gratitude to Governor Athena Bryana Tolentino and the entire provincial administration for prioritizing education and providing much-needed support to students in the province.

Beneficiaries and their families also expressed

appreciation for the assistance, noting that it will significantly aid them in covering tuition fees, school supplies, and other academic-related expenses.

The program continues to be a beacon of hope for many students striving to achieve their educational dreams despite financial challenges. (OPIO/CAVITE)

Comelec:...

from page 1

ACMs and ballots are in their respective areas one week before the elections.

“All the machines and ballots need to be there on or before May 5 because the Final Testing and Sealing will start on May 6. First that have been deployed are Bangsamoro, Caraga, and Batanes, because they are the farthest. Paraphernalia has been deployed. It’s in the (regional) hubs,” he said in an interview.

“But the ballots will be given directly to the treasurer of the city or municipalities. The machines to the election officers.”

Garcia reported that as of March 31, close to half of the total number of ACMs have undergone pre-election logic and accuracy tests (pre-lat) in preparation for the upcoming polls.

“As of today, 47,000 of 110,000 machines have been pre-lat, tested. Hopefully, it will be finished by April 20,” the poll body chief added.

Ballots Gracia, meanwhile, said 18 million ballots are subject to verification on Monday.

“As for the official ballots, not all of them are here. Regions CAR (Cordillera Administrative Region), 1, 2, 3 are at Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City. NCR (National

Capital Region) ballots are at the National Printing Office in Quezon City. The remainder is here in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. As of today, there are 18 million ballots subject to verification,” Garcia added.

The Comelec has printed a total of 68,542,564 official ballots to be used in the May 12 polls.

“The Comelec is used to this time, this is the deployment phase. The list of voters, EDCVL (Election Day Computerized Voters List) have also been deployed. Election paraphernalia, ballot boxes, batteries, etc. have already been deployed to the Commission’s regional hubs,” he said.

“On a level of 1 to 10, we are probably at 9.”

Thailand, Myanmar polls

Garcia said they are coordinating with the Philippine officials in Myanmar and Thailand on the possible effects of the magnitude 7.7 earthquake that hit the two countries on March 28.

“We want to know how it will affect the election infrastructure of those countries. We will inquire if it can affect the voting of our countrymen there,” he said.

According to Comelec data, there are 8,203 and 370 registered overseas voters

4...

from page 1

Yangon said four of 128 registered overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) remained unaccounted for while the condition of three others were still being verified.

“Maging panatag po tayo na ang Embahada ay hindi titigil sa pagsasagawa ng lahat ng posibleng paraan upang matiyak ang kaligtasan ng bawat Pilipino sa (Be assured that the Embassy won’t stop implementing measures to ascertain the safety of all Filipinos in) Mandalay,” the Philippine embassy posted on Facebook.

The embassy said the Myanmar Fire Services Department and other international rescue teams continue with search and rescue operations at the collapsed Sky Villa

condominium, where some Filipinos reportedly reside.

“Patuloy po tayong manalangin na ligtas ang ating mga kababayan doon (Let us continue praying that our countrymen there are safe),” the embassy said.

Paredes said that while the earthquake caused minor disruptions in Thailand, order was quickly restored, with essential services and transportation back on track.

On Friday, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit near Mandalay in Myanmar and caused tremors in Thailand.

A high-rise construction site collapsed in capital Bangkok.

Previous reports said the Myanmar earthquake measured 8.2 on the Richter scale.

in Thailand and Myanmar, respectively.

The overseas voting period will run from April 13 to May 12, 2025. Voters will be selecting bets for national positions only, 12 senators and one party-list group.

Garcillano dies The poll body, meanwhile, mourned the passing of former commissioner Virgilio

Garcillano.

“The Comelec is saddened and has immediately sent our condolences to the family of former commissioner Garcillano,” Garcia said in a press briefing.

Garcillano previously served as an Election Officer, Provincial Election Supervisor, and Regional Election Director of the Commission.

The epicenter was recorded in the central Sagaing region.

As of Sunday’s data from Myanmar’s ruling military junta, at least 1,644 people are dead, 2,376 injured, and 3,408 missing.

A 5.1-magnitude earthquake near Mandalay on Sunday morning was among the aftershocks recorded.

In Thailand, 18 were confirmed dead as of posting time.

READ: Embassy belies 10 reported deaths, says no Filipino hurt in Thai quake

Paredes appealed to Filipinos to be cautious about sharing information as she once again denied reports that 10 Filipinos died in Thailand. Likewise, she assured the public that the embassy remains on alert. (PNA)

Garcillano was embroiled in the “Hello Garci” scandal, which involves alleged wiretapped conversations between him and a woman believed to be then president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who was then seeking re-election.

The former Comelec official died on March 29 at his home in Baungon, Bukidnon. He was 87. (PNA)

EDITORIAL

Marginalized twice over

“CRITICS argue that instead of empowering the marginalized, the (partylist) system has become another battleground for traditional politicians.

Is partylist representation in Congress still relevant? Established under the 1987 Constitution with the noble intention of giving marginalized and underrepresented sectors a voice in Congress, the system was designed to ensure that sectors such as farmers, fisherfolk, laborers, indigenous peoples and the urban poor, who traditionally have little political clout, would have direct representation in the lawmaking process.

However, recent trends suggest that the system may no longer be fulfilling its original purpose. With many leading partylist groups now being backed by big politicians, political dynasties, and wealthy interests, one is tempted to ask the question above. The essence of the partylist system is to democratize representation. The idea was to give a seat at the legislative table to those whose voices are often drowned out by the political elite.

However, over the years, the system has been hijacked by traditional politicians who use it as an extension of their influence. Surveys and election results show that many winning partylist groups are either directly controlled by established political figures or are aligned with powerful families and organizations. Instead of advocating for marginalized sectors, these groups often function as political tools to expand power.

For instance, partylist groups associated with big business interests, retired government officials, and political families have dominated recent elections. Many of them use vague sectoral representations — such as “public servants,” “youth,” or “OFWs” — that allow practically anyone to claim affiliation. As a result, genuine sectoral groups find it harder to compete against these well-funded organizations.

The increasing control of the partylist system by powerful individuals has led to growing public skepticism. Critics argue that instead of empowering the marginalized, the system has become another battleground for traditional politicians.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has attempted to weed out questionable partylist

groups, but enforcement remains weak. In some cases, groups with no clear connection to marginalized sectors have still been allowed to run, raising concerns about the integrity of the system.

Additionally, reports of vote buying and the misuse of partylist seats for political gain further diminish public trust. Some partylist representatives function more as extensions of mainstream political parties rather than as independent advocates for their supposed constituencies. This has led many to question whether the system still serves its intended purpose or if it has become a mere political convenience.

Despite its current flaws, the partylist system is not beyond redemption. Some argue that rather than abolishing it, reforms should be introduced to realign it with its original mission. Stricter guidelines on sectoral representation, stronger enforcement of election laws, and transparency measures could help restore credibility.

For example, one possible reform is to impose clearer and stricter qualifications for partylist groups, ensuring that only organizations genuinely representing marginalized sectors are allowed to run. Another suggestion is to cap the number of terms a partylist representative can serve to prevent entrenched political control. Furthermore, the Comelec should implement more stringent vetting processes to disqualify groups that do not meet the spirit of the law.

On the other hand, some believe that the system has been so deeply corrupted that abolition is the best course of action. They argue that traditional legislative districts already provide sufficient representation and that marginalized sectors should be assisted through other means, such as stronger grassroots political participation and inclusive policymaking.

With political dynasties and powerful elites exploiting the system for their own gain, it is clear that reforms are needed. Whether through stricter regulations or complete abolition, changes must be made to ensure that the system truly serves the marginalized sectors it was meant to represent.

Until then, its relevance remains in question, and its credibility continues to erode in the eyes of the Filipino people.

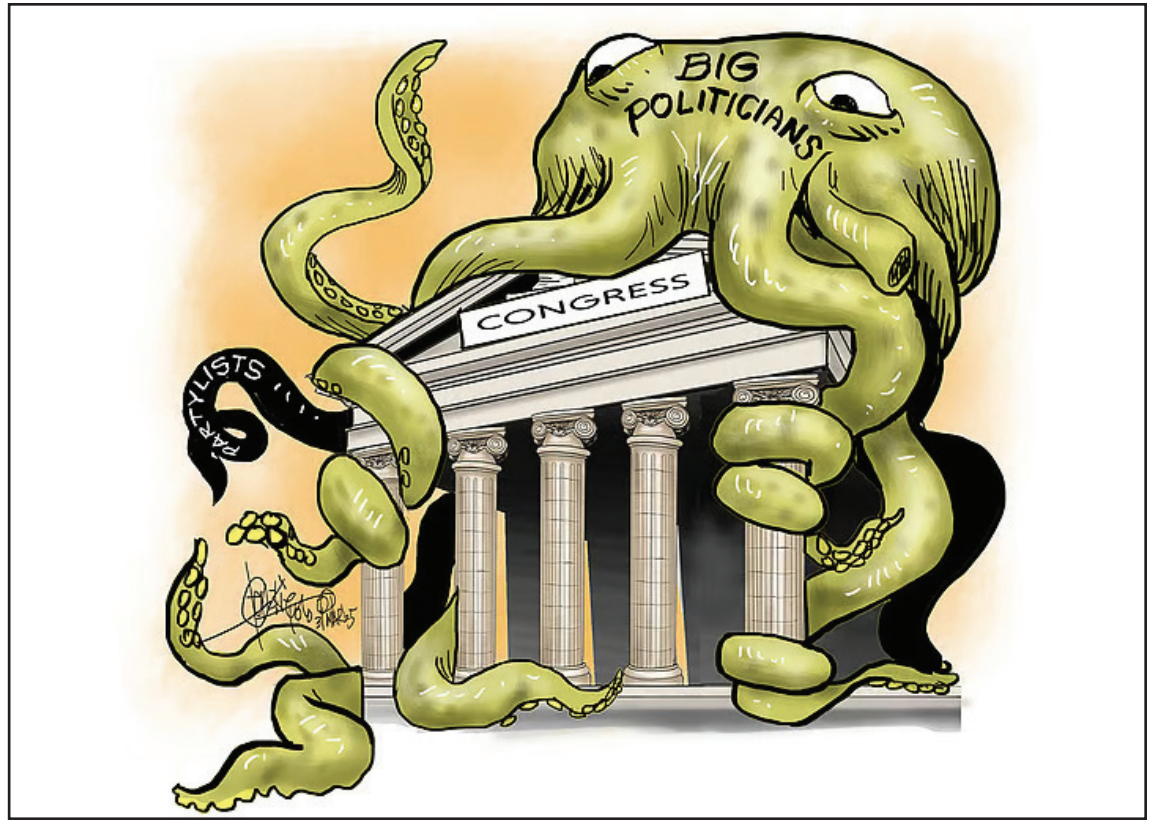


Photo courtesy of tribune.net.ph

KAPIRASONG kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

Mad Max Masyado

PART 2

IPINAPAALALA rin sa partikular ang isang panawagan ni Mao Zedong na titulo ng isa niyang artikulo: “*Iwaksi ang mga ilusyon, maghandang lumaban.*” Sa artikulong ito na isinulat bago ang tagumpay ng Partido Komunista ng Tsina, binabasag ang mga ilusyon ng mga intelektwal ng China hinggil sa relasyon ng kanilang bansa sa mga imperyalistang bansa partikular ang US. Ang klasikong sipi: “*Lumaban, mabigo, lumaban muli, mabigo muli, lumaban muli... hanggang sa tagumpay; iyan ang lohika ng sambayanan...*” Dagdag pa niya, “*Nagtutunggali ang mga uri, may uring nagtatagumpay, may ibang napapalis. Ganyan ang kasaysayan...*”

O mensahe rin ito para sa mga maka-kalikasan o environmentalist na tumatanggitumatakas, sa teorya at praktika, sa papel ng makauring paghahari sa isang lipunan – partikular ang paghahari ng mga imperyalista sa kasalukuyang sistema – sa pagkawasak o pagpreserba ng kalikasan at sa gayon ng sangkatauhan at daigdig?

Ikaapat, may konsistent na pagsisikap ang pelikula na patampukin ang kalagayan ng kababaihan at, mas mahalaga, ang kababaihan sa paglaban.

Isang indikasyon ang pagkuha sa feministang Amerikanong si Eve Ensler bilang konsultant sa pelikula. Si Furiosa ang namuno sa paghihimagsik, at siya ang tunay na bida ng pelikula, hindi si Max.

Kasama niya ang mga kababaihang sex slave at paanakan ni Immortan Joe, na sa pag-alis ay nag-iwan din ng karatulang “*Women are not Things!*” bukod sa “*Who Killed the World?*”

Ang matagumpay na bumalik at nang-agaw sa Citadel

ay pinagsamang grupo ni Furiosa at ng mga sex slave at paanakan ni Immortan Joe sa isang banda at ng matatandang kababaihan na dating residente ng Green Place, sa kabilang banda – mapagkalinga sa isa’t isa bagamat mga palabang mandirigma.

Ang hukbong pinapamunuan ni Immortan Joe ay tinatawag na “*War Boys*” at hindi lang handa kundi sabik mamatay, dahil may islogang “*I live, I die, I live again!*” – nananalig sa pangakong buhay na walang hanggan kapag namatay sa digmaan.

Ipinapahaging ng pelikula ang feminista-pasipistang tuligsa ng feministang si Barbara Ehrenreich sa tinawag niyang “*saray ng mandirigma*” o “*warrior caste.*” Iba sila sa “*karaniwang lalakeng militar*” dahil “*may pagmamahal sa gera na walang kinikilalang hangganan [at] hindi tumatanggap ng kapayapaan.*” Para sa mga mandirigmang ito, ayon kay Ehrenreich nang sinisipi ang sosyologo na si Klaus Theweleit, ang gera ay “*pagtakas sa kababaihan at lahat ng bagay na babae*” – asawa, anak, pamilya, bahay, at kahit komunidad at trabaho [“*Transcam: Oliver North and the Warrior Caste,*” 1987].

Pero sa pelikula, at katulad marahil sa tunay na buhay, natapos ang gera hindi sa simpleng pagtatatwa nito, gaya ng panawagan ni Ehrenreich sa kanyang sanaysay, kundi sa aktwal na pagsabak at pagtatagumpay rito.

At sa pelikula, matibay ang dahilan para sa digmaan: parehong kalayaan at kaligtasan – hindi sa pakahulugan ng relihiyon kundi ng disaster, para mailigtas ang sariling buhay.

Nakakapagpapisip sa pelikula ang usapin ng grupo ng mga tao na magsusulong ng pagbabago o ang tinatawag na

“*agency.*” Tampok sa pelikula ang kababaihan, at nabanggit na rin lang ang mga utopyanong sosyalista, matatandaan si Friedrich Engels sa Sosyalismo: Siyentipiko at Utopyano. Aniya, si Charles Fourier “*ang unang nagdeklara na sa kahit anong lipunan, ang antas ng paglaya ng kababaihan ay ang natural na sukatan ng paglaya sa pangkalahatan*” – bagay na idineklara rin ni Karl Marx.

Sa isang pagtingin, ipinapakita ng pelikula ang pananaw ng Marxistang historyador na si Eric Hobsbawm, na nagsabing ang akmang simbolo ng karaniwang tao sa ika-20 siglo ay ang nanay at kanyang mga anak. Aniya, “*Ang mga tao na may pinakamaraming pagkakatulad ay ang mga nanay, saanman sila naroon sa daigdig, at sa kabila ng kanilang magkakaibang kultura, sibilisasyon at wika [On the Edge of the New Century, 2001].*”

Sa pelikula, hindi nakasama nina Furiosa, Max at kasamahan ang nakakaraming natitirang tao sa paglaban kay Immortan Joe, bagay na nakakapagpapisip kung sino ang kinakatawan ng mga lumaban sa isang banda at ng mas maraming tao sa kabila.

Bagamat tampok ang papel ng kababaihan sa paglaban, o marahil dahil dito, pwedeng igiit na kinakatawan ng mga lumaban ang isang seksyon ng uring anakpawis.

Mahalaga ang mga paalala ng Marxistang kritikong pangkultura na si Terry Eagleton. Aniya, ang “*proletaryo*” ay galing sa salitang Latin para sa “*sibol*” o “*offspring,*” kaugnay ng mga taong “*sa sobrang karalitaan ay walang ibang maipaglingkod sa Estado kundi ang kanilang sinapupunan,*” mga kababaihang “*nagpoprodyus... ng lakas-paggawa sa porma ng mga anak.*” ipagpapatuloy...

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CAVITENO
NEWSWEEKLY

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ISSN: 0115-9038

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REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
AND EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF
Dasmariñas City, Cavite

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL
FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND),
Petitioner / Mortgagee,

File No. FC-DC-1663-25

For: Extra Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgage
under Act No. 3135 as amended by Act No. 4118
-versus-

MARK ENJHO SUPETTRAN CLEOFAS,
Respondent/Mortgagor.
x-----x

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act No. 3135, as amended by Act No. 4118 filed by the petitioner/ mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND), a government financial institution duly organized and existing under and by virtue of Republic Act. No. 9679, with postal address at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, against respondent/ mortgagor, MARK ENJHO SUPETTRAN CLEOFAS, with postal address at Lot 11 Block 33, Bahay Pangarap Subdivision, Brgy. Sampaloc 4, Dasmariñas City, Cavite; Lot 9 Blk 37 Phase 3, CityHomes, Barrio of BuroI, Dasmariñas, Cavite and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of 20 January 2024 amounts to EIGHT HUNDRED TWO

THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE PESOS & 81/100 (P 802,971.81) exclusive of legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on May 23, 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, BuroI 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. 057-2023004974

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in BO. Of BuroI, MUN. OF DASMARIÑAS, PROV. OF CAVITE, IS. of LUZON, bounded and described as follows:

A parcel of land (Lot 9, Blk. 37 of the subd. plan PSD-04-053094, being a portion Lot 6191, Imus Estate, L.R.C Rec. No.), situated in the BO. of BuroI, Mun. of Dasmariñas, Prov. of Cavite, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the SW., along line 1-2 by Lot 11, Blk. 37; on the NW., along line 2-3 by Alley 15; on the NE., along line 3-4 by Lot 7 & on the SE., along line 4-1 by Lot 10, both Blk. 37, all of the subd. plan. Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan, being N. 39 Deg. 26'E., 2588.85 m. from Mon. 153, Imus Estate; thence N. 74 Deg. 43'W., 9.50 m. to pt. 2; thence N. 15 Deg. 17'E., 4.00 m. to pt. 3; thence S. 74 Deg. 43'E., 9.50 m. to pt. 4; thence S. 15 Deg. 17'W., 4.00 m. to the pt. of beginning, containing an area of THIRTY EIGHT (38) Sq. Meters. All pts. referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by PS Cyl. Conc. Mons. 15x60 cm.; bearings true; date of original survey July 27, 1905 to June 11, 1908 and that of the subd. survey; Sept. 10, 1991-Jan. 10, 1992 and was approved on Feb. 10, 1992.

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 the publication auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on June 6, 2025 at the same time and place without further notice.

Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite, March 12, 2025.

(Sgd.) GERALD A. FARGAS

Sheriff IV

(Sgd.) ATTY. MARCELA L. BAYBAY


Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

Copy furnished:
Home Development Mutual Fund (PAG-IBIG Fund)
The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

Atty. Amely D. Agmata
c/o Paulino E. Cases, Jr.
Attorney-in-Fact, c/o Cases Chun & Associates Law Offices
6th Floor, JELP Business Solution Bldg., 409 Addition Hills, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City

MARK ENJHO SUPETTRAN CLEOFAS,
Lot 11 Block 33, Bahay Pangarap Subdivision, Brgy. Sampaloc 4, Dasmariñas City, Cavite
Lot 9 Blk 37 Phase 3, CityHomes, Barrio of BuroI (Brgy. Sampaloc 4), Dasmariñas, Cavite

Ang Caviteo Newsweekly
March 17, 24 & 31, 2025



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

(1) DEPUTY SECTION CHIEF OF PACKAGING DEPARTMENT

Job Description:

- Assist the Section Chief in planning, coordinating, and overseeing the daily activities of the packaging team.
- Ensure timely and accurate packaging of products according to company specifications and customer requirements.
- Supervise and support packaging personnel in carrying out their duties efficiently and safely.
- Collaborate with other departments such as production, logistics, and quality control to ensure smooth workflow and timely delivery.

Qualification:

- At least 10-15 years of related experience
- Familiarity with packaging industry standards, regulations, and quality control procedures.
- Must be proficient in Mandarin

Kindly send your resume at admin1@bojiemanufacturingcorp.com

COMPANY/ EMPLOYER	NAME OF FOREIGN APPLICANT
Company Name: BOJIE MANUFACTURING CORP. Workplace Location: Lots 1-8 P3, Golden Gate Business Park, Buenavista II, General Trias, Cavite Nature of Business: Manufacturing of decorative lights (Christmas lights, halloween lights...)	Name: AIHONG YANG Address: B62 L14 P9 Governor Hills, Brgy. Biclatan General Trias Cavite Period of Employment: 2 years
The above-mentioned foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services required for the position as described above.	
DOLE Regional Office (AEP to be applied): DOLE Calabarzon, 3rd & 4th Floor Adenson Bldg. Parian, Calamba City, Laguna	

Lots 1-8 Block 04 Golden Gate Business Park
Buenavista II General Trias,
Cavite, Philippines 4107

(046)-484 9634
(046)-484 9630

Gov't upbeat on rising biz confidence for Q2 2025

By Darryl John Esguerra

MANILA – Malacañang expressed optimism on Monday about the Philippine business confidence outlook for the second quarter of 2025, following a report from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) indicating improved business sentiment.

In a press briefing, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro welcomed the findings of the BSP's latest Business Expectations Survey (BES), which projected business sentiment to increase for the second quarter of the year, with the overall confidence index (CI) rising to 45.4 percent from 40.3 percent in the last quarter of 2024.

"That's good news... Maganda pong pangitain po iyan, maganda po na nakikita po na dumadami pa rin po ang may tiwala sa ating pamahalaan, sa ating administrasyon para ang mga investors po ay maglaan ng kanilang mga investment sa ating bansa (It is a good indication, it's good that many are trusting our government, our administration so more investors will be encouraged to invest in the country)," Castro said.

The report from the BSP showed a mixed sentiment for the first quarter of 2025, with the CI dropping to 31.2 percent from 44.5 percent in the last quarter of 2024.

The decline was attributed to concerns over post-holiday demand and the potential return of inflationary pressures. However, the outlook for the second quarter was significantly brighter, signaling a renewed confidence in the business climate.

Castro emphasized that the government is focused on maintaining and even surpassing this positive outlook for the remainder of the year.

"We will try our best, the administration will try its best to maintain the status or to be better than that. So, that we can encourage more investors to invest in our country," she said.

Looking ahead to the next 12 months, the survey revealed that the overall business outlook remains strong, with a CI of 56.4 percent, holding steady from the fourth quarter of 2024. (PNA)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

BANK OF COMMERCE,
Mortgagee,

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-019-25

-versus-

NOEL P. LLAMOSO,

Mortgagor.

X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Creditor-Mortgagee, BANK OF COMMERCE with business address at San Miguel Properties Centre, No. 7 St. Francis Street, Mandaluyong City against the Mortgagor, NOEL P. LLAMOSO, with residence and postal addresses at a. Blk. 18, Lot 38, Woodcross Phase 7 Brgy. Tapia, Gen. Trias City, Cavite 4107 and b. No. 049 Sto. Niño Street, Oranbo Pasig City 1600 to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness as of December 27, 2024 amounts to ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR PESOS AND 28/100 (P1,135,344.28), inclusive of interest and other charges of foreclosure, the undersigned Sheriff will set at public auction on April 11, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 12:00 noon at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2021059058

LOT NO: 38 BLOCK NO: 18
PLAN NO: PCS-04-032361
PORTION OF: LOTS 1912 (FRS-04-005438); 1918 (RS-04-004387); 1913,1914,1985 (FRS-04-006221); 3263 (FRS-04-006218) & 1915, SFDM ESTATE, LRC RECORD NO. 5964, DECREE NO. 4270
LOCATION: BARANGAY OF TAPIA, MUNICIPALITY OF GENERAL TRIAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON
BOUNDARIES:
LINE DIRECTION
ADJOINING LOT(S)
1-2 NE

LOT 39, BLOCK 18, PCS-04-032361
2-3 SE
LOT 40, BLOCK 18, PCS-04-032361
3-4 SW
ROAD LOT 22, PCS-04-032361
4-1 NW
LOT 36, BLOCK 18, PCS-04-032361

AREA: FORTY (40) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on April 25, 2025 without further notice.

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

Trece Martires City, March 14, 2025.

ANDRES B. ESPINA

Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

BANK OF COMMERCE
San Miguel Properties Centre, No. 7 St. Francis Street, Mandaluyong City

PEREZ, CALIMA, MAYNIGO, AMPARO & PERALTA LAW OFFICES
Counsel for the Mortgagee
Rooms 2114 and 2115, Cityland Herrera Tower 98 V.A. Rufino (formerly Herrera) cor. Valero Streets Ayala North, City of Makati perezcalimalawoffices@yahoo.com

NOEL P. LLAMOSO
a. Blk. 18, Lot 38, Woodcross Phase 7 Brgy. Tapia, Gen. Trias City, Cavite 4107 and
b. No. 049 Sto. Niño Street, Oranbo Pasig City 1600

WARNING: IT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED TO REMOVE, DEFACE OR DESTROY THIS NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF SALE

Ang Caviten Newsweekly
March 17, 24 & 31, 2025

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

BDO UNIBANK, INC.,

Mortgagee,

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-192-25

-versus-

SPS. KRISTINE J. MAESTRO-BISONIA AND ROY FRANCIS S. BISONIA,

Debtor/Mortgagor.

X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Mortgagee, BDO UNIBANK, INC., with business address at 33/F BDO Corporate Center Ortigas, #12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, against the Debtors/Mortgagors, SPS. KRISTINE J. MAESTRO-BISONIA AND ROY FRANCIS S. BISONIA, with residence and postal address at (1) Brgy. Sawang, Romblon (occupied by addressee); and (2) Block 69 Lot 41, Phase 1, Phirst Park Homes-Tanza, Brgy. Tanauan, Tanza, Cavite (abandoned property), to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness as of February 17, 2025 amounts to TWO MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT PESOS AND 23/100 (Php2,866,588.23), including interest, penalties, expenses and other charges of foreclosure, the undersigned Sheriff will set at public auction on April 11, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 12:00 noon at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2021060248

LOT NO: 41 BLOCK NO: 69
PLAN NO: PCS-04-030746
PORTION OF: LOT 2171-B-1, PSD-04-003866, LOT 2171-N-B, FLS-1479-D STA CRUZ DE MALABON ESTATE, LOT 2171-B-2-1, PSD-04-025600 & LOT 2171-B-2-J, PSD-04-024600
LOCATION: BARRIO OF TANAUAN, MUNICIPALITY OF TANZA, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON
BOUNDARIES:
LINE DIRECTION
ADJOINING LOT(S)
1-2 EAST
LOT 43, BLOCK 69, PCS-04-030746
2-3 SOUTH
ROAD LOT 86, PCS-04-030746
3-4 WEST
LOT 39, BLOCK 69, PCS-04-030746
4-1 NORTH
LOT 42, BLOCK 69, PCS-04-030746

AREA: FORTY FOUR SQUARE METERS (44), MORE OR LESS

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on April 25, 2025 without further notice.

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

Trece Martires City, March 14, 2025.

JOSELITO L. ARANDA

Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

BDO UNIBANK, INC.,
CONSUMER BANKING GROUP - CONSUMER REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT
33/F BDO Corporate Center Ortigas, #12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City

SPS. KRISTINE J. MAESTRO-BISONIA AND ROY FRANCIS S. BISONIA
(1) Brgy. Sawang, Romblon (occupied by addressee); and
(2) Block 69 Lot 41, Phase 1, Phirst Park Homes-Tanza, Brgy. Tanauan, Tanza, Cavite (abandoned property)

WARNING: IT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED TO REMOVE, DEFACE OR DESTROY THIS NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF SALE

Ang Caviten Newsweekly
March 17, 24 & 31, 2025

Career Opportunity in P. IMES CORP.



Ang Caviten Newsweekly
March 24 & 31, 2025

Position Title: PROGRAM MANAGER 3

Job Description:

- Sales promotion and quotation generation
- Technical support and customer window (especially Japanese account)
- Customer Representative
- Formulates activities for continuous improvement
- Implements strict compliance to rules and regulations and regulations and company policies.

Qualification:

- 1 Vacancy – Preferably Male
- With atleast 5 years working experience as Program Manager in a manufacturing company with Foreign Customer relation function
- Fluent in Japanese Language and English proficiency or must have N2 Japanese Language Proficiency Certificate

Interested applicants may send resume to jsalvarez@pimes.com.ph / recruitment@pimes.com.ph

Company / Employer	Name of Foreign National intending to apply for the position
Company Name: P.IMES CORP. Company Address: Blk. 16 Phase 4, Cavite Economic Zone, Rosario, Cavite Nature of Business: Manufacturing	Name: Chiaki Ikeya Address: BGC, Taguig City Nationality: Japanese Intended period of employment: One (1) year
P.IMES CORP. hereby declares that the above-name foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment- Regional Office No. IV-A located at 3 rd and 4 th floor, Andenson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City, Laguna.	
Any Filipino jobseeker who is competent, able and willing to perform the services for which the foreign national is intended to be hired for, may file an objection at DOLE Regional Office No. IV-A located at 3 rd and 4 th floor, Andenson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City, Laguna within 30 days from date of publication.	
Please inform DOLE Regional Office if you have information of any criminal offense committed by foreign nationals.	

Republic of the Philippines
Fourth Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
City of Bacoor
Email: rtcbcrocc@judiciary.gov.ph.
Telephone No. 09273707489

UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS LIFE
ASSURANCE CORPORATION,
Mortgagee,

Foreclosure No. 2025-39
For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgage

-versus-

EDMAR R. PRIMA, JOHN EDWARD R. PRIMA
AND EDUARDO R. PRIMA, JR.,
Mortgagors.

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135 as Amended by Act 4118, filed by the mortgagee, UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION, of Cocolife Building, 6807 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, and against the mortgagors, EDMAR R. PRIMA,

JOHN EDWARD R. PRIMA AND EDUARDO R. PRIMA, JR. all of 28-B, Bansalangan St., Veterance Village, Project 7, Quezon City, to satisfy the mortgagee indebtedness which as of February 28, 2025, amounts to ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVEN PESOS & 44/100 (P1,838,907.44), Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest, and penalty charges but exclusive of other fee incident to this foreclosure, the undersigned or her duly authorized representative will sell at the public auction on May 13, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, at the main Entrance of the Hall of Justice of Bacoor City, Cavite, to the highest bidder for CASH and In Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 167-2022002106

"A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 1-G, OF THE SUBD. PLAN, PSD-04-084164, BEING A PORTION OF LOT 1, BLK. 10, (LRC) PCS-13714), SITUATED IN THE BRGY. SALINAS, MUN. OF BACoor, PROV. OF CAVITE, IS. OF LUZON. X X X CONTAINING AN AREA OF ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN (117) SQ. M."

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

"In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on May 20, 2025, without further notice."

Prospective buyers or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property and encumbrances, if any there be.

City of Bacoor, March 25, 2025.

MELY C. HERMOSURA-VISTA

Clerk of Court VI

By:
ROBERT JON A. DELA CRUZ

Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

COCOLIFE LEGAL DIVISION
UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION
8th Floor Cocolife Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City

EDMAR R. PRIMA, JOHN EDWARD R. PRIMA AND EDUARDO R. PRIMA, JR.
28-B, Bansalangan St., Veterance Village, Project 7, Quezon City

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this notice of Extra-judicial Sale on or before the date of sale.

Ang Caviteo Newsweekly
March 31, April 07 & 14, 2025

Phivolcs: No indication DBM: Infra spending Taal grassfire due to reaches P1.545-T in volcanic activity 2024

By Ma. Cristina Arayata

MANILA – The head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said Wednesday there is no indication that the grassfire monitored in Taal Volcano Island (TVI) on April 1 was caused by volcanic activity.

Phivolcs said the grassfire in the southwest portion of TVI initially spread at 11:24 a.m. on April 1 and ended at 2 a.m. on April 2.

"It was possibly caused by natural ignition due to dry weather. It could also be caused by people, of someone's cigarette butt, for example," Phivolcs Director Teresito Bacolcol told the Philippine News Agency in an interview.

The San Nicolas MDRRMO is currently investigating the incident, he added.

Several instances could trigger a grassfire around or near an active volcano.

One is when the weather is too hot and there is no rainfall.

Cigarettes, bonfires, and any open flame could also cause the grassfire, Bacolcol said.

In more active volcanoes, the release of hot gas and lava could also trigger a grassfire.

"In isolated cases, lightning could cause grassfire," Bacolcol said.

He reminded the public that TVI is a permanent danger zone, and thus entry into this area is prohibited.

"Avoid getting near areas where there is fire. Wear a face mask if the smoke blends with the air and reaches crowded places," he said.

The public is also advised not to throw or leave flammables in dry areas surrounding the volcano.

They are also encouraged to report to local authorities if a fire was observed.

Meanwhile, Bacolcol said the IP camera at the Volcano Taal Binintiang Munti Observation Station became blurry on Tuesday, probably because of heat from the grassfire.

As of April 2, the camera is back to normal and no instrument at the station was affected, he said. (PNA)

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

MANILA – Infrastructure spending rose by 8.9 percent to PHP1.545 trillion in 2024 from PHP1.419 trillion outturn in 2023, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said April 2.

According to the DBM's latest data, the overall infrastructure disbursements in 2024 exceeded the 2024 disbursement program by PHP72.4 billion or 4.9 percent.

Equivalent to 5.8 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), the 2024 infrastructure spending was well within the government's target of 5 to 6 percent for the year under the Medium-Term Fiscal Framework.

The latest figure also sustained the 5.8

percent outturn in 2023.

"The spending performance surpassed expectations due to the accelerated implementation of construction activities of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and direct payments made for the Department of Transportation's (DOTr) foreign-assisted rail projects, among others," the DBM said.

The increase in infrastructure spending was driven by the DPWH's accelerated implementation of activities from carry-over or previous years' projects and progress billings from completed ongoing infrastructure projects.

Development partners' direct payments for foreign-assisted rail projects of the DOTr also helped in raising the disbursements for infrastructure.

"Infrastructure spending is also projected to reach 5.4 percent of GDP next year," the DBM said.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s ambitious Build Better More Program aims to achieve a golden age of infrastructure in the Philippines to enhance mobility and connectivity, as well as propel economic growth. (PNA)

Recto says use of PhilHealth funds to spare PH from new debts

By Benjamin Pulta

MANILA – Finance Secretary Ralph Recto on Wednesday defended the transfer of idle and unused Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) funds, as well as those from other government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCC) into the national coffers.

Appearing before the Supreme Court, Recto said the decision to secure funds was a "common-sense approach" to allow the government to forgo borrowing funds abroad to fund key projects.

"First, we are still recovering from the pandemic that gave us the hardest economic blow -- a contraction of 9.5 percent in 2020 -- the lowest since post-World War II. To address both health and economic needs during that crisis, the government had to borrow more money -- utang na minana ng kasalukuyang administrasyon (debt inherited by the current administration)," he said.

He noted that by 2022, when President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. took office, the national

debt had soared by PHP7.47 trillion – surpassing the combined debt of all previous administrations and bringing the debt-to-GDP ratio from its lowest level of 39.6 percent in 2019 to a high of 60.9 percent in 2022.

"And now, it is our responsibility to repay these large borrowings. We inherited this debt but we do not intend to simply pass this burden onto the next administration. We intend to try our best to reduce it," Recto explained.

He said that against a backdrop of geopolitical tensions, as well as supply chain disruptions from the pandemic, Congress mandated in the 2024 General Appropriations Act to sweep the unused, idle, and excess funds of GOCCs "to raise more resources to support the President's priority programs and enhance economic recovery efforts."

"As the Solicitor General has accurately pointed out early in this oral argument, this move is a temporary and common-sense approach within legal bounds to fund critical government programs for Filipinos," Recto said.

"We are the government's chief fundraiser. We are called to steward the nation's fiscal stability. It is our duty to put every peso to work for the people. Sleeping funds serve no one. Every idle peso is a

disservice to every Filipino.

He pointed out that based on the 2024 GAA, the country had an appropriation of PHP5.76 trillion, of which only PHP4.27 trillion was supportable by revenues.

He said that reckoned on a daily basis last year, expenditures amounted to PHP15.8 billion a day in cash, of which PHP11.71 billion in cash was funded by revenue collections and the rest, PHP4.10 billion in cash, by loans.

Recto added that the move to sweep the unused, excess, idle funds of GOCCs, including PhilHealth, is in line with the principles of the Medium-Term Fiscal Framework to ensure the country's macro-fiscal stability.

"This framework ensures that we reduce our fiscal deficit from a high of 8.6 percent to GDP in 2021 to only 3.7 percent in 2028. Last year, we already hit our target of reducing this to 5.7 percent. This will allow us to sustainably reduce our national government debt from a high of 60.9 percent of GDP in 2022 down to 56.3 percent in 2028."

And just as in the pandemic that brought the Bayanihan 1 and 2 laws, Recto said the measure may be seen as a Bayanihan 3, which is *"not funded by new taxes but one funded by the funds already in our possession and mobilizes all our available resources -- all idle, excess, and sleeping public funds -- to help the economy recover faster, create more jobs, increase incomes, and reduce poverty in the process."*

"We wouldn't be doing our job, Your Honors, if we willfully neglected our duty to exercise fiscal prudence in this matter just because it is unusual. We wouldn't be doing our job if we clung to convention over common sense," he said.

The SC is hearing oral arguments challenging the Department of Finance-mandated transfer of PhilHealth's PHP89.9 billion excess funds to the national treasury.

Of the excess funds, PHP60 billion has been transferred since 2024 while the remaining tranche worth PHP29.9 billion remains on hold after the SC issued a temporary restraining order. (PNA)

DPWH: Many of 21K assessed public buildings need retrofitting

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

MANILA – Many of the country's public buildings assessed by the government must undergo retrofitting, in preparation for the "Big One" or a massive earthquake, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said on April 2.

"So, as of today po, nakapag-assess na kami ng (we have assessed) more than 21,000 public buildings, at marami rito ay irirekumenda namin (and we will recommend many of them) for retrofitting," DPWH Undersecretary Maria Catalina Cabral said in a Palace press briefing.

Cabral said the DPWH has completed the assessment of over 124 public buildings in Metro Manila alone.

She added that there is a partnership between the DPWH and the World Bank for the retrofitting of 425 public buildings to make sure *"they are aligned with international earthquake standards."*

"Mayroon na rin kaming natapos na retrofitting. Ang ibig lang sabihin ng retrofitting ay iakyat ang kaniyang standard para sa international earthquake standards (We have also done some retrofitting. Retrofitting just means raising its standard to international earthquake standards)," Cabral said.

Long-term solutions

Office of Civil Defense administrator Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno, for his part, said President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has given a directive to look for "long-term" solutions to ensure the country's preparedness in times of calamities.

He said it will take time, since the structural integrity of "millions of houses" would need to be evaluated and may undergo retrofitting.

"Again, 'yung (the) long-term solutions, hindi iyan madaling gawin subalit (is not easy to do but) there's a roadmap doon," Nepomuceno said.

Nepomuceno said the government would also level up public participation and institutionalize partnerships with the private sector to reduce the risk of damage when the "Big One" strikes.

The "Big One" is a movement of the West Valley fault that could generate a magnitude 7.2 earthquake.

LRT, MRT

Cabral said the DPWH has also provided technical assistance to the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to assess the structural integrity of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) and the Metro Rail Transit (MRT).

She said the agency is also ready to provide similar assistance to other agencies.

"Kapag hiningian po nila kami ng tulong para tulungan ang mga inhinyero nila at i-assess iyong structural integrity ng mga infrastructure, including ports, airports, kami po naman ay handang tumulong (When they ask us for help to assist their engineers and assess the structural integrity of their infrastructure, including ports, airports, we are ready to help)," Cabral said.

"Mayroon po silang sariling technical team, at minsan ay humihingi po sila sa amin, especially in the review of the plans at assessment ng kanilang mga infrastructure (They have their own technical team, and sometimes they ask us, especially in the review of the plans and assessment of their infrastructures)," she added.

Cabral said the DPWH has more than 2,000 Quick Response Assets, as part of the contingency plan.

Hazard assessment, strict compliance

Nepomuceno advised the public to visit <https://hazardhunter.georisk.gov.ph/>, a web application with a map interface that allows users to generate hazard assessment of their location.

HazardHunterPH, an application developed under GeoRiskPH, gives the public an idea about the areas in the Philippines that are prone to different hazards.

Nepomuceno also emphasized the need for strict compliance with the Building Code to ensure that all infrastructures can withstand a powerful earthquake.

"Unahin ko po muna iyong itatayo pa lang para malinawan natin. 'Yung itatayo pa lang ang dapat talaga, sundin na nito 'yung strict provisions of the Building Code 'no na matatag ito, sapat para kahit gaano kalakas ang lindol hanggang 8.5 magnitude kayanin (I will first address the ones that are yet to be built so that we can be clear. The ones that are yet to be built should really follow the strict provisions of the Building Code so that they are strong enough to withstand an earthquake of up to 8.5 magnitude)," he said.

"Ngayon, 'yung mga nakatayo, engineering solutions naman po. Of course, hindi lang ang national government ang gagawa niyan 'no. Ang engineering solutions na number one na available to everyone. Of course, hindi po iyan libre (Now, those that are already built need engineering solutions. Of course, it is not just the national government that will do that. Number one, engineering solutions should be available to everyone. Of course, it is not free) and this has to be done professionally," Nepomuceno added.

Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology Director Teresito Bacolcol said the "Big One" would not exceed a magnitude higher than 7.2 since *"the magnitude is based on the length of the fault."*

"And hindi naman nag-i-increase 'yung length ng fault (the length of the fault is not increasing) so that's the maximum magnitude earthquake that can be generated by the West Valley Fault," Bacolcol said. (PNA)

DA eyes more measures amid low compliance with pork MSRP

By Stephanie Sevillano

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Wednesday said more measures are underway to tighten the implementation of the maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) for pork following low compliance among hog traders.

The pork MSRP is set at PHP380 per kg. for liempo (belly); PHP350 per kg. for kasim (ham) and pigue; and PHP300 per kg. for sabit-ulo.

In an interview, DA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa relayed Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.'s dismay after majority of stakeholders failed to comply with their agreement on pork MSRP.

"So, inihayag ni Secretary ang kanyang disappointment doon sa seemingly mababang (the Secretary expressed his disappointment over the seemingly low) level of compliance despite the agreements with all the stakeholders," he said.

The DA met with the pork producers, viajeros, and retail representatives on March 28 and 31.

He said Tiu Laurel disclosed these plans to the stakeholders, which will be put in place in case compliance remains low.

"Sakali na hindi pa rin masusunod, possibly magkaroon ng (In case they remain non-compliant, there might be a) Quinta Committee hearing," de Mesa said.

"At pangalawa, posible rin na iyong mga shipping permit kung mapatunayan na mayroong paglabag sa anumang legal na proseso, pwedeng bawiin ang (Secondly, the shipping permit, if proven to be violating in any legal process, there may be a revocation of) shipping permit."

The DA is also eyeing the utilization of a tracing "card" to track the movement of pork products.

"Kailangan ilagay saan binili iyong baboy, saan, sinong viajero, saan dinala ng (The origin of the pork must be indicated, identify the transporter, and the destination of) slaughterhouse from the slaughterhouse, sino iyong kumuha papunta sa retail at sino iyong retail. Kumbaga susundan iyong baboy (Who got it to retail and who the retailers are. It's somewhat tracing the movement of pork)," de Mesa said.

To implement the use of cards, he said the DA-Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance (AMAS) will coordinate with the Food and Terminal Incorporated (FTI).

To date, retail compliance has increased to almost 40 percent from 30 percent on Monday, while compliance with the agreed PHP230 per kg. farmgate price of pork from producers is around 88 percent, based on the DA's recent monitoring.

Retail prices of pork remain high in select public markets in Manila, Pasay, Mandaluyong, and San Juan.

As of March 31, the prevailing price of pork liempo (belly) in Metro Manila was pegged at PHP420 per kg., with prices ranging from PHP360 to PHP470 per kg.; and the prevailing price of pork kasim (ham), is PHP360 per kg., ranging from PHP330 to PHP400 per kg. (PNA)



STILL COSTLY. A butcher arranges various pork meat cuts at a stall inside the Arranque Market in Sta. Cruz, Manila on March 10, 2025. The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Wednesday (April 2) it plans to implement more measures to increase compliance with the current maximum suggested retail price. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

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VOLUME XLI No. 39

Marso 31-April 06, 2025

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DOST STARBOOKS MOA signing and deployment at Sacred Heart of Cavite, Inc. – Recoletos De Alfonso



Photo courtesy of DOST CAVITE

By Esther Joy V. Salazar

ON March 24, 2025, a training session on the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Stations (STARBOOKS) was conducted to help educators and librarians of Sacred Heart of Cavite, Inc. – Recoletos De Alfonso use this digital

learning tool effectively. The event was attended by the Provincial Director of DOST-Cavite, Ms. Gilda S. De Jesus, who served as the guest speaker.

Mr. Laurence Angelo F. Bago led the demonstration and workshop, while Mr. Mark Anthony B. Acidella conducted the orientation.
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DSWD's LAWA and BINHI nominated for UN disaster risk reduction award

By Jose Cielito Reganit

MANILA – The Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) flagship programs, Project LAWA (Local Adaptation to Water Access) and BINHI (Breaking Insufficiency through Nutritious Harvest for the Impoverished), have been nominated for the United Nations (UN) Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The prestigious award from the UN World Food Programme (WFP), with this year's theme

"connecting science to people: democratizing access to innovation and technology for disaster resilient communities," will recognize efforts by individuals and organizations that has made active efforts to reduce disaster risk in their community and advocates for resilience.

In a statement on March 31, Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao of the DSWD's Disaster Response Management Group (DRMG) expressed the department's gratitude for the nomination.

"As the lead disaster
Continued on page 2...

Candidates urged to voluntarily remove illegal campaign posters

By Ferdinand Patinio

MANILA – The Commission on Elections (Comelec) on Saturday urged candidates and their supporters to take the lead in removing illegally mounted campaign materials and not wait for orders to do so.

In a radio interview, Comelec Chairperson George Garcia said those who are running in the May 12 polls may face charges and even disqualification if they violate

the rules on common poster areas.

"The candidates are required to remove them immediately even if they have not received the letter yet or if they receive the letter, they must be removed immediately. It is very difficult to have a case with the Comelec. We are not joking with this warning. We have to start filing cases," he said.

The 45-day campaign period for local candidates

began Friday. A day before, the Comelec was able to remove truckloads of illegal campaign materials all over the country.

"Our first day of the campaign went well, although of course we removed tons of garbage and materials from various parts of the country," Garcia said.

At the same time, he urged local government units (LGUs) to enact an ordinance that would penalize those
Continued on page 2...

Gov't upbeat on rising biz confidence for Q2 2025

By Darryl John Esguerra

MANILA – Malacañang expressed optimism on Monday about the Philippine business confidence outlook for the second quarter of 2025, following a report from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) indicating improved business sentiment.

In a press briefing, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro welcomed the findings of the BSP's latest Business Expectations Survey (BES), which projected business sentiment to increase for the second quarter of the year, with the overall confidence index (CI) rising to 45.4 percent from 40.3 percent in the last quarter of 2024.

"That's good news... Maganda pong pangitain

po iyan, maganda po na nakikita po na dumadami pa rin po ang may tiwala sa ating pamahalaan, sa ating administrasyon para ang mga investors po ay maglaan ng kanilang mga investment sa ating bansa (It is a good indication, it's good that many are trusting our government, our administration so more investors will be encouraged to invest in the country),"
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