



Cavite among top picks as Filipinos prefer short, nearby trips

Cavite is now travelers focus on cost among the most and convenience in booked travel spots 2026.

for Filipinos, showing Data from travel a move toward short platform Klook and nearby trips as Turn to page 2

2 nabbed, P150 million worth of unregistered goods seized in Noveleta

Police arrested two individuals, including a Chinese national, and seized about P150 million worth of unregistered and substandard consumer goods in Noveleta, Cavite.

The joint operation on March 24 came from a tip about the storage and sale of uncertified items at a warehouse in an industrial complex in Barangay San



Rafael IV, based on a Philippine National Police news release.

Authorities said the two male suspects were involved in packing, storing, and selling footwear, cosmetics, and electronic gadgets

that allegedly did not meet required standards. Initial findings

showed that while the business is registered, the products were not properly certified by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mother, daughter die after being trapped in house fire in Bacoor

A mother and daughter died after being trapped inside their burning house in Barangay Poblacion, Bacoor City, Cavite on the afternoon of March 24.

The fire started shortly after 2 p.m. in a residential area, reached first alarm, and was put out after more than an hour. A total of 11 houses were destroyed, affecting 14 families or

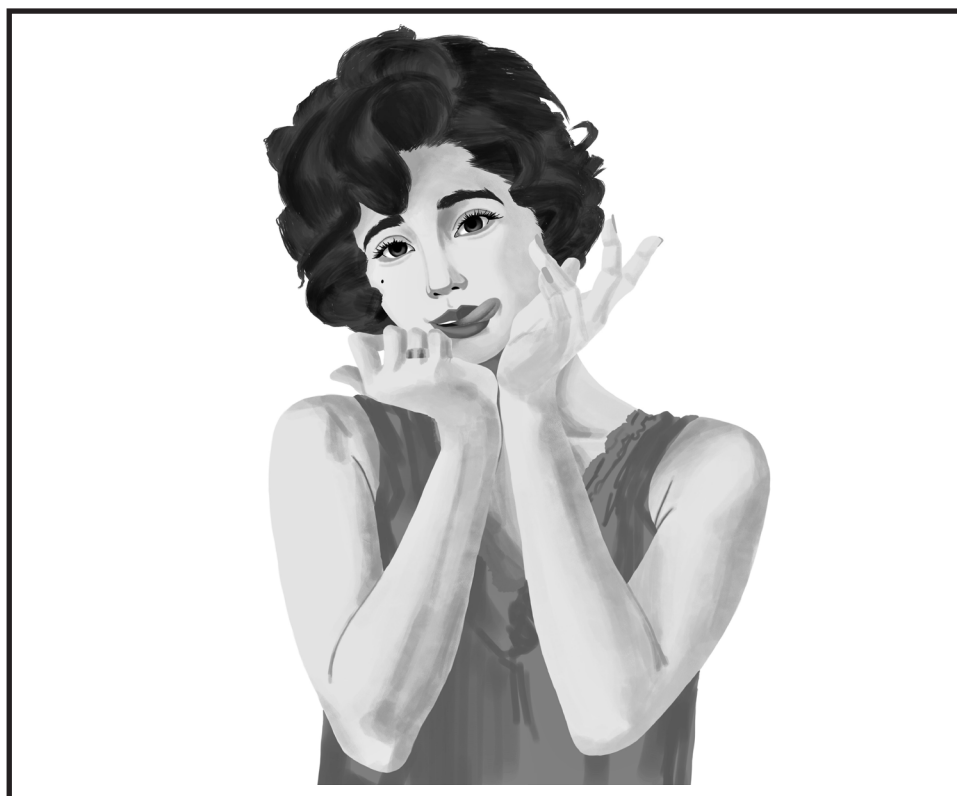
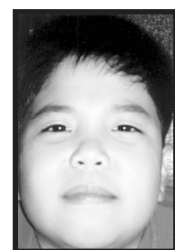
48 individuals. Among those affected was Ahda De Jesus, whose relatives were among those who passed away. The victims were identified as Liezel Eusebio, 53, and her mother Fe, 79.

Responders said the house was located in a corner of the compound, making access difficult due to live wires. The victims were unable to exit as the front of the

house was already on fire and were found in the bathroom. Investigators said the cause of death was suffocation.

Faulty wiring is being considered as the possible cause of the fire, while authorities continue to assess the damage.

Some affected families are staying in an evacuation center, while others are with relatives.



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(CAVITE...from page 1)

showed that aside from well known leisure hubs, this province in Luzon is now part of the most booked destinations, and reflecting shifting

travel habits amid rising expenses and global uncertainty. The full list includes Metro Manila, Boracay, Cebu, Pampanga, and Cavite.

AIIB approves \$300 million loan for ICTSI port expansion

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank has approved a \$300 million loan to support the expansion and upgrade of ports operated by International Container Terminal Services Inc. in the Philippines.

The project, called Project Crane, aims to improve trade connections by enhancing port capacity, efficiency, and sustainability.

The funding will support upgrades in key terminals, including those in Batangas, Misamis Oriental, and Manila.

It is expected

to increase cargo handling capacity, improve operations, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The project will also fund the use of electric cranes and promote greater participation of women in port operations.

ICTSI said the investment supports its broader expansion plans, with capital spending for 2026 set to reach \$740 million.

The company reported strong financial results in 2025, with growth in revenue, volume, and earnings across its global operations.

PHilMech: 151 rice processing systems installed

The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) on March 29 said it has installed 151 rice processing systems (RPS) through the government's Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program 2.0.

Of the total, 132 units are operational, while 19 are expected to be ready by yearend.

“With the complete mechanization interventions we have provided under RCEF, from land preparation to milling and storing

delivering sugarcane to your mill to help offset fuel costs until such time that the fuel prices normalize,” Sanson said in a letter dated March 24.

SRA's directory showed that of the 25 sugar mills in the country, 13 are located in Negros Island, which produces more than 60 percent of the country's sugar output. In some areas of Negros Occidental, diesel prices have reached as high as P125 to P126 per liter as of March 25.

“Due to the ongoing geopolitical

In a statement, board member David Andrew Sanson, the planters representative, said he made the appeal through a letter sent to sugar mills nationwide.

“We respectfully request for your management to consider increasing the trucking allowance for farmers

around 1.2 million rice farmers across the country have experienced its benefits,” said PHilMech Director Dionisio Alvindia.

Each RPS includes modern dryers and rice mills along with a storage warehouse for palay (unhusked rice) and milled rice.

The facilities allow farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) to take part in the rice value chain by milling and selling different grades of rice directly to wholesalers, retailers, and consumers instead of only selling palay,

Alvindia said. The RPS provides a 7 percent higher milling recovery rate, which could help increase farmers' incomes.

It has enabled farmers to buy palay from their members at better prices and helped reduce farm expenses, especially since the RPS was provided for free, said Nora Angeles, general manager of Bantug Agricultural MPC in Talavera, Nueva Ecija.

“It [provides] additional income to [our cooperative] and [allays] our fear of incurring losses during

harvest since we can now mill our palay into rice,” said Marisol Ventura, secretary of Caridad Sur MPC in Llanera, Nueva Ecija.

Eduardo Domingo, a member of the board of directors of the Cooperative Enterprise for True Economic Reform in Guimba, Nueva Ecija, thanked the Marcos administration for the RPS.

PHilMech said the initiative helps ensure a steady food supply, protecting families, including farmers, from the added impact of rising fuel prices.

Sugar mills urged to increase trucking allowance for farmers

An official of the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) on March 25 urged sugar mills to raise the trucking allowance for farmers amid increasing fuel prices.

In a statement, board member David Andrew Sanson, the planters representative, said he made the appeal through a letter sent to sugar mills nationwide.

“We respectfully request for your management to consider increasing the trucking allowance for farmers

tensions in the Middle East, this sharp rise in fuel prices has significantly increased the cost of transporting cane from farms to the mill,” Sanson said.

He added that the situation has “placed a substantial financial burden on farmers and threatening the continuity of sugarcane supply.”

Sanson said he hopes that sugar mills would consider “humanitarian reasons” and raise the trucking allowances to help offset fuel

costs. “We are all trying to survive this crisis, and I hope the sugar industry stakeholders will come together to help each other and to ensure the future of our beloved sugar industry,” he added.

In Mindanao, the Busco Sugar Milling Co. Inc. and Crystal Sugar Co. Inc., based in Bukidnon, are already providing temporary fuel support or adjustments to sugarcane planters to help ease the impact of rising fuel prices.

EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **ROSEA S. SEVILLA** who died intestate on February 19, 1992 in Dasmariñas, Cavite, consisting of a certain real property (conjugal property) situated at Blk B-9, Lot 8, Brgy. San Simon, Bagong Bayan, Dasmariñas, Cavite containing an area of one hundred sixty two (162 sq. m.) square meter, more or less, has been adjudicated and extra-judicially settled by and among her heirs in pro indiviso equal shares with waiver of rights, interest, and participation in the above described real property in favor of LILIBETH S. DELOS REYES, NADINE S. SEVILLA, NERIEL S. SEVILLA, ZENNY S. SEVILLA, GERRY S. SEVILLA, JOYCE ANN S. SEVILLA and LOVELY S. SEVILLA on October 08, 2003 at Dasmariñas, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Kareen T. Hermosa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 295; Page No. 39; Book No. VI; Series of 2003.

(Sgd.) Affiants (**LOVELY S. SEVILLA** rep. by **Geronimo C. Sevilla**)

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 16, 23 & 30, 2026

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF ANICIA DE JESUS GARCIA with WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **ANICIA DE JESUS GARCIA** who died intestate on June 30, 2025 in Imus City, Cavite, consisting of a parcel of land situated in the Barrio of Bayan Luma, Mun. of Imus, Province of Cavite covered by and embraced in Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-235482 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite, containing an area of TWO HUNDRED FOUR (204) SQUARE METERS, more or less, has been adjudicated and extra-judicially settled by and among her heirs with waiver of rights in favor of JAY ALLAN DE JESUS GARCIA married to Wendy Saria Reyes-Garcia on March 12, 2026 at Imus City, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Jordan D. Villota and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 243; Page No. 50; Book No. II; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) All Heirs (**DEXTER IAN DE JESUS GARCIA** with marital consent of **SHERRILEEN MISLANG GARCIA**)

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 16, 23 & 30, 2026

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF PROPERTY OF VENERANDA M. FRANCISCO

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **VENERANDA M. FRANCISCO** who died intestate on December 05, 2021 at Philippine General Hospital, Taft Avenue, Manila, consisting of certain conjugal real estate properties which is land with improvements, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. (057-2016033937) 167-2020004042, situated at #27 P. Francisco St., Mabolo 3, Bacoor City, Cavite, containing a lot area FIVE HUNDRED FORTY TWO (542) SQUARE METERS, more or less, has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among her heirs equally amongst themselves on March 16, 2026 in Dasmariñas City, Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Bernard O. Tamon and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 401; Page No. 82; Book No. 1; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) **ZALDIVAR M. FRANCISCO** for himself and in behalf of his siblings **EVELYN M. FRANCISCO** and **WILLIAM M. FRANCISCO**

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 23, 30 and April 6, 2026

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **WILSON PEPITO TANZO** who died intestate on November 01, 2025 in De La Salle University Medical Center, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, with his last known residence address at Blk. 30, Lot 29, Zone 1, Bautista Property, Sampaloc IV, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, consisting of a property (house and lot) situated at Blk. 29 Lot 33, Bautista Property, Brgy. Sampaloc IV, Dasmariñas City, Cavite containing an area of Seventy-Two (72sq.m.) square meters has been adjudicated and extra-judicially settled by and among his heirs in pro indiviso equal shares with waiver of rights, interest, and participation in the said parcel of land including improvements erected therein in favor of **MARICEL PEPITO TANZO** on March 09, 2026 at Dasmariñas City, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Kareen T. Hermosa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 319; Page No. 64; Book No. 171; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) Transferors/Heirs and Transferee

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 16, 23 & 30, 2026

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **FRANCO T. SAPERO** who died intestate on 11 December 2005 in City of Mandaluyong, National Capital Region, consisting of a National Housing Authority (NHA) lot located at Blk. 69, Lot 32, Ar D3 PH II, DBB, Bautista, Brgy. Sampaloc 4, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite containing an area of Fifty Square Meters (50 sq.m), more or less, has been adjudicated and extra-judicially settled by and among his heirs in pro indiviso equal shares; that further for and in consideration of the sum of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (Php 150,000.00), Philippine Currency, they do hereby SELL, CONVEY, and TRANSFER, by way of TRANSFER OF RIGHTS unto **JOAN G. BANUELOS** married to **Mario H. Banuelos**, her heirs, assigns, and successors-in-interest all their rights and interest and participation over the entire parcel of land on March 16, 2026 at the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Kareen T. Hermosa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 412; Page No. 83; Book No. 171; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) Heirs/Sellers and Buyer

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 16, 23 & 30, 2026

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION WITH SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **MIYONDAS P. MACATANONG** who died intestate on May 22, 2018 at Quiapo, Manila and whose residence at the time of his death was at Norzagaray St., Quiapo, Manila, consisting of a parcel of land together with the improvements existing therein located at Blk. 25 Lot 15 Datu Esmael, Bagong Bayan, Dasmariñas City, Cavite with an area of Seventy Seven (77) Square Meters which the deceased acquired on December 20, 2012 from Elizabeth L. Gapio and Samuel T. Gapio notarized before Notary Public Atty. Henry F. Berin and entered into his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 196; Page No. 44; Book No. XXII; Series of 2012 has been self-adjudicated by her sole heir **SHAHIBAH CASTRODES MACATANONG**; that for and in consideration of the sum of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (Php150,000.00), Philippine Currency, she does hereby SELL, TRANSFER AND CONVEY all her rights, interest and participation over the aforesaid lot together with the improvements existing therein in favor of **GENELYN CABAÑING GORDORA**, her heirs, assigns and successors-in-interest free from all liens and encumbrances on July 25, 2018 at the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Miriam S. Clorina and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 17; Page No. 4; Book No. 280; Series of 2018.

(Sgd.) Affiant/Vendor and Vendee

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 30, April 6 & 13, 2026

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF REYNALDO OCAMPO GUINTO WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **REYNALDO OCAMPO GUINTO** married to **ANGELITA DEL ROSARIO GUINTO**, who died intestate on October 21, 2025 at #168, Barangay Kaingin Digmaan, Bacoor City, Cavite, consisting of a certain parcels of land with improvements situated in the Bo. of Habay, City of Bacoor, Cavite, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-147563, containing an area of TWO HUNDRED THIRTY NINE (239) SQUARE METERS, more or less & Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-294688, containing an area of TWO HUNDRED AND FIVE (205) SQUARE METERS, situated in the Bo. of Mabolo, City of Bacoor, Cavite has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his heirs with waiver of rights, interest, and participation over the above-described real properties in favor of **REAN MARCUS DEL ROSARIO GUINTO** and **RON AMER DEL ROSARIO GUINTO** on March 10, 2026 at Bacoor City, Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Oliver P. Agustin and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 177; Page No. 37; Book No. 2; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) Heir/Wife and Heirs/Children (**REYNETH PIA O' CONNELL** represented by **REAN MARCUS DEL ROSARIO GUINTO** with SPA)

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 16, 23 & 30, 2026

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE TRICIA MARIE DELA CRUZ LICOPIT-CODORNIZ WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the deceased **TRICIA MARIE DELA CRUZ LICOPIT-CODORNIZ** who died intestate on December 3, 2024 at Manila Doctors Hospital, Manila, consisting of a parcel of land including the improvement existing thereon which she is the owner, situated in the Brgy. Salawag, Mun. of Dasmariñas, Province of Cavite covered by TCT No. (T-652637) 057-2025033188 with an area of FORTY-THREE (43) SQUARE METERS, more or less, has been adjudicated and extra-judicially settled by and between her heirs with waiver of rights, and/or interests over the aforesaid parcel of land including improvement existing thereon in favor of **TRISTINA MAE L. CODORNIZ** on March 16, 2026 at the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Reina M. Villa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 129; Page No. 26; Book No. 495; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) Both Heirs

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 16, 23 & 30, 2026

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **AMELIA AUREO** who died intestate on March 13, 2026 in City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, consisting of a lawn lot situated at Providence Memorial Lot specifically designated as RL-2A-L22-C-Reg. has been adjudicated and extra-judicially settled by and among her heirs in pro indiviso equal shares with waiver of rights, interest and participation in the above lawn lot in favor of **ABIGAIL FAYE AUREO FELDRIHAN** on March 16, 2026 in the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Kareen T. Hermosa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 413; Page No. 83; Book No. 171; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) Heirs/Transferors and Heir/Transferee

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 30, April 6 & 13, 2026

PESONet, InstaPay transfers reach P2.6 trillion

The value of the Bangko Sentral electronic fund ng Pilipinas showed transfers through that the combined PESONet and value increased by InstaPay rose to P2.58 43.4 percent from P1.8 trillion in January, trillion in the same driven by continued month last year. growth in digital In terms of payment use and volume, transactions higher transaction reached 689 million activity. in January, about 4.3

160 million recorded a percent in value to year earlier, showing P1.24 trillion from a sharp rise in the use P750.62 billion, while of digital payment volume surged by channels. 350.2 percent to 678 million from 150.59 million. P E S O N e t transactions grew by million. P E S O N e t 27.6 percent in value P E S O N e t to P1.34 trillion from and InstaPay are P1.05 trillion, while automated clearing its volume increased houses launched under by 8.6 percent to the BSP's National 10.48 million from Retail Payment 9.65 million. System, introduced

Meanwhile, in December 2015 InstaPay transactions to promote a safe, climbed by 65.2 efficient, affordable,

inclusive, and reliable pace compared to payment system. the double digit PESONet is gains seen in past used for high value years. In 2024, online transfers and serves In 2024, online as an electronic payments made alternative to checks, up 57.4 percent while InstaPay allows of total monthly real time, low value retail transactions transfers of up to by volume, higher P50,000, commonly than 52.8 percent in used for remittances 2023. and e commerce. The BSP aims BSP Deputy to raise this share to Governor Mamerto 60 to 70 percent over Tangonan earlier said the next four years digital transactions under the Philippine continue to grow, Development Plan for although at a slower 2023 to 2028.

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late GILBERT P. AMADOR who died intestate on August 20, 2012 at the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, consisting of a property (house and lot) situated at Blk. 25, Lot 7, Area A-1 (Brgy. Sto. Niño 1, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, containing an area of One Hundred Fifty (150 sq.m.) square meters, by virtue of Deed of Sale with Transfer of Rights executed by the allocatee owner Inocencio Blanco Sr. and his wife Concepcion Blanco dated 16 May 2005, notarized before notary public Atty. Tomas P. Dulay, Jr. entered and registered in his notarial register as Doc. No. 300; Page No. 60; Book No. 7; Series of 2005 has been adjudicated and extra-judicially settled by and among his true lawful heirs in pro indiviso equal shares with waiver of rights, interest, and participation in the said parcel of land including improvements erected therein in favor of BERLYN B. AMADOR and MICHAEL JOHN B. AMADOR and MARK JOSEPH B. AMADOR on March 30, 2026 at Dasmariñas City, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Kareen T. Hermosa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 496; Page No. 100; Book No. 171; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) Transferors/Heirs and Transferees/Heirs

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 30, April 6 & 13, 2026

Publication Notice
R.A. 10172



Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Cavite
Municipality of Naic



OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRAR

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MP CFN- -2026 R.A 9048
MP CCE- -2026 R.A 10172

In compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to OCRG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 Guidelines in the Implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2012 (IRR on R.A. 10172), Notice is hereby served to the public that ALEX LUDOVICO MONTERO has filed with this Office a petition for CHANGE OF FIRST NAME in his Certificate of Live Birth from "ALICE" to "ALEX", petition for correction of entry in SEX from "FEMALE" to "MALE" and petition for correction in his DATE OF BIRTH from "SEPTEMBER 19, 1974" to "SEPTEMBER 16, 1974" whose parents are Domingo Montero and Luz Ludovico.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than April 6, 2026.

(Sgd.) MARGARITA A. CATIBAYAN
Municipal Civil Registrar

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 23 & 30, 2026



LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICE

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In compliance with Sec. 5 of Rep. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that ROSALINDA JACINTO DIGNOS has filed with this office a petition for CHANGE OF FIRST NAME from "ROSALINA" to "ROSALINDA" in the Certificate of Live Birth of one, ROSALINDA DURIAN JACINTO, who was born on August 12, 1970 at Gattaran, Cagayan and whose parents were BONIFACIO JACINTO & VIRGINIA DURIAN.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than 13th April 2026.

(Sgd.) OFELIA U. ARGUSON
OIC-Municipal Civil Registrar

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 30 and April 6, 2026

P32.4 Billion Dividend from Landbank Boosts National Development Funding

The Land Bank of the Philippines transferred P32.4 billion in dividends to the national government, supplying new resources for key initiatives and undertakings, according to the Department of Finance (DOF).

The government-owned bank noted its P32.35-billion dividend payout — 0.7 percent above the P32.12-billion sent in 2024 — followed its best financial results to date.

“Landbank’s ongoing backing and solid performance demonstrate why it remains and will remain a reliable ally of the government in our goal to enhance the welfare of Filipinos,” Finance Secretary Frederick Go stated.

“It bolsters the government’s ability to finance vital projects that empower communities, foster equitable growth, and broaden economic

In the prior year, the bank’s net profit hit P43.98 billion, a 24 percent rise from P35.36 billion in 2024, fueled by widespread lending expansion, enhanced credit monitoring, and prudent risk controls. The DOF emphasized that the bank’s payment reflects its strong earnings and consistent capacity to contribute meaningfully to national progress. “Landbank’s dividend transfer is a purposeful commitment to the nation’s future,” said Landbank president and CEO Lynette Ortiz.

“It bolsters the government’s ability to finance vital projects that empower communities, foster equitable growth, and broaden economic

DTI secures price freeze on basic goods for two weeks

The Department of Trade and Industry said major manufacturers and retailers have agreed to keep prices of essential goods unchanged until mid-April to help ease the impact of rising costs linked to tensions in the Middle East.

These companies agreed to absorb rising costs instead of passing them on to consumers during the two week period.

The agency clarified that no price increases for basic goods will take effect on April 1 despite higher logistics and inventory pressures.

Price stability is expected to last until at least April 16, giving temporary relief to consumers as global supply chains face uncertainty.

Participating lender also ended the period with total assets of P3.52 trillion and equity of P278.44 billion.

Fuel Shortages Force Over 300 Gas Stations to Close Amid Delivery Delays

Fuel delivery interruptions have started impacting retail activities, with numerous gas stations temporarily closing nationwide due to late or inadequate shipments.

As of March 30, Philippine National Police units noted 365 stations offline across the country, a slight dip from 369 on March 29. This count comes from tracking 14,519 stations.

Authorities indicated 12 stations shut down on March 30 due to low stock, while eight restarted after receiving new supplies.

Closures started March 9 and hit their highest point March 27, when 425 stations were recorded closed.

The PNP listed the most recent shutdowns in these areas, per regional police reports:

- Cagayan de Oro and Northern Mindanao — 4 stations closed
Davao Region — 1 station closed
Cordillera

Administrative Region — 7 stations closed
Meanwhile, these regions saw stations resume operations after restocking:
Cagayan Valley — 4 stations reopened
Mimaropa — 2 stations reopened
Western Visayas — 2 stations reopened
Officials attributed the closures to continuing supply bottlenecks tied to global oil market disruptions, affecting delivery schedules and volumes.
Some station owners paused operations after depleting stock, while others resumed once deliveries normalized.
The PNP also logged seven legal cases against stations for suspected offenses such as stockpiling, price gouging, and trademark violations.
Authorities confirmed ongoing oversight to ensure adherence and deter misconduct amid sustained supply strain.

Farmers group: Oil shock a threat to food security

The country may be heading toward a food crisis “without immediate and concrete measures to control [the] prices of oil and farm inputs,” the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) warned on March 29.

Oil price shocks are not only a financial burden to farmers, but also a risk to the country’s food security, the group said as the conflict in Iran, which has spread to the Middle East, enters its

second month. Rising diesel costs have forced farmers to reduce irrigation, directly affecting crop yields and health. Marcelo Hernandez of the Nagkakaisang Magbubukid ng Malolos has reduced irrigation from three cycles to just one. “[If] diesel prices rise even more, we will just be relying on the rain,” he said, noting he has fallen into debt from the last planting season.

Fertilizer prices

have also increased, according to the KMP. Urea (a nutrient source for leaf and stem development of palay) now costs between P2,200 and P2,400 per 50 kilogram (kg) bag, while complete fertilizer sells for P2,100 per bag compared to the previous P1,600 to P1,750 per bag.

The Department of Agriculture and the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority allegedly refuse to act on these issues, despite having

the authority to impose price controls under Republic Act 7581, or the Price Act, the KMP claimed.

Harvest losses are another concern. Farm worker Divina Velasco of Malolos, Bulacan said that in the December 2025 harvest, she sold fresh palay for just P10 per kg and dried ones for P15 per kg. Her family harvested only 24 cavan (50 kg sacks) due to calamities, not enough to cover her debt of P35,000.

“In palay, [if] you invest P40,000, the earnings would still not be enough because you borrow [the capital],” Velasco explained.

As a result, planting for the next crop season becomes financially difficult. “All that is left for farmers is debt,” KMP said. “While oil prices rise, the cost of production rises, too. The government [also cannot] control the price of farm inputs. Only the price of produce is consistently

low.” “While big oil companies are making profits, the people are bearing the brunt of the crisis exacerbated by the war,” said KMP Secretary General Ronnie Manalo.

“If the government does not heed the call to remove the excise tax and VAT on oil and control prices, not only will farmers livelihoods collapse, but the entire country’s food supply will also be at risk,” KMP said.

SEC extends fee discounts to boost MSME growth

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has extended discounted filing fees for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to support business growth and reduce compliance costs.

In Memorandum Circular No. 13, Series of 2026, the SEC said the move builds on earlier relief measures aimed

at lowering barriers to business formalization and improving ease of doing business.

Under the circular, MSMEs will continue to receive a 20 percent discount on corporate registration fees until Dec. 31, 2026.

The regulator also kept a separate incentive for securities registration. A 50 percent discount

on assessed fees for registration of securities will remain in effect until June 30, 2026.

The incentive covers, among others, securities issued by qualified power generation and distribution utilities, real estate developers involved in rental pool agreements, agri business firms, and hospitals

under existing SEC programs.

To qualify, applicants must fall within the MSME classification under the Magna Carta for MSMEs.

Micro enterprises must have assets of not more than P3 million, small enterprises P3 million to P15 million, and medium enterprises

P15 million to P100 million.

Applicants must also submit a certification of MSME qualification signed by the company’s president or treasurer, stating total assets in line with the law.

For securities registration, firms are generally required to have a paid up capital of at least P25 million,

except for agri business corporations covered by separate rules.

The SEC said the extension aligns with its mandate under the Revised Corporation Code and Republic Act No. 9501, or the Magna Carta for MSMEs, which calls for government support to improve the sector’s competitiveness and sustainability.

Cebu Pacific secures fuel supply until June

Budget airline Cebu Pacific said it has secured enough jet fuel to sustain its domestic and international flights until June 2026, amid concerns over a possible fuel shortage

linked to tensions in the Middle East.

The airline said it is working closely with suppliers and industry partners to ensure steady fuel supply and will continue taking steps

to maintain stable operations.

On March 27, Cebu Pacific launched a seat sale offering 750,000 seats, with base fares starting at P88 one way, excluding fees and surcharges. The

promo runs from March 27 to 31, 2026.

Philippine Airlines earlier said it has also secured enough fuel to maintain its full flight schedule.

Concerns over fuel supply followed

unrest in the Middle East, which led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for about 20 percent of the world’s oil supply. This disruption pushed oil prices higher, with

some exceeding P130 per liter.

Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said the Philippines expects the arrival of 1.04 million barrels of diesel to help address the possible shortage.

Domestic concerns drag Philippine consumer sentiment

Consumer sentiment in the Philippines saw the sharpest decline among major Asian markets in 2025, according to a study by Roland Berger. Indonesia in terms of consumer optimism. The study linked the drop in sentiment to concerns over inflation, wage growth, and political developments that have created uncertainty.

The share of Filipinos who felt positive about the future dropped to 35 percent in 2025 from 53 percent in 2024, reflecting a significant shift in outlook. Across Asia, consumers are focusing more on essentials as budgets tighten, with groceries remaining the only category expected to grow.

The report said this decline has made consumers more price conscious, especially when buying essential goods. In the Philippines, spending is concentrated on basic needs, and education, with more consumers relying on promotions and installment options.

Despite steady economic growth, confidence has not improved at the same pace, pointing to growing caution among households. Despite this, the country remains a strong consumer market with high growth potential in the region.

Intensified mental health programs pushed amid rising suicide cases

Senator Sherwin Gatchalian on March 29 called on the government to strengthen mental health programs amid an increase in suicide cases in Metro Manila. National Capital Region Police Office recorded 111 suicide cases from January 1 to March 23, 2026.

The figure is nearly three times higher than the 38 cases recorded in the same period last year. "Sa gitna ng

Gatchalian made the appeal after the

Market direction seen to hinge on Middle East conflict

Investors are expected to stay cautious this shortened trading week as they monitor developments in the ongoing Iran war. The PSEi closed at 5,972.83 last Friday, down 0.76 percent week on week, with market sentiment still influenced by events in the Middle East.

Cristina Ulang of First Metro Investment Corp. said the Philippine Stock Exchange index may recover above 6,000 if progress is made in ceasefire talks, but further escalation could push it down to

around 5,800. The PSEi closed at 5,972.83 last Friday, down 0.76 percent week on week, with market sentiment still influenced by events in the Middle East.

to keep interest rates unchanged and Good Friday. Analysts said the market remains at relatively low levels, with the PSEi trading below its average valuation in recent years. Rising inflation expectations and global uncertainty are expected to keep the market under pressure, with trading seen between 5,800 and 6,000.

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CAAP assures enough fuel supply for airport backup power

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines said it has enough fuel supply for airports in case of power interruptions. to tensions in the Middle East. "May enough reserve fuel naman kami sa diesel. Bihira lang naman ginagamit 'yan. Lahat naka ready 'yan just in case magkaroon ng power failure dun sa supplier namin sa labas," Apolonio said.

In an interview on March 29, CAAP spokesperson Eric Apolonio said airports have sufficient reserve diesel fuel despite possible supply concerns linked

CAAP manages 44 commercial

airports nationwide. 'yung mga airline, kailangan kumita rin sila sa mga rutang liliparan nila," he said. Apolonio also said airlines currently have enough fuel for operations, though flights may be reduced by late April or early May due to higher fuel surcharges.

Philippine Airlines earlier said it has secured enough fuel for both domestic and international flights, while Cebu Pacific canceled and limited some overseas flights due to rising fuel costs. "Inexpect natin 'yan after April, dahil by the 100% ang itinaas ng fuel surcharge. Siyempre

patuloy na pagdami ng mga kaso ng suicide sa bansa, mahalagang patatagin natin ang mga programang magtataguyod sa kaligtasan at kapakanan ng ating mga kababayan, lalo na pagdating sa mental health," said Gatchalian. "Ngayon higit 10 to 19 worldwide experiences a mental disorder, with depression, anxiety, and behavioral disorders among the leading causes of illness and disability among adolescents. It listed suicide as the third leading cause of death among those aged 15 to 29.

According to Gatchalian, under the

2026 national budget, P742.6 million is allocated for the implementation of the Mental Health Program as mandated under the Mental Health Act. On September 1, 2025, a World Health Organization report showed that one in seven people aged

10 to 19 worldwide experiences a mental disorder, with depression, anxiety, and behavioral disorders among the leading causes of illness and disability among adolescents. It listed suicide as the third leading cause of death among those aged 15 to 29.

Seminars, book forums, shows to mark National Literature Month

Following the Philippine Book Festival, which drew many readers and challenged the claim that Filipinos do not read, April has been declared National Literature Month by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

Literature is one of the seven major arts promoted by the NCCA. The other six are architecture, cinema, dance, music, theater, and visual arts.

This year's theme is "Unity Through Literature," or "Beket (an Agutaynen Palawan language word meaning unity) Panitikan para sa Katwiran at Kalikasan" (Togetherness in Literature for Reason and the Environment).

This was announced at a recent

media event at the Manila Metropolitan Theater, attended by officials led by NCCA president Eric Zerrudo and representatives from the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) and the National Book Development Board (NBDB).

The three agencies have prepared seminars, commemorations, book discussions, and other activities aimed at the youth.

The celebrations draw inspiration from Francisco "Balagtas" Baltazar, author of the poetic work "Florante at Laura."

"This year's celebration highlights the vital contribution of indigenous imagination to the development of national literature and shaping Filipino identity," Zerrudo said. "Drawing

from indigenous strength, the theme affirms that the nation is built of diverse communities and writers whose connections continue to grow."

"This positions literature as a vital link to collective memory, imagination, and intellectual development," the NCCA president said. "The celebrations also emphasize the need to unite for both reason and the environment. It echoes the long standing call of the country's writers to uphold reason as a foundation for freedom and well being, while encouraging greater awareness of the people's responsibility to care for nature as an essential part of life."

The celebrations began in late March, with dates adjusted

due to the observance of Lent. Film maker writer Alvin Yapan of the Ateneo de Manila University presented a cinematic interpretation of a Balagtas work in Balagtas town (formerly Bigaa), Bulacan on March 27.

Michael Charleston Chua of De La Salle University will speak on Philippine history in Pandacan, Manila, on March 31. Gary Devilles of the Ateneo's Department of Filipino will lecture on how ethnographic practices can bring heroes back to life in Orion, Bataan.

In April, a "Tertulya" (a traditional literary music event) will be held in the north at Abra State Institute of Sciences and Technology and in the south at Mindanao State University, with participation from writers, researchers, teachers, and students. Balagtas Day will be marked in Orion, Bataan, on April 1. Although the poet was born in Bigaa (a town later renamed in his honor), Bulacan, he later moved to Orion where he lived and worked until his death in 1862. Celebrations will also take place at the University of Pampanga on April 7 to April 8, Basco, Batanes on April 8, and the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Laguna.

In mid April, activities will shift to Ateneo de Manila University with a foundational lecture on April 16, BookTalks on April 17, a Graduate Symposium on April

18, and a convention and workshop on April 30.

Cebu writers will gather on April 24, while the National Writers Congress will be held on April 25, along with a Komposo (song) performance in Iloilo City, a literary tour in Cubao, Quezon City, and a Funnytikan x SPIT improvisation theater event at the Manila Metropolitan Theater on April 26.

"A National Artist Reads" will be held in Zambales, Iloilo, and Bukidnon. The month long celebration will conclude with gatherings of writers in Naga, Bicol, and in Palawan.

"The National Literature Month reminds Filipinos of the power of stories to connect communities and preserve heritage," Zerrudo said.

The Department of Agriculture investigation was issued and published on March 26, nearly six months after local groups filed a petition seeking provisional safeguard duties. Under Republic Act 8800 or the Safeguard Measures Act, the agriculture secretary must determine within five days if there is enough basis to begin an investigation. Safeguard measures are trade remedies used to protect local industries by raising tariffs or limiting imports when these cause harm to domestic sectors. The DA found initial evidence of serious injury or threat to the local rice industry due to a rise in imports after reviewing the petition

and available data. The investigation will cover the period from 2020 to August 2025. The DA said local farmers have lost market share and faced lower farmgate prices due to increased imports,

along with rising production costs. However, former agriculture secretary Leonardo Montemayor questioned the inclusion of a public interest clause, saying it may make it harder to apply the measure.

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DA begins safeguard probe on imported rice

The Department of Agriculture has started an investigation on possible safeguard measures on imported rice that could lead to higher tariffs or import limits to protect local farmers.

A notice of

the preliminary investigation was issued and published on March 26, nearly six months after local groups filed a petition seeking provisional safeguard duties. Under Republic Act 8800 or the Safeguard Measures

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BSP seen delivering two rate hikes in 2026

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) may raise interest rates twice this year to keep inflation in check after choosing to maintain current policy settings at an off-cycle meeting last week, Metrobank Research said.

The central bank last March 26 kept the target reverse repurchase rate at 4.25 percent and said a pause was appropriate despite projections that inflation could exceed the 2.0 to 4.0 percent target this year.

BSP Governor Eli Remolona Jr. also said that monetary policy would have limited effect on the current increase in oil prices and warned that raising rates could slow the country's growth outlook.

Still, Metrobank expects the BSP to implement two 25 basis point rate hikes this year, which would bring the policy rate to 4.75 percent by end 2026, as inflation risks remain on the upside.

The bank said global price pressures, especially higher oil costs, are likely to pass through to domestic prices, increasing food and services costs and pushing overall inflation higher.

“Although the Philippine government is taking measures to soften the impact of higher global oil prices, the magnitude of the increases is still expected to cause an acceleration in overall inflation through higher domestic prices and, ultimately, higher food and services costs,” it said.

Metrobank forecasts full year inflation at 5.3 percent, higher than the central bank's latest projection of 5.1 percent. Inflation is expected to ease and return within the target range by 2027, with the bank projecting an average of 3.0 percent for that year.

Despite expectations of above target inflation, Metrobank said the

first rate hike is unlikely at the BSP's next meeting in April, as tightening too early could further weaken growth prospects.

The bank instead expects the BSP to start raising rates as early as June, noting that a projected rebound in the second half could help offset the impact of tighter monetary policy on economic growth.

“We expect the BSP to remain data driven,” Metrobank said.

“Rate hikes are still possible in the future should inflation expectations become unsteady, or if people believe high inflation will continue,” it added.

Lower inflation in 2027, meanwhile, will give the BSP room to reverse its tightening cycle, Metrobank said. It expects two 25 basis point rate cuts next year, bringing the policy rate back to 4.25 percent, especially as growth prospects improve.

Debt Payments Surge to P138B in January

In January, the Philippine government significantly increased its debt service obligations by nearly 30%, disbursing a total of P137.67 billion — a sharp rise from P106.51 billion paid during the same month in the previous year, according to the latest figures released by the Bureau of the Treasury.

This surge was primarily driven by higher interest costs and a substantial jump in principal repayments.

Of the total debt service, 93%

(P127.82 billion) was allocated to interest payments — up 22% compared to P103.44 billion in January 2024. The majority of this interest — 74% or P94.6 billion — was paid to domestic creditors.

This included P85.4 billion for fixed-rate Treasury bonds, P3.68 billion for Treasury bills, and P3.58 billion for retail T-bonds. Additionally, P33.21 billion was paid to foreign lenders as interest.

Meanwhile, the repayment of principal — skyrocketed by 374.8% to

P9.85 billion, up from just P2.08 billion in January 2024.

Of this, P8.1 billion went to domestic creditors and P1.76 billion to external ones. As of January, the government had already fulfilled 6.9% of its full-year 2026 debt service target of P2.006 trillion, which includes P950 billion for interest and P1.06 trillion for principal repayments.

The Treasury continues to issue government securities weekly to fund public programs and infrastructure projects.

ERC pushes staggered recovery of power costs

The Energy Regulatory Commission has urged power utilities to adopt staggered billing with suppliers to reduce the impact of rising electricity rates on consumers.

Under the proposed scheme, households can spread increases in power generation costs over time instead of paying them in a single billing period.

The ERC said an increase of more than P1 per kilowatt hour in generation charges could significantly raise monthly bills, especially for households with high

energy use or those already affected by rising living costs.

Generation charges, which make up more than half of electricity bills, cover the cost of power purchased by distribution utilities from suppliers, including the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market.

The Department of Energy earlier said power prices from WESM could rise by over P5 per kWh due to higher fuel costs linked to the Iran crisis.

ERC chairperson Francis Saturnino Juan said protecting

consumers while maintaining stability in the power sector remains a priority during global uncertainty.

Following a national energy emergency, the ERC directed utilities facing sharp increases to submit detailed reports, including rate computations and supplier invoices, at least five days before billing.

The commission also suspended WESM operations starting March 26, with administered prices set to begin on April 1 to prevent sudden price spikes.