

Perlas ng SILANGAN BALITA



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Ex-Cavite cops surrender 'peacefully' over pending case

The Cavite Police surrendered Provincial Office following the (PPO) on March issuance of 13 confirmed that arrest warrants in several of its former connection with officers voluntarily **Turn to page 2**

Italian, 4 others ordered arrested for trafficking

The Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Bacoor City, Cavite has ordered the arrest of a London-based Italian and four alleged Filipino accomplices accused of illegally recruiting three Filipinos for overseas jobs but later forcing them to perform online sex shows.

In an order dated March 4, Bacoor RTC Branch 119 said it found probable cause to indict Adel En Nouri and his co accused for qualified trafficking in persons under Section 4(a) in relation to Section 6(c) of Republic Act 9208, as amended by RA 10364, or the Expanded Anti

Trafficking in Persons Act. evidence. However, the Bacoor City Prosecutor's Office later granted a motion for partial reconsideration filed by the complainants.

“Upon judicious examination of the amended information, the resolution of the public prosecutor and the attachments thereof, the Court finds probable cause for the indictment of accused Adel En Nouri,” the court said. The court recommended no bail for the accused, noting that qualified human trafficking is a nonbailable offense.

In a resolution dated Feb. 27, 2026, Deputy City Prosecutor Michael Philip Silvala said the victims were able to identify En Nouri as the person who offered them jobs in Europe, received their placement fees, and allegedly forced them to perform sexual acts online.

Nouri was earlier excluded from the charges after prosecutors dismissed the complaint against him due to lack of evidence. “Respondent En Nouri only offered denial and alibi as his defense,” Silvala said.



Southwoods hosts banner field for '26 Invitational

A week of lively competition, friendship and celebration returns as the Southwoods Invitational 2026, the premier member guest tournament of Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club, tees off March 16 to 21 at the club's well-known Masters and Legends courses in Carmona City, Cavite.

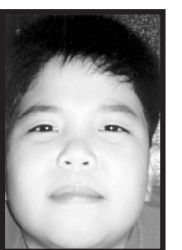
More than just a tournament, the yearly gathering has grown into one of the most awaited social and sporting events in Philippine golf, bringing together members and their guests for a special mix of competition, camaraderie and fellowship.

Organizers expect another strong turnout, with about 400 teams or 800 players projected to join based on the early registration tally 10 days before the event. The large participation highlights the

tournament's reputation as one of the country's most sought after member guest competitions. This year's edition is supported by the AMSI Group of Companies (Calamba Doctors Hospital), Huawei/LF Joy Solar and CWC as Platinum sponsors with Bebang's Halo-Halo, Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines, Inc. Lavie Kitchenwares and Malveda Properties as Gold sponsors.

MIKMIK'S WORLD

• Nehemiah Ezekiel B. Barco



Perlas ng SILANGAN BALITA

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(EX-CAVITE...from page 1)

a case pending in court. The concerned individuals peacefully submitted themselves to proper authorities, signifying their willingness to face the charges and undergo the appropriate legal proceedings in accordance with the law," the police office said in a statement.

Small Business Corp. to lend P12 billion to MSMEs this year

The financing arm of the Department of Trade and Industry is planning to lend P12 billion to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) this year.

Small Business (SB) Corp. president and CEO Robert Bastillo told reporters during the launch of new financing programs that the agency aims to lend P12 billion to MSMEs this year through several loan facilities.

This year's allocation is higher than the P11.2 billion released last year.

The amount also includes three new loan facilities aimed at supporting specific

sectors such as exporters, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and women.

To help exporters expand production, upgrade equipment and take advantage of opportunities in the global market, SB Corp. has launched the P3 billion Export Business Expansion Fund.

SB Corp. also rolled out a P2 billion fund to help OFWs deal with sudden and unexpected situations including contract termination and displacement.

The fund aims to help returning OFWs start their own businesses.

SB Corp. has also created a P2 billion

Oil shock may trigger policy response – BSP

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) warned that a fresh surge in global oil prices driven by tensions in the Middle East could prompt policy action, as risks to inflation and financial stability re-emerge after a period of easing.

BSP Deputy Governor Zeno Abenoja said the central bank is now closely monitoring whether the impact of higher oil prices would be temporary or more persistent, a key factor that will determine the direction of monetary policy in the coming months.

"What we are looking at is whether there are signs of further disruptions of the initial impact of the oil price increase, and then the second one, how persistent will this impact be," Abenoja said.

He noted that if the shock proves to be transitory, inflation could remain manageable. "But if we see further disruptions in supply chains, further increases in prices, particularly oil prices, and that could persist

loan facility to support women led MSMEs.

Trade Secretary and SB Corp. chair Cristina Roque said

for some months, then that may prompt the Monetary Board to consider policy action moving forward," he said. At its February meeting, the BSP cut policy rates by 25 basis points as domestic conditions supported a more accommodative stance. This brought total rate cuts to 225 basis points since August 2024.

However, Abenoja said the escalating conflict in the Middle East has complicated the outlook.

He identified three main channels through which the shock could affect the Philippine economy: external transactions, financial markets and commodity prices. On the external front, Abenoja said the impact could be felt through imports as well as remittances from overseas Filipino workers, particularly those based in the Middle East.

Financial markets have also shown signs of stress. The peso, which had earlier strengthened, has reversed course in recent weeks. Yields on government

securities across various tenors have also increased, reflecting tighter financial conditions. Equity markets have likewise weakened. The third transmission channel is through commodity prices, particularly oil, which could spill over to domestic prices and push inflation higher.

"This is quite unfortunate indeed, to come at a time when... sentiment continues to be relatively weak in the domestic economy," the deputy governor said.

The BSP also continues to monitor global commodity prices, including oil, wheat, rice and fertilizer, as well as domestic pressures such as electricity rate adjustments, transport fares and potential wage increases.

Despite rising risks, the BSP said it would remain disciplined and data-driven in its decision-making. The central bank also signaled its readiness to safeguard financial stability, including providing liquidity support if market conditions worsen. Young Kim,

analyst at Moody's Ratings, said inflation in the Philippines is still expected to remain within the BSP's two to four percent target over the next two years, although risks have tilted to the upside amid rising oil prices and higher freight and input costs.

He said a more adverse scenario, particularly if global oil prices stay above \$100 per barrel, could push inflation beyond four percent.

Such a scenario could complicate monetary policy, as central banks balance rising inflation against still-subdued economic growth.

While Moody's does not provide specific forecasts on policy rates, Kim said there is a possibility of a shift in policy direction under a more severe inflation scenario, noting the BSP's track record of responding decisively to supply-driven shocks.

"If the broad input prices were to be much more inflationary... there could be some reversal on the policy direction," he said.

the agency is also looking at creating facilities to support other sectors.

Bastillo said most of their borrowers are

micro businesses.

In terms of gender, he said the majority or 60 percent of their borrowers are women.

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

**PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK, In its capacity
as Assignee-Mortgagee of PNB Savings Bank,
Mortgagee,**

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-635-25

-versus-

**SPS. PRECY E. NG AND TYRONE JOHN Y. NG
Debtors/Mortgagors,**

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK in its capacity as Assignee-Mortgagee of PNB Savings Bank** with business address at PNB Financial Center, Pres. Diosdado P. Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City against the Debtor/Mortgagor, **SPS. PRECY E. NG and TYRONE JOHN Y. NG**, with residence and postal addresses at (1) Blk. 11, Lot 7, Titanite Street, Crystal Subd., Gen. Trias, Cavite, (2) Lot 10, Blk. 56, Road Lot 2, (Morella Street) Bel Aldea Subd. Brgy. San Francisco, Gen. Trias, Cavite and (3) Lot 10, Blk. 58, Road Lot 2 (Morella Street), Bel Aldea Subd., Brgy. San Francisco, Gen. Trias, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of August 31, 2025 amounts to **TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX PESOS and 45/100 (P2,971,576.45)**, Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **MARCH 25, 2026** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 12:00 o'clock 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. 057-2021012892

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 10, BLK. 56 OF THE CONS-SUBD. PLAN, PCS-04-011869, BEING A PORTION OF THE CONS. OF LOTS 2680-G-3 TO 8, ALL OF (LRC) PSD-222174; LOT 2680-J-2 (LRC) PSD-101732; LOTS 2680- H, I & K, ALL OF PSD-33619, L.R.C. REC. NO.), SITUATED IN THE BRGY. OF DE FUEGO, MUN. OF GEN. TRIAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON SW., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY ROAD LOT 2 (10.00 M. WIDE); ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY LOT 11, BLK. 56; ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 16; ALONG LINE 4-5 BY LOT 15; ALONG LINE 5-6 BY LOT 14, ALL OF BLK. 57; ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 6-1 BY LOT 9, BLK. 56, ALL OF THE CONS.-SUBD. PLAN. BEGINNING AT A POINT MARKED "1" ON PLAN X X X CONTAINING AN AREA OF ONE HUNDRED THREE SQ. METERS AND NINETY FIVE SQ. DECIMETERS (103.95) X X X

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2021012889

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 10, BLK. 58 OF THE CONS.-SUBD. PLAN, PCS-04-011869, BEING A PORTION OF THE CONS. OF LOTS 2680-G-3 TO 8, ALL OF (LRC) PSD-222174; LOT 2680-J-2 (LRC) PSD-101732; LOTS 2680- H, I & K, ALL OF PSD-33619, L.R.C. REC. NO.), SITUATED IN THE BRGY. OF DE FUEGO, MUN. OF GEN. TRIAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON NW., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 9, BLK 58; ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY LOT 15; ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 16; ALONG LINE 4-5 BY LOT 17, ALL OF BLK. 59; ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 5-6 BY LOT 11, BLK. 58; ON THE SW., ALONG LINE 6-1 BY ROAD LOT 2, (10.00 M. WIDE), ALL OF THE CONS.-SUBD. PLAN. BEGINNING AT A POINT MARKED "1" ON PLAN X X X CONTAINING AN AREA OF ONE HUNDRED FOUR SQ. METERS AND EIGHTY EIGHT SQ. DECIMETERS (104.88) X X X

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 08, 2026** 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, **FEBRUARY 27, 2026.**

(Sgd.) **JOANNAH AVIGAIL C. TIMKANG**
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

MARY ANN A. BRIÑAS
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK
Remedial Management Division IV, Remedial Accounts Management Group
9th Floor, PNB Financial Center, President Diosdado Macapagal Blvd. Pasay City

POMPEYO P. MAYNIGO
Counsel for the Mortgagee
Attorney-In-Fact, Vision Credit & Collection Services Incorporated

JRDC Building 117 Sen Gil. J. Puyat Ave. Pasay City

SPS. PRECY E. NG and TYRONE JOHN Y. NG
(1) Blk. 11, Lot 7, Titanite St, Crystal Subd., Gen. Trias, Cavite,
(2) Lot 10, Blk. 56, Road Lot 2, (Morelia Street) Bel Aldea Subd., Brgy. San Francisco, Gen. Trias, Cavite
(3) Lot 10, Blk. 58, Road Lot 2 (Morelia Street), Bel Aldea Subd., Brgy. San Francisco, Gen. Trias, Cavite

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

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 2, 9 & 16, 2026

**CAB: Up to P6,200 hike
in airfares set next month**

The government has given airlines the green light to increase airfares by up to P6,200 for flights to be booked in the first 15 days of April.

In an advisory, the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) raised the fuel surcharge to Level 8 for April 1 to 15, from Level 4 in March, to reflect the skyrocketing cost of petroleum products.

This marks the first time CAB would be adjusting the fuel surcharge since August 2025, as jet fuel prices were trading at predictable levels prior to US-Israel attacks on Iran.

At Level 8, airlines can slap a fuel surcharge of P253 to P787 for domestic flights and P835.05 to P6,208.98 for international trips, depending on the distance. The new fuel surcharges will only apply for flights to be booked between April 1 and 15.

Passengers on long-range flights will bear the highest cost. Based on CAB's matrix, airlines can impose a fuel surcharge of P5,913.31 on flights to North America, including Canada and the US.

Within the region, travelers will pay P835.05 for flights to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Vietnam;

P1,133.78 for trips to China and P1,154.89 for connections to Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Guam.

East Asia's go-to destinations Japan and South Korea will be costlier to visit by P1,299.02, while P2,873.32 will be added on tickets to the Middle East.

Locally, the highest fuel surcharges will be collected on Manila flights to Mindanao, amounting to P708 for Cotabato, Davao and Zamboanga and P787 for General Santos City.

CAB set the exchange rate at P58.11 to \$1 for airlines transacting in foreign currencies. The agency reminded carriers they have to submit an application if they wish to collect the Level 8 fuel surcharge for the period covered.

CAB is also suspending the 30-day review of fuel surcharge, cutting it short to just 15 days. The regulator said this would allow it to adjust the fuel surcharge quicker, so airfares can be brought down immediately as soon as oil prices stabilize. Based on the monitor of the International Air Transport Association, jet

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

**BDO UNIBANK, INC.,
Mortgagee,**

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-033-26

-versus-

JOE BRYAN O. BALAIDO
Debtor/Mortgagor,

JONRICH MICHAEL O. BALAIDO,
Co-Debtor.

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 BDO Corporate Center, 33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas, No. 12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City against **JONRICH MICHAEL O. BALAIDO** in his capacity as **Co-Debtor** and as Attorney-in-Fact of **JOE BRYAN O. BALAIDO**, the Debtor/Mortgagor, with residence and postal addresses at (1) No. 5165C 17-A, Col. De Leon Street, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Parañaque City (occupied by third party) and (2) Lot 15, Block 12, Westwood, Brgy. Pasong Camachile, Gen. Trias, Cavite (currently occupied), to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of **January 5, 2026** amounts to **ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED SIXTY ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE PESOS and 53/100 (PhP1,361,871.53)**, Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **MARCH 25, 2026** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 12:00 o'clock 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. 057-2020039712

Lot No. 15 Block: 12 Plan No. Pcs-04-032025
Portion of: Blk. 28, Pcs-04-029303; Blk. 14, Pcs-04-031691; Lot 1939-A & Lot 1939-D (LRA) Psd-29632. LRC Record No. 5964, Decree No. 4270
Location: Barangay of Pasong Camachile, City of General Trias, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon
Boundaries:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT(S)
1-2	NW	Lot 13, Block 12, Pcs-04-032025
2-3	NE	Road Lot 12, Pcs-04-032025
3-4	SE	Lot 17, Block 12, Pcs-04-032025
4-1	SW	Lot 16, Block 12, Pcs-04-032025

Area: FIFTY (50) 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 8, 2026** 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, **FEBRUARY 27, 2026.**

(Sgd.) **REYNALDO L. SALOMA**
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

BDO UNIBANK, INC.
CONSUMER REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT
33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas
No. 12, ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City

JOE BRYAN O. BALAIDO AND JONRICH MICHAEL O. BALAIDO
(1) No. 5165C 17-A, Col. De Leon Street, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Parañaque City
(2) Lot 15, Block 12, Westwood, Brgy. Pasong Camachile, Gen. Trias, Cavite

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fuel prices have jumped Airlines are authorized to collect a barrel as of March 13, fuel surcharge to partly from \$99.4 on Feb. 27, recoup losses from a day before the US and price fluctuations in the Israel attacked Iran. petroleum market.

**AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION
(with Absolute Sale)**

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **WENCESLAO R. REYNOSO** who died intestate on April 8, 2021 at Ospital ng Imus, Imus City, Cavite, consisting of a personal property particularly:

**TRICYCLE WITH SIDECAR,
CR No. 268669726
Make: Honda
Engine No. KYY10E026147
Year Model 2017**

has been self-adjudicated by his sole and surviving legal heir **JERICO WENDEL L. REYNOSO**; that for and in consideration of the sum of TEN THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (PHP 10,000.00) Philippine Currency, he does hereby SELL, CEDE, TRANSFER and CONVEY absolutely and forever unto **JORDAN RYAN C. JAVELLONAR**, his heirs, successors and assigns said motor vehicle on October 21, 2023 at City of Imus, Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Ramil S. Sasi and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 226; Page No. 46; Book No. XXV; Series of 2023.

(Sgd.) Heir-Vendor and Vendee

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 2, 9 & 16, 2026

**EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF
THE LATE ROMAN MALABANAN y ABRENICA
WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS**

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **ROMAN ABRENICA MALABANAN** who died intestate on April 19, 2018 and at the time of his death was a resident of San Isidro Sur, Santo Tomas, Batangas, consisting of real property of considerable value comprising of his conjugal share over a parcel of land situated in Bo. of Bukal, Mun. of Dasmariñas, Prov. of Cavite consisting of ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TEN (1,110) SQ. M., more or less, covered by TCT. No. T-481350 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his surviving heirs in pro-indiviso equal shares with waiver of rights, interest and participation in the above-described parcel of land in favor of **NORMA DIZON MALABANAN** on June 6, 2025 in Imus, Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Marvyn L. Maristela and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 44; Page No. 10; Book No. CLXXVII; Series of 2025.

(Sgd.) All Heirs (**JON RAYMOND D. NITCHA – AIF of MARITES MALABANAN MANALO and PEPITO Y. MANALO JR. with Marital Consent**)

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 2, 9 & 16, 2026

DTI warns hoarders, profiteers of jail term and up to P2-M fine

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on March 14 warned retailers against hoarding essential goods and profiteering, saying violators could face up to 15 years in prison and fines of up to P2 million.

The warning comes as global uncertainty tied to the ongoing Middle East crisis raises concerns about possible supply disruptions and price pressures, especially on basic goods and prime commodities.

In a statement, DTI said illegal price manipulation, including hoarding and profiteering, would face strict enforcement under the Price Act, or Republic Act No. 7581, and other related laws. “These illegal practices will not be tolerated,” the agency said. Trade Secretary Cristina Roque earlier said the country has enough supply of basic goods for up to two months, citing information from manufacturers.

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **SPS. RODOLFO CANTUBA-MARGALLO and EVELYN PINEDA MARGALLO** who both died intestate on 1 August 2017 in Polillo Island, Quezon Province and on 24 January 2016 in the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, respectively, consisting of a property (house and lot) situated at Blk. 165, Lot 28, Phase IV, Paliparan Site 3, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, containing an area of Seventy-Two (72 sq.m.) square meters has been adjudicated and extra-judicially settled by and among their true lawful heirs in pro indiviso equal shares on February 24, 2026 in the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Kareen T. Hermosa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 189; Page No. 38; Book No. 171; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) Heirs/Affiants

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 2, 9 & 16, 2026

**EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE
OF THE LATE NORBERTO ABAL OCAÑA**

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the deceased **NORBERTO ABAL OCAÑA** who died intestate on September 21, 2004 at the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, consisting of a parcel of land including the improvement existing thereon, by virtue of Bilihang Lubusan Ng Karapatan sa Lupang Kinatitirikan Nito executed by Regina A. Ravas and Sps. Norberto A. Ocaña and Alejandra T. Ocaña before Notary Public Atty. Antonio B. Sahagun and enter into his Notarial Register per Doc. 179; Page No. 37; Book No. XLI; series of 1995 situated Blk. 204 Lot 18 Phase 5, Paliparan Site, Brgy. Paliparan 3, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his heirs on February 26, 2026 at the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Reina M. Villa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 374; Page No. 75; Book No. 493; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) All Heirs

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BPI, ALI lifted Ayala to record profit in 2025

Ayala Corp., the country’s oldest conglomerate, reported a record core net income of P48.3 billion in 2025, rising 7 percent year on year as stronger contributions from its banking and property units offset weaker earnings from its telecommunications and energy businesses. In a statement on March 13, Ayala said the growth was mainly driven by higher earnings from Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) and Ayala Land Inc. (ALI). These came along with improving performance from several emerging businesses within the group.

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**EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE
OF RICHMOND JOVE MEDINA**

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **RICHMOND JOVE MEDINA**, single, who died intestate on February 19, 2026 at Blk. E, Lot 7, Progressive Village #6, Bayanan, Bacoor City, Cavite, consisting of all Bank account maintained with NOMO BRANCH, located at Vista Lifestyle Center, Bacoor Boulevard, Barangay San Nicolas 1, Bacoor City, Cavite, in the amount of TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT PESOS AND THIRTY FOUR CENTAVOS (Php27,538.34) under Savings Account No. 01975 00005 8 has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his heirs on February 27, 2026 at Bacoor City, Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Oliver P. Agustin and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 143; Page No. 30; Book No. 2; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) Heir/Father, Heir/Brother and Heirs/Sisters

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 2, 9 & 16, 2026

**EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT
OF ESTATE WITH SALE**

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **RAMIRO L. PODACA** who died intestate on 21 March 2025 in City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, consisting of a property (house and lot) situated at Blk. 5, Lot 32, Area H-2, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, containing an area of Sixty-Five (65 sq.m.) square meters by virtue of Deed of Absolute Sale dated 14 October 1997 notarized before notary public Elpidio F. Barzaga, Jr. entered and registered in his notarial register as Doc. No. 66; Page No. 14; Book No. 68; Series of 1997 has been adjudicated and extra-judicially settled by and between his heirs with in pro indiviso equal shares; that further, for and in consideration of the sum of FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND (PHP500,000.00), Philippine Currency, they do hereby SELL, CEDE, CONVEY, and TRANSFER by way of SALE in a manner absolute and irrevocable the said house and lot unto **NORCIYA N. SULTAN**, her heirs, assigns, and successors-in-interests on March 5, 2026 at the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Kareen T. Hermosa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 278; Page No. 56; Book No. 171; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) Sellers/Heirs and Buyer

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : March 9, 16 & 23, 2026

**EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE
WITH ABSOLUTE SALE**

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the deceased **LUISITO C. LOPEZ** who died intestate in Gen. E. Aguinaldo, Cavite, consisting of one parcel of land which he is the absolute and registered owner, located at Brgy. Castanos Lejos Gen. E. Aguinaldo, Cavite, covered by Tax Dec. No. AA-060007 00297, containing an area of TWELVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE (12,479) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his heirs in equal shares; FURTHER, FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION of the sum of ONE MILLION PESOS (Php1,000,000.00), Philippine Currency, they do hereby SELL, TRANSFER, CONVEY and DELIVER, by way of ABSOLUTE SALE, unto Spouses **CARLOS B. ONG JR. and FLORENCIA G. ONG**, their heirs, assigns and successors in interest the property above-described on February 9, 2026 at City of Dasmariñas, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Cheriele D. Bugarin and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 286; Page No. 58; Book No. V; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) All Heirs and Buyers

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : February 16, 23 and March 2, 2026

reported net income climbed 39 percent to P39.1 billion.

Globe Telecom Inc. Ayala also reported saw its core net income fall 3 percent to P20.9 billion, weighed down by higher depreciation and interest expenses, even as it posted record service revenues.

On the energy side, ACEN’s core net income rose 4 percent to P6.3 billion, driven by higher renewable energy output. However, its reported net income declined to P3.8 billion due to impairment charges related to wind projects in Vietnam and weaker market conditions. Ayala president and CEO Cezar Consing said the group would continue refining its portfolio while strengthening its financial position as it moves into the new year.

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 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 Bik. 30, Lot 29, Zone 1, Bautista Property, Sampaloc IV, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, consisting of a property (house and lot) situated at Bik. 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

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 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

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

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

ERRATUM

As per Notice of Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate with Absolute Sale published in the three (3) consecutive issues of PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA dated February 16-22, 2026; February 23-March 1, 2026 and March 2-8, 2026, the name of the deceased person should have read: **LUISITO C. LOPEZ**.
- The Editor

URC yields majority control in instant noodle joint venture

Gokongwei led once the conditions food and beverage precedent are satisfied. firm Universal Robina Corp. (URC) is giving subject to prior approval up majority ownership from the Philippine Competition Commission in its instant noodles and to standard closing manufacturing joint venture with Nissin Foods Asia Co. Ltd. URC said its partnership with Nissin Foods Asia is being refined to further speed up NURC's growth. URC said it has entered into a transaction with Nissin Foods Asia in which the latter will acquire an additional 21 percent equity stake in their joint venture, Nissin Universal Robina Corp. (NURC). The acquisition will raise Nissin Foods Asia's stake in NURC to 70 percent, while URC will reduce its ownership to 30 percent.

URC said the amount of consideration for the transaction will be finalized by December 2026 and will be paid to serve as the local operating partner in the Philippines, remaining deeply involved in day-to-day operations and

contributing its market knowledge, strong route-to-market capabilities and execution excellence to sustain and enhance NURC's competitive position," it said.

NURC was established in 1994 as a joint venture wherein URC holds a 51 percent majority ownership stake and Nissin Foods Asia owning the remaining 49 percent. The company manufactures and sells instant noodles in the Philippines and remains a major player in the local market. Once the transaction is completed, Nissin Foods Asia will consolidate NURC in its financial statements.

URC, for its part, will recognize its economic interest in NURC using the equity method in line with applicable

local financial reporting standards. The company said the change in financial presentation will not affect business operations and is expected to continue without disruption during and after the transition. URC is one of the Philippines' largest food and beverage companies, producing well known brands such as Great Taste, C2 Cool & Clean, Piattos, Maxx candy and Cream-O cookies.

Meanwhile, URC reported a four percent drop in its core net income attributable to the parent company to P11 billion in 2025 despite higher sales during the year.

Net income from continuing operations declined by nine percent year on year to P11.6

billion, reflecting lower population and lower foreign exchange gains sugar average selling prices toward the latter part of the year.

Sales increased by four percent to P168 billion of resilient execution. We stayed focused on our core and kept building the capabilities to grow faster than the market — delivering sustained, volume led growth across priority categories and sharper in store and route to market execution," URC president and CEO Irwin Lee said. "Temporary commodity headwinds, particularly prolonged abnormally high coffee input costs, compressed margins and muted reported growth, but the franchise remains robust.

Aboitiz utility to build Davao-Samal submarine power link

Aboitiz owned completed by the provisional authority and several areas in Davao Light and middle of this year. for Davao Light's Davao del Norte and Power Corp. is "Davao Light is certificate of public Davao de Oro. building a submarine ready, poised and convenience and A regional trial cable to connect equipped to serve the necessity, clearing the court in Panabo has Davao City's people, communities way for the submarine also issued a writ of electricity network to and businesses of the cable installation. possession authorizing Samal Island, which Island Garden City of A subsidiary of the company to take has long experienced Samal," Davao Light leading electricity over all electric power supply president and COO producer Aboitiz distribution assets in problems. Enriczar Tia said. Power Corp., Samal.

The project's initial "Our immediate Davao Light is the "With the expected step involves laying priorities will be country's third stability in the power the submarine cable customer service largest distribution network, we look to across one of the support, network utility, serving Davao, attract investors and narrowest parts of expansion and Panabo, Carmen, generate more jobs the Pakiputan Strait substation upgrades Dujali and Santo for our people here in between the two areas. that will help build Tomas. Samal," Samal Mayor

The 69 kilovolt a robust electric In April 2025, Lemuel Reyes said. project, which distribution system," Republic Act 12144 Samal's population includes 1,015 meters Tia added. effectively expanded is over 119,000 as of submarine cable Earlier, the Davao Light's of 2024, Philippine produced in China, Energy Regulatory franchise to include Statistics Authority is expected to be Commission granted Tagum City, Samal data showed.

Ayala posts record earnings in 2025

Earnings of Ayala excludes one off items, Alabang Commercial are entering 2026 with Corp., the country's rose by seven percent Center. greater clarity and oldest conglomerate, year on year to an all Ayala CEO focus," Consing said. reached a record time high of P48.3 Cezar Consing said "Across the group, high last year due to billion in 2025. the group's strong we will continue stronger contributions performance in sharpening our from its banking and items, Ayala's net 2025 reflects the portfolio, demanding property businesses income surged by resilience of its core stronger returns and along with the 46 percent to P61.4 segments and the reinforcing balance collective turnaround billion, mainly driven steady progress of its sheet resilience to of non core business by Mynt related emerging businesses. ensure we deliver units. revaluation gains and "Even as the sustainable value for

Ayala's core Ayala Land Inc.'s operating environment our shareholders," he net income, which sale of its stake in the remains uncertain, we said.

AUCTION SALE

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC.-Head Office

Stall No.5, Pasillo G, Imus Public Market Tanzang Luma, Imus City, Cavite (4103) on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC.-Trece Martirez City Branch

213 San Agustin St., Trece Martirez City (4109) on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC.-Gen. Trias Branch

Block 43-A, Lot 4C, Brookside Lane, San Francisco Gen. Trias, Cavite (4107) on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC.-Salawag Branch

Salawag, Dasmariñas City, Cavite (4114) on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC.-Bayan Luma Branch

L 2, B 2 Dona Dionisia Subd., Bayan Luma II, Imus City, Cavite (4103) on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC.-Imus Public Market Branch

Stall #14 & #16 Bakery Section, Imus Public Market Imus City, Cavite (4103) on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC.-Palico IV Branch

Palico IV, Imus City, Cavite (4103) on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC. - Silang Branch

#007 Madlangacay Street, Silang Cavite on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC.-Golden City Branch

In Front of Golden City 3, 4, & 5 gate, Imus City, Cavite (4103) on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC.- Area G Branch

B61 L 3, Area G-2, Brgy. San Juan, Dasmariñas City, Cavite (4114) on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC. - Alapan Branch

Unit D, Lot 1-E, Alapan 1-A, Imus City, Cavite on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC. - Marycris Branch

Ph. 1 B57 Lot 7, Marycris Complex, Gen. Trias Cavite (4107) on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC. - Buhay na Tubig Branch

106 Buhay na Tubig, Imus City, Cavite (4103) March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC. - Bacoar Branch

Unit D, Navarrete Compound Aguinaldo Hi-way 17 Panapaan, Bacoar City, Cavite on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC. - Bayanan Branch

678 Terminal Express Stall #4 Bldg. D, Molino, Blvd. cor. Brgy. Mambog IV Rd. Bayanan, Bacoar City, Cavite on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC. - Manggahan Branch

343 Crisanto St. Manggahan, Gen. Trias, Cavite on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC. - Puregold Branch

Puregold Aguinaldo Hiway, Anabu Coastal, Imus City, Cavite on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC. - Bucandala Branch

Brgy. Bucandala, Imus City, Cavite on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC. - Citihomes Branch

B15 L38 Citihomes Resortville, Langkaan 2, Dasmariñas City, Cavite on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

LAJ JARO PAWNSHOP INC. - Malagasang Branch

104 Malagasang 1-C, Imus City, Cavite (4103) on March 25-27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for unredeemed pawned of October 2025.

Julio R. Peña - Auctioneer

NGCP plans P24 billion submarine grid link for Mindoro

The National Grid kiloVolt (kV) Batangas- 2028, the project also clearance for the project CTS in Oriental Mindoro. Environment and Natural Corp. of the Philippines Mindoro Interconnection aims to reduce the after securing approval It involves the installation Resources. (NGCP) is spending and Backbone Project island's reliance on diesel from the Energy of approximately 28.5 With this project, P23.9 billion to install (BMIBP) submarine cable plants and encourage the Regulatory Commission kilometers of submarine the country's sole submarine cables that seeks to provide Mindoro development of renewable (ERC). The project will power cables, which will transmission operator will enable power transfer with access to the power energy projects on and begin at the cable terminal be initially energized intends to address supply from Batangas to Mindoro supply available in the offshore Mindoro. station in Lobo, Batangas, at 230 kV, the NGCP limitations associated with Mindoro's current Island. main Luzon grid. Targeted The NGCP is now cross the Verde Island Passage and connect to the Department of status as an isolated grid.

The proposed 500 for completion by January pursuing environmental Passage and connect to the Department of status as an isolated grid.

BDO commits P75 billion to Razon's Prime Infrastructure

Sy led BDO Unibank Inc. has committed P75 billion to support the development of two large pumped storage hydroelectric power projects of Prime Infrastructure Capital Inc., a move expected to strengthen energy storage capacity and support the country's renewable energy transition.

The Philippines' largest bank said the financing would help fund the 600 megawatt Wawa pumped storage facility in Rizal and the 1,400 MW Pakil pumped storage facility in Laguna, which together will provide 2,000 MW of flexible long duration energy storage.

The Pakil project is expected to become one of the largest pumped storage power plants in Asia.

BDO said the investments support the country's goal of increasing renewable energy's share in the power generation mix to 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

The listed bank is financing P20 billion of Olympia Violago Water & Power Inc.'s P64 billion loan facility and P55 billion of

Ahunan Power Inc.'s P151 billion loan facility, both with 15 year terms. BDO Trust and Investments Group serves as the facility agent and collateral trustee, while BDO Capital & Investment Corp. acts as the mandated lead arranger for the financing.

"Our support for the Pakil and Wawa pumped storage facilities reflects BDO's commitment to strengthening the Philippine power system and creating long term sustainable value," BDO president and CEO Nestor Tan said.

"Large scale energy storage is essential to building a stable and future ready energy ecosystem that enables the country's clean energy transition," Tan added.

The two facilities are expected to begin operations by 2030 and supply reliable electricity to an estimated 3.2 million households.

Prime Infra president and CEO Guillaume Lucci said long term financing partnerships are important for complex infrastructure projects such as pumped storage facilities.

Water companies to increase rates for April to June

Aside from the period. increases in fuel and electricity prices, consumers in the capital region and nearby provinces will also face higher water rates in the second quarter due to foreign exchange movements.

According to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), its board of trustees approved the implementation of the foreign currency differential adjustment (FCDA) for the April to June period.

The FCDA is a tariff mechanism reviewed every quarter that allows Manila Water and Maynilad Water Services Inc. to recover losses or return gains in the value of the peso against foreign currencies.

The water providers must settle dominated loans used to fund expansion and improvements involving their water and sewerage services.

Based on the decision, Manila Water will impose a 4 centavo increase per cubic meter.

Households consuming 10 cubic meter to 30 cubic meter will pay around 14 centavos to 58 centavos more during

The firm serves the east zone network of Metro Manila, covering parts of Marikina, Pasig, Makati, Taguig, Pateros, Mandaluyong, San Juan, portions of Quezon City and Manila and several towns in Rizal province.

Maynilad rates, meanwhile, will rise by 9 centavos per cubic meter. This means customers consuming 10 cubic meter or less will see their monthly bill increase by 27 centavos. Those consuming 20 cubic meter and 30 cubic meter will see their bills increase by P1 and P2.07, respectively. Maynilad is the water and wastewater services provider for the west zone, covering 17 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila and Cavite. In another development, regulators said the Pangilinan led Maynilad will have to pay a P42.56 million penalty for failing to provide round the clock water supply to nearly 100,000 customers within the Putatan Water Treatment Plant and Poblacion Water Treatment Plant Supply Zones last February.

PCCI, ARTA team up for business permit reforms

The Anti Red Tape Authority (ARTA) has partnered with the private sector to speed up reforms in streamlining business permits as part of efforts to encourage investments in the country.

In a statement, the Philippine Ease of Doing Business Foundation (Ease.PH) said that under the initiative with ARTA and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the parties will push reforms in the business permitting process.

The initiative will have two tracks, with the first focusing

on reforms that can be implemented immediately and the second covering comparative industry benchmarks from leading economies.

The first track will focus on immediate interventions and involve the PCCI's 126 local chambers, which will serve as decentralized one stop shops for receiving and processing complaints under the Ease of Doing Business Act.

The law sets specific processing times for government transactions.

"We will activate a nationwide early warning system that

puts SMEs (small and medium enterprises) in particular – at the center of reform, not the margins," PCCI president Ferdinand Ferrer said.

The second track will cover industry specific benchmarking against global standards.

Under this track, Ease.PH will encourage industry associations to examine how leading economies streamline permits in manufacturing, services and other key sectors and how these practices can be translated into sector specific reforms.

The initiative will also include

accountability measures such as a minimum 50 percent reduction in processing times for identified permits by the fourth quarter this year and monthly progress reports on solutions.

To encourage compliance, there will also be a recognition program for top performing local government units.

By reducing bureaucratic barriers and simplifying compliance, the partnership aims to position the Philippines as a preferred investment destination for both foreign and domestic enterprises.

Philippines, Thailand collab on farm sector innovation

Manila and Bangkok have entered into a five year strategic partnership to develop the next generation of agricultural leaders and push agricultural modernization.

Formalized through a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Thailand's Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), the partnership aims to speed up agricultural innovation, develop human capital and strengthen food security in the Philippines.

"This partnership reflects our shared resolve to tackle today's toughest agricultural challenges—climate variability, resource constraints, pest and disease pressures—while ensuring food security and promoting sustainability," Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said.

The non binding agreement is expected to create a steady

pipeline of trained professionals and promote knowledge exchange between the two countries.

It will also encourage the development of technologies and practices to improve productivity and resilience in the agricultural sector.

Furthermore, the partnership will help address major global and regional challenges from climate smart farming to sustainable resource management.

The DA said the collaboration will establish a cooperation framework across several areas. These include joint PhD and Master's programs, professional development opportunities, consultancy services, collaborative research and publications.

"It also establishes avenues for exploring additional initiatives of mutual interest, aiming to turn research into practical solutions that benefit farmers, students, and the wider agricultural sector," it added.

The partnership, according to Tiu Laurel, will strengthen scientific and academic communities, empower the next generation of agricultural leaders and generate practical knowledge to support sustainable agricultural development.

"Progress in agriculture is progress for our people. Through this collaboration, we affirm our belief in the power of collective expertise and partnerships to drive meaningful and lasting impact," the agriculture chief added.

The DA said the partnership aims to develop innovative and scalable solutions that will benefit the agriculture sector in the Philippines and across Southeast Asia.

Both countries will closely monitor the initiatives under the MOU to ensure measurable results for farmers, researchers and rural communities.

World Bank lends \$800 million to Philippines for fiscal might

The World Bank has approved an \$800 million loan to help strengthen the Philippines' fiscal management, attract higher quality private investment and equip the workforce with key skills to secure better and more productive jobs.

In a statement on March 14, the multilateral lender said its board of executive directors approved the Philippines Growth and Jobs Development Policy Loan.

"The World Bank is proud to continue supporting the Philippines' priorities — turning strong growth into more and better-paying jobs," World Bank country director for the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam Zafer Mustafaoglu said.

"By strengthening fiscal foundations, improving the business climate and investing in human capital, this effort will unlock private investment and equip people with the skills they need to find jobs and thrive," he added.

The policy based financing will support three main pillars, including

measures to improve fiscal management, boost resource mobilization and increase spending efficiency to ensure funds are directed to priority investments in infrastructure and human capital.

It also aims to streamline regulations, reduce compliance costs and attract private and foreign investments.

A third pillar focuses on reforms to improve learning outcomes and workforce skills from early childhood education to expanded technical and vocational training.

"These reforms aim to crowd in private investment, create more and better jobs and drive the Philippine economy toward more sophisticated, higher-value activities," World Bank Senior Economist Jaffar Al-Rikabi said.

The World Bank said the support came as the Philippines' gross national income (GNI) per capita has reached the threshold for upper middle income status after remaining at lower middle income status since 1987.

This was supported by inclusive growth

since 2010, which has enabled the economy to double in size every 13.5 years, the lender said.

"Yet, the country today faces domestic and external shocks that underscore the value of ongoing fiscal and structural reforms to achieve higher, more job-rich growth and to reduce vulnerability to shocks," it said.

Under World Bank classifications, the Philippines recorded a GNI per capita of \$4,470, only \$26 short of the \$4,496 to \$13,935 requirement to be considered an upper middle income country.

The latest World Bank classification will be released in July 2026.

In a separate statement, Finance Secretary Frederick Go said the financing is a "strong vote of confidence" in the country's growth path.

"Part of what makes this financing so important is our firm commitment to fiscal discipline, ensuring that every peso is spent wisely to create jobs, support businesses and strengthen public services for the benefit of all Filipinos," Go said.