

Rainwater harvesting infrastructure needed as El Niño nears, including Cavite

The government is that both LGUs being urged to utilize and community the P1-billion People’s organizations may Survival Fund (PSF) access funding for to support rainwater qualified projects harvesting projects that that aim to reduce could help communities vulnerability to climate-prepare for the possible related risks. effects of El Niño later According to this year. Libanan, rainwater

House Minority harvesting remains one Leader Marcelino of the most practical Libanan noted that and cost-effective ways Congress allocated P1 to strengthen water billion for the PSF under security, particularly the 2026 national budget as the country faces the to finance climate possibility of prolonged adaptation measures, dry conditions. including the installation The call comes of rainwater collection after PAGASA warned and storage systems for that Metro Manila local government units and 47 provinces and communities. may experience dry He emphasized conditions in the coming



months as El Niño experience dry Marinduque, Masbate, provinces in the Visayas develops. conditions by November Mountain Province, and Mindanao. The PAGASA defines are Abra, Albay, Nueva Ecija, Nueva PSF is administered dry conditions as two Apayao, Aurora, Bataan, Vizcaya, Occidental by a board composed consecutive months of Batangas, Benguet, Mindoro, Oriental of representatives below-normal rainfall, Bulacan, Camarines Mindoro, Palawan, from key government equivalent to a 21 to 60 Norte, Catanduanes, Pampanga, Pangasinan, agencies, the scientific percent decrease from Cavite, Ifugao, Ilocos Quezon, Quirino, Rizal, community, the average precipitation. Norte, Ilocos Sur, Romblon, Sorsogon, business sector, and Among the Isabela, Kalinga, Tarlac, and Zambales, non-government provinces that may La Union, Laguna, along with several organizations.

School stabbing incidents in Cavite raise safety concerns

Parents and allegedly stabbed after another stabbing members of the seven Grade 5 pupils incident took place education sector are inside their classroom at Cavite National becoming increasingly at a private school in High School-Senior concerned about the General Trias, Cavite. High School in Cavite safety of students Reports indicated that City. Two 18-year- following two separate severe depression may old senior high school stabbing incidents have been a factor students figured in a inside schools in Cavite behind the incident. dispute that escalated just days after classes Only three days from an argument to a began. later, on June 19, fistfight and eventually On June 16, a 2026, fear once again led to a stabbing. One Grade 8 female student spread among students

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Nehemiah Ezekiel B. Barco

also pointed out that aside from physical security measures, schools should focus on identifying students who may need guidance, counseling, and other psychosocial support at an early stage.

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE VICTORIA GANAL CAPARAS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **VICTORIA GANAL CAPARAS** who died intestate on October 28, 2017 and at the time of her death was a resident of Blk 3 Lot 34 Lowland St. Queens Row East Bacoor, **Cavite**, consisting of real properties to wit:

A. A parcel of land consisting of FIFTY-SEVEN (57) SQUARE METERS situated at Blk 73 Lot 18 San Francisco De Malabon Estate, Brgy. Pasong Kawayan, General Trias, Cavite, Philippines covered by TCT No. 057-2013016335 of the Registry of Deeds of Province of Cavite registered under the name of SUMMERHILLS HOME DEVELOPMENT CORP.;

B. A parcel of land consisting of THIRTY SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FORTY THREE (37,943) SQUARE METERS situated at Lot 2 Brgy. Macabugos, Libon, Albay, Philippines covered by TCT No. T-97107 of the Registry of Deeds for Albay

has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among her heirs in equal shares pro-indiviso on May 26, 2025 in Imus, Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Marvyn L. Maristela and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 155; Page No. 32; Book No. CLXXVI; Series of 2025.

Thumbmarked and signed by
Heirs with Marital Consent

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : June 8, 15 & 22, 2026

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE SPS. MARISSA BONDOC CUNAG and RODOLFO NAZARIO CUNAG

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **SPS. MARISSA BONDOC CUNAG and RODOLFO NAZARIO CUNAG** who both died intestate on September 15, 2019 and on November 18, 2022, respectively, and at the time of their death were residents of Blk 9 Lot 36 M Gandhi St., Granville Homes, Malagasang II-B, Imus City, Cavite, Philippines, consisting of a parcel of land with improvement situated at Blk 9 Lot 36 M Gandhi St., Granville Homes, Malagasang II-B, Imus City, **Cavite** and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 057- 2017027807 containing a total area of SIXTY (60) SQM., more or less, has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and between their surviving heirs in equal shares on June 4, 2026 in Imus City, Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Marvyn L. Maristela and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 56; Page No. 13; Book No. CXCIX; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) **Surviving Children**

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : June 8, 15 & 22, 2026

DOE extends timelines, expands capacity for special waste-to-energy auction round

The Department of Energy (DOE) has expanded the capacity target for its upcoming special Green Energy Auction (GEA) round, aiming to attract more developers by increasing installation limits and extending deadlines for waste-to-energy projects.

In a statement released on June 19, the DOE said the installation target for thermal combustion projects was increased to 400 megawatts from the previous 230-megawatt limit.

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **MICHAEL DEL ROSARIO BACANI** who died intestate on 23 April 2025 in Dasmariñas, Cavite, consisting of a National Housing Authority (NHA) lot including improvements erected therein located at Blk. 62, Lot 8, Brgy. Sto. Cristo, City of Dasmariñas, **Cavite** containing an area of One Hundred (100 sq.m) square meters, by virtue of Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate with Sale dated 28 November 2018 and notarized before notary public Atty. Kareen T. Hermosa entered and registered in her notarial register as Doc. No. 422; Page No. 85; Book No. 109; Series of 2018 has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his true lawful heirs in pro indiviso equal shares with waiver of rights, interest and participation in the aforesaid property in favor of MIKYLE JOHN BACANI PETALVER on June 5, 2026 in the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Kareen T. Hermosa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 350; Page No. 70; Book No. 172; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) **Heirs/Transferors and Heir/Transferee**

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : June 8, 15 & 22, 2026

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE BIENVENIDO C. DAYRIT WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **BIENVENIDO C. DAYRIT** who died intestate on June 12, 2002 at Dasmariñas, Cavite, consisting of a parcel of land including the improvement existing thereon by virtue of Deed of Sale of House and Real Rights executed by Hermelando Galicha before Notary Public Atty. Lazaro C. Ison and enter into his Notarial Register per Doc. 322; Page No. 66; Book No. 60; Series of 1984 situated Blk. 128 Lot 8, Brgy. Sta. Lucia, City of Dasmariñas, **Cavite** has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his heirs with waiver of rights, interest and participation over the above-mentioned parcel of land including the improvement existing thereon in favor of FE C. DAYRIT, her heirs and assigns on May 14, 2026 at the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Reina M. Villa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 360; Page No. 72; Book No. 499; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) **All Heirs with marital conformity of Arlene D. Dayrit**

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : June 8, 15 & 22, 2026

2028. Winning bidders are now expected to begin commercial operations and supply electricity to the grid by December 2029.

The registration period for qualified suppliers has also been extended until July 31, 2026, giving interested developers more time to meet the revised requirements. Companies that obtain either a Waste-to-Energy or Biomass Energy Operating Contract by the end of July will remain eligible to participate in the auction.

The DOE said the revised schedule and higher capacity target are intended to encourage broader participation and stronger competition while supporting the development of capital-intensive waste-to-energy facilities that can reduce dependence on landfills. Earlier this year, the Energy Regulatory Commission adjusted the pricing framework for these projects.

The commission set the green energy reserve auction price at P9.29 per kilowatt-hour, higher than the previously proposed P8.0167 per kilowatt-hour, to help maintain the financial viability of projects that require significant initial investments.

Once completed, the selected projects will supply electricity to the national grid through power purchase agreements lasting 25 years.

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **CARLOS RUPISO LEGASPI** who died intestate on 31 March 2019 in Imus, consisting of a parcel of land covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 057-2022028421, containing an area of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) SQUARE METERS, more or less, situated in Barrio San Gabriel, General Trias, **Cavite** has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his compulsory heirs in equal and pro-indiviso shares; that for and in consideration of the sum of THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP300,000.00), Philippine Currency, they do hereby SELL, TRANSFER, and CONVEY absolutely and irrevocably unto JULIUS NAVIDAD TULIAO, his heirs, successors, and assigns, the above-described parcel of land together with all the improvements found thereon, free from all liens and encumbrances on June 8, 2026 in the City of Imus, Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Crisanto U. Pascual, Jr. and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 131; Page No. 27; Book No. XII; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) **All Heirs-Vendors and Vendee**

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : June 15, 22 & 29, 2026

AFFIDAVIT OF ADJUDICATION BY SOLE HEIR (ESTATE OF CARMELITA PURIFICACION CAMERINO)

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **CARMELITA PURIFICACION CAMERINO**, widower, who died intestate in the State of Texas, U.S.A. on May 1, 2023, consisting of BDO Regular Savings Deposit maintained at the BDO **Imus Aguinaldo Highway Branch**, under the names of CARMELITA P. CAMERINO and JUDITH C. CAMERINO, with Account No. 004830345244 in the amount of Two Million Thirty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Five Pesos and 75/100 (Php2,038,565.75), as of April 27, 2026 has been self-adjudicated by her sole heir JUDITH C. CAMERINO on June 11, 2026 in the City of Imus, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. James M. Licayu and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 10; Page No. 2; Book No. LXXXII; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) **Affiant**

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : June 15, 22 & 29, 2026

Stocks slump as BSP rate hike, abrupt US-Iran delay rattle investors

Local equities ended the week lower as investors reduced risk exposure following a more aggressive policy stance from the central bank and renewed geopolitical uncertainty affecting diplomatic efforts involving the United States and Iran.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) slipped 18.31 points or 0.3 percent to close at 6,135.35 on June 19. Market breadth was negative, with 111 declining shares versus 81 gainers, while 48 issues were unchanged.

Trading activity surged sharply, with volume reaching 1.32 billion shares valued at ₱11.18 billion. The increase was partly driven by selling

linked to rebalancing activities in the FTSE Global Equity Index. Sentiment was mainly weighed down by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), which raised its policy rate by 25 basis points to 4.75 percent on June 18. The central bank also raised inflation forecasts to 6.4 percent for 2026 and 4.5 percent for 2027, citing persistent global price pressures.

Market analysts said higher interest rates reduced the attractiveness of equities compared with fixed income instruments, while expectations of continued monetary tightening further dampened investor appetite.

RA Form No. 10.0 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Municipal Civil Registrar
Rosario, Cavite

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

CCE - MP/R.A. 10172
CFN - MP

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 **ALVIN V. EWAYAN** has filed in this office, a petition for **Change of First Name** from **GUELBEN** to **ALVIN** and **Correction of Entry in Gender** from **FEMALE** to **MALE** in the Certificate of Live Birth of **GUELBEN VILLARUBIA EWAYAN** at Escalante, Negros Occidental and whose parents are **PABLO YONSON EWAYAN** and **LYDIA CLARO VILLARUBIA**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than **29 June 2026**.

(Sgd.) **MARIA ROSARIO C. SORIANO**
Municipal Civil Registrar

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : June 15 & 22, 2026

R.A. Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)
(Devised 18 Aug. 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province: Cavite
City of: Cavite

JUNE 4, 2026

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with section 5 of R.A. No. 9048 a notice is hereby served to the public that **MA. CRISANTA A. MURILLO** has filed with this Office a petition for **Change of First name** from **"MARIA CRISANTA"** to **"MA. CRISANTA"** in the Birth Certificate of **MARIA CRISANTA L. ARGONZA** who was born on **APRIL 8, 1977** in **CAVITE CITY, CAVITE** and whose parents are **FRANCISCO ARGONZA** and **EVANGELINE G. LALLANA**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office.

(Sgd.) **FLORDELIZA M. ALEJO**
OIC-City Civil Registrar

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : June 15 & 22, 2026

Philippines jumps four spots in world competitiveness ranking

The Philippines Pacific economies, it was climbed four places no longer at the bottom to 47th out of 70 among Southeast Asian economies in this year’s nations. The country World Competitiveness earned a score of 59.07, Yearbook (WCY) surpassing Indonesia, released by the which recorded a score Switzerland-based of 57.57. International Institute The WCY measures for Management competitiveness Development (IMD), using 264 indicators improving its standing across four pillars: compared with regional economic performance, peers. government efficiency, business efficiency, and ranking is higher than infrastructure. last year’s position Of these indicators, of 51st out of 69 172 are based on economies. While the statistical data while the Philippines remained remaining 92 come from 13th among 15 Asia- surveys involving around

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE
OF LORDWIN BAUTISTA DAÑAS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the deceased **LORDWIN B. DAÑAS** who died intestate on May 8, 2026 in Manila, consisting of a motorcycle he owned in his lifetime, particularly described as follows:

MAKE ----- YAMAHA
MODEL ----- MIO AEROX
ENGINE NO. ----- G3P2E-0029621
CHASSIS NO. ----- MH3SG6440M0005890
COLOR ----- MATTE BLACK/BLACK

has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his heirs on June 4, 2026 at City of Dasmariñas, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Reina M. Villa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 42; Page No. 9; Book No. 501; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) **All Heirs**

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : June 22, 29 and July 6, 2026

6,900 respondents. employment indicators. In the business Only the prices indicator efficiency pillar, the improved, rising from Philippines improved to 39th to 24th. 30th place from 46th in The country’s lowest 2025. ranking remained The country posted infrastructure at 60th gains across all sub- place, unchanged from sectors, including the previous year. productivity and This pillar evaluates efficiency, labor market, how technological, finance, management scientific, and human practices, and attitudes resources support and values. business needs. IMD This pillar measures said the country’s major how effectively a challenges include country encourages restoring growth businesses to operate momentum while responsibly, profitably, managing inflation and innovatively. pressures caused by external factors. The government’s Other priorities efficiency ranking also include strengthening improved by six places institutions to to 45th despite declines address bureaucratic in tax policy and inefficiencies and institutional framework corruption risks, indicators. improving access to Improvements were recorded in public quality basic education, finance, business ensuring timely legislation, and responses to energy and societal framework food supply disruptions, measures. and encouraging investments in renewable energy and climate resilience. In contrast, the country’s economic performance ranking fell to 38th from 33rd In this year’s rankings, last year. Singapore placed first The decline was among 70 economies, linked to weaker followed by Hong results in the domestic Kong in second place. economy, international Switzerland, last year’s trade, international top-ranked economy, investment, and slipped to third.

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE
ESTATE OF DECEASED MARY ANN
HERRERA BUSTAMANTE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the deceased **MARY ANN HERRERA BUSTAMANTE** who died intestate on 14 May 2026 in Imus City, Cavite, consisting of a parcel of land without improvements thereon she owned at the time of her death, situated in the Brgy. of Malagasang, Mun. of Imus, Prov. of **Cavite**, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 057-2017065132 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite, containing an area of THIRTY FIVE (35) SQUARE METERS has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and between her heirs on June 18, 2026 at the City of Imus, Province of Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Epifanio M. Almeda, CPA and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 414; Page No. 84; Book No. 116; Series of 2026.

(Sgd.) **DAISY ANNE BUSTAMANTE** for herself and as guardian of **DARHIEL EVAN HERRERA BUSTAMANTE**

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : June 22, 29 and July 6, 2026

Government expands college scholarships for coconut farmers

The government stipends, book has expanded its allowances, and scholarship program support for thesis requirements for coconut farmers registered coconut increasing available farmers under the slots for the academic national registry year 2026 to 2027. system. More than 10,000 The program also scholarships will includes a return be offered under service requirement, the Scholarship encouraging graduates Program for Coconut to contribute to the Farmers and Their development and Families (CoScho), modernization of the following a joint coconut industry in memorandum between the country. the Commission on Funding comes Higher Education from the Coconut (CHED) and the Farmers and Industry Philippine Coconut Trust Fund under Authority (PCA). Republic Act 11524. The program Officials said the will provide 10,789 initiative is designed slots nationwide, to promote educational including 6,824 new access and long- beneficiaries and term improvement 3,965 continuing in coconut farming scholars. The revised communities. CHED said the guidelines aim to improve selection program supports processes and make efforts to uplift the scholarship system farming families more efficient and and strengthen the transparent while agricultural sector expanding financial by developing future assistance to qualified professionals who applicants. can help advance the Benefits include industry.

SM offices expands in Metro Manila as PEZA-accredited spaces tighten

SM Prime Holdings Inc. is expanding its office portfolio in Quezon City as demand remains strong for office spaces that qualify for tax incentives amid tightening supply in Metro Manila.	the limited large-scale office projects in the area accredited by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), which is highly valued by multinational firms and business process outsourcing companies.	that offer tax benefits, accessibility, and sustainable building features. Corporate tenants are increasingly focusing on operational efficiency and employee convenience rather than just space size, according to SM Offices executives. The upcoming tower is positioned to address these priorities by offering improved connectivity and integrated estate	access. North Tower 3 is located within the SM North EDSA master-planned estate and will be directly linked to the planned North Triangle Unified Grand Central Station. The station will connect major transit lines including LRT-1, MRT-3, MRT-7, and the Metro Manila Subway.	elevated walkway, improving commuter access. Sustainability features are also included in the project, such as energy-efficient systems, natural lighting optimization, water-saving fixtures, and environmentally friendly construction materials aligned with global standards.	additional incentives under the Quezon City Economic Development Incentives Code, which offers tax perks for companies relocating or expanding operations in the city. Tenants will also benefit from direct access to nearby commercial and residential developments, including SM North EDSA mall, Park Inn by Radisson North EDSA, and Grass Residences.
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RHR partners with Duty Free Philippines to support tourism growth

Robinsons Hotels and Resorts (RHR) has entered into a partnership with Duty Free Philippines to expand travel benefits and support tourism growth in the country.	Loyalty members will receive special rates at several RHR brands, including Grand Summit Hotels, Summit Hotels and Resorts, Go Hotels, and Go Hotels Plus, as well as international brands such as Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria and Holiday Inn Manila Galleria.
The agreement gives members of Duty Free Philippines’ loyalty program access to exclusive hotel discounts across RHR properties nationwide. RHR said the partnership aims to provide more value to travelers while increasing awareness of its hotel brands across different destinations.	Duty Free Philippines said the collaboration enhances its loyalty program by expanding travel perks for members, including returning overseas Filipinos and frequent travelers. Both organizations said the partnership is designed to improve travel flexibility and strengthen the local tourism sector through expanded hospitality access.
The company operates 30 properties in 20 cities and municipalities, offering a wide range of accommodations from luxury to budget-friendly options.	

NGCP reviews new transmission rules, eyes next steps

The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) is reviewing newly issued transmission rules following regulatory changes that allow broader participation in building grid-related infrastructure.	to finance and construct certain transmission facilities needed for new power generation projects. Under the new policy, qualified power companies and government agencies may directly develop transmission assets identified as necessary for grid expansion and reliability.	to ensure alignment with its franchise obligations under Republic Act 9511, which grants it authority to operate the national transmission system. Regulators said the policy aims to speed up infrastructure development and reduce delays that have limited the full integration of new power plants into the grid.	The ERC emphasized that the new rules include safeguards for transparency, accountability, and cost recovery, while ensuring consumer protection. Officials also said the framework is intended to improve grid reliability, support renewable energy integration, and reduce bottlenecks in power delivery.
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Approved construction permits down 7 percent in April	Construction activity month last year. Total floor area also dropped by 25 percent to 2.76 million square meters from 3.67 million square meters a year ago.	attributed the slowdown in construction activity to higher interest rates and global uncertainties, which affected both developer borrowing and consumer demand. Residential projects accounted for 63 percent of permits, totaling 8,630, an 11 percent decline from last year. Their total value also fell 10 percent to P19.28 billion.	billion. Non-residential projects made up 2,973 permits or 22 percent of the total, slightly lower than last year. However, their value rose sharply to P22.34 billion, increasing 37 percent year on year. Additions to existing structures declined 4 percent to 501 projects but increased in value by 41 percent to P1.21 billion.
	Despite the decline in volume and size, the total value of construction projects rose 11 percent to P47.42 billion from P42.58 billion in the previous year. Economists		

CBS doubles credit provisions

China Bank Savings Inc. (CBS) is increasing its credit provisions this year as it prepares for a softer market environment while continuing to expand its branch network.

James Christian Dee said the thrift bank remains cautious despite signs of improving global conditions, including recent geopolitical developments.

The bank said it is doubling its credit provisions compared to last year as a precautionary measure against potential loan risks.

Despite this, CBS noted that its revenue performance has improved, with topline earnings rising by about 20 to 30 percent year on year, allowing it to set aside higher provisions.

Net income grew 11 percent to P2.41 billion last year from P2.17 billion in 2024, supported by steady lending activity.

This marked the fifth consecutive year of record profits for the bank.

CBS also aims to increase its loan loss coverage ratio to between 90 and 100 percent over the next three to five years to strengthen asset quality.

Bank officials said loan growth is expected to remain modest as elevated prices and higher interest rates continue to affect borrowing demand.

April marks new peak: Financial system resources climb to P37.3 Trillion

The Philippine financial system reached a new milestone in April, with total resources hitting an all-time high of P37.31 trillion. This surge was fueled by steady growth in bank assets and the rapid scaling of digital lenders.

According to preliminary data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the system's total resources jumped 10.6 percent compared to the P33.74 trillion recorded in April 2025.

Banks continued to serve as the primary growth engine, with their total resources climbing 11.6 percent to P30.96 trillion, up from P27.75 trillion the previous year. The banking sector now commands nearly 83 percent of the entire financial system's resources.

Universal and commercial banks, the country's largest lenders, maintained their dominant position. Their resources grew by 10.9 percent, moving from P25.88 trillion last year to P28.71 trillion.

Thrift banks, on the other hand, saw even sharper gains. Their resources leaped 23.5 percent, reaching P1.47 trillion from P1.19 trillion.

Digital banks remained the fastest-growing segment in terms of percentage, with total resources skyrocketing 48.2 percent to P195 billion, up from P131.6 billion a year earlier.

Rural and cooperative banks also posted positive results, seeing their resources increase by 8.1 percent to P587 billion from P543.2 billion. Beyond the banking sector, non-bank financial institutions recorded total resources of P6.35 trillion, a 5.8 percent increase from the P6 trillion seen in April 2025.

Jonathan Ravelas, a senior adviser at Reyes Tacandong & Co., noted that these figures highlight a financial system that remains fundamentally sound, even amidst the global uncertainty and market volatility that plagued earlier this year.

"Overall, the 11 percent year-on-year expansion in the Philippine financial system reflects healthy liquidity growth, sustained bank lending and deeper financial market participation," Ravelas said.

Recent BSP data revealed that outstanding loans from universal and commercial banks rose 11.4 percent year-on-year in April. This marks the fastest pace in nine months, driven by firm credit demand from both businesses and consumers.

The banking system has also managed to maintain ample liquidity and solid asset quality. This stability allows lenders to keep expanding their balance sheets, even as the BSP resumed monetary tightening in April and June to curb inflation pressures.

Ravelas anticipates that growth will persist, though likely at a more moderated speed. The future trajectory will depend heavily on interest rates, credit demand, and activity in the capital markets.

"From here, I expect steady but more calibrated growth. The key drivers will be the interest rate path, strength of credit demand and capital market activity. If rates start to ease, that could re-energize expansion," he said.

Meralco teams up with VinEnergo for renewable expansion

The Meralco Group, baseload power plants under the leadership of Pangilinan, is supply a steady stream of electricity, renewable sources like solar and wind depend heavily on weather and resource availability, making their output variable by nature.

The inclusion of energy storage systems changes the game. It allows surplus power generated during times of high production to be saved and released when demand peaks, enabling a continuous flow of clean energy around the clock.

"Through this MOU, we look forward to assessing how large-scale renewable energy, storage and related infrastructure can contribute to the country's evolving energy requirements," said MGEN president and CEO Emmanuel Rubio.

The partnership isn't limited to electricity generation. It also paves the way for joint efforts in electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, covering options for homes, businesses, and fleet operations.

Manila Electric Co. and its generation subsidiary, Meralco PowerGen Corp. (MGEN), have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with VinEnergo. This agreement sets the stage for exploring strategic cooperation focused on enhancing energy security and improving system reliability.

As part of the plan, MGEN and VinEnergo intend to build large-scale, integrated projects that combine renewable generation with energy storage. These initiatives could eventually deliver around 5,000 megawatts (MW) of baseload-equivalent capacity.

While traditional

LRT-2 sees record traffic amidst sharp income drop

LRT-2 Sees Record Traffic Amidst Sharp Income Drop

The Light Rail Transit Line 2 (LRT-2) is facing a sharp drop in income, with revenue taking a double-digit hit. This financial strain comes directly from expanded discounts given to students, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities (PWD). According to a recent report from the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA), the money taken in from tickets fell by 23 percent in May compared to the same time last year. While May 2025 saw P543.83 million in revenue, May 2026 collected just P421.4 million. The situation presents a confusing picture: while money is down, the trains are fuller. Passenger numbers jumped 16 percent, reaching 26.68 million people from January through May, up from 23.08 million the previous year. Every single month so far this year saw more riders than the year before. In fact, only April failed to hit the five-million-riders mark; the other months all cleared that threshold. Despite the surge in riders, fare collection has declined every single month this year. The LRTA attributes this financial dip to two main drivers: increased discount rates and the rollout of the Libreng Sakay program. Last year followed a similar pattern, where revenue dipped 2 percent to P1.25 billion while passenger volume climbed 10 percent to 58.75 million. Looking ahead, LRTA administrator Hernando Cabrera projects that 2026 will be a record-breaking year for ridership. The agency expects total passenger volume to reach a new peak of 60.62 million. However, the financial outlook remains grim. LRTA forecasts that fare collection will shrink by another 12 percent, landing at P1.1 billion. This loss is tied to the welfare programs the agency has implemented. A major factor is the universal fare increase for specific groups. Previously, students, senior citizens, and PWDs received a 20 percent discount. Now, that benefit has been raised to 50 percent across all railways. While these policies are designed to help low-income commuters, they are creating a revenue shortfall for state-run bodies like the LRTA. This loss of income is problematic because the agency needs those funds to pay for expansion and infrastructure improvements. Take the LRT-2 West Extension Project, for example. This project aims to extend the line by three new stops west of Recto Station. It was approved a decade ago in 2015 and carries a price tag of P10.12 billion. Yet, the current budget has allocated zero funds for it, leaving the project in limbo as the agency struggles to balance its books.

Nearly 40% of Asia-Pacific firms struggle with new EU duty rules

A significant portion of businesses across the Asia-Pacific region, including many in the Philippines, are facing challenges in handling the extra expenses tied to shipping goods to the European Union starting this July. According to logistics leader FedEx Corp., the situation looks particularly tight for these exporters. A recent survey conducted by FedEx reveals that 41 percent of companies in the area are still in the initial phases of trying to understand and prepare for the EU's decision to scrap the *de minimis* duty exemption. Effective July 1, the EU will remove the tax break that previously allowed products valued under 150 euros to enter duty-free. In its place, exporters will be required to pay a standard flat fee of three euros for every shipment entering the bloc. The study highlights that these changes are already forcing exporters to rethink their logistics strategies for the European market. At least 45 percent of those surveyed warned that the new customs rules could stifle their growth. The main concerns cited were rising costs and the heavier administrative load required for compliance. More than one in three businesses have already increased their prices for EU customers to absorb the new flat fee on items under 150 euros. Meanwhile, half of the respondents indicated they are exploring alternative markets outside of Europe, with Asia (28 percent) and the United States (23 percent) emerging as top alternatives. In response to these shifting dynamics, Salil Chari, president of FedEx Asia-Pacific, announced that the company is widening its logistics offerings to help exporters maintain their foothold in the EU despite the rising customs expenses. "As global trade continues to evolve, businesses across Asia-Pacific are navigating an increasing regulatory complexity, while pursuing growth across key markets," Chari noted. Chari assured exporters that FedEx has rolled out a clearance platform specifically designed to align with the EU's new customs procedures. This move aims to cut down the risk of delays, which often drive up costs further. The courier giant also introduced a dedicated support program featuring a one-stop shop for product identifiers. Clients now have direct access to compliance specialists who can walk them through the intricacies of classification and documentation. To boost capacity, FedEx has added five weekly flights connecting Asia and Europe over the last year. Chari stated that the company now operates 26 weekly flights on this route, enabling express delivery within 48 hours. Recently, FedEx convened over 5,000 businesses across 12 Asia-Pacific markets to discuss evolving global trade regulations, with a specific focus on helping small and medium enterprises adapt. Following these sessions, the company conducted a survey to gauge how well the attendees understood the implications of removing the duty exemption for low-cost exports to the EU.

DOTr fast-tracks MRT-3 sale, private operator may take over by 2027

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) plans to transfer the operations and maintenance of the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3) to the winning bidder of the nearly P50-billion concession by the fourth quarter of 2027.

Based on a presentation during the recent Asia Infrastructure Forum, the agency aims to award the contract in the third quarter of next year, with the takeover expected between October and December 2027.

The DOTr is currently finalizing the terms of reference for the public-private partnership (PPP) project before proceeding with the formal bidding process.

Bidding is expected to begin as early as next month, while the winning bidder is projected to be selected in the second quarter of next year.

The agency said it is seeking an experienced and qualified private sector partner that can manage operations and maintenance while carrying out needed rehabilitation and upgrades as some railway assets approach the end of their service life. The contract includes acquiring new rolling stock to replace aging trains and placing the long-idled Dalian trains into service.

The winning bidder will also handle upgrades to the signaling system, depot facilities, communication systems, and power infrastructure.

As a result, prospective bidders must have experience in engineering, procurement and construction, as well as operations and maintenance of a comparable railway project.

The bidder, whether a corporation, joint venture, or consortium, must meet minimum equity requirements and have the ability to secure financing.

Under the concession, the future operator will also be responsible for expanding MRT-3 capacity beyond its current average daily ridership of around 400,000 passengers.

Through the PPP project, the DOTr aims to increase daily ridership to 1.3 million passengers. The MRT-3 concession is expected to run for 20 to 25 years, with an estimated project cost of \$800 million or around P48.22 billion.

To help ensure the project’s viability, the DOTr said it is open to measures that would reduce investment risks and improve bankability.

The agency added that MRT-3’s strong ridership provides stable fare revenues and commercial business opportunities.

According to the PPP Center, the concession also includes fare collection for remittance to the government, commercial development rights within designated station areas subject to government revenue sharing, and government availability payments.

MRT-3 is currently under government control following the expiration of the 25-year build-lease-transfer contract of Metro Rail Transit Corp. last year.

As a temporary arrangement, maintenance and rehabilitation activities are being managed by Japan’s Sumitomo Corp. through 2027.

DOE gears up for Philippines first nuclear auction

The Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing to launch the country’s first nuclear energy auction as part of its long-term plan to develop commercial nuclear power capacity.

Energy officials said a draft policy is being prepared to provide investors with clearer rules on cost recovery and project development requirements.

The planned framework may adopt a structure similar to the green energy auction system, which guarantees a fixed electricity rate over a set period to ensure investor returns.

Officials said key details such as site selection and technology choices are still under review, with the policy expected to be finalized either late this year or early 2027.

Under the national road map, the Philippines aims to develop at least 1,200 megawatts of nuclear capacity by 2032 and expand this to 4,800 megawatts by 2040.

The government has also introduced policies to attract investment, including allowing pioneer nuclear projects to bypass competitive bidding to secure supply agreements.

The recently signed Philippine National Nuclear Energy Safety Act created the Philippine Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority, which will take over regulatory functions from existing agencies. However, implementing rules for the law are still pending despite the statutory deadline.

Authorities are also studying the rehabilitation of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, which was completed in 1984 but never operated due to safety concerns.

The International Energy Agency said nuclear interest is rising in Southeast Asia as countries seek energy diversification and long-term supply security.

MSMEs get ₱140-million fee relief as SEC extends capital market discounts

MSMEs get sectors such as energy, small, and medium ₱140-million fee relief agriculture, healthcare, enterprises defined as SEC extends capital and real estate. by increasing asset market discounts

The SEC also thresholds up to ₱100 million.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has extended its program granting discounted filing fees for MSMEs during initial registration. A separate discount on capital increases ended in 2025.

Since the program began in July 2025, total fee reductions have reached about ₱139.6 million, according to commission data.

Eligibility is based on asset size classifications under the Magna Carta for MSMEs, with micro, MSMEs may continue to enjoy a 50 percent discount on securities registration fees for public offerings. The incentive applies to companies using streamlined registration processes, including

Qualified firms must submit certification of MSME status and meet minimum paid-up capital requirements, although agricultural businesses under streamlined rules are exempt from some capital thresholds.

The commission said the program aims to reduce reliance on traditional bank financing and encourage small firms to access public fundraising channels.