



PHILIPPINES SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: April 21, 2026 - April 28, 2026

This report was produced using open-source intelligence analysis. The assessment is grounded in publicly available reporting and should be cross-referenced with primary sources. RSS feed articles are listed in the annex for reference.

Executive Summary

This analysis could not be generated due to a technical issue.

Key Developments

- Unable to generate a security analysis for Philippines at this time.
- Please try again later or select an alternative analysis method.

Outlook

Please check back later for an updated analysis.

ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: GMA Network

- [Kin of missing activist Jonas Burgos ask SC for help](#) (2026-04-28 05:41)

The family of activist Jonas Burgos on Tuesday joined a protest rally and appealed to the Supreme Court for help as he remains missing, years since his disappearance in April 2007.

- [2 minors among Negros 'clash' deaths, NTF-ELCAC says](#) (2026-04-28 05:37)

Two minors were among those 19 killed in what the military called an encounter in Toboso, Negros Occidental on April 19, the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) said.

- [Bato 'considering' to waive salary, allowances -JV Ejercito](#) (2026-04-28 04:19)

Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa is now considering declining his salaries and allowances while he remains absent in the upper chamber, Senate Deputy Majority Leader and Ethics committee chairperson JV Ejercito said Tuesday.

- [PDEA still has no final result in probe into 'Sammy Uy'](#) (2026-04-28 03:22)

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said it has yet to reach a final result in its ongoing investigation into a certain “Sammy Uy,” despite the probe having been underway for years.

- [Police major in custody over alleged link to e-sabong in Negros --PNP](#) (2026-04-28 02:02)

A police major has been placed under restrictive custody after being accused of acting as a protector of illegal online cockfighting operations and other unlawful activities in Negros Island, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Tuesday.

- [Voluminous documents for red notice vs. Zaldy Co already sent to authorities --PCTC](#) (2026-04-28 00:22)

Even though former congressman Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co is no longer in Czech custody or

territory, the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime assures that the requirements Interpol needs for a red notice against the ex-lawmaker have been submitted to authorities.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East \(April 28, 2026\)](#) (2026-04-27 23:48)

Here are the latest news and updates on the US-Israel war against Iran and related developments.

- [DOJ chief Vida to bring home not Zaldy Co, but 'important things'](#) (2026-04-27 20:29)

“Mahalagang bagay kaugnay ni Zaldy Co (Important things about former congressman Zaldy Co)” . These are what acting Department of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Frederick Vida would bring back to the Philippines after meeting his Czech counterparts on Monday afternoon in Prague - and finding out that Co is no longer in Czech custody or territory.

- [Philippines, Czech Republic to pursue extradition, mutual legal assistance treaties](#) (2026-04-27 19:10)

The Philippines and the Czech Republic have agreed to begin formal negotiations on three agreements regarding law enforcement, including one on extradition, Acting Justice Secretary Frederick Vida said on Monday.

- [LTFRB eyeing to finish distributing fuel subsidy to transport sector by next week](#) (2026-04-27 18:43)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Monday turned over P447,000 in fuel subsidies to 14 public utility bus operators in the Ilocos Region in a bid to expedite the distribution of aid for the transport sector and finish it by next week.

- [Zaldy Co accosted with expired passport, says DOJ chief](#) (2026-04-27 18:27)

Zaldy Co was carrying an expired passport when he was accosted by authorities two weeks ago, Acting Justice Secretary Frederick Vida told reporters on Monday.

- [US, PH, Australia, New Zealand troops join forces for Balikatan live-fire drills](#) (2026-04-27 18:00)

Over 500 troops from the United States, Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand military forces successfully coordinated fires from the land and air to defeat a simulated adversary attack as part of the Exercise Balikatan 2026 held in Aborlan, Palawan on Monday.

- [EXPLAINER: What each charge in the Meralco bill mean for customers?](#) (2026-04-27 17:16)

Meralco customers faced “bill shock” in April 2026 as electricity bills sharply spiked. The Manila Electric Company (Meralco) has recently clarified that the itemized charges in customers' bills are all approved by regulators before implementation. But what does every charge in the Meralco bill mean, and where does it go?

- [Zaldy Co no longer in Czech custody, says DOJ](#) (2026-04-27 16:21)

Former Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co, who is wanted in the Philippines on charges of corruption and malversation of public funds in connection with an alleged ghost flood control project, is no longer in the custody of Czech authorities, acting Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida said on Monday.

- [San Carlos bishop urges responsibility, accountability amid Toboso 'clash'](#) (2026-04-27 15:59)

The bishop of the Diocese of San Carlos in Negros Occidental on Monday called for responsibility and accountability among authorities, the media, and the public amid the alleged clash in Toboso that left 19 people dead, including two students and a local journalist.

- [P45M richer: 2 winners to split Megalotto 6/45 jackpot](#) (2026-04-27 14:34)

Two bettors who placed their bets in Nueva Ecija and Mandaluyong City will be splitting P45 million after winning the jackpot prize in the Megalotto 6/45 draw on Monday, April 27, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said.

- [UP mourns deaths of students in Negros clash, extends assistance to kin](#) (2026-04-27 14:21)

The University of the Philippines (UP) on Monday expressed sadness over the deaths of students Alyssa Alano and Maureen Santuyo, who were among the 19 persons killed during an alleged encounter with government troops in Toboso, Negros Occidental.

- [Slain UP students did not tell LGU about community research - Toboso local official](#) (2026-04-27 14:09)

The students of the University of the Philippines (UP) who were killed during an alleged encounter with government troops in Toboso, Negros Occidental did not give prior notice to the local government about their community research in the area, a local official said.

- [Who is Maureen Keil Santuyo, the other UP student killed in Negros clash?](#) (2026-04-27 11:15)

Santuyo, fondly known as “Mau” by her peers, was an Associate of Arts student of UPOU and a member of the National Network of Agrarian Reform Advocates Youth (NNARA Youth).

- [Ping Lacson: Chairman's report to restart Senate flood control project hearings](#) (2026-04-27 10:42)

Senate President Pro Tempore and Blue Ribbon Committee Chairman Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said he would present the progress report on the investigation into the flood control controversy when Congress resumes its session next week.

- [ICC confirmation of charges vs Rody Duterte, case records sent to Presidency](#) (2026-04-27 10:37)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) Registry has transmitted to the ICC Presidency the decision confirming the charges against former President Rodrigo Duterte, along with other case records.

- [Sandiganbayan bars Escudero, Ngu from leaving PH amid flood control probe](#) (2026-04-27 10:37)

The Sandiganbayan Sixth Division has issued a precautionary Hold Departure Order (PHDO) on ex-Senate President and incumbent Senator Francis Escudero as well as businessman Maynard Ngu who are facing government probe over alleged plunder, graft, and indirect bribery in connection with the flood control mess.

- [NBI subpoenas 3 vloggers over fake claims on Marcos' health, says Palace](#) (2026-04-27 09:47)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has issued subpoenas to three vloggers for allegedly spreading false information regarding the health of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Malacañang said Monday.

- [All barangays to receive aid irrespective of political affiliations, says Palace](#) (2026-04-27 09:40)

All barangays in the country will receive assistance amid the fuel crisis, regardless of the political allegiances of their local executives and representatives in Congress, Malacañang said on Monday.

- [Zaldy Co may seek asylum in Czech Republic to avoid return to PH --analyst](#) (2026-04-27 09:25)

Former Ako Bicol Party-list representative Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co may apply for asylum in the Czech Republic to prevent his return to the Philippines, a political analyst said Monday.

- [Palace on endorsements for 2028 elections: Too early to tackle politics](#) (2026-04-27 09:14)

For Malacañang, it's too early to discuss about politics as President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. is busy addressing the challenges hounding the country.

- [PNPA to conduct regular body checks on cadets amid hazing issue](#) (2026-04-27 08:56)

The Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) will conduct regular body checks on cadets as part of efforts to prevent hazing and other forms of abuse within the institution.

- [Palace says up to law enforcers to probe destabilization plot vs. Marcos](#) (2026-04-27 08:42)

Malacañang on Monday said it's up to law enforcement agencies to investigate Senator Panfilo 'Ping' Lacson's claim that some retired military officers were planning a “power grab” against President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

- [SC acquits mother with schizophrenia in child's death, cites legal insanity](#) (2026-04-27 08:30)

The Supreme Court (SC) has acquitted a mother with schizophrenia in connection with the death of her 5-year-old daughter, ruling that her mental condition deprived her of the capacity to recognize the nature and wrongfulness of her act at the time of the incident.

- [Palace won't intervene with CHR probe into Negros Occidental clash](#) (2026-04-27 08:10)

Malacañang respects the independent investigation being conducted by the Commission on Human Rights into the recent purported clash in Toboso, Negros Occidental, where 19 people were killed, including a local journalist, a student leader, and two Filipino-Americans.

- [Agri chief warns 'triple shock' straining global food supply](#) (2026-04-27 08:05)

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has warned that a “triple shock” of climate change, disease outbreaks, and geopolitical tensions is straining global food supply and making agriculture harder to manage.

- [Another UP student among Negros 'clash' fatalities](#) (2026-04-27 07:42)

The University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) has confirmed that one of its students was among those killed in what the military called an encounter in Toboso, Negros Occidental.

- [BuCor, other agencies sign MOA on reintegration of violent extremist offenders](#) (2026-04-27 07:21)

The Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and other agencies on Monday signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to institutionalize a collaborative reintegration program for released violent extremist offenders (VEOs).

- [Marcoleta urges Blue Ribbon panel to invite Martin Romualdez: 'He's ready to talk'](#) (2026-04-27 05:15)

Senate Deputy Minority Leader Rodante Marcoleta on Monday called on the Senate blue ribbon committee to invite former Speaker and incumbent Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez to the next hearing on the flood control mess.

- [Marcos: Nearly 80,000 teachers, school heads promoted since Aug. 2025](#) (2026-04-27 04:24)

Nearly 80,000 teachers and school heads have been promoted under the government's Expanded Career Progression (ECP) System since August 2025, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. said on Monday.

- [Sara Duterte's husband, Mans Carpio, files raps vs. AMLC, BSP, solons](#) (2026-04-27 04:21)

Lawyer Mans Carpio, Vice President Sara Duterte's husband, filed a complaint against officials of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), and several lawmakers following a report on their bank transactions at the House of Representatives.

- [Marcos leads rice distribution to local farmers in Roxas City](#) (2026-04-27 03:30)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Monday distributed rice in Roxas City, Capiz to local farmers and other members of vulnerable sectors, with the aim to help them cope with the effects of rising food and fuel prices.

- [Sandiganbayan holds closed-door hearing on bid to bar Escudero, Ngu from travel](#) (2026-04-27 03:24)

The Sandiganbayan Sixth Division on Monday held a closed-door hearing on Ombudsman prosecutors' petition for a precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) against Senator Francis Escudero and Maynard Ngu, who are under investigation for alleged plunder, graft, and other offenses linked to the flood control controversy.

- [Mans Carpio denies up to P6.7-B flagged bank transactions with Sara Duterte](#) (2026-04-27 02:59)

Atty. Manases “Mans” Carpio is denying that he and his wife, Vice President Sara Duterte, had bank transactions totaling P6.7 billion, which the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) flagged as “covered and suspicious.”

- [PNP starts probe into Ombudsman investigators' data leak](#) (2026-04-27 02:10)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said Monday it will help in tracking down the perpetrators behind the leak of sensitive personal data of investigators of the Office of the Ombudsman.

- [VP Sara leads 46% while Leni rises to 35% in 2028 polls matchup per OCTA survey](#) (2026-04-27 00:39)

Vice President Sara Duterte remains the frontrunner with 46% but Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo earned 35%, making the gap narrower in a hypothetical 2028 head-to-head presidential race, according to the latest OCTA Research survey released Monday.

- [Trump portrays shooting as proof of his presidency's power](#) (2026-04-27 00:38)

WASHINGTON -- Donald Trump's tuxedo still looked freshly pressed when he stepped to the White House podium Saturday night, barely an hour after the latest apparent attempt on his life.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East \(April 27, 2026\)](#) (2026-04-26 22:39)

Here are the latest news and updates on the US-Israel war against Iran and related developments.

- [Brawner to new WESCOM chief: Sustain credible, steady presence in West PH Sea](#) (2026-04-26 18:05)

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. on Sunday told the new commander of the AFP's Western Command (WESCOM) to sustain the military's credible and steady presence in the West Philippine Sea.

- [House impeach proceedings don't violate bank secrecy law - de Lima](#) (2026-04-26 17:35)

House Senior Deputy Minority Leader and Mamamayang Liberal (ML) Partylist Rep. Leila de Lima on Sunday maintained that the House justice committee's impeachment proceedings - which discussed the “suspicious and covered” financial transactions of Vice President Sara Duterte - do not violate the country's bank secrecy law or any law for that matter.

- [At Mass in Prague, DOJ chief Vida prays for pursuit of justice](#) (2026-04-26 16:00)

During Mass at a Catholic shrine in Prague, Department of Justice (DOJ) Acting Secretary Frederick Vida prayed to receive “help in his work” regarding former congressman Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co.

- [PCSO: No jackpot winners for April 26 major lotto draws](#) (2026-04-26 14:25)

No one won the jackpot prizes in the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Sunday, April 26.

- ['Clearer picture' emerging on how Zaldy Co moved in Europe --DOJ](#) (2026-04-26 14:01)

Philippine authorities are beginning to piece together how Zaldy Co moved across Europe, DOJ acting Sec. Frederick Vida said following initial coordination with Czech counterparts.

- [With rising fares, fuel surcharges, Filipinos now rethink travel plans](#) (2026-04-26 13:46)

With transport costs rising, some Filipinos are putting travel plans on hold or trimming vacation expenses as higher fares begin to weigh on household budgets.

- [DOJ: Czech trip on Zaldy Co case won't end 'empty-handed'](#) (2026-04-26 12:21)

Justice Secretary Frederick Vida said the Philippine government will not return “empty-handed” from its trip to the Czech Republic, as officials move to clarify the status of former congressman Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co and pursue steps for his possible return to face charges in the Philippines.

- [Lacson drafts flood probe chair's report, eyes Ombudsman submission](#) (2026-04-26 09:53)

Senate Blue Ribbon Committee chairperson Panfilo “Ping” Lacson on Sunday said he is preparing a chairman's progress report on the panel's investigation into alleged anomalous flood control projects, and is studying whether it can be furnished to the Office of the

Ombudsman.

- [LTFRB: Over P27M in fuel aid released to taxi drivers on last distribution day](#) (2026-04-26 09:15)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said it released over P27 million in fuel subsidy to taxi drivers on the second and final day of distribution, as part of the government's cash aid program for the public transport sector.

- [Ombudsman condemns leak of investigators' identities, eyes charges](#) (2026-04-26 08:40)

The Office of the Ombudsman on Sunday condemned the online disclosure of its investigators' identities, saying it is now working with law enforcement agencies to identify those behind the leak and file charges against them.

- [Marcos: Gov't services to continue despite energy crisis, cites housing program](#) (2026-04-26 07:56)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. said Sunday the government would continue delivering public services despite the country's energy woes, as he highlighted the administration's housing program in his latest social media reel.

- [Mans Carpio readies raps vs BSP, AMLC, House over bank secrecy, privacy breaches](#) (2026-04-26 07:52)

The husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, vowed to file a criminal complaint on Monday against officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), and members of the House Committee on Justice for alleged violations of the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA), bank secrecy laws, and the Data Privacy Act.

- [DENR orders landfill operators to submit contingency plans, for LGUS to cease ops of open dumpsites](#) (2026-04-26 07:13)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Sunday it has required sanitary landfill (SLF) operators to submit contingency plans that will address fire incidents and other emergency situations in waste disposal facilities.

- [Environmental group urges gov't to declare national climate emergency](#) (2026-04-26 02:07)

Environmental group Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) has urged the government

to declare a national climate emergency due to the effects of drought in the country.

- [Over 1.1 million jeepney drivers received P5k cash aid --DSWD](#) (2026-04-26 01:55)

More than 1.1 million jeepney drivers nationwide received the P5,000 cash relief assistance from the government as of Saturday amid the high prices of fuel in the country, the Department of Social Welfare and Development said.

- [More than 1,000 taxi drivers claim fuel subsidies](#) (2026-04-25 14:30)

More than 1,000 taxi drivers received fuel subsidy payouts on Saturday.

- [DA calls for additional P30B aid for farmers](#) (2026-04-25 10:29)

The Department of Agriculture on Saturday appealed to the national government for an additional P30 billion to provide fertilizers and subsidies to farmers amid high fuel costs.

- [NBI obtains lead regarding threats vs. Marcos, FL Liza, Romualdez](#) (2026-04-25 07:43)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said Saturday it is already following a lead regarding the alleged threats against President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr, First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and former Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez.

- [Sandiganbayan asked to issue precautionary hold departure order for Escudero, Ngu](#) (2026-04-25 06:01)

The Office of the Ombudsman has asked the Sandiganbayan on Saturday to issue a precautionary hold departure order against Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero and businessman Maynard Ngu.

- [CA ordered freeze on Romualdez's assets, Ombudsman Remulla says](#) (2026-04-25 04:33)

The Court of Appeals has issued a freeze order on the assets of former Speaker and incumbent Leyte representative Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said Saturday.

- [VP Sara lauds PH Army's 79th IB for 'success' in recent combat operation](#) (2026-04-25 03:59)

VP Sara lauds PH Army's 79th IB for success in 'recent combat operation'

- [ICC urged to reclassify Duterte defense response redacting names of 6 Filipino lawyers](#) (2026-04-25 02:33)

The Prosecution has filed a request to the International Criminal Court Pre-Trial Chamber I to reclassify a Defense response regarding the case of former President Rodrigo Duterte, after it redacted the names of six Filipino lawyers concerned in the filing.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East \(April 25, 2026\)](#) (2026-04-25 00:07)

Here are the latest news and updates on the US-Israel war against Iran and related developments.

- [China holds live-fire drills in waters near Luzon as US, Philippines stage war games](#) (2026-04-24 18:28)

BEIJING - China conducted military drills recently including live-fire exercises in waters east of the Philippines' Luzon Island, it said on Friday, as Manila and Washington host annual drills that extend towards disputed areas of the South China Sea.

- [Royina Garma to testify at ICC trial of Rodrigo Duterte, says Trillanes](#) (2026-04-24 16:46)

Former Police Colonel Royina Garma will testify as a witness at the trial of former President Rodrigo Duterte at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

- [Several taxi drivers not included in fuel subsidy lists](#) (2026-04-24 16:18)

Several taxi drivers seeking temporary relief from high fuel prices were not on the lists of recipients of the P5,000 subsidy.

- [Who are Rodrigo Duterte's alleged co-perpetrators and where are they now?](#) (2026-04-24 15:17)

Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court (ICC) have identified eight individuals as co-perpetrators of former President Rodrigo Duterte in the case involving the alleged abuses in his war on drugs.

- [No guarantee Zaldy Co is still in Czech Republic, says DOJ chief Vida](#) (2026-04-24 14:44)

It is "possible" that former Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co is no longer in the jurisdiction of the Czech Republic, Justice Secretary Frederick Vida told reporters in Prague. Asked what guarantee the Philippine side has that the Czech Republic would keep Co in their jurisdiction,

Vida said, "There's no such guarantee. We need to respect their laws."

- [No winners of major lotto draws on Friday, April 24, 2026](#) (2026-04-24 14:09)

There were no winners of either of the major lotto jackpots offered on Friday, April 24, 2026, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) announced.

- [Rodrigo Duterte's legal team to appeal ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I's confirmation of charges](#) (2026-04-24 14:01)

Rodrigo Duterte's legal team is seeking to appeal the International Criminal Court Pre-Trial Chamber I's confirmation of charges against him in connection with the killings under his war on drugs when he was mayor of Davao City and when he was the president of the Philippines.

- [Justice chief Vida in Prague to discuss Zaldy Co's return to Philippines](#) (2026-04-24 13:39)

Justice Secretary Frederick Vida and Chief State Counsel Dennis Chan are in Prague to discuss with the Czech authorities Zaldy Co's return to the Philippines.

- [LIST: Notable Filipinos who sought asylum](#) (2026-04-24 11:34)

A number of Filipinos, some of whom connected in politics, chose to flee the Philippines and apply for asylum in another country due to supposed persecution or fear for their lives. Some of them were successful, but others were not.

- [Marcos vows increase in LGU funds if programs properly implemented](#) (2026-04-24 10:17)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Friday vowed to increase funding for local government units so they can expand and improve their programs.

- [NBI files trafficking complaint vs. Mike Defensor's wife, child, others](#) (2026-04-24 10:04)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Friday said it has filed a complaint against the wife and child of former congressman Mike Defensor, among others, for alleged involvement in human trafficking.

- [Harry Roque asks CA to issue TRO vs. cancellation of passport](#) (2026-04-24 09:45)

Former presidential spokesperson Harry Roque has asked the Court of Appeals (CA) to issue a temporary restraining order against the cancellation of his passport, his camp said Friday.

- [SC denies businessman's petition to dismiss case over shabu shipment from China](#) (2026-04-24 09:15)

The Supreme Court (SC) has denied a petition filed by businessman Chen Julong, also known as Richard Tan, to dismiss the case filed against him for the importation of a shipment of shabu from China in 2017.

- [Palace to Kaufman: Focus on Rodrigo Duterte, not on PH politics](#) (2026-04-24 08:56)

Nicholas Kaufman, the lawyer of former President Rodrigo Duterte, should focus on defending his client, not on Philippine politics, Palace Press Officer Undersecretary Claire Castro said on Friday.

- [Recto: Giving travel authority day before trip usually happens](#) (2026-04-24 08:37)

Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said Friday that there's nothing unusual with giving the travel authority a day before the trip of a government official.

- [US citizen among Negros clash deaths, says NTF-ELCAC](#) (2026-04-24 08:11)

A reported US citizen of Filipino descent was among those killed in what the military called an encounter in Toboso, Negros Occidental, the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) said Friday.

- [DepEd rolls out orientations to prepare for major SY 2026-2027 reforms](#) (2026-04-24 08:10)

Public school teachers and school heads across the country will undergo a series of orientations starting late April, as the Department of Education (DepEd) prepares for a set of major policy changes in School Year 2026-2027.

- [Freeze order issued vs. flood control scandal-linked legislator --AMLC](#) (2026-04-24 07:56)

The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) has secured a freeze order on the assets of a legislator allegedly involved in the flood control corruption scandal.

- [EXPLAINER: How can Filipinos seek asylum in another country?](#) (2026-04-24 07:38)

Individuals who wish to escape persecution, violence, or conflict in their home country may seek asylum or protection elsewhere. But while seeking asylum is considered a fundamental human right, not all applicants are granted it. How does one apply for asylum and how can it be granted?

- [Filipino conjoined twins successfully separated after surgery in Saudi Arabia](#) (2026-04-24 07:34)

Filipino conjoined twins Klea Ann and Maurice Ann Misa have been successfully separated following a rare and high-risk surgery in Saudi Arabia, giving them a chance at living independent lives.

- [Bernardo: I delivered P250M commitment fee to Bong Revilla](#) (2026-04-24 07:18)

State witness and former Public Works and Highways undersecretary Roberto Bernardo on Friday testified that he personally delivered P250 million worth of commitment fee or portion of the payment for government projects to former senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

- [PNP intensifies monitoring vs 'gas-and-run'](#) (2026-04-24 06:52)

PNP intensifies monitoring vs 'gas-and-run'

- [Duterte co-perpetrators not part of ICC case, must be charged separately -- UP law prof](#) (2026-04-24 06:32)

Even though the alleged co-perpetrators of former President Rodrigo Duterte were repeatedly mentioned in connection to alleged killings during his time as mayor and president, an expert said Friday that they are not part of Duterte's case before the International Criminal Court (ICC) and must be charged separately.

- [Pag-IBIG, DepEd partner to prioritize teachers in housing Fairs nationwide](#) (2026-04-24 05:18)

Public school teachers and education personnel will be given priority access to affordable housing under a new arrangement between the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Pag-IBIG Fund.

- [Zaldy Co's liberty was restrained, not technically arrested -- DOJ](#) (2026-04-24 05:10)

Former Ako Bicol Party-List Representative Zaldy Co was not technically arrested by Czech authorities, but his liberty was restrained for possible violation of Immigration regulations, Justice spokesperson Polo Martinez said Friday.

- [Ex-IBP chief: House has not committed any violation in Sara Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-04-24 04:54)

For former Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) president Domingo Cayosa, the House justice committee has not committed any violations during the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [VP Sara's lawyer clarifies no declared cash on hand in SALN: It's under 'others'](#) (2026-04-24 04:16)

VP Sara's lawyer clarifies no declared cash on hand in SALN: It's under 'others'

- [State witness says he got P1 million token from contractors per project](#) (2026-04-24 04:10)

State witness and former Department of Public Works and Highways-National Capital Region Regional Director Gerard Oplencia admitted receiving P1 million as “pasasalamat” or token gift from contractors for every government project implemented during his time as district engineer of North Manila.

- [Romualdez asks Ombudsman to halt probe against him over 'prejudgment'](#) (2026-04-24 03:29)

Former Speaker and Leyte Representative Ferdinand Martin Romualdez has asked the Ombudsman to stop its investigation against him over alleged violation of due process, arguing that he was already prejudged in the matter.

- [Compliance officer convicted for failure to maintain records in Bangladesh Bank heist](#) (2026-04-24 02:58)

Compliance officer convicted for failure to maintain records in Bangladesh Bank heist

- [Marcos set for state visit to Japan in May](#) (2026-04-24 02:24)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and First Lady Louise "Liza" Araneta-Marcos will undertake a state visit to Japan from May 26 to 29, 2026

- [Duterte ICC trial may begin between Oct. 2026 to Feb. 2027 --Conti](#) (2026-04-24 01:23)

Duterte ICC trial may begin between Oct. 2026 to Feb. 2027 --Conti

- [Can Zaldy Co be back in PH in 3 weeks? 'No way,' says Czech migration expert](#) (2026-04-24 01:17)

PRAGUE -- The possible return of former Ako Bicol Party-list representative Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co from the Czech Republic will depend on legal procedures and could face delays, especially if he seeks asylum, a Czech migration law expert said.

- [Sara's lead narrows, Leni's number increases in OCTA early presidential preference survey](#) (2026-04-23 23:56)

Sara's lead narrows, Leni's number increases in OCTA early presidential preference survey

- [De Lima: VP Sara's defense has no bearing unless made under oath](#) (2026-04-23 18:51)

Vice President Sara Duterte's defense against allegations has no bearing on the ongoing impeachment proceedings unless she makes these under oath, House Senior Deputy Minority Leader Leila de Lima of Mamamayang Liberal (ML) party-list said.

- [High-level team ready to coordinate with Czech Republic for Zaldy Co's return](#) (2026-04-23 18:21)

A high-level coordinating team is on its way to coordinate with Czech Republic officials for the return of former lawmaker Zaldy Co.

- [Cagayan de Oro housewife's P25 lotto bet wins P10M jackpot prize](#) (2026-04-23 17:28)

A 50-year-old housewife's persistence in placing lotto bets for over a decade finally bore fruit on April 7 after she won P10 million in the Lotto 6/42 draw of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

- [What happens next in Rodrigo Duterte's ICC case?](#) (2026-04-23 15:53)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) on Thursday confirmed the charges of crimes against humanity against Rodrigo Duterte over the killings in his war on illegal drugs when he was Davao City mayor and later as President.

- [PAF unveils basing support system on Pag-asa Island for better operations](#) (2026-04-23 14:59)

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) on Thursday inaugurated the completed Basing Support System on Pag-asa Island in Palawan in a bid to boost its capability to sustain operations in the West Philippine Sea.

- [China vows to build up islands, teases new aircraft carrier in video](#) (2026-04-23 14:48)

China teased an aircraft carrier that could be its first using nuclear power, while vowing to further build up islands as it looks to boost maritime power and bolster territorial claims.

- [No jackpot winners in April 23, 2026 major lotto draws, PCSO says](#) (2026-04-23 14:30)

No one won the jackpot prizes in Thursday night's major lotto draws, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said.

- [Lawmakers: VP Sara's press statements can't dispute undeclared billions](#) (2026-04-23 14:26)

VP Sara Duterte's statements that she legally acquired her assets cannot deny government records that she had billions which she failed to declare in her SALN, House justice members said.

- [VP Duterte may be impeached over unexplained wealth, solons say](#) (2026-04-23 14:05)

Several members of the House justice committee on Thursday said they believe that there is probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte on allegations of unexplained wealth and violations in her Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN).

- [Victims' families celebrate ICC confirmation of charges against Duterte](#) (2026-04-23 11:48)

The families of the victims of those killed under former President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs celebrated the decision of the International Criminal Court to confirm the crimes against humanity charges against him and commit the former leader to trial.

- [Kaufman: Duterte's defense to prove state policy to kill is complete fiction at ICC Trial](#) (2026-04-23 11:18)

The lawyer of former President Rodrigo Duterte said the defense will prove during the trial before the International Criminal Court that the supposed state policy to kill suspects in his administration's war on drugs was "complete fiction."

- [Palace respects ICC's confirming raps vs. Rodrigo Duterte](#) (2026-04-23 10:53)

Malacañang on Thursday said it respects the decision of the International Criminal Court (ICC) confirming the charges of crimes against humanity against former President Rodrigo Duterte in connection with his campaign against illegal drugs.

- [Palace assures all systems go for ASEAN 2026 Summit](#) (2026-04-23 09:54)

Malacañang assured Thursday that the Philippines is ready to host the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) 2026 Summit in Cebu next month.

- [Who is Alyssa Alano, the UP student leader killed in Negros clash?](#) (2026-04-23 09:48)

Alyssa Alano was a student leader from the University of the Philippines Diliman who was among those killed in a military operation in Toboso, Negros Occidental on April 19, 2026.

- [VP Duterte's team questions presentation of bank transactions in House impeach hearing](#) (2026-04-23 09:32)

Vice President Sara Duterte's defense team on Thursday questioned the way her bank transactions were presented before the House justice committee, claiming that the figure appeared “bloated” because it was an aggregation of transactions spanning years.

- [ICC confirms charges against Rodrigo Duterte, commits ex-President to trial](#) (2026-04-23 08:55)

A year after his detention, the International Criminal Court (ICC) Pre-Trial Chamber I on Thursday confirmed all the charges against former President Rodrigo Duterte over his drug war and committed him for trial.

- [Teodoro to China: Prove Ayungin garbage claim before int'l tribunal](#) (2026-04-23 08:54)

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on Thursday challenged China to take its claims before an international legal body that the Philippines dumped garbage in Ayungin Shoal in the West Philippine Sea.

- [Comelec to require birth certificates for 2026 BSKE and future elections](#) (2026-04-23 08:54)

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) will now require the inclusion of birth certificates in the filing for candidacies for the 2026 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) as well as in succeeding elections, its chairperson said Thursday.

- [PH gov't confident on Zaldy Co's return -- Palace](#) (2026-04-23 08:11)

The Philippine government is confident that former lawmaker Zaldy Co would be brought back to the Philippines.

- [Bernardo's former aide says he delivered boxes, suitcases to Revilla, Estrada, several others](#) (2026-04-23 07:56)

The former assistant to ex-Public Works Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo claimed to have delivered multiple boxes, suitcases, and paper bags to several personalities linked to the flood control mess, but he was unable to disclose what was inside.

- [PH-US 'Pax Silica' hub not war-driven but for industrialization --Teodoro](#) (2026-04-23 07:08)

US-led 'Pax Silica' hub in PH not war-driven but for resilience, industrialization --Teodoro

- [Palace denies VP Sara trip approved at last minute](#) (2026-04-23 06:56)

Palace denies VP Sara trip approved at last minute

- [SWS: 50% of Filipinos said their lives worsened in last 12 months](#) (2026-04-23 06:50)

Fifty percent or half of Filipino adults believe their lives got worse in the last 12 months, while over a quarter or 26% feel things stayed the same, public opinion pollster Social Weather Stations (SWS) said Thursday.

- [LIST: Journalists, students reportedly killed, arrested in AFP operations](#) (2026-04-23 06:43)

LIST: Journalists, students reportedly killed, arrested in AFP operations

- [VP Sara Duterte: Every cent of my money came from legitimate source](#) (2026-04-23 05:38)

Vice President Sara Duterte on Thursday maintained that her service record is “clean,” saying that every cent of her money and assets came from a legitimate source and has necessary documentation.

- [Antipolo court convicts 5 over kidnap-murder of businessman Jose Saribong](#) (2026-04-23 05:18)

A court in Antipolo City has sentenced five individuals to decades of imprisonment for the kidnapping and murder of businessman Jose Saribong in 2013, according to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

- [Sotto: Best for Bato to forgo salary, allowances](#) (2026-04-23 04:45)

Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III on Thursday advised Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa to heed the call and voluntarily waive his salary and allowances “as soon as possible” amid his prolonged absence in the upper chamber.

- [Marcos to comply with SC order for comment on medical report petition](#) (2026-04-23 04:32)

Marcos to comply with SC order for comment on medical report petition

- [DICT upgrading eGov app servers to prevent downtime](#) (2026-04-23 04:20)

DICT upgrading eGov app servers to prevent downtime

- [Romualdez camp to question precautionary hold departure order](#) (2026-04-23 03:49)

Romualdez camp to question HDO in proper forum

- [Marcos declares special non-working days in Batangas, Palawan, Tarlac towns](#) (2026-04-23 03:40)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has declared special non-working days in several towns in Batangas, Palawan, and Tarlac to celebrate local festivals in these provinces.

- [Kin of drug war victims hopeful ICC will confirm Duterte charges -- lawyer](#) (2026-04-23 03:22)

The families of drug war victims remain hopeful that the International Criminal Court (ICC) Pre-Trial Chamber I will confirm the charges of crimes against humanity against former President Rodrigo Duterte, a lawyers said Thursday.

- [Recto thanks Año, Galvez for government service](#) (2026-04-23 03:06)

Executive Secretary Ralph Recto on Thursday expressed gratitude to former secretaries Eduardo Año and Carlito Galvez Jr. for their long and distinguished service to the nation.

- [Sandiganbayan orders Bernardo to testify in Bong Revilla bail hearing on April 24, 2026](#) (2026-04-23 02:32)

The Sandiganbayan has ordered state witness and former Public Works Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo to testify before the bail hearing of former Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr. and his

five other co accused in the malversation case involving the alleged P92.8-million ghost flood control project in Pandi, Bulacan.

- [NTF-ELCAC pushes policy measures to continue addressing insurgency](#) (2026-04-23 01:47)

NTF-ELCAC pushes policy measures to continue addressing insurgency

- [MANIBELA pauses rallies but transport strike still on](#) (2026-04-23 01:03)

MANIBELA on Thursday said it has paused its protest activities but is continuing its transport strike,

- [VP Sara changes travel plans after 'last-minute' approval from OP](#) (2026-04-23 00:45)

VP Sara cancels travel plans after 'last-minute' approval from OP

- [LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East \(April 23, 2026\)](#) (2026-04-22 22:47)

Here are the latest news and updates on the US-Israel war against Iran and related developments.

- [LTFRB: P98M in fuel subsidies given to taxi operators, drivers so far](#) (2026-04-22 17:22)

More than P98 million in fuel subsidies were extended to taxi operators and drivers across the country so far as part of the government's efforts to assist the transport sector amid the high prices of fuel products, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said on Wednesday.

- [UP student among those killed in Negros Occidental 'clash'](#) (2026-04-22 16:13)

A student leader from the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman was among the 19 killed in an alleged encounter with the military in Toboso, Negros Occidental on Sunday, the UP Diliman University Student Council (USC) said.

- [Precautionary hold departure order issued against Martin Romualdez by Sandiganbayan](#) (2026-04-22 15:40)

The Sandiganbayan has barred the former Speaker, Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez, from leaving the country after it issued a precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) on Wednesday.

- [No winners of major lotto jackpot draws on April 22, 2026](#) (2026-04-22 14:37)

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said there were no winners of the major lotto jackpot draws on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

- [Robredo: Stop looking for 'savior' in PH politics](#) (2026-04-22 13:05)

After disclosing that she is no longer interested in seeking a national post, former Vice President and Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo urged the public to stop looking for a “savior” figure in politics.

- [AMLC confirms 18 Sara Duterte-linked transactions match Trillanes affidavit](#) (2026-04-22 12:53)

The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) on Wednesday confirmed that at least 18 bank transactions linked to Vice President Sara Duterte and her family members, as cited in the affidavit of former senator Antonio Trillanes IV, match records of covered and suspicious transaction reports.

- [Palace allows VP Sara travel amid impeachment hearings](#) (2026-04-22 12:22)

The Office of the President granted Vice President Sara Duterte the authority to travel to five countries in the midst of ongoing impeachment proceedings against her.

- [BIR blocks opening of Sara Duterte, husband's tax returns](#) (2026-04-22 12:19)

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on Wednesday blocked the House Committee on Justice from opening a box containing the income tax returns (ITRs) of Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband, Manases Carpio.

- [Who is Sammy Uy?](#) (2026-04-22 11:48)

Former senator Antonio Trillanes IV on Wednesday alleged that Vice President Sara Duterte and members of her family received millions of pesos from alleged drug lord Samuel “Sammy” Uy.

- [House subpoenas NBI over VP Sara Duterte threat probe](#) (2026-04-22 11:24)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Wednesday administered the oath of office to Mel Senen Sarmiento as Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity.

- [Raffy Tulfo flags continued proliferation of '5-5-5' scheme](#) (2026-04-22 11:14)

Senator Raffy Tulfo on Wednesday urged the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to implement stronger measures to address the longstanding problem of the “5-5-5” scheme, which is being used by some companies to prevent employees from getting regularized after six months.

- [SEC: Sara Duterte listed as stockholder, board member of Davao firm from 2022-2025](#) (2026-04-22 11:00)

Vice President Sara Duterte was listed as a stockholder and member of the board of directors of a Davao-based private company from 2022 to 2025 while serving in office, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said Wednesday.

- [Mel Sarmiento takes oath as OPAPRU chief](#) (2026-04-22 10:55)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Wednesday administered the oath of office of Mel Senen Sarmiento as Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity.

- [Trillanes alleges VP Sara, Duterte family received P181M from alleged drug lord](#) (2026-04-22 10:55)

Former senator Antonio Trillanes IV on Wednesday alleged that Vice President Sara Duterte and the immediate members of her family received P181 million from an alleged drug lord.

- [San Ag grad tops April 2026 pharmacists licensure exam](#) (2026-04-22 10:33)

A graduate of the University of San Agustin achieved the highest score in the pharmacists licensure examination given earlier this month.

- [Romualdez camp seeks due process amid Ombudsman raps](#) (2026-04-22 10:30)

The camp of former Speaker and Leyte 1st District Rep. Martin Romualdez on Wednesday said it expects due process to be observed after a complaint was lodged against him for alleged plunder and money laundering, among others.

- [Sandiganbayan to court doctor: Check health of state witness in flood control mess](#) (2026-04-22 10:06)

The Sandiganbayan Third Division on Wednesday ordered the anti-graft court's resident doctor to verify the health condition of state witness and former Public Works Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo.

- [ICC chamber denies Rodrigo Duterte's appeal vs. jurisdiction ruling](#) (2026-04-22 09:38)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) Appeals Chamber on Wednesday denied the appeal filed by former President Rodrigo Duterte against an earlier ruling that dismissed his challenge to the court's jurisdiction.

- [LTFRB says P10 jeepney fare hike request 'unprecedented'](#) (2026-04-22 09:36)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Wednesday described as “unprecedented” the petition seeking a P10 increase in jeepney fares amid high fuel prices.

- [VP Sara on Earth Day: Climate infra corruption a 'threat' to national security](#) (2026-04-22 08:56)

In observance of Earth Day, Vice President Sara Duterte on Wednesday said the supposed corruption in climate infrastructure projects is considered a “threat” to national security.

- [Supreme Court orders Marcos to comment on medical report petition](#) (2026-04-22 08:54)

The Supreme Court has directed President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. to submit his comment within 10 days regarding a petition that seeks the disclosure of his medical examination report.

- [LTFRB sees mismatch on drivers' lists submitted by TNCs, motorcycle taxis to DSWD](#) (2026-04-22 08:40)

Discrepancies were reportedly observed in the lists of drivers submitted by transport network companies (TNCs) and motorcycle taxi operators to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

- [Romualdez's claim not an accusation vs Marcos -- ex-IBP president](#) (2026-04-22 08:22)

The former national president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines said Wednesday that the statement of former Speaker and Leyte Representative Martin Romualdez indicating that the Executive branch bears command responsibility over the national budget, was not a direct accusation against President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.

- [Gov't agencies sign SOP to implement POGO ban](#) (2026-04-22 05:57)

Several government agencies on Wednesday signed the interagency standard operating

procedures (SOP) to implement the executive order banning Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs) in the country.

- [Sara Duterte belies sending 'prizes' through e-wallets](#) (2026-04-22 05:56)

Vice President Sara Duterte on Wednesday refuted social media posts alleging she and her family are giving away prizes through digital wallets and other platforms.

- [Bato forgoing salary may be a basis to junk ethics complaint --JV Ejercito](#) (2026-04-22 04:50)

Should he heed the call, Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa voluntarily refraining from receiving his salary and allowances amid his prolonged absence in the Senate may be a ground for dismissing the ethics complaint filed against him, committee chairman Senator JV Ejercito said Wednesday.

- [CHR: 'Safer Cities' ops must comply with human rights standards, rule of law](#) (2026-04-22 04:26)

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on Wednesday urged authorities to ensure the enforcement of the Safer Cities Initiative remains grounded in human rights standards and the rule of law.

- [UPCAT 2026 results: 18,350 pass admission test](#) (2026-04-22 04:00)

A total of 18,350 examinees passed the University of the Philippines College Admission Test (UPCAT) 2026, representing 12.44% of all test takers who sought admission in Academic Year 2026 to 2027.

- [Marcos, FL Liza attend Manaoag Marian celebration](#) (2026-04-22 03:53)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and First Lady Louise "Liza" Araneta-Marcos attended the 100th canonical coronation of Our Lady of Manaoag on Wednesday.

- ['Smuggled' cigarettes worth P16M found in abandoned trucks in Lanao del Sur --PNP](#) (2026-04-22 03:46)

'Smuggled' cigarettes worth P16M found in abandoned trucks in Lanao del Sur --PNP

- [Nartatez orders audit amid alleged rent kickback scheme in Cordillera training unit](#) (2026-04-22 03:34)

Philippine National Police chief Police General Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. has ordered a review of the financial records of all regional training units across the country after an alleged rental kickback scheme was uncovered at a police training unit in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

- [Lacson: Romualdez given chances by Blue Ribbon panel to testify](#) (2026-04-22 03:33)

Former House Speaker and Leyte Representative Martin Romualdez was given at least two opportunities to testify under oath and refute claims against him, Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo “Ping” Lacson said Wednesday.

- [Impeachment proceedings revealed 'body of evidence' vs. VP Sara --Luistro](#) (2026-04-22 03:33)

Impeachment proceedings revealed 'body of evidence' vs. VP Sara --Luistro

- [7 PNPA cadets, 2 police officers face criminal raps over hazing incident](#) (2026-04-22 03:06)

Criminal charges have been filed against seven Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) cadets and two police officers in connection with a hazing incident in the institution, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Wednesday.

- [P278M worth of shabu seized in QC, 2 Chinese suspects nabbed](#) (2026-04-22 03:01)

P278M worth of shabu seized in QC, 2 Chinese suspects nabbed

- [DA defers procurement for farm-to-market roads to May due to costing adjustments](#) (2026-04-22 02:52)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is deferring the start of procurement activities for its implementation of farm-to-market road (FMR) projects by May due to costing adjustments amid price pressures caused by the global oil crisis.

- [VP Sara's liabilities increased to P9M in 2024, SALN shows](#) (2026-04-22 02:24)

The liabilities of Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, increased to P9.95 million in 2024 from P3.75 million in 2022 based on the Vice President's Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN.)

- [Some service contracting jeepneys not granting 20% fare discount --MANIBELA](#) (2026-04-22 02:06)

Some service contracting jeepneys not granting 20% fare discount

- [Marcos congratulates reelected Thai PM Anutin in phone call](#) (2026-04-21 16:36)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. congratulated Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul following the latter's reelection and expressed optimism for stronger cooperation between their countries especially in key sectors.

- [LTO revokes driver's license of female vlogger for reckless driving](#) (2026-04-21 15:33)

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has revoked the driver's license of a female vlogger who went viral on social media earlier this year for driving a vehicle while holding a recording device.

- [Ex-Health undersecretary denies promoting P3.5B Dengvaxia vaccine use](#) (2026-04-21 14:18)

A former Health Undersecretary for Health Regulation on Tuesday denied promoting the use of anti-dengue Dengvaxia vaccine even if he had previously worked for an entity affiliated with its distributor.

- [PCSO: No winners of major lotto jackpot draws on April 21, 2026](#) (2026-04-21 14:09)

There were no winners of the major jackpot prizes drawn by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

- [Zaldy Co has no Portuguese passport, says source in Portugal Embassy in Prague](#) (2026-04-21 12:58)

PRAGUE - Former Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co has no Portuguese passport, a source in the embassy of Portugal in this city told GMA News.

- [iAcademy grad tops April 2026 real estate brokers licensure exam](#) (2026-04-21 12:54)

A graduate of iAcademy Inc. achieved the highest score in the real estate licensure examination given earlier this month.

- [Erwin Ken Angcual Parchaso: PLE topnotcher from 'name withheld' to recognition](#) (2026-04-21 11:45)

The topnotcher of the March 2026 Physician Licensure Examination shared his journey during

his oath-taking, weeks after he was initially listed as “name withheld” in the official results. In his speech at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City, Erwin Ken Angcual Parchaso confirmed he was the unnamed topnotcher released by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

- [Romualdez denies role in 2025 budget graft; tags Chiz Escudero, Zaldy Co](#) (2026-04-21 10:44)

Former Speaker and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez on Tuesday denied any role in the corruption related to the 2025 national budget, stressing there is “no evidence that proves that he committed plunder, conspiracy to commit plunder, or any similar offense that the Ombudsman may be contemplating against me.”

- [Marcos appoints ex-Navy commander Bernabe as MARINA deputy administrator](#) (2026-04-21 10:27)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has appointed Loumer Bernabe as deputy administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA).

- [EXPLAINER: OPAPRU and the 2026 BARMM elections](#) (2026-04-21 10:04)

Established in 2021 under Executive Order (EO) 158, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) - formerly known as the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) - is mandated to manage, direct, integrate, and supervise the implementation of the comprehensive peace process.

- [Leni Robredo 'sure' she won't join 2028 national elections](#) (2026-04-21 10:02)

Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo on Tuesday said she will not run in the 2028 national elections, as she plans to seek another term as the city's top local government executive.

- [DBM releases P17.27B to fast-track construction of 4,960 classrooms](#) (2026-04-21 10:01)

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on Tuesday said it approved the release of P17.27 billion to the Department of Education (DepEd) to fast-track the construction of 4,960 classrooms nationwide.

- [More lawyers seek TRO vs. VP Sara impeachment](#) (2026-04-21 10:00)

More lawyers have filed a petition before the Supreme Court (SC) challenging the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte at the House of Representatives.

- [Ombudsman seeks hold departure order vs. Martin Romualdez](#) (2026-04-21 09:47)

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla has asked the Sandiganbayan to issue a precautionary hold departure order against former speaker Martin Romualdez, who is facing an investigation.

- [Justice Hernando: Removing unprogrammed appropriations would remove risks](#) (2026-04-21 09:39)

Supreme Court (SC) Associate Justice Ramon Hernando on Tuesday said he believes that removing unprogrammed appropriations (UAs) in the national budget would remove the risk for misuse and abuse.

- [Who is Mel Sarmiento?](#) (2026-04-21 09:35)

Former Interior secretary Mel Sarmiento has been appointed as the new Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity, replacing retired military General Carlito Galvez Jr.

- [Ombudsman eyes subpoena for Zaldy Co over flood control mess](#) (2026-04-21 09:16)

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla will subpoena former House appropriations panel chair Zaldy Co in the event that Co is arrested by Philippine authorities.

- [Marcos unfazed by approval ratings, vows to keep working -- Palace](#) (2026-04-21 09:01)

Malacañang on Tuesday said President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. will continue working regardless of his approval ratings.

- [JV Ejercito urges Bato to forego salary amid prolonged absence](#) (2026-04-21 08:59)

Senate Deputy Majority Leader and Ethics committee chair Sen. JV Ejercito on Tuesday called on Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa to forgo his salary and allowances amid his continued absence in the Senate.

- [EXPLAINER: What is Balikatan Exercise?](#) (2026-04-21 08:54)

Balikatan Exercise is the largest annual military exercise between the Philippines and the United States to boost defense cooperation and improve joint operational readiness between the two countries.

- [PH gov't to ensure safety of Zaldy Co -- Palace](#) (2026-04-21 08:44)

The Philippine government will ensure the safety and protection of former lawmaker Zaldy Co, Malacañang said Tuesday.

- [Saudi Arabia turns over 30 tons of premium dates to PH for Muslim community](#) (2026-04-21 05:48)

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Saudi Embassy Chancery have turned over 30 tons of premium pressed dates to the Philippine government.

- [Bong Revilla's Bulacan flood control project in 2025 budget upon Cabral's order](#) (2026-04-21 04:49)

The P92.8-million flood control project in Pandi, Bulacan was included in the 2025 General Appropriations Act, with then senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr as proponent, upon the instructions of the late Public Works and Highways undersecretary Cathy Cabral, a witness told Sandiganbayan Tuesday.

- [Galvez out: Palace confirms OPAPRU leadership change](#) (2026-04-21 04:25)

Malacañang on Tuesday confirmed the change of leadership at the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity.

- [PH welcomes Japan's easing of arms export rules for defense](#) (2026-04-21 03:36)

The Philippines welcomed Japan's easing of long-standing restrictions on arms exports, saying the move could enhance Manila's access to high-quality military equipment and strengthen regional security.

- ['Safer Cities' violators decline, growing public compliance seen --PNP](#) (2026-04-21 02:08)

'Safer Cities' violators decline, growing public compliance seen --PNP

Source: PhilStar Global

- [Price cuts extend for diesel, kerosene; gasoline up](#) (2026-04-28 00:30)

Fuel prices move again Tuesday, with diesel and kerosene posting rollbacks.

- [Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for Apr. 28](#) (2026-04-28 00:30)

Fuel prices are shifting again as diesel, kerosene drop and gasoline edges higher this week.

- [Davao named best city for travel](#) (2026-04-27 16:00)

Travel and destination guide World Travel Index has listed Davao City as the best in the Philippines for the second time in a row, according to the WTI April 2026 rankings.

- [Palace: 42,011 barangays to get P200,000 each](#) (2026-04-27 16:00)

Malacañang gave the assurance yesterday that the government's development support would benefit all of the country's 42,011 barangays.

- [DOLE vows aid for Zamboanga fish industry workers](#) (2026-04-27 16:00)

Over 30,000 workers will receive aid amid the impending shutdown of fishing and canning operations here due to high fuel costs, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

- [Maguindanao leaders join new BARMM political party](#) (2026-04-27 16:00)

More than half of the 36 mayors in Maguindanao del Sur and Maguindanao del Norte have joined a new political party as the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao gears up for the first BARMM parliamentary elections in September.

- [Ombudsman junks cases vs Benitez, others](#) (2026-04-27 16:00)

The Office of the Ombudsman has dismissed for lack of evidence the complaints for grave misconduct against Deputy Speaker Alfredo Benitez and members of the city council.

- [Patrol car crash: More may face raps](#) (2026-04-27 16:00)

More people could face charges in connection with the patrol car accident that left five detainees dead in Barangay Payatas, Quezon City last week, according to the Philippine National Police.

- [Blanket socmed ban for minors hard to enforce – group](#) (2026-04-27 16:00)

A blanket ban on minors' access to social media could be difficult to enforce and vulnerable to circumvention, according to a consumer advocacy group.

- [Taguig-Makati crash no road rage – SPD](#) (2026-04-27 16:00)

The Southern Police District has maintained that the April 24 multiple-vehicle collision in Taguig and Makati is not a road rage incident.

- [Alleged Atong Ang links to Tondo e-sabong probed](#) (2026-04-27 16:00)

The Philippine National Police is investigating the possible links of fugitive gaming tycoon Atong Ang to e-sabong operations in Tondo, Manila and Talisay in Negros Occidental.

- [Jonvic warns SK officials vs corruption](#) (2026-04-27 16:00)

After two Sangguniang Kabataan chairpersons in Makati were suspended over misconduct cases, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla yesterday warned SK officials against corruption.

- [2 Moro men killed in Maguindanao del Norte ambush](#) (2026-04-27 10:59)

Two Moro men actively supporting police law-enforcement activities were killed in an ambush in Barangay Bagoinged, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao del Norte on Sunday, April 26.

- [3 Dawlah members killed in clash with soldiers](#) (2026-04-27 09:25)

Three remnants of the now-defunct Dawlah Islamiya were killed in an encounter with patrolling soldiers in a secluded area in Barangay Tuayan Mother, Datu Hoffer, Maguindanao del Sur on Sunday, April 26.

- [Leaders in 2 BARMM provinces join new political party](#) (2026-04-27 08:46)

More than half of the 36 mayors in Maguindanao del Sur and Maguindanao del Norte have joined the Bangsamoro Federalist Party, which has fielded candidates for the parliament of the autonomous region in its first regional elections on September 14 this year.

- [Double-digit rollback for diesel, kerosene set this week](#) (2026-04-27 07:16)

Diesel and kerosene to post double-digit rollbacks as gasoline edges up.

- [Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for Apr. 27](#) (2026-04-27 00:00)

Fuel prices are expected to decline again this week, though at a smaller scale.

- [Baguio has highest GDP per capita](#) (2026-04-26 16:00)

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in Cordillera has reported Baguio City as the country's top regional city economy in per capita terms, posting the highest gross domestic product (GDP) per capita among regional cities in 2025.

- [Miss Universe security tightened](#) (2026-04-26 16:00)

The Northern Mindanao Police heightened the implementation of security measures across the region, ahead of the Miss Universe Philippines 2026 semi-finals in Misamis Occidental.

- [DepEd urged to improve athlete support system](#) (2026-04-26 16:00)

After a strong showing of provincial delegates in the recent Cagayan Valley Regional Athletic Association meet, Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Jose Gambito called on the Department of Education to review and improve the DepEd athlete support system.

- [Tampered LPG tanks seized in Bataan](#) (2026-04-26 16:00)

Police arrested five people and recovered hundreds of tampered liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders at a sales center in Mariveles, Bataan on Friday.

- [CHR probes Negros Occidental encounter](#) (2026-04-26 16:00)

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has initiated its own investigation into the reported armed encounter that left 19 people dead in Toboso, Negros Occidental last week.

- [EDSA-Ortigas Interchange to reopen today](#) (2026-04-26 16:00)

The EDSA-Ortigas Interchange southbound flyover in Mandaluyong will reopen today after it was closed for emergency repairs and structural assessment after a bus caught fire on April 24.

- [PNP: Probe vehicle crash that killed 5 detainees](#) (2026-04-26 16:00)

The Philippine National Police has ordered a full investigation after a PNP vehicle crashed and killed five people under police custody (PUPCs) in Quezon City on April 24.

- [5 nabbed for illegal notary](#) (2026-04-26 16:00)

Five people were arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation over alleged illegal notary public service in Manila, the NBI reported yesterday.

- [New Quezon City park to double as flood retention facility](#) (2026-04-26 16:00)

Developments within the Quezon Memorial Circle will include a new park, which will also serve as flood retention and detention basins during rainy season.

- [Ombudsman slams leak of investigators' data](#) (2026-04-26 16:00)

The Office of the Ombudsman has vowed to pursue maximum legal penalties against those responsible for the malicious online disclosure of its investigators' identities, calling it a "blatant attempt to intimidate public servants and jeopardize their personal safety."

- [Mike Defensor's wife denies ties to raided Pasig City establishment](#) (2026-04-26 02:52)

The wife of former lawmaker Mike Defensor has broken her silence, denying allegations linking her and her daughter to an establishment recently raided by the National Bureau of Investigation.

- [2 dead, 5 injured in Marikina road crash](#) (2026-04-25 16:00)

Two people died and five others were injured after a truck loaded with sugar crashed into a store in Marikina yesterday.

- [Cagayan de Oro LGU bracing for El Niño](#) (2026-04-25 16:00)

The city government of Cagayan de Oro has activated safety measures to cushion the impact of the El Niño phenomenon on farmers, particularly in upland barangays.

- [Bataan town gets cold storage facility](#) (2026-04-25 16:00)

A solar and wind-powered modular cold storage facility was turned over to the municipal government of Dinalupihan, Bataan on Thursday, to improve post-harvest systems.

- [Special holidays declared in 9 areas](#) (2026-04-25 16:00)

Malacañang has declared special non-working holidays in nine areas in the country, allowing residents to participate in the celebration of local founding and charter anniversaries as well as festivals.

- [P54.4 million shabu seized in Zamboanga stings](#) (2026-04-25 16:00)

Shabu with estimated street value of P54.4 million has been seized in separate anti-narcotics operations that also resulted in the arrest of three suspects in this city.

- [Cop tagged in illegal cigarette production](#) (2026-04-25 16:00)

Following the destruction of a large-scale illegal cigarette production and distribution network in Negros Occidental, the Department of the Interior and Local Government tagged a police officer as a protector of the illegal activity involving Chinese nationals.

- [Fil-Am among 19 fatalities in Negros encounter](#) (2026-04-25 16:00)

Aside from a student leader and a party-list group nominee, an American citizen of Filipino descent was among 19 people killed in an encounter in Toboso, Negros Occidental last week.

- [DMW repatriates 7,674 OFWs](#) (2026-04-25 16:00)

A total of 7,674 overseas Filipino workers have so far been repatriated amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, the Department of Migrant Workers reported yesterday.

- [Tourist bus catches fire along EDSA](#) (2026-04-25 16:00)

A tourist bus traveling to Cavite caught fire on Friday, leading to delayed train operations and heavy traffic along EDSA, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said.

- [Coliseo de Manila files cases vs CIDG](#) (2026-04-25 16:00)

Administrative complaints were filed by the management of the Coliseo de Manila in Tondo against 10 Criminal Investigation and Detection Group officers whom it accused of stealing cash and other belongings during a CIDG raid on March 24.

- [Task Force GenSan placed under Army's 10th Infantry Division control](#) (2026-04-25 08:25)

The Army's 10th Infantry Division on Friday, April 24, assumed control of the anti-terror Task Force GenSan covering the entire General Santos City, now among the cities and provinces under its jurisdiction.

- [8 drug den operators nabbed in Cotabato](#) (2026-04-25 07:50)

Agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency arrested in an entrapment operation on Thursday, April 23, eight individuals, five of them women, together operating a clandestine drug den in Barangay Rosary Heights 10 in this city.

- [P54.4 million worth of shabu seized in 2 separate operations](#) (2026-04-25 07:12)

Agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency 9 seized P54.4 million worth of shabu in two separate entrapment operations in Zamboanga City on Friday, April 24.

- [SBMA closes the loop on electronic waste](#) (2026-04-25 06:42)

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority has launched a program to recover and recycle electronic and electrical wastes in the Subic Bay Freeport, aiming to close the loop on the fastest-growing waste stream and further promote a sustainable circular economy.

- [Bong Go pushes fire preparedness, emergency support systems](#) (2026-04-24 16:00)

Sen. Bong Go underscored the need for stronger fire preparedness and accessible emergency support systems during a visit to families affected by a fire in Barangay Bagong Ilog, Pasig on Thursday.

- [Review center shut down for ‘illegal recruitment’](#) (2026-04-24 16:00)

A review center for International English Language Testing System or IELTS in Santiago, Isabela has been ordered closed after it was allegedly found engaging in illegal recruitment activities.

- [President Marcos distributes cash assistance in Batangas](#) (2026-04-24 16:00)

President Marcos distributed P200,000 in cash assistance to each barangay in Batangas yesterday, to support local projects including scholarship programs.

- [Independent probe of Negros Occidental clash sought](#) (2026-04-24 16:00)

Rights group Karapatan is seeking an independent investigation into a recent encounter that killed 19 people in Toboso, Negros Occidental.

- [Senator files bill for social media ban on minors](#) (2026-04-24 16:00)

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian has filed a bill seeking to ban children below 16 years old from having social media accounts.

- [2 PCG men nabbed in Cebu, Davao stings](#) (2026-04-24 16:00)

Two members of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) have been arrested in separate anti-narcotics operations in Cebu and Davao this week.

- [Second corpse flower found in Bulacan forest](#) (2026-04-24 16:00)

Another rare corpse flower or *Rafflesia lagascae* has been found in the forest of Doña Remedios Trinidad town in Bulacan, according to the office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Luzon.

- [SC OKs case vs Chinese in P6.4 billion shabu shipment](#) (2026-04-24 16:00)

Chinese businessman Chen Julong must face trial for his involvement in the importation of P6.4 billion worth of shabu in 2017, the Supreme Court said.

- [Teachers march to Mendiola, demand P15,000 pay hike](#) (2026-04-24 16:00)

Public school teachers from the National Capital Region, Calabarzon, Central Luzon and Region 1 marched from the Department of Budget and Management main office in San Miguel, Manila to Mendiola to demand action from the Marcos administration on the pending bills providing for a P15,000 across-the-board salary increase.

- [5 dead, 5 injured in PNP vehicle crash](#) (2026-04-24 16:00)

Five inmates died after a Philippine National Police vehicle crashed into a concrete wall in Quezon City yesterday, an accident that also left another inmate and four escorting PNP officers injured.

- [Independent probe of Negros Occidental clash sought](#) (2026-04-24 16:00)

Rights group Karapatan is seeking an independent investigation into a recent encounter that killed 19 people in Toboso, Negros Occidental.

- [PDEA seizes 1 kilo of shabu in Marawi operation](#) (2026-04-24 10:10)

Agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency seized P6.8 million worth of shabu from a dealer reportedly linked to remnants of the now-defunct Dawlah Islamiya, who was entrapped in Barangay Banga, Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, on Wednesday, April 22.

- [Motorcycle taxi bill pushed](#) (2026-04-24 09:27)

Motorcycle taxi riders are calling on regulators and legislators to ensure that the protection of rider livelihoods remains at the center of any regulation governing the motorcycle taxi industry.

- [Maranao woman killed, 4 wounded in Lanao del Sur ambush](#) (2026-04-24 09:17)

Gunmen killed a Maranao woman and wounded four others in an ambush in Barangay Bubongaranao, a hinterland village in the town of Calanogas, Lanao del Sur, on Thursday night, April 23.

- [Dawlah remnants linked to fatal ambush of 2 women joggers in Lanao del Norte](#) (2026-04-24 09:11)

Army and police intelligence officials are investigating assertions that remnants of the now-defunct Dawlah Islamiya were behind the fatal ambush of two women who were jogging along a highway in Barangay Muntay, Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte on Tuesday morning, April 21.

- [Anti-trafficking raid in Pasay tied to Mike Defensor's family – NBI](#) (2026-04-24 05:38)

NBI links establishments in trafficking raid to Mike Defensor's wife and son, citing corporate records.

- [Implementing 2014 CAB a work cut out for civilians, says MILF exec](#) (2026-04-24 00:11)

Implementing the 2014 Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro requires sustained civilian governance and institutional coordination, a senior Moro Islamic Liberation Front official said.

- [5 get life for Antipolo trader's kidnap-slay](#) (2026-04-23 16:00)

Five people have been sentenced to life in prison in connection with the kidnapping and murder of a businessman in Antipolo City in 2013.

- [Drought hits 15 Luzon provinces](#) (2026-04-23 16:00)

Fifteen provinces in Luzon are experiencing drought as dry season persists, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said yesterday.

- [3 slain in Zamboanga anti-crime ops](#) (2026-04-23 16:00)

Three members of a family were killed while three others were wounded in a police operation against a wanted person in this city on Thursday.

- [Party-list nominee among fatalities in Negros clashes](#) (2026-04-23 16:00)

A nominee of the Kabataan party-list group and a student activist were among 19 people killed in a series of clashes that occurred recently in Toboso, Negros Occidental, rights groups said yesterday.

- [Marcos inspects housing project in Nueva Ecija](#) (2026-04-23 16:00)

President Marcos yesterday visited Palayan City in Nueva Ecija to inspect a housing project and distribute rice to vendors.

- [Cybercrime chief Asueta gets promotion](#) (2026-04-23 16:00)

The cybercrime chief of the Philippine National Police has been promoted to the next rank.

- [BOC seizes P174.8 million smuggled goods](#) (2026-04-23 16:00)

Vape products and other illegal items totaling P174.86 million have been seized in Valenzuela.

- [LTFRB summons 3 PUV drivers over fare discount](#) (2026-04-23 16:00)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board has issued show-cause orders to three public utility vehicle drivers under the service contracting program for not granting the mandated 20 percent discount to passengers.

- [Isko asks DPWH: Rush Beata Bridge repairs](#) (2026-04-23 16:00)

Manila Mayor Isko Moreno asked the Department of Public Works and Highways on Wednesday to speed up repair works on the Beata Bridge in Pandacan.

- [NCRPO: No crime wave amid oil crisis](#) (2026-04-23 16:00)

Amid speculations that the energy crisis maybe fueling a spate of criminal activities, the National Capital Region Police Office sees the “gas-and-run” cases in Quezon City as isolated incidents.

- [Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for Apr. 23](#) (2026-04-22 23:30)

The oil shock is showing up beyond pump prices.

- [Technician nabbed over bomb joke](#) (2026-04-22 16:00)

A 28-year-old air-conditioning technician was arrested for making a bomb joke in a shopping mall in this city on Tuesday afternoon.

- [New chemotherapy center in Laguna opened](#) (2026-04-22 16:00)

Cancer patients in this province may avail themselves of free chemotherapy services at the newly opened AML Life-Care Chemotherapy Center in Sta. Rosa City.

- [PNP probes minor’ s death in GenSan ‘shootout’](#) (2026-04-22 16:00)

The Philippine National Police has started investigating the death of a 12-year-old girl in an alleged shootout between policemen and an armed man in General Santos City on Saturday.

- [3 Laguna cop chiefs relieved for poor performance](#) (2026-04-22 16:00)

Three police chiefs in Laguna have been relieved from their posts due to poor performance, particularly in stopping illegal gambling in their respective jurisdictions.

- [9 charged over hazing of 22 PNPA cadets](#) (2026-04-22 16:00)

Criminal complaints have been filed against seven cadets and two police officers in connection with the alleged hazing of 22 plebes at the Philippine National Police Academy.

- [Mayon monitoring equipment cables stolen](#) (2026-04-22 16:00)

Several meters of power cables connecting equipment used in monitoring the activities of Mayon Volcano in Albay have been stolen, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

- [Fire hits Sierra Madre](#) (2026-04-22 16:00)

A forest fire struck a portion of the Sierra Madre mountain range in Kalayaan, Laguna on Tuesday afternoon.

- [2 Chinese caught with P278.8 million shabu](#) (2026-04-22 16:00)

Anti-narcotics agents confiscated 41 kilos of shabu valued at P278.8 million from two Chinese nationals who were arrested in Quezon City on Tuesday night.

- [25 OFWs return from Israel, Lebanon](#) (2026-04-22 16:00)

Twenty-five overseas Filipino workers from Israel and Lebanon arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay on Tuesday.

- [Grassroots transport alliance wins prize in New York City](#) (2026-04-22 16:00)

The Move as One Coalition has won the Ross Center Prize for Cities for taking collective action on the Philippines' transport woes.

- [Over 10,000 villagers benefit from Army-NGO health mission](#) (2026-04-22 11:03)

More than 10,000 villagers benefited from a three-day medical, dental and community health intervention mission of the Army's 10th Infantry Division and the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Ships Philippines in Barangay San Isidro in Talaingod, Davao del Norte.

- [Basilan gov't service center opens to public](#) (2026-04-22 10:55)

Officials launched on Tuesday, April 21, the newly-constructed multi-million public service center of the Bangsamoro regional government in Basilan, built with the help of foreign benefactors.

- [PAGASA raises alert for possible El Niño by mid-2026](#) (2026-04-22 07:43)

State weather bureau PAGASA has raised its El Niño Southern Oscillation Alert to "El Niño Alert," warning that a warm phase of the climate phenomenon is increasingly likely to develop by mid-2026.

- [Aparri under 'danger level' heat index — PAGASA](#) (2026-04-22 04:43)

Aparri in Cagayan may experience scorching heat on Wednesday, April 22, the state weather bureau PAGASA said.

- [SC rules on filing of cyber libel cases](#) (2026-04-21 16:00)

Complaints of cyber libel must be filed within one year from the time the victims discovered the libelous online posts, according to the Supreme Court.

- [PNP: Safer Cities violators drop](#) (2026-04-21 16:00)

Metro Manila residents are now complying with local ordinances as fewer people have been apprehended in the past days under the government's Safer Cities initiative.

- [2 'gas-and-run' suspects arrested](#) (2026-04-21 16:00)

Police apprehended two people who fled from a gas station in Quezon City without paying P1,500 worth of fuel on Monday.

- [Bato urged: Forgo salary, allowances](#) (2026-04-21 16:00)

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito is appealing to Sen. Ronald dela Rosa to voluntarily forgo his salary and allowances and subject himself to the same “no work, no pay” policy that ordinary Filipinos face.

- [PhilSA: 71.5% of Navotas sanitary landfill burned](#) (2026-04-21 16:00)

Around 28.6 hectares or 71.5 percent of the 40-hectare Navotas sanitary landfill have been burned, according to the Philippine Space Agency.

- [Quezon City kids fold paper cranes for peace](#) (2026-04-21 16:00)

Amid the Middle East war, children at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Quezon City are folding close to 2,000 paper cranes as they call for world peace.

- [Bus falls off cliff in Quezon; 2 dead, 37 injured](#) (2026-04-21 16:00)

Two people died while 37 others were injured when a passenger bus plunged into a ravine in Pagbilao, Quezon on Monday night.

- [6 killed in Pangasinan fire](#) (2026-04-21 16:00)

Six people were killed in a fire that struck a residential area in this city at dawn on Monday.

- [5 rebel leaders among 19 fatalities in Negros clashes](#) (2026-04-21 16:00)

Five of the 19 New People’s Army guerrillas killed in a series of encounters in Toboso, Negros Occidental recently were allegedly key leaders of the NPA’s Komiteng Rehiyonal Northern Negros Front, according to Brig. Gen. Ted Dumosmog, chief of the Army’s 303rd Infantry Brigade.

- [Ex-DILG chief Sarmiento named peace adviser](#) (2026-04-21 03:17)

Former Interior and Local Government Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento is set to assume a key role in the national government’s peacebuilding program.

- [Rollback: Fuel prices down for second straight week](#) (2026-04-21 01:30)

Fuel prices will drop for a second straight week, with diesel down by at least P24.94 per liter.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer

- [Roque claims BIR case meant to ‘harass’ Duterte allies, supporters](#) (2026-04-28 13:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Former presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the tax evasion case against him and co-respondents is part of what he called a “continuing pattern” to “harass” those seen as supporters of the Duterte administration. On Monday, the Bureau of

Internal Revenue (BIR) filed before the Department of Justice a tax evasion complaint against

- [Hot, mostly fair weather to persist across Visayas through May 2](#) (2026-04-28 13:28)

ILOILO CITY — Warm and generally fair weather will continue across the Visayas from April 28 to May 2, with only isolated rainshowers expected, according to the latest regional outlook issued Tuesday by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). The five-day forecast covers Western, Central, and Eastern Visayas and shows a prevailing

- [2 cops, 4 others nabbed over transport of mineral ores in Misamis Oriental](#) (2026-04-28 13:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Two active police officers and four other individuals were arrested for allegedly illegally transporting P290,000 worth of suspected mineral ores in Misamis Oriental, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Tuesday. The six suspects were caught aboard an Isuzu L300 at a checkpoint in Sitio Mahayahay in Barangay Limonda, Opol town late

- [PH leads region in pension coverage, but long-term viability questioned](#) (2026-04-28 13:00)

The Philippines is emerging as one of Asia's "stronger performers in pension coverage," based on data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). "It is a sign that more workers are being brought into formal social protection systems," said Dr. Alicor Panoa, an Inquirer data scientist and associate professor at the University of

- [Leaders of academe, church say Duterte's impeachment must push through](#) (2026-04-28 12:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The impeachment attempt against Vice President Sara Duterte must push through and must not be hampered by "efforts to derail" the proceedings through technicalities, leaders from the academe and church said on Tuesday. In a statement, Dr. Melba Maggay, president of the Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture, said they "take

- ['Chaos in the best possible way' : The Dempsey Reyes his friends knew](#) (2026-04-28 12:43)

Dempsey Cyden Reyes, who died Sunday, April 26, is remembered not only for his fearless, comprehensive journalism but also for the kind of friend he was long before the bylines and headlines. A reporter for the INQUIRER since 2021, Reyes died of respiratory failure after a brain hemorrhage. He would have turned 30 on Oct.

- [UP: Withhold judgment on slain students' presence in Negros clash](#) (2026-04-28 12:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The University of the Philippines (UP) urged the public to withhold judgment over the presence of Alyssa Alano and Maureen Santuyo in underserved communities following their deaths in the April 19 Negros clash. Alano and Santuyo were among the 19 fatalities killed during a series of encounters between soldiers of the 79th

- [PNP: 2 cops relieved for traffic violation in Manila](#) (2026-04-28 12:35)

MANILA, Philippines — A patrolman driving a police vehicle and his immediate superior, a police major, were administratively relieved from their posts for a supposed traffic violation in Manila, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Tuesday. The Land Transportation Office (LTO) had summoned the two police officers after they were seen transporting two wooden

- [Benguet execs probe toxic spill behind Amburayan River fish kill](#) (2026-04-28 12:14)

BAGUIO CITY — Authorities are investigating the poisoning of a section of the Amburayan River in Barangay Taba-ao, Kapangan, Benguet, after a fish kill was discovered on April 25, alarming residents. Barangay officials said the perpetrators have yet to be identified, although the suspected dumping site of the toxic substance has already been located. Village

- [Over 67,000 Eastern Visayas seniors get P3,000 Q1 pension](#) (2026-04-28 12:01)

TACLOBAN CITY — Over 67,000 indigent senior citizens across Eastern Visayas have received their first-quarter social pension for this year, as the government continues its support for vulnerable elderly residents in the region. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) regional office, in coordination with 36 local government units (LGUs), distributed P3,000 each to

- [Agent tagged for brandishing gun in Taguig-Makati road crash](#) (2026-04-28 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) identified a licensed protection agent as the man who was seen brandishing his gun outside a pickup truck after it crashed in separate instances in Taguig City and Makati City. In a press briefing in Camp Crame on Tuesday, PNP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Randolph Tuaño said the

- [DOE finalizes drafted changes to oil deregulation law](#) (2026-04-28 11:58)

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of Energy (DOE) is finalizing a draft of amendments it wants Congress to change to the oil deregulation law and will submit the proposed changes to lawmakers “soon,” an Energy department official said on Tuesday. “[We] have completed a draft amendment,” Energy department Director Rino Abad told a congressional hearing.

- [Lacson: At least P26M available for Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-04-28 11:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate could tap at least P26 million from last year’s budget to fund the possible impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, according to Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson. Lacson heads the Senate committee on accounts, which oversees the funds for the expenses and activities of the chamber. “There’s at

- [Civilians surrender guns, explosive to Army in Maguindanao town](#) (2026-04-28 11:44)

COTABATO CITY – Civilians and local officials in Talitay, Maguindanao del Norte, surrendered 10 assorted high-powered firearms and a fragmentation grenade, an indication that the Army

campaign against loose firearms is gaining headway. Talitay Mayor Sedik Ameril said civilians and village officials turned over the weapons to the local government in support of the military's

- [Dela Rosa's camp considering waiving salary due to absences – Ejercito](#) (2026-04-28 11:38)

MANILA, Philippines – The camp of Sen. Ronald ‘Bato’ dela Rosa is already considering waiving the senator's salary and allowance amid his absences, Senate ethics committee chairperson Sen. JV Ejercito said on Tuesday. After the panel's closed hearing, Ejercito was asked if Dela Rosa had replied to appeals requesting the latter to voluntarily forgo his salaries.

- [Eastern Samar university lands first paid global internship in Visayas](#) (2026-04-28 11:29)

TACLOBAN CITY — Students of Eastern Samar State University (ESSU) are set to gain access to paid international training opportunities after the university forged a landmark partnership with Bixter Academy, marking the first such agreement in the Visayas region. The collaboration, formalized through a memorandum of agreement signed on Monday, allows ESSU students—particularly those in

- [Almost half of Navotas landfill fire put out – Dizon](#) (2026-04-28 11:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Almost half of the fire that hit Navotas Sanitary Landfill in Navotas City has been extinguished but there is still no definite timeline when it will be totally put out, Public Works and Highways Sec. Vince Dizon said on Tuesday. Dizon gave this development almost two weeks since he, along with Navotas

- [HEAT INDEX ALERT: Cavite City still under ‘danger’ heat index at 44°C](#) (2026-04-28 11:15)

LUCENA CITY — Cavite City is expected to remain under a “danger” heat index level on Tuesday and Wednesday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Based on Pagasa's 5 p.m. bulletin on Monday, the city is forecast to record a heat index of 44°C on both days. READ: HEAT INDEX

- [Bohol cops get P95 million in mobility, ICT equipment boost](#) (2026-04-28 11:07)

TAGBILARAN CITY — The Bohol Police Provincial Office (BPPO) received over P95 million worth of mobility and information technology equipment on Monday during the inaugural command visit of newly designated Police Regional Office 7 (PRO-7) Acting Director Arnold Abad. Abad led the turnover ceremony alongside Bohol Gov. Erico Aristotle Aumentado and Provincial Director Patricio Degay

- [Bangsamoro chief minister to focus on service over politics](#) (2026-04-28 10:54)

COTABATO CITY—Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof “Sammy Gambar” Macacua announced on Monday that he will temporarily step back from partisan political activities to

focus on delivering public service in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Macacua was earlier endorsed as the 3rd district representative of Maguindanao del Norte by the Bangsamoro Federalist Party (BFP),

- [Brawner bids farewell to Wescom in final visit as AFP chief](#) (2026-04-28 10:35)

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY — Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. bid farewell to the Western Command during a Change of Command Ceremony he presided over at the Tactical Operations Wing West headquarters on Sunday. Brawner, who is set to retire in July, said the occasion may be his

- [Power outages seen in Catanduanes amid fuel shortage](#) (2026-04-28 10:12)

LEGAZPI CITY — The Sunwest Water and Electric Co. (SUWECO), the main power supplier in Catanduanes, may shut down its diesel generator sets due to fuel supply constraints, raising the risk of a province-wide power outage. SUWECO spokesperson Lorenza Rojas, in a local radio interview on Monday, said soaring diesel prices have made operations unsustainable,

- [Ombudsman clears Rep. Benitez, 18 others in Bacolod land deal](#) (2026-04-28 09:58)

BACOLOD CITY—The Office of the Ombudsman has dismissed the criminal and administrative complaints filed against Bacolod Rep. Alfredo Abelardo Benitez and 18 other city officials and private individuals in connection with the city's purchase of a 74.7-hectare property in Hacienda Conchita, Barangay Granada in this city. The complaints, which alleged violations of the Anti-Graft and

- [BFAR eyes bigger fuel aid for fisherfolk](#) (2026-04-28 09:38)

ILOILO CITY — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) is proposing an expanded and increased fuel subsidy program to cushion the impact of the ongoing oil crisis across all sectors of the country's fisheries industry, a top official said Monday. Speaking after the inauguration of a new aquaculture feed mill plant at the

- [SC clears mom of parricide due to legal insanity](#) (2026-04-28 09:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has overturned the parricide conviction of a mother who killed her five-year-old daughter after jumping off a bridge. In a 14-page decision written by Associate Justice Samuel H. Gaerlan, the SC's Third Division granted a mother's appeal and overturned her parricide conviction on the ground of legal insanity due

- [Drug suspect yields P2.1M worth of shabu in Lucena City](#) (2026-04-28 09:15)

LUCENA CITY — Police seized more than P2.1 million worth of suspected shabu (crystal meth) from a female drug suspect during a buy-bust operation in this Quezon provincial capital on Monday, April 27. Lt. Col. Ryan Hernandez, Lucena City police chief, said Tuesday that anti-drug operatives arrested the suspect, identified only as "Collen," 32, at

- [MRT-3, LRT-2 to offer free rides for workers on May 1](#) (2026-04-28 08:32)

MANILA, Philippines — In line with Labor Day, the Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT-3) will offer free rides to workers for a specific period of time on May 1, the train line announced on Tuesday. In an advisory, MRT-3 said that workers may avail of free rides from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 5

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of April 28, 2026](#) (2026-04-28 08:17)

MANILA, Philippines – Motorists are getting fresh relief as oil companies implement another round of price rollbacks Tuesday, continuing a downward trend highlighted in recent Oil Price Watch reports. Diesel prices, in particular, are seeing another significant cut, extending a series of reductions after earlier weeks of steep increases triggered by the conflicts in the

- [Hot, humid weather to prevail in most of PH on Tuesday due to easterlies](#) (2026-04-28 07:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The easterlies will continue to bring hot and humid weather across most of the Philippines on Tuesday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. According to the state weather bureau's 5 a.m. forecast, the easterlies will affect most of the country except for a portion of Mindanao. "The easterlies,

- [BSP, AMLC defend House testimony against VP](#) (2026-04-28 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Top officials of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and its mother agency, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said on Monday they were acting within their mandate and in accordance with law when they disclosed in a congressional hearing the bank records of Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband Manases "Mans"

- [PNP targets people who leaked identities of Ombudsman probers online](#) (2026-04-28 05:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police has started an investigation to identify the people who leaked online the identities of the Office of the Ombudsman's investigators. "The investigation will not be limited to external actors ... Possible internal involvement within the Ombudsman is also being examined as part of the cyber probe," PNP chief

- [Searing heat, dry spell grip provinces amid 'super' El Niño threat](#) (2026-04-28 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Parts of Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao are experiencing a dangerous combination of extreme heat, unstable weather, water shortages, and early El Niño-related impacts, as the state weather bureau and local disaster response offices issued a series of warnings and special forecasts across the country. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services

- [BIR sues Harry Roque, wife, associate for tax evasion](#) (2026-04-28 05:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on Monday filed a tax evasion complaint against former presidential spokesperson Harry Roque, his wife and an associate for

tax deficiencies totaling P3.35 million. Members of the BIR went to the Department of Justice to file the complaint against Roque, his wife Mylah Reyes Roque and

- [2 SK chairs suspended for misconduct – DILG](#) (2026-04-28 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Monday reiterated his call for the abolition of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) after two Makati youth leaders were suspended after the city council found them guilty of misconduct. At a press briefing at Trece Martires City in Cavite, Remulla identified the SK officials as Natalia Georgianna Tupaz

- [Sandiganbayan bars Escudero, trader from leaving PH](#) (2026-04-28 05:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero and his alleged bagman, businessman Maynard Ngu, are now barred from leaving the country after the Sandiganbayan’s Sixth Division on Monday issued a precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) against the pair. The antigrift court also directed the Bureau of Immigration to include the names of Escudero and Ngu

- [PH gains new access to Russian oil as price drops continue](#) (2026-04-28 05:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has gained new access to Russian crude and petroleum products after the United States granted an extension to Russia’s supply, which it had sanctioned before the Iran war. The local market is thus expected to receive a monthlong supply boost, as the country marks its third consecutive week of fuel

- [Police vehicle undergoes checks after accident leaves 5 dead](#) (2026-04-28 04:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The manufacturer of the police vehicle that figured in an accident that killed five persons under police custody (PUPCs) last week is conducting checks to figure out what caused it. “Toyota is conducting a technical inspection to find out if something went wrong with the vehicle,” Quezon City Police District Traffic Enforcement

- [NTF-Elcac flags ‘widening NPA recruitment’ after Negros clash](#) (2026-04-28 04:50)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) has raised concern over what it described as a “troubling shift” in the recruitment practices of the New People’s Army (NPA), citing the alleged involvement of foreign nationals and minors in recent armed encounters in Negros Occidental and

- [Rare plant found in Bicol Natural Park](#) (2026-04-28 04:45)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — A rare plant species has been documented in Bicol Natural Park in Camarines Norte province, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Bicol said. The species, identified as *Amorphophallus caudatus*, is endemic to the Philippines and classified as “critically endangered” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature

- [Zamboanga raid draws scrutiny after child among 3 killed](#) (2026-04-28 04:40)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — An independent investigation is being sought into a joint police and military operation in Zamboanga City that left three people dead, including a 12-year-old boy, amid allegations of human rights violations and conflicting accounts of the raid. In a statement on Monday, the Mindanao-based interfaith organization Moro-Christian Peoples Alliance

- [P7-B wind project to rise in Northern Samar](#) (2026-04-28 04:35)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — Northern Samar continues to attract major clean energy investments, as a new P7.08-billion wind power project is set to rise in the municipality of Victoria, reinforcing the province's position as an emerging renewable energy hub in Eastern Visayas. Econergy Renewable Power Philippines Inc. presented updates on the project during a

- [3 suspects linked to Maguindanao ambush slain in Army operation](#) (2026-04-28 04:30)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Three alleged members of the Dawlah Islamiyah (DI) group linked to the March 28 ambush of five police officers in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao del Sur, were killed in a surgical military operation on Sunday in Barangay Tuayan, Datu Hoffer, the Army said. Lt. Col. Ronald Suscano, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson,

- [Mans Carpio camp slams 'fishing expedition' in VP's impeachment probe](#) (2026-04-28 03:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The lawyer of Manases “Mans” Carpio on Monday called a “fishing expedition” the House of Representatives committee on justice's move to disclose his bank transactions and tax returns as part of the impeachment complaint proceedings against his wife Vice President Sara Duterte. Carpio's counsel Peter Paul Danao insisted that his client's bank

- [Missing docs, not politics, delay aid to Batangas barangays](#) (2026-04-28 02:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Almost a hundred barangays in Batangas province have yet to receive their assistance from the national government—not because of political differences, but due to lacking documents necessary to comply with auditing rules. In a statement on Monday, Executive Secretary Ralph Recto denied the claim of Batangas First District Rep. Leandro Leviste that

- [Blanket ban on social media may push minors to riskier platforms](#) (2026-04-28 01:43)

MANILA, Philippines — A consumer advocacy group on Monday called on Congress to adopt “balanced and proportionate” regulation on social media rather than a blanket ban on minors, as it may simply push them away to riskier platforms. CitizenWatch Philippines made the call after warning lawmakers that broad prohibitions may not fully address how young

- [Old war bombs found, recovered in Naia – PNP](#) (2026-04-28 00:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Bombs, suspected to be World War II remnants, were recovered along a taxiway within the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Complex in Pasay City, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Tuesday. According to the PNP, the bombs were recovered at the Naia Complex on Sunday, April 26 after receiving a report that

- [‘Difficult news’ : DOJ chief says Zaldy Co is out of Czech hands](#) (2026-04-28 00:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida confirmed that former Congressman Zaldy Co is no longer in the custody of the Czech Republic. “I have to share difficult news mga Kababayan, the Czech authorities have confirmed to us that Mr. Zaldy Co is no longer in their custody,” Vida said in a press briefing held

- [PNP coordinating with agencies for crowd management at subsidy rollout](#) (2026-04-27 23:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is now coordinating with government agencies concerned for better crowd management at the rollout for subsidies for the transport sector. “Our priority is the safety and security of our kababayan and we want to prevent any tension among our beneficiaries and those who are distributing the ayuda,”

- [Cop, driver may face admin raps over alleged traffic violation](#) (2026-04-27 23:49)

MANILA, Philippines — A police officer and the driver of a mobile patrol unit they were riding may face administrative sanctions over an alleged traffic violation, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Monday. In a statement, the PNP slammed the purported incident as an “[action] that posed a risk to public safety and [a

- [KTV raid case in Pasig ‘far from closed’ – NBI](#) (2026-04-27 23:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Monday said the released customers of Chicago Family KTV operation during a recent raid may still be charged should evidence gathered during further investigation warrant it. NBI made the pronouncement in a statement, where it clarified what transpired during the raid on the KTV operation

- [2 players hit Mega Lotto 6/45 jackpot on April 27](#) (2026-04-27 21:53)

MANILA, Philippines—Two ticket holders won the Mega Lotto 6/45 jackpot on Monday, April 27, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The winning Mega Lotto 6/45 combination is 06-04-05-27-34-11, with a jackpot prize of ₱45.57 million. Meantime, no player won the ₱69.51 million jackpot in the Grand Lotto 6/55 draw, which came up with the

- [CPP releases names of casualties in ‘Toboso 19,’ including 9 civilians](#) (2026-04-27 21:02)

BACOLOD CITY—The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on Monday, April 27, identified 19 of the casualties in Barangay Salamanca, Toboso, Negros Occidental, claiming that 10 were armed revolutionaries and nine were civilians. The Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines have yet to release the names of the 19 casualties, whom

- [HEAT INDEX ALERT: 13 areas may hit danger levels on Tuesday, April 28](#) (2026-04-27 20:27)

MANILA, Philippines — At least 13 areas are expected to reach “danger” level peak heat indices on Tuesday, April 28, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. According to Pagasa, heat index refers to how hot it feels to the human body when air temperature and humidity are combined. READ: Here’s how

- [Hold departure order vs Romualdez can be challenged, says lawyer](#) (2026-04-27 20:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The precautionary hold departure order (HDO) against Leyte Rep. and former House speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez can still be challenged as the Office of the Ombudsman made this bid without properly informing the lawmaker’s side, a lawyer said on Monday. In a radio interview, transcripts of which were released to the media, lawyer

- [84 Batangas barangay captains ready to testify on aid distribution ‘discrimination’](#) (2026-04-27 20:22)

MANILA, Philippines – Eighty four barangay captains from Batangas are prepared to face Congress to shed light on the non-release of ₱200,000 promised to their barangays under the “Bawat Barangay Makikinabang” program last April 24. According to the barangay captains, they have submitted complete requirements and were never told not to snub the distribution ceremony.

- [2 suspects nabbed, P7.4 M shabu seized in Tagbilaran buy-bust](#) (2026-04-27 20:07)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — Anti-illegal drug operatives arrested two drug suspects and confiscated more than P7.4 million worth of suspected “shabu” (crystal meth) in a midday operation on Monday in Barangay Dampas in this city. The joint operation took place at around 12:56 p.m. in Purok 3, where authorities seized about 1,096.9 grams of the

- [LTO warns vloggers breaking traffic rules for video content](#) (2026-04-27 20:05)

MANILA, Philippines – The Land Transportation Office (LTO) on Monday warned content creators against spreading videos that show them violating traffic rules, noting that it recently issued show cause orders to several vloggers. In a briefing, LTO chief Markus Lacanilao called on content creators and vloggers to be more responsible with the videos they post

- [4 Cafgu members hurt in Dawlah Islamiyah attack in Maguindanao del Sur](#) (2026-04-27 20:04)

COTABATO CITY—Four members of the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (Cafgu) were wounded following an attack by suspected Dawlah Islamiyah militants on military positions in Labu-labu II village in Datu Hoffer Ampatuan, Maguindanao del Sur, late Sunday night, April 26. Lt. Col. Ronald Suscano, spokesperson for the 6th Infantry Division (ID), told Inquirer that authorities

- [DILG: Kickbacks, forgery for SK projects ‘standard’ in 2 Makati villages](#) (2026-04-27 19:43)

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) revealed on Monday a pattern of corrupt practices in two barangays in Makati City involving youth officials. In a press briefing, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said such practice should be stopped as he said he will file a case before the Office

- [Dangerous 46°C heat index hits Puerto Princesa City, Dagupan City Monday](#) (2026-04-27 19:18)

MANILA, Philippines — A dangerous heat index of 46°C was recorded in Puerto Princesa, Palawan and Dagupan City, Pangasinan on Monday, the state weather bureau said. Fourteen other areas nationwide were likewise gripped by dangerous heat indices. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said heat index refers to how hot it actually

- [Remulla names CIDG Bacolod chief as protector of criminal syndicate](#) (2026-04-27 18:35)

BACOLOD CITY – Interior and Local Government Secretary Juanito Victor Remulla has named Maj. Edgar Tonico Jr., chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Bacolod City, as the alleged protector of a criminal syndicate operating in Negros Occidental. READ: Atong Ang, police major linked to Chinese triad in Negros In a press

- [BIR files tax evasion case vs Harry Roque, wife, associate](#) (2026-04-27 18:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) filed a tax evasion complaint before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against former presidential spokesperson Harry Roque, his wife, and an associate for a tax deficiency amounting to P3.35 million. Members of the BIR appeared before the DOJ office around 10 a.m. on Monday to file

- [Court issues precautionary hold departure order vs Escudero, Ngu](#) (2026-04-27 18:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Sixth Division on Monday issued a precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) against Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero and businessman Maynard Ngu, preventing them from leaving the country. This meant the anti-graft court division granted the Office of the Ombudsman’s verified ex parte application, which cited complaints of plunder, graft, and indirect

- [Carpio probed by House panel due to marriage to VP Duterte – solons](#) (2026-04-27 18:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawyer Manases Carpio and his financial dealings were touched on by the House Committee on Justice because he is married to Vice President Sara Duterte, two lawmakers said Monday. In separate interviews, Mamamayang Liberal party-list Rep. Leila de Lima and Akbayan party-list Rep. Chel Diokno pointed to Duterte and Carpio’s relationship as

- [Manila solon files libel, cyberlibel raps vs Baligod, 18 ‘ex-Marines’](#) (2026-04-27 18:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila 3rd District Rep. Joel Chua on Monday filed libel and cyberlibel complaints against 18 alleged former Marines—who claimed to be bagmen of resigned Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co and their counsel, Atty. Levito Baligod. The complaint filed before the Manila City Prosecutor’s Office still stems from the allegations of

- [Flood control probe progress to be presented in May – Lacson](#) (2026-04-27 18:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo “Ping” Lacson is set to present in May a progress report on the Senate blue ribbon panel’s flood control probe. The Senate session will resume on May 4 after a break that started on March 20. “I will present it via a privilege speech entitled ‘The Chairman’ s

- [LTFRB speeds up fuel subsidy rollout for transport sector](#) (2026-04-27 17:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Monday said measures are currently being implemented to expedite the distribution of fuel subsidies for the transportation sector. This is part of the LTFRB’s commitment to complete the distribution by next week to ensure beneficiaries receive their P5,000 aid as soon as possible

- [Cops tracking down armed man in Taguig – Makati road crash](#) (2026-04-27 17:34)

This screengrab of a video circulating online shows a man brandishing his firearm outside a pickup truck that rammed another vehicle along Chino Roces Avenue in Barangay Magallanes, Makati City on Friday night, April 24, 2026. (Screengrab from video courtesy of Makati City Police Station) MANILA, Philippines — The police are now in pursuit of

- [Marcos, Angara lead oath-taking of 8,009 newly promoted W. Visayas educators](#) (2026-04-27 17:30)

ROXAS CITY, Capiz – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Education Secretary Sonny Angara on Friday led the historic mass oath-taking of 8,009 newly promoted public school teachers and school heads from Western Visayas at the Villareal Stadium. This monumental event marks the largest mass promotion ceremony under the Expanded Career Progression (ECP) system to

- [Ombudsman asked to probe Laguna vice mayor over alleged ghost employees](#) (2026-04-27 17:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman was asked on Monday to investigate the vice mayor of San Pablo City in Laguna for allegedly employing at least 200 ghost employees. San Pablo City Mayor Arcadio Gapangada Jr. went to the office of the anti-graft body to submit a complaint-affidavit against Vice Mayor Justin Colago

- [Ridon breaks down ₱6.77B AMLC-flagged transactions linked to VP Duterte](#) (2026-04-27 17:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Even **THOUGH** Vice President Sara Duterte’s husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, filed a complaint questioning the disclosure of Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC)

records and the flagged bank transactions themselves, the absence of any clear denial of these figures raised deeper and unanswered questions on the financial activity in the accounts of the couple,

- [Palace: NBI subpoenas 3 vloggers over false claims on Marcos' health](#) (2026-04-27 17:06)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has issued subpoenas to three vloggers who allegedly spread false information regarding the health of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said Monday. “The document provided by the PCO (Presidential Communications Office) for an immediate, in-depth investigation into vloggers who spread false information

- [Palace: Destabilization plot vs gov' t not new; calls for probe](#) (2026-04-27 16:41)

MANILA, Philippines — A reported destabilization plot against the government, allegedly backed by retired military officers, is not new but should still be investigated by the proper authoritiesn, Malacañang said on Monday. On Sunday, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said some groups are attempting to gain support from uniformed personnel for a possible military-backed “people power revolution.”

- [Legarda pushes reform measures to boost colleges, CHED, TESDA](#) (2026-04-27 16:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda, chairperson of the Senate committee on higher, technical, and vocational education and co-chair of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II), last week presided over the public hearing on six priority bills aimed at modernizing governance in higher and technical education, strengthening professional standards and quality assurance, and

- [Palace: Gov' t prepared for El Niño](#) (2026-04-27 16:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Concerned government agencies are prepared for the looming El Niño phenomenon, Malacañang said Monday. The Department of Agriculture (DA) last Friday warned of the possibility of a “super” El Niño toward the end of 2026. READ: Agriculture officials fear ‘super’ El Niño “El Niño is something we have already experienced—it is not

- [Palace denies forthcoming Cabinet revamp](#) (2026-04-27 16:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Palace press officer Undersecretary Claire Castro on Monday denied circulating reports that several Cabinet officials, including herself, are set to be replaced. “For now, there’ s none,” Castro said in Filipino at a briefing. READ: Palace: No impending Cabinet revamp When asked to confirm reports that she is among the officials who will

- [Luistro: Panel’ s actions all for public interest, complies with laws](#) (2026-04-27 16:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Actions taken by the House of Representatives’ committee on justice regarding the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte were all for public interest and complied with existing laws, panel chairperson and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro

said on Monday. In a statement, Luistro said she had not received a copy of the complaint

- [HEAT INDEX ALERT: Pangasinan sizzles as heat index hits 46°C](#) (2026-04-27 15:59)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — The province continued to experience intense heat on Monday, with the heat index reaching 46°C at 2 p.m., according to the Pangasinan Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO). The reading rose by two degrees from 44°C at 1 p.m., the agency said. READ: HEAT INDEX ALERT: 10 areas to sizzle

- [PNP also probing Atong Ang' s links to alleged Tondo e-sabong](#) (2026-04-27 15:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is investigating whether gambling tycoon Atong Ang is also connected to an alleged online cockfighting (e-sabong) in Tondo, Manila, which authorities busted last month. Over the weekend, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla told the Inquirer that Ang was linked to another e-sabong operation in Talisay City, Negros Occidental,

- [HEAT INDEX ALERT: Olongapo City scorches as heat index hits 45.7°C](#) (2026-04-27 15:49)

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales — Residents of Olongapo City experienced dangerously high heat index levels on Monday afternoon, according to the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office. As of 2:30 p.m., the Automated Weather Station (AWS) in Barangay Old Cabalan recorded a heat index of 41.2°C, placing the area under the “extreme caution” category. READ:

- [LRT-2 to offer free rides for workers on Labor Day](#) (2026-04-27 15:20)

MANILA, Philippines — LRT-2 will offer free rides for Filipino workers on Labor Day, May 1, the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) said. In a Facebook post on Monday, the LRTA said the free rides will be available from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. To avail of the

- [Palace: No politics involved in Batangas barangays aid distribution](#) (2026-04-27 15:18)

MANILA, Philippines — The exclusion of at least 84 barangays from the cash aid distribution in Batangas last week was due to incomplete documentary requirements and not political reasons, as claimed by Batangas 1st District Rep. Leandro Legarda Leviste, Malacañang said on Monday. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. led the distribution of P200,000 to 1,078

- [Marcoleta urges Lacson to invite Romualdez to flood control probe](#) (2026-04-27 15:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Former House Speaker and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez should be invited to the Senate blue ribbon committee' s inquiry into the flood control scandal, former panel chairperson Sen. Rodante Marcoleta said on Monday. Romualdez was among those linked to the alleged anomalous flood control projects, in what his former colleague Elizaldy Co said

- [Lawmakers dismiss Carpio complaint, cite impeachment exemption](#) (2026-04-27 14:55)

MANILA, Philippines – Lawmakers on Monday downplayed the complaint filed by lawyer Manases Carpio over the alleged violation of bank secrecy laws during impeachment hearings against his wife, Vice President Sara Duterte, saying such proceedings are exempted from these restrictions. In an online interview, Mamamayang Liberal (ML) party-list Rep. Leila de Lima said she is

- [Baguio grandkids told to remember stories of World War II vets](#) (2026-04-27 14:00)

BAGUIO CITY — The descendants of World War II veterans who took part in freeing Baguio City from its Japanese occupiers 81 years ago should preserve, study, and share the heroes’ stories with their own children in the future, to honor the freedom they now have. The son of an Igorot fighter issued the reminder

- [PNP stands by Tondo e-sabong bust amid allegations of anomalies](#) (2026-04-27 13:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday defended the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group’s (CIDG) bust of an alleged online cockfighting (e-sabong) operation at the Coliseo de Manila in Tondo last March amid allegations of anomalies. “This is a legal operation and abides by the proper processes,” PNP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Randulf

- [2 endangered sea turtles safely released in Tacloban](#) (2026-04-27 13:20)

TACLOBAN CITY — Two green sea turtles accidentally caught by local fishermen were safely released back into the waters of Cancabato Bay on Sunday after being turned over to authorities in this city. Fishermen Enjie and Ernesto Soyosa, residents of Barangay Rawis Anibong, caught the turtles while using a longline or “kitang” near the Leyte

- [Bukidnon forest firefighters battle blazes amid dry spell](#) (2026-04-27 13:00)

MALAYBALAY CITY, Bukidnon — Forest firefighters here are trekking steep, slippery, and mountainous terrain to contain grassland and forest fires as the dry season intensifies, local officials said. The Malaybalay City Environment and Natural Resources Office (City ENRO) reported that the hardest-hit areas since February include Barangays Can-ayan, Natid-asan in Casisang, Kalasungay, Patpat, Kibalabag, and

- [Dy: Global conflict stresses need for women leaders’ strengths](#) (2026-04-27 12:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Conflicts across the world only stress the importance of women leaders’ strength, House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III said on Monday as the Women Parliamentarians of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (WAIPA) meet virtually. During the 5th meeting of the WAIPA coordinating committee, Dy stressed that even though the supposed in-person meeting of

- [Extreme heat dries up rice fields in Mlang, Cotabato](#) (2026-04-27 12:47)

MLANG, Cotabato — Prolonged extreme heat has begun to take a toll on agriculture in this town, where rice fields have dried up as the heat index climbed to as high as 40°C. Farmers in

several areas reported that their paddies have turned into parched land, with grasses browning due to lack of water. The

- [Carpio sues AMLC, sues for ‘illegal, felonious’ disclosure of bank records](#) (2026-04-27 12:44)

MANILA, Philippines—Criminal complaints were filed by Atty. Manases “Mans” Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, before the Quezon City Prosecutor’s Office on Monday against officials of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and several high-profile lawmakers. The charges stem from the “illegal and felonious” public disclosure of his confidential bank records that the respondents reportedly

- [Marcos assures continued support, career growth for teachers](#) (2026-04-27 12:40)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday assured teachers of sustained government support, citing efforts to strengthen career growth, welfare, and working conditions. Speaking during the oath-taking of over 8,000 newly promoted teachers and school heads from Western Visayas at Villareal Stadium in Roxas City, Capiz, Marcos laid out ongoing efforts to help

- [Police mobile undergoes inspection after crash that killed 5 detainees](#) (2026-04-27 12:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The police mobile that crashed in Quezon City, killing five persons under police custody (PUPCs), is now undergoing a technical inspection. “Toyota is conducting a technical inspection to find out if something went wrong with the vehicle,” Quezon City Police District Traffic Enforcement Unit (QCPD TEU) chief Lt. Col. Josef Geoffrey Lim

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of April 27, 2026](#) (2026-04-27 12:18)

MANILA, Philippines – Diesel prices are expected to drop this week, a development that could bring fuel costs to an average of P100 per liter after the relentless double-digit increases following the Iran war which broke out on Feb. 28. The new petroleum prices on Tuesday, however, may still be far from prewar levels —

- [HEAT INDEX ALERT: Zambales swelters as heat index soars to 42°C](#) (2026-04-27 12:12)

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales — Extreme heat continues to grip Zambales after the heat index reached “danger” levels on Monday, with the province’s Iba Station recording a peak of 42 degrees Celsius. Authorities advised residents to take extra precautions as temperatures climbed to hazardous levels, raising risks of heat-related illnesses. READ: HEAT INDEX ALERT: 10 areas

- [DPWH: Edsa-Ortigas Interchange now open to light vehicles](#) (2026-04-27 11:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (Edsa)-Ortigas Interchange has reopened to light vehicles, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) announced on Monday, April 27. The interchange was temporarily closed on Friday evening, April 24, after a

passenger bus caught fire on the southbound lane of the Edsa-Ortigas flyover. READ: MRT-3

- [Carpio rap confusing, no info on where Duterte's 'billions' come from – Ridon](#) (2026-04-27 11:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The complaint from lawyer Manases Carpio on the alleged violation of bank secrecy laws allegedly committed during the impeachment hearings of his wife, Vice President Sara Duterte, is only meant to cause confusion, Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon said. Ridon, in a statement on Monday, said that Carpio's complaint also has no

- [3 linked to Shariff Aguak ambush killed in Army operations](#) (2026-04-27 11:53)

COTABATO CITY — Three members of the Dawlah Islamiyah group, allegedly behind the March 28 ambush of five police officers in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao del Sur, were killed in a military operation on Sunday, April 26, the Army said. Lt. Col. Ronald Suscano, spokesperson for the 6th Infantry Division, said the suspects were killed during

- [KMU to lead nationwide Labor Day protests vs war, wage issues](#) (2026-04-27 11:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) on Monday announced coordinated Labor Day protests across the country to call for an end to the United States-Israel war on Iran and hold the Marcos administration accountable for allegedly failing to address demands for higher wages, lower prices, and adequate subsidies. KMU, alongside

- [Agusan del Sur returns to 5-day workweek for Palarong Pambansa preps](#) (2026-04-27 11:37)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — The provincial government of Agusan del Sur has reverted to a five-day workweek starting Monday as it steps up preparations for hosting the Palarong Pambansa 2026. Gov. Santiago Cane Jr. announced the return to its regular workweek during the flag-raising ceremony at the Provincial Capitol, saying the move is

- [Marcos, Angara to lead mass oath-taking of teachers in Roxas City](#) (2026-04-27 10:34)

ROXAS CITY, Capiz—President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is set to attend the mass oath-taking of newly promoted public school personnel in Western Visayas on Monday, in this city. Thousands of education officials and teachers from across the region have started gathering at the city's stadium, marking the formal induction of 8,566 newly promoted school heads and

- [Heat, thunderstorms expected across Visayas -Pagasa](#) (2026-04-27 10:13)

ILOILO CITY — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has issued special forecasts for parts of the Visayas, warning of extreme heat and possible afternoon thunderstorms from April 27 to May 1. The advisories, released Monday by the Visayas Pagasa Regional Services Division, cover Northern Cebu, areas around Mt. Kanlaon in Negros

- [PNP probes into leak of Ombudsman investigators' identities](#) (2026-04-27 09:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is now investigating the leak of the Office of the Ombudsman's investigators' identities online. "The investigation will not be limited to external actors... Possible internal involvement within the Ombudsman is also being examined as part of the cyber probe," PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said

- [Rights group seeks probe into Zamboanga raid that killed 12-year-old](#) (2026-04-27 09:49)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — A Mindanao-based rights group is calling for an independent investigation into a joint police-military raid in Zamboanga City on April 23 that left three people dead, including a 12-year-old boy, citing alleged human rights violations. READ: 3 family members killed in Zamboanga police raid; probe underway Interfaith organization Moro-Christian Peoples

- [Sandiganbayan starts hearing on bid to block Escudero from leaving PH](#) (2026-04-27 09:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Sixth Division on Monday began the hearing on the precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) petition for Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero and his alleged bagman Maynard Ngu. This proceeding was prompted by the Office of the Ombudsman's verified ex parte petition over complaints of plunder, graft and bribery filed before the anti-graft court

- [Tricycle driver nabbed with P1.2-million 'shabu' in Iloilo sting](#) (2026-04-27 09:26)

ILOILO CITY — A 33-year-old tricycle driver listed as a high-value individual was arrested in a buy-bust operation that yielded over P1.2 million worth of suspected "shabu" (crystal meth) in Barangay Naslo, Pototan, Iloilo, on April 25. Operatives from the Iloilo Police Provincial Office's Drug Enforcement Unit, along with the Pototan police and provincial intelligence

- [HEAT INDEX ALERT: 10 areas to sizzle at 'danger' level Monday \(April 27\)](#) (2026-04-27 08:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Dangerous heat indices are forecast to soar in 10 areas across the country, while Metro Manila is seen to reach 40°C to 41°C on Monday, April 27, according to the state weather bureau. The heat index, as the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) defined, measures the level of an

- [Hot, humid weather to prevail with chances of rains due to easterlies](#) (2026-04-27 07:21)

MANILA, Philippines — A hot and humid weather with chances of isolated rain showers is expected to prevail across the country on Monday, April 27, due to the continuous effects of easterlies, according to the state weather bureau. In its morning forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the easterlies, or

- [2 Fil-Ams, 2nd UP student among slain 'Negros 19'](#) (2026-04-27 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Two Filipino Americans and a second University of the Philippines (UP) student have been identified as among the “Negros 19” —the fatalities in a series of clashes between government troops and alleged New People’s Army (NPA) members in Taboso town, Negros Occidental, on April 19. In a statement on Sunday, the Commission on

- [Dempsey Reyes, Inquirer reporter; 29](#) (2026-04-27 05:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Inquirer reporter Dempsey Cyden Reyes passed away on April 26 at the Commonwealth Hospital and Medical Center in Quezon City, where he was rushed the day before. Reyes died at 4:25 a.m. of respiratory failure following a brain hemorrhage, according to his death certificate provided by the hospital. He would have turned

- [VP spouse to charge AMLC, lawmakers over bank ‘leaks’](#) (2026-04-27 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawyer Manases “Mans” Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, will file a criminal complaint today against officials of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and members of the House of Representatives for allegedly violating bank secrecy and privacy laws during the clarificatory hearings on Duterte’s impeachment last week, according to Carpio’s lawyers

- [Manila prelate pushes collection drive for biodiesel](#) (2026-04-27 05:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Archbishop Jose Cardinal Advincula is calling on the public to donate used cooking oil to the Archdiocese of Manila, which will process it into biodiesel. Advincula, who said that this will reduce waste and promote alternative sources of sustainable energy, said the diocese’s Ministry of Integral Ecology is capable of producing

- [Submit response plans, landfill operators told](#) (2026-04-27 05:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ordered all sanitary landfill operators to submit contingency plans outlining emergency response measures two weeks after a landfill fire broke out in Navotas City. In a memorandum dated April 22 and made public on Sunday, the agency’s Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) directed its regional

- [Marcos eyes longer amnesty program](#) (2026-04-27 05:00)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has approved in principle the extension by two years of the amnesty that the government is offering to communist rebels and other insurgent groups as the government attempts to end the longest communist insurgency in the world. The proposal was endorsed by the National Amnesty Commission (NAC) to

- [PNP nabs 15 in online scam; 36 financial accounts closed](#) (2026-04-27 04:55)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 15 were arrested and 36 financial accounts involved in fraudulent transactions intercepted during coordinated anticybercrime operations nationwide April 1 to April 15. The Philippine National Police said in a news release over the weekend that

the 15 were engaged in the illegal online sale of financial accounts, including automated

- [Atong Ang, police major linked to Chinese triad in Negros](#) (2026-04-27 04:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla confirmed on Sunday that the Philippine National Police is looking into claims linking fugitive businessman Charlie “Atong” Ang and a police major in Bacolod City to a Chinese triad operating in Negros Island. “It’s a great possibility because [Atong Ang] used to frequent that place,”

- [Fishing ban during ‘Balikatan’ strains livelihoods in Zambales](#) (2026-04-27 04:45)

SAN ANTONIO, ZAMBALES, Philippines — For 69-year-old Ranny Agasa, a fisherman in Barangay San Miguel, the sea has been both a workplace and a lifeline since he was 10 years old. But in recent years, he said that the rhythm of daily fishing has become increasingly uncertain, especially during large-scale military exercises that temporarily close

- [Oil spill in Guimaras town raises alarm over environmental damage](#) (2026-04-27 04:40)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — The shoreline of Barangay Hoskyn in Jordan town, Guimaras, was hit by an oil spill early on Saturday, triggering warnings over threats to marine life and the immediate closure of affected coastal areas to residents. Villagers reported the incident around 7 a.m. after observing oil slicks near the barangay covered court

- [Dry spell ruins P38-M crops in Maguindanao del Sur](#) (2026-04-27 04:35)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — The dry spell affecting Maguindanao del Sur for the past three months has damaged about P38.39 million worth of rice and corn plantations, the agriculture office in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) said. According to Abunawas Maslamama, minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

- [Firm offers 100 electric taxis for Baguio](#) (2026-04-27 04:30)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — An electric vehicle (EV) distributor has offered to supply up to 100 electric taxis for the city’s mass transport system amid concerns over global oil supply disruptions. The proposal of Device Design Green and Smart (DDGNS) Corp. comes in the wake of geopolitical tensions involving the United States, Israel and Iran,

- [No jackpot winner in Ultra Lotto, Super Lotto draws on Sunday, April 26](#) (2026-04-26 21:46)

MANILA, Philippines – No player won the jackpot prize in both the Ultra Lotto 6/58 and Super Lotto 6/49 draws on Sunday, April 26, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Ultra Lotto 6/58 result: 48-56-29-39-55-45 Jackpot prize: ₱75 million Super Lotto 6/49 result: 44-48-09-33-01-34 Jackpot prize: ₱27.51 million Minor games Draw schedule Ultra Lotto

- [Dangerous heat index grips 14 areas on Sunday](#) (2026-04-26 19:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Dangerous heat indices gripped fourteen areas on Sunday, according to the state weather bureau. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that Guiuan, Eastern Samar and Dumangas, Iloilo both logged the highest recorded peak heat index on Sunday at 45°C. Pagasa defines heat index as the “measure of the

- [Ombudsman pursuing raps vs those behind investigators’ identity leak](#) (2026-04-26 19:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Sunday condemned the unauthorized leak of its investigators’ identities online, adding that it is now working with the authorities to identify those behind the leak to pursue legal action. In a statement, the Ombudsman committed to pursue maximum legal penalties under the Data Privacy Act and

- [Ridon to Carpio: You never denied P6.7 billion flagged transactions](#) (2026-04-26 19:23)

MANILA, Philippines – Atty. Manases Carpio, Vice President Sara Z. Duterte’ s husband, did not deny any of the Anti-Money Laundering Council’ s (AMLC) findings on the P6.7 billion in covered and suspicious transactions flagged in their bank accounts—and his planned complaint against House lawmakers and agencies involved in the disclosure only makes that more apparent, Committee

- [Marcos assures uninterrupted gov’ t services amid energy emergency](#) (2026-04-26 18:50)

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. assured the public that government services will continue uninterrupted despite the ongoing national energy emergency. In his latest vlog released Sunday, Marcos emphasized that the government cannot afford to slow down or halt operations, even as the country faces external pressures on fuel supply and prices stemming from

- [Fuel subsidy for taxi drivers completed, P135 M distributed – LTFRB](#) (2026-04-26 18:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Sunday announced that the distribution of the P135 million fuel subsidy for taxi drivers has been successfully completed. The LTFRB issued the announcement after the conclusion of the second day of the distribution where a total of 5,440 taxi drivers received P5,000. READ:

- [DENR orders landfill operators to submit emergency response plan](#) (2026-04-26 17:55)

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ordered all sanitary landfill operators to submit a contingency plan outlining their emergency response measures nearly two weeks after a landfill fire broke out in Navotas City. In a memorandum dated April 22 and made public on Sunday, the DENR’ s Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) directed its

- [Gutierrez to educators: Uphold safety, accountability, justice in schools](#) (2026-04-26 17:18)

MANILA, Philippines – More than 1,200 educators and education personnel gathered in Quezon City for this year’s Regional Assembly of Education Leaders, where Department of Justice (DOJ) Undersecretary Margarita Gutierrez underscored the need to strengthen safety, accountability, and justice in schools. Gutierrez stressed that many justice issues begin not in courts, but in classrooms—where students

- [Villar pushes 24/7 public libraries for students in major cities](#) (2026-04-26 16:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Mark A. Villar is seeking the establishment of round-the-clock public libraries in highly urbanized cities and first-class component cities to give students and lifelong learners free, safe, and accessible study spaces. Villar filed Senate Bill No. 2050, or the Anytime Learning Access Act, which mandates the creation and operation of at

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of Sunday, April 26, 2026](#) (2026-04-26 16:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorists face fresh fuel price adjustments this week as diesel prices are expected to drop further by P8 to P10. This decrease could bring fuel costs to an average of P100 per liter. The new price adjustments come after the relentless double-digit increases following the Middle East war which broke out on

- [Sara Duterte’s husband filing raps vs BSP, AMLC, solons over bank secrecy](#) (2026-04-26 16:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Manases Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, is set to file criminal complaints against officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and several House lawmakers over alleged violations of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, bank secrecy laws and the Data Privacy Act. READ: AMLC confirms suspicious

- [Dempsey Reyes, Inquirer reporter; 29](#) (2026-04-26 15:11)

Inquirer reporter Dempsey Cyden Reyes passed away on April 26 at Commonwealth Hospital and Medical Center in Quezon City, where he had been rushed the day before. Reyes died at 4:25 a.m. of respiratory failure following a brain hemorrhage, according to the death certificate issued by the hospital. Reyes would have turned 30 on Oct.

- [Rare jade vine found in Cagayan highlands; conservation pushed](#) (2026-04-26 15:07)

TUGUEGARAO CITY — The rare jade vine (*Strongylodon macrobotrys*) known for its striking turquoise flowers, has been sighted in the highlands of Baggao, Cagayan, prompting renewed calls for its conservation. According to Frederic Tomas, information officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources–Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-CENRO) in Alcala, some residents have

- [Training on Mindoro hornbill monitoring boosts conservation efforts](#) (2026-04-26 15:01)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — A multi-day training on monitoring the critically endangered Mindoro hornbill has concluded at a sanctuary in Mindoro, conservation groups said Sunday. The training, held from April 21 to 24, 2026 at the Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary in Paluan, Occidental Mindoro, was aimed at strengthening biodiversity tracking efforts across the island.

- [N. Samar bishop backs austerity push, calls for simpler celebrations](#) (2026-04-26 14:50)

TACLOBAN CITY — Bishop Nolly Buco of the Diocese of Catarman is urging the public to scale down lavish celebrations and embrace simplicity, aligning the Church with a recent austerity drive by local government leaders amid ongoing national energy emergency. In a circular dated April 21, 2026, the church leader appealed to priests, church workers,

- [Man wanted for 56 counts of murder collared in GenSan](#) (2026-04-26 14:43)

COTABATO CITY – Police arrested a national-level most wanted person facing 56 counts of murder in a law enforcement operation in Barangay Apopong, General Santos City, on Saturday. Brig. Gen. Arnoldo Ardiente, regional director of the Police Regional Office (PRO) Soccsksargen, said the suspect, identified only as alias “Jared,” 45, a resident of Barangay Apopong,

- [PNP steps up crackdown on illegal cigarette trade after P799 M Negros bust](#) (2026-04-26 14:37)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine National Police (PNP) is intensifying intelligence operations against illegal cigarette manufacturing after several facilities were raided recently in Negros island, which led to the discovery of almost P800 million worth of materials and equipment. PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. visited the Negros Island Region (NIR) on April 24 with Interior

- [Luistro: Sara Duterte defense team conceded impeachment case will reach trial stage](#) (2026-04-26 14:35)

MANILA, Philippines – House of Representatives justice committee chairperson and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said Vice President Sara Duterte’ s defense team has effectively conceded that the impeachment case will reach the Senate. By announcing they will only respond to the allegations at the Senate trial, Luistro said, the defense team is all but acknowledging that

- [5 nabbed in Bataan for alleged sale of tampered LPG cylinders](#) (2026-04-26 14:07)

MARIVELES, Bataan — Five men were arrested for allegedly distributing tampered liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders during a buy-bust operation in this town on Friday, April 24.. In a belated report on Sunday, police said the operation was launched following complaints from residents about the rampant refilling and alteration of LPG cylinders in the area.

- [Midnight fire razes homes, boarding house in Bukidnon town](#) (2026-04-26 14:02)

MARAMAG, Bukidnon — A fire that broke out past midnight on Sunday, April 26, destroyed several structures in Purok 1, Barangay Dologon here, forcing residents to flee their homes. Shouts of “Fire! Fire!” woke the community as flames rapidly spread, catching some residents asleep and prompting families to rush outside and salvage what belongings they

- [Archdiocese of Manila: Collect used cooking oil for biodiesel conversion](#) (2026-04-26 13:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Archdiocese of Manila has called on its parishes to gather used cooking oil for conversion into biodiesel amid an ongoing fuel crisis driven by escalating military tensions in the Middle East. The metropolitan see came up with the initiative after recent projections indicated that global oil demand would continue to increase. READ:

- [Another UP student among killed in Negros clash; UPOU calls for probe](#) (2026-04-26 13:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Another UP student has been identified among those killed in a military encounter in Negros Occidental, as the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) called for a transparent investigation of the incident and its circumstances. In a statement on Saturday, UPOU said that one of the fatalities was Maureen Keil Santuyo,

- [CHR launches independent probe into Negros clash that killed 19](#) (2026-04-26 12:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Human Rights (CHR), through its office in the Negros Island Region, launched an independent investigation of the April 19 armed clash in Negros Occidental that left 19 people dead. Among those killed were University of the Philippines Diliman student leader Alyssa Alano and Altermidya Network community journalist RJ Ledesma. READ:

- [P8.2-M shabu seized, 2 nabbed in Leyte drug den bust](#) (2026-04-26 12:35)

TACLOBAN CITY— Authorities dismantled a suspected drug den and seized more than P8.2 million worth of shabu in a joint anti-drug operation in Barangay Damulaan, Albuera, Leyte on Saturday, April 25, police said. Operatives from the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) conducted a coordinated buy-bust that led to the arrest

- [Samar town alerts residents vs alleged ‘Maharlika’ investment fraud](#) (2026-04-26 11:59)

TACLOBAN CITY — The municipal government of Paranas in Samar has warned residents against a suspected investment scam after several locals reported losing money to a group calling itself the “Royal Kingdom of Maharlika” (RKOM). According to local officials, the group has been selling colored “membership cards” priced from ₱150 up to ₱5,500, claiming investors

- [PNP: ‘Full investigation’ into vehicle crash that killed 5 detainees](#) (2026-04-26 11:36)

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippine National Police (PNP) has ordered a “full investigation” of the vehicle crash in Quezon City that killed five persons under police custody (PUPCs), the

PNP announced on Sunday. This came after a police vehicle carrying six PUPCs and four police officers crashed into a wall along Payatas road en route

- [Edsa-Ortigas interchange to reopen on Monday — DPWH](#) (2026-04-26 10:41)

MANILA, Philippines – The Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (Edsa)-Ortigas Interchange will reopen to light vehicles on Monday, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said. According to the DPWH, the temporary closure was implemented to give way to repairs scheduled until Sunday, following the bus fire that occurred at the interchange. “The EDSA-Ortigas Interchange

- [HEAT INDEX ALERT: Danger level expected in Cavite, Batangas](#) (2026-04-26 09:05)

LUCENA CITY — Two areas in the Calabarzon are expected to experience danger-level heat index levels on Sunday and Monday, April 26 and 27, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Based on Pagasa’s 5 p.m. monitoring on Saturday, Sangley Point in Cavite City is forecast to reach a heat index

- [Taal Volcano logs two minor eruptions, 48 seismic events in 24 hours](#) (2026-04-26 08:59)

LUCENA CITY — Taal Volcano showed renewed activity as two minor phreatic eruptions and a spike in seismic events were recorded over the past 24 hours, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported Sunday, April 26. In its morning bulletin, Phivolcs logged two steam-driven eruptions, locally known as “pusngat,” which lasted 10 minutes,

- [Oil spill hits coastal village in Guimaras; residents warned](#) (2026-04-26 08:49)

ILOILO CITY — An oil spill was reported along the shoreline of Barangay Hoskyn in Jordan town, Guimaras early Saturday (April 25), prompting officials to warn residents and fisherfolk to stay away from the affected coastal areas. The spill was detected at 7:05 a.m. near the barangay hall and covered court, affecting parts of Sitio

- [Rains possible across PH on Sunday due to easterlies, frontal system](#) (2026-04-26 07:35)

MANILA, Philippines – Many areas in the Philippines are forecast to have cloudy skies with a chance of rain on Sunday due to the easterlies and the frontal system, the state weather bureau said. In its 5 a.m. weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that the frontal system will

- [Ombudsman: Asset freeze vs Romualdez, HDO bid vs Escudero](#) (2026-04-26 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — After obtaining a freeze order on the assets of former Speaker Martin Romualdez and stopping him from leaving the country, the Office of the Ombudsman on Saturday sought to prevent the departure of former Senate President Francis “Chiz” Escudero who is under investigation for alleged plunder, graft and bribery. The antigraft court,

- [State witness a billionaire? Bernardo vows to return P1B to gov' t](#) (2026-04-26 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo has pledged to return around P1 billion to the government coffers as part of his restitution of kickbacks he received to be admitted into the witness protection program. During Friday's Sandiganbayan Third Division hearing on the malversation case against former Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Bernardo

- [With Duterte going on trial, focus shifts to dela Rosa, et al](#) (2026-04-26 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Former high-ranking police officials identified as co-perpetrators in the case against ex-President Rodrigo Duterte in the International Criminal Court (ICC) may face charges aside from crimes against humanity. Based on what was revealed during the pretrial hearing, they may also be charged over the questionable arrest of hundreds of thousands of individuals

- [DBM orders agencies to report savings made amid oil crisis](#) (2026-04-26 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has directed all government agencies to identify their savings, which can be pooled to fund relief measures in response to the Iran war and its ensuing oil crisis. National Budget Circular (NBC) No. 602, issued by the DBM on April 23, said all agencies must

- [Jobseekers, entrepreneurs flock to Go Negosyo fair](#) (2026-04-26 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — As hundreds of jobseekers and small entrepreneurs flocked to SM City Fairview on April 25 for Go Negosyo's Trabaho at Negosyo job fair and MSME mentoring event, Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion said increased effort will be poured into more nationwide events for the massive movement of providing jobs and livelihoods for

- [DA readies changes in land conversion rules](#) (2026-04-26 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) is aiming to release the revised guidelines for the issuance of a certification on the reclassification of agricultural lands within June, its official said. "We need to finalize the guidelines before the end of the six-month moratorium," Agriculture Undersecretary Asis Perez told the Inquirer in a Viber

- [Lawmaker seeks probe of Negros Island battle](#) (2026-04-26 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — ACT Teachers Rep. Antonio Tinio on Saturday urged a congressional panel to investigate a military operation last week that left 19 people dead in Negros Occidental, including a 22-year-old student of the University of the Philippines (UP). "We cannot accept a blanket 'encounter' narrative that automatically justifies the deaths of 19 people

- [BOC distributes abandoned 'balikbayan' boxes to OFWs](#) (2026-04-26 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) said on Saturday it has facilitated the release of abandoned "balikbayan" boxes previously held at the Manila International

Container Port, returning the shipments to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) after delays linked to freight forwarding issues. The distribution was carried out on Tuesday as part of ongoing efforts

- [Pagasa warns of 42°C heat index in 14 areas](#) (2026-04-26 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) warned the public of dangerous heat levels in 14 areas around the country as local governments stepped up measures to deal with their dwindling water supply. The state weather bureau considers heat index levels between 42°C and 51°C as dangerous and suggests significant risks

- [Green barriers take root in Zambales town](#) (2026-04-26 05:17)

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales — At low tide along the coast of Masinloc, volunteers waded through muddy flats, carefully pushing slender mangrove propagules into the ground. Each seedling, planted by hand, is meant to grow into something larger than a tree — part of a living shield protecting communities along the province's vulnerable shoreline. The planting

- [This week's milestones: April 26 to May 2](#) (2026-04-26 05:15)

April 27, 1871 Montalban in the province of Rizal was established as a pueblo when Governor-General Rafael Gerónimo Cayetano Izquierdo y Gutiérrez issued a decree separating Balite, Burgos, Marang, and Calipahan from San Mateo. Prior to this, the whole territory was known among the natives as Balite. In 1901, Montalban was incorporated into the province

- [Inmates in Mimaropa region receive aid from Dole](#) (2026-04-26 00:56)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — A total of 1,239 inmates in the Mimaropa (Mindoro Occidental and Oriental, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) region received financial assistance amounting to P6,825 each from the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) through the 15-day Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (Tupad) program. The aid was distributed through the partnership

- [Eastern Samar fisherfolk return to paddles amid fuel price surge](#) (2026-04-25 23:39)

TACLOBAN CITY — Fishermen in Eastern Samar are abandoning motorized boats and returning to traditional paddling methods as soaring fuel prices make daily fishing trips increasingly unaffordable, highlighting the deepening impact of rising oil costs on coastal communities. In the island village of Apiton in San Policarpo, several fisherfolk have opted to leave their engines

- [150 hectares of palay farms ravaged by 'ulmog' in Cagayan town](#) (2026-04-25 23:26)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan — More than 150 hectares of rice fields in Ballesteros town, Cagayan were ravaged by “ulmog” or brown planthopper this month, the local government said in a statement. Ballesteros agriculture officials said “there is a risk of a major reduction or loss of rice yield in the town if the destruction of

- [Sighting of scrubfowl offers hope for Homonhon Island after grass fires](#) (2026-04-25 23:15)

TACLOBAN CITY — A rare ground-dwelling bird was spotted during a post-fire environmental assessment on historic Homonhon Island in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, offering a positive sign of ecological resilience despite recent grass and forest fires that hit parts of the island. This was disclosed by the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) in

- [DAR gives 6 trucks to Passi City coops to improve farm logistics](#) (2026-04-25 22:39)

ILOILO CITY – In a significant move to modernize agricultural logistics and enhance the livelihood of local farmers, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) provided six cargo trucks to various Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Organizations (ARBOs) in Passi City, Iloilo recently. The grant, provided under the Support Services of the Sustainable and Resilient Agrarian Reform Communities

- [DSWD trains Calabarzon college students for tutoring program](#) (2026-04-25 22:14)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has begun training college students in the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) region for the “Tara, Basa!” tutoring program, which is set to roll out next month. In a report, the DSWD in Region IV-A said the first batch of capacity-building sessions

- [Quezon 4Ps beneficiaries to be integrated into PhilSys, CBMS](#) (2026-04-25 21:57)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — Beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in Quezon province will be integrated into the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) and the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) to improve the efficiency and speed of government aid delivery. The move was agreed upon by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Region

- [No jackpot winner in 6/55, 6/42 Lotto draws on Saturday, April 25](#) (2026-04-25 21:48)

MANILA, Philippines – No bettor won the jackpot prize in either the Grand Lotto 6/55 and Lotto 6/42 draws on Saturday, April 25, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Grand Lotto 6/55 result: 41-43-35-15-10-40 Jackpot: ₱66.01 million Lotto 6/42 result: 26-32-19-01-22-17 Jackpot prize: ₱24.66 million Minor games 6D Lotto: 9-4-0-8-5-7; ₱3.38 million; no winner 3D

- [Mimaropa region logs 4.2% economic growth in 2025](#) (2026-04-25 21:41)

CALAPAN CITY — The Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) region’ s economy expanded by 4.2 percent in 2025, slightly slower than the 4.4-percent growth recorded in 2024, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The PSA said the region’ s gross regional domestic product (GRDP), measured at constant 2018 prices, reached P447.47 billion in 2025. The agency

- [1 dead, 8 others injured in Leyte road mishap](#) (2026-04-25 21:22)

TACLOBAN CITY — A three-year-old girl died while eight others, including several minors, were injured when a vehicle plowed into pedestrians along Imelda Lane in Barangay Imelda, Tolosa, Leyte Friday evening. The incident occurred at around 7:55 p.m. as police officers from the Tolosa Municipal Police Station (MPS) were conducting foot patrol and visibility operations

- [Drug suspect wounded, arrested in alleged shootout with Cavite cops](#) (2026-04-25 21:13)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — A suspected drug pusher was wounded in a buy-bust operation that escalated into an alleged encounter with the police in Bacoor City, Cavite early Saturday. The Police Regional Office IV-A reported that operatives from a local drug enforcement unit conducted the sting in Barangay Talaba 3 at around 1 a.m. The

- [Metro Cebu air quality turns unhealthy anew amid heat, lack of rain](#) (2026-04-25 21:02)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — Air quality in Metro Cebu was classified as unhealthy anew for vulnerable groups, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) – Region 7 reported on Saturday. In its latest monitoring, EMB-7 said air quality has been fluctuating between “fair” and “unhealthy for sensitive groups” over the past five days, with a noticeable increase

- [Cagayan festival highlights use of charcoal from alternative materials](#) (2026-04-25 20:55)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – A festival in Buguey, Cagayan on Saturday highlighted the use of charcoal made from alternative materials instead of the usual wood. The town’s 4th Agri Festival featured the roasting of 140 pigs and the cooking of large volumes of vegetables and rice cakes which were serve to everyone in attendance. The

- [Intense heat, power outage strike Samar on Saturday](#) (2026-04-25 20:34)

TACLOBAN CITY – Calbayog City and the municipality of Matuguinao in Samar were gripped by punishing heat on Saturday, as temperatures soared to dangerous levels amid warnings of intensifying dry conditions linked to the developing El Niño. The state weather bureau earlier warned the heat index in the two localities could reach as high as

- [National University unveils Davao campus, its first in Mindanao](#) (2026-04-25 20:14)

DAVAO CITY – This premier urban center in Mindanao boosts its role as a hub of education as National University (NU) unveiled its campus here on Saturday. Business tycoon Hans Sy, NU board chairman who toured the Davao campus on Saturday morning, said he is very happy NU is now in Davao City. “I’m very

- [DOE encourages power consumers to join weekly power-saving activity](#) (2026-04-25 19:55)

MANILA – Power consumers may help save electricity to address oil supply issues due to the Middle East conflict by joining the hour-long Oras Natin sa Efficiency (ONE) from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. starting on Saturday. The weekly activity is among the programs of the Department of Energy (DOE) targeted to reduce electricity use

- [DMW shuts down Cagayan training center for alleged illegal recruitment](#) (2026-04-25 19:32)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Following complaints of alleged illegal recruitment, a team from the Department of Migrant Workers-Anti-Illegal Recruitment and Trafficking in Persons Program (DMW-ARTPP) shut down a farm and training center in Barangay Iringan, Allacapan, Cagayan on Friday. The alleged illegal recruitment of workers for overseas placement by Estepa’s Integrated Farm and Training Center

- [Scorching heat gripping many parts of the Visayas](#) (2026-04-25 19:06)

ILOILO CITY — High heat index levels continue to persist across the Visayas, with several areas, including Iloilo, remaining under the extreme caution and dangerous levels, according to the state weather bureau. Data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) as of 5 p.m. on Saturday showed Iloilo City reaching a heat

- [NCIP, Bukidnon agri office seek resolution over lechon festival row](#) (2026-04-25 18:56)

MALAYBALAY CITY, Bukidnon — Officials of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAgrO) had sought to address the controversy surrounding the Lechon Festival held during Kaamulan 2026. Ma. Shirlene D. Sario, former NCIP Bukidnon provincial officer, and current provincial head Ronaldo Bayaon took part in discussions last April 23

- [Sen. Mark Villar bats for urban green spaces via BERDE Act](#) (2026-04-25 18:10)

MANILA, Philippines – As residential subdivisions, towering buildings, and sprawling commercial establishments continue to swallow what remains of our green spaces, Senator Mark A. Villar filed Senate Bill No. 2049, known as the Building Eco-Friendly Recreational Destinations for Every (BERDE) City and Municipal Act, which mandates the creation of at least one public green park

- [Ex-speaker Romualdez’ assets frozen by CA, Ombudsman Remulla confirms](#) (2026-04-25 17:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The Court of Appeals (CA) ordered the freezing of assets of former House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez over alleged involvement in the flood control scandal, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said on Saturday. In a DZRH radio interview, Remulla was asked who the sitting lawmaker is in connection with the freeze order secured

- [Lawyer sees probable cause in Sara Duterte impeachment complaints](#) (2026-04-25 17:16)

MANILA, Philippines – Veteran litigator Atty. Lorna Kapunan believes the House Committee on Justice has seen and heard enough—from the discrepancies in Vice President Sara Duterte’s declared net worth to the flagged bank transactions—to find probable cause to impeach her. “Na-meet na ng House Committee on Justice ‘yung target nila na to prove probable

- [NBI ready for Sara Duterte impeachment hearing focusing on threats](#) (2026-04-25 17:02)

MANILA, Philippines – National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Melvin Matibag on Saturday said the agency is prepared to appear at Tuesday’ s House Committee on Justice hearing on the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte, where one of the issues to be taken up is her alleged threats against President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.,

- [Educ group seeks restoration of P5 billion budget for last mile schools](#) (2026-04-25 16:59)

MANILA, Philippines — E-Net Philippines, a civil society network for education reforms, has renewed its call for the Congress to restore a P5 billion budget for last mile schools (LMS) in the 2027 national budget, emphasizing the need to address gaps in infrastructures and education in geographically isolated areas. The Department of Education (DepEd) was

- [Rare Rafflesia flower thriving in Bulacan’ s biodiversity haven](#) (2026-04-25 15:56)

DOÑA REMEDIOS TRINIDAD, Bulacan — The rare *Rafflesia lagascae*, known for its reddish bloom and pungent odor, continues to thrive in the forests of this town, officials said on Saturday. Mayor Rolando Flores said more sightings are likely in mountainous barangays such as Sapang Bulac and Kabayunan, noting that the town’ s forests remain well-preserved and

- [2 suspected NPA rebels killed in Samar clash](#) (2026-04-25 15:48)

TACLOBAN CITY — Two suspected New People’ s Army (NPA) rebels were killed in an encounter with government troops in Samar on Friday morning, according to the Philippine Army. The Army’ s 8th Infantry Division, based in Catbalogan City, said troops from the 46th Infantry Battalion engaged remnants of the Yakal Platoon under the Eastern Visayas Regional

- [Mindanao 2025 economic growth surpasses national rate](#) (2026-04-25 15:40)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – Mindanao’ s economic growth of 4.69 percent in 2025 surpassed the national rate of 4.40 percent, as five of its six regions landed in the Top 10 fastest-growing regional economies in the country, latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed. National Statistician Claire Dennis Mapa said in a statement that

- [PDEA seizes P34-M shabu in Zamboanga City sting; 1 suspect arrested](#) (2026-04-25 15:30)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Operatives of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Regional Office 9, backed by multiple law enforcement units, seized P34 million worth of suspected shabu in a buy-bust operation on Friday in Barangay Culianan, Zamboanga City. The operation, carried out at around 6:10 p.m., was a joint effort of PDEA’ s

- [Butuan City bracing for scorching weekend, water supply woes](#) (2026-04-25 15:24)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur – As extreme temperatures continue to affect large portions of the country, Butuan City residents are preparing for scorching weekend, with the state weather bureau forecasting a heat index that could reach 45°C on Saturday. According to a social media advisory of Butuan City Public Information Office (PIO), this places

- [7 rescued as boat sinks off Bohol and Southern Leyte](#) (2026-04-25 15:16)

TAGBILARAN CITY — Seven passengers, including four senior citizens, were rescued after a motorbanca sank off President Carlos P. Garcia, Bohol and Maasin City, Southern Leyte on Friday. The Philippine Coast Guard said its Coast Guard Sub-Station in Pres. Carlos P. Garcia, working with Task Force Kalikupan, swiftly launched search and rescue operations following reports

- [Sara Duterte commends military unit in Negros Occidental encounter](#) (2026-04-25 14:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte on Saturday lauded the Philippine Army's 79th Infantry Battalion for what she described as a “successful combat operation” that left 19 individuals dead in Toboso, Negros Occidental. “On behalf of the Office of the Vice President, I extend my commendation to the brave men and women of the

- [Sariaya, Quezon trims Agawan Festival activities amid energy crisis](#) (2026-04-25 14:23)

LUCENA CITY — The annual Agawan Festival in Sariaya, Quezon next month will still push through but minus the popular house decoration competition which was cancelled by the local government amid the national energy emergency. In a Facebook post in Filipino on Friday, the municipal Public Information Office (PIO) said the Sariaya Tourism, Culture, and

- [Ombudsman files precautionary HDO petition vs Escudero, Maynard Ngu](#) (2026-04-25 13:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Saturday filed a precautionary hold departure order before the Sandiganbayan against Senator Francis Escudero over complaints of plunder, graft, and bribery. Also included in the travel restriction request is Maynard Ngu, the alleged “bagman” of Escudero over alleged anomalies in the flood control fiasco. The petition

- [Tinio seeks congress' probe into Negros clash that left 19 dead](#) (2026-04-25 12:18)

MANILA, Philippines — ACT Teachers Rep. Antonio Tinio on Saturday urged a congressional panel to investigate a military operation last week that left 19 people dead in Negros Occidental. The request comes amid conflicting accounts from the armed forces and human rights groups over the clash. In a statement, Tinio said the House Human

- [8-hour power interruption scheduled in parts of Oriental Mindoro](#) (2026-04-25 11:09)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — An eight-hour power interruption is scheduled on Sunday, April 26, 2026 in parts of the towns of Socorro and Pola in Oriental Mindoro. This disruption is meant to allow substation upgrades and maintenance work, the local electric utility announced. In an advisory, the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative Inc. said the

- [Dumangas, Butuan City brace for 45°C danger level of heat index](#) (2026-04-25 10:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Dumangas, Iloilo and Butuan City, Agusan del Norte are forecast to reach the danger level of the heat index at 45°C on Saturday, the state weather bureau said. In its updated forecast as of Friday, 5 p.m., the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that 12 other areas are

- [Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Island spews ash Saturday morning \(April 25\)](#) (2026-04-25 10:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Island Region emitted ash on Saturday, producing plumes that rose 300 meters above its crater, according to the state seismologist. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) recorded the event at around 8:32 a.m. “This event generated grayish plumes that rose 300 meters above the crater before

- [Baguio LGU to spend P1.1 billion yearly to make fuel supply stable](#) (2026-04-25 09:38)

BAGUIO CITY — Concluding that the projected impact of the war on Iran could be worse for the country than the coronavirus pandemic, Mayor Benjamin Magalong and the Baguio City Council said as they adapted an economic continuity program this week. The initiative aims to secure the city’s power and water, widen access to food

- [Hot and humid weather to prevail on Saturday, April 25](#) (2026-04-25 09:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Scattered rainshowers will prevail over Batanes while the rest of the country will experience hot and humid weather on Saturday, the state weather bureau said. In the 5 a.m. weather forecast of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, weather specialist Leanne Loreto said that the frontal system is affecting Batanes

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of Saturday, April 25, 2026](#) (2026-04-25 09:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorists face fresh fuel price adjustments this week as diesel prices are expected to drop further by P8 to P10. This decrease could bring fuel costs to an average of P100 per liter. The new price adjustments come after the relentless double-digit increases following the Middle East war which broke out on

- [Samar gov’t eyes Mangrove Safari as eco-tourism site](#) (2026-04-25 07:15)

TACLOBAN CITY — The provincial government of Samar is positioning the Pinabacdao Mangrove Safari as a key emerging eco-tourism destination following an on-site inspection by provincial and local officials. Governor Sharee Ann Tan and Mayor Via Mabag visited on Thursday the site to assess its potential as part of the province’s expanding tourism portfolio. The initiative

- [Marcos vows hike in local government aid funds](#) (2026-04-25 05:52)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday vowed to increase funding for local government units (LGUs) in the next national budget, provided that ongoing government

assistance programs continue to deliver positive results nationwide. “We will continue to do this, and I’m telling all of you — do not think this is a one-time

- [Agriculture officials fear ‘super’ El Niño](#) (2026-04-25 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — As high fuel prices drive up farm input and production costs, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has warned against the possibility of a “super” El Niño toward the end of the year. “It is no longer a question whether we will experience another El Niño after the 2024 episode that undermined rice

- [NBI raps Defensors for trafficking, drugs](#) (2026-04-25 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation has filed charges against the wife and son of former Rep. Mike Defensor for allegedly being involved in a human trafficking case, but Defensor’s wife Julie, slammed NBI Director Melvin Matibag for his “baseless” and “malicious” lies against them. “Let me be absolutely clear regarding the recent

- [Ridon: Saying Sara money lumped with ‘others’ in SALN is ‘insulting’](#) (2026-04-25 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — A lawmaker on Friday criticized Vice President Sara Duterte’s legal team in the impeachment complaints against her for lumping the money in her bank accounts under a different category in her net worth statements, calling it a feeble attempt to gloss over inconsistencies in her finances. Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon said

- [Ex-DPWH exec has ‘P10M’ in SALN but returns P130M to gov’t](#) (2026-04-25 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — A former public works official linked to the flood control scandal told the Sandiganbayan on Friday that he had already remitted P130 million out of the P150 million that he pledged to return to the government to qualify for the witness protection program (WPP). But the thing is, Gerard Opulencia, the former

- [Romualdez asks Remulla to stop ‘biased’ probe](#) (2026-04-25 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Speaker Martin Romualdez has asked the Office of the Ombudsman to stop investigating his alleged role in the multibillion-peso flood control corruption scandal, saying that the government’s chief antigraft prosecutor was biased against him and had prejudged his case. The Leyte representative made the request through his lawyers from the Villaraza

- [Independent probe sought into deadly Negros encounter](#) (2026-04-25 05:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Several groups on Friday called for an independent investigation into the anti-insurgency operation in Toboso, Negros Occidental, that left 19 people dead, including a University of the Philippines (UP) student, a journalist and peasant advocates. On the sidelines of a protest outside Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, Human rights group Karapatan condemned

- [Iloilo student-athlete builds wooden treadmill](#) (2026-04-25 05:04)

ILOILO CITY — For 22-year-old John Leadro Malojo, the road to the Philippine National Team is being paved — not with asphalt, but with mahogany and marine plywood. A first-year Physical Education student at Central Philippine University (CPU), Malojo is a marathoner who refuses to let rainy weather disrupt his training. When faced with the

- [Subanen tribe in Zamboanga del Sur gets ancestral domain title](#) (2026-04-25 05:02)

PAGADIAN CITY — After two decades of struggle, the Subanen tribe in Bayog town, Zamboanga del Sur, finally received their certificate of ancestral domain title (CADT) covering 25,549 hectares, a milestone hailed by tribal leaders as a victory for indigenous peoples' rights. Gukom Lucenio Manda, tribal chieftain and head claimant of the Bayog ancestral domain,

- [Exhibit showcases market-ready innovations in Bukidnon](#) (2026-04-24 23:45)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Government agencies and industry partners gathered for the Northern Mindanao Regional Innovation Program and Exhibit (NorMinRIPE) 2026 on April 21–22, highlighting market-ready technologies aimed at driving regional development beyond agriculture. The event, led by the Regional Research, Development and Innovation Council 10, brought together key agencies including the Department of Science

- [DOE openness to new coal plants draws concern in Quezon](#) (2026-04-24 23:26)

LUCENA CITY — An environmental group and a church leader in Quezon province have raised alarm over the openness of the Department of Energy (DOE) to lift its moratorium on building new coal-fired power plants amid the ongoing oil crisis linked to tensions in the Middle East. “It is alarming that the Department of Energy

- [P714,000 shabu seized from ‘high-value’ suspects in Angeles City](#) (2026-04-24 23:15)

MABALACAT CITY, Pampanga — Authorities arrested two persons and confiscated some P714,000 worth of suspected shabu (crystal meth) in a buy-bust operation at Sta. Trinidad village in nearby Angeles City on Thursday evening, April 23. In a statement on Friday, the Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3) said the two arrested suspects were listed as “high-value

- [Iloilo, Capiz brace for up to 47°C heat index on weekend](#) (2026-04-24 22:41)

ILOILO CITY — Parts of Western Visayas are set to endure dangerously high heat index levels this weekend, with some areas forecast to reach as high as 47°C, according to the latest data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Figures released as of 5 p.m. on April 24 show that several

- [P20.4M shabu seized in Zamboanga City; 2 arrested](#) (2026-04-24 21:57)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — Two alleged high-value drug personalities were arrested in a buy-bust operation conducted by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and local police on Friday, April 24, in Barangay Cabatangan, Zamboanga City. Authorities identified the

suspects as alias Rudy, 39, of Bongao, Tawi-Tawi; and alias Boss Al, 28, of Barangay

- [No jackpot winner in Ultra, Mega Lotto draws on Friday, April 24](#) (2026-04-24 21:55)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the Ultra Lotto 6/58 and Mega Lotto 6/45 jackpot prizes in the draws on Friday, April 24, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Ultra Lotto 6/58 result: 37-42-36-21-47-27. Jackpot prize: ₱75 million Mega Lotto 6/45 result: 41-15-38-11-33-43 Jackpot prize: ₱41.68 million Minor games • 4D Lotto: 4-2-6-7 – ₱25,247 prize,

- [Aetas’ ‘Luto sa Buho’ highlights ‘Flavors of Subic Bay’ food fest](#) (2026-04-24 21:47)

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — Bamboo tubes filled with seasoned ingredients slowly cooked over open flames as members of the Aeta community in Pastolan village demonstrate “luto sa buho,” a traditional bamboo cooking method, during the opening of the food festival at the Subic Bay Boardwalk here on Friday. The indigenous cooking practice is among the

- [Police official tagged in illegal cigarette trade in Negros Occidental](#) (2026-04-24 21:34)

BACOLOD CITY – Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Friday told reporters that a police major had protected a Chinese crime syndicate behind an illegal cigarette factory in Bago City, Negros Occidental. Remulla on Friday visited the factory in Barangay Calumangan, Bago City that was raided by law enforcers on Wednesday, leading to the arrest of

- [Calawis water treatment plant reinforces Manila Water supply](#) (2026-04-24 21:33)

As the country braces for a possible severe El Niño this year, which may extend until early 2027, Manila Water continues to strengthen its water supply system through strategic investments in alternative water sources, ensuring that customer experience in the East Zone remains reliable even under challenging climate conditions. One of these key facilities is

- [4 abandoned parcels yield P6.9-M drugs at Pasay mail hub](#) (2026-04-24 21:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Four abandoned inbound parcels containing P6.9 million worth of suspected drugs were found at the Central Mail Exchange Center in Pasay City, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Friday. The parcels were flagged last Thursday during a routine X-ray screening by Bureau of Customs personnel and later verified through K-9 and

- [P784-M counterfeit cigarettes seized, 10 Chinese arrested in Negros Occ.](#) (2026-04-24 21:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Allegedly counterfeit cigarettes worth P784 million were confiscated by the police in Negros Occidental, leading to the arrest of 10 Chinese individuals, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said on Friday. Authorities earlier this week discovered the purported cigarette manufacturing operation in a warehouse in Purok Rosas, Barangay Calumangan,

- [Marcos vows to boost Local Government Support Fund](#) (2026-04-24 20:54)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Friday pledged to increase funding for the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF) if it is utilized properly. He made the remarks during a rice and financial subsidy distribution program in Batangas City, where a P200,000 financial assistance package was distributed to each of the 1,078 barangays

- [LTO summons cop, driver in viral traffic incident](#) (2026-04-24 20:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has summoned a police officer and the driver involved in a viral traffic incident. In a statement on Friday, the LTO said it issued a show cause order (SCO) following an incident involving a Philippine National Police-marked pickup truck loaded with two wood pushcarts that protruded beyond

- [MRT-3 resumes normal operations after Edsa-Ortigas bus fire](#) (2026-04-24 20:16)

MANILA, Philippines – The Metro Rail Transit (MRT-3) resumed normal operations after passenger bus caught fire near its tracks at the southbound portion of the Epifanio delos Santos Avenue – Ortigas flyover Friday evening. READ: MRT-3 operations disrupted by Edsa-Ortigas bus fire MRT-3 management announced the resumption of normal operations as of 6:50 p.m. It earlier reported

- [Land for the people: DENR awards over 800 land titles in Iloilo](#) (2026-04-24 20:16)

ILOILO CITY — For many Filipino families, the dream of security begins with the land beneath their feet. On Friday, April 24, at the Iloilo River Esplanade, that dream became a reality for hundreds of beneficiaries as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) launched its landmark program: “Luntiang Bukas: Pamilyang May Lupa, Komunidad

- [Stir created as petition filed to block accreditation of MILF pol party](#) (2026-04-24 19:59)

COTABATO CITY – The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has deferred action on the application for accreditation of the political party of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) so they can participate in the parliamentary elections of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) on Sept. 14 this year. The deferment of action came as

- [Flood control mess: Bernardo vows to return P1B to gov’ t](#) (2026-04-24 19:58)

MANILA, Philippines — State witness and former Public Works Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo has pledged to return around P1 billion to the government as part of his restitution to be admitted into the Witness Protection Program. During the Sandiganbayan Third Division hearing for the malversation case of former Senator Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr. and his co-accused,

- [Dangerous heat index in Cotabato City and Cavite City on Saturday](#) (2026-04-24 19:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Cotabato City and Sangley Point in Cavite City are forecast to experience a dangerous heat indices on Saturday, the state weather bureau said. In its two-day forecast as of Thursday, 5 p.m., the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services

Administration (Pagasa) said that Cotabato City will reach the highest record of heat

- [El Niño drives water supply decline in Butuan City watershed](#) (2026-04-24 19:31)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur – The ongoing dry spell, worsened by the onset of El Niño, has caused a sharp drop in water levels at the Taguibo watershed, which is the primary water source for Butuan City, seat of the Caraga region. According to the Butuan City Public Information Office (PIO), the Taguibo Aquatech

- [Angara orders nationwide teacher orientation ahead of policy shifts](#) (2026-04-24 19:28)

Heads of public schools nationwide have begun orientation sessions as the Department of Education (DepEd) intensifies preparations for key teaching and learning reforms set for School Year 2026–2027. The orientations, which began on April 24, aim to ensure that school heads are fully equipped to strengthen leadership readiness and manage the new academic protocols. Regional

- [Bohol ramps up El Niño preparedness measures](#) (2026-04-24 19:28)

TAGBILARAN CITY – The provincial government has reinforced proactive measures to cushion the impact of the possible onset of El Niño, with contingency plans already in place to protect agriculture, food supply and vulnerable communities. Larry Pamugas, assistant provincial agriculturist, said the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) is intensifying preparations to mitigate potential production

- [Revilla targeted as low-hanging fruit; bail resolution on May 6 — counsel](#) (2026-04-24 19:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Senator Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr.’ s counsel on Friday said he was implicated in a flood control anomaly because he is a low-hanging fruit, adding that they remain confident in their position on the case. Lawyer Reody Anthony Balisi made the remark following the Sandiganbayan Third Division bail hearing of Revilla and

- [NTF-Elcac decries death of Fil-Am in Negros Occidental encounter](#) (2026-04-24 19:22)

TAGBILARAN CITY Bohol — The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) on Friday expressed concern over the death of a Filipino-American in an armed encounter in Toboso, Negros Occidental on Sunday, warning of the dangers of recruitment that could draw individuals into armed conflict. In a statement, the task force extended

- [Basilan gov, MILF leadership welcome Sarmiento as new peace adviser](#) (2026-04-24 19:14)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY— Basilan Governor Mujiv Hataman welcomed the appointment of former Interior Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento as the government’ s new peace adviser, citing his extensive local governance experience as a vital asset as the Bangsamoro region approaches its first parliamentary elections. In al statement, Hataman expressed optimism that Sarmiento’ s grounded approach to governance

- [Leviste hits exclusion of 84 Batangas barangays in aid distribution](#) (2026-04-24 19:03)

MANILA, Philippines – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. visited Batangas on Friday for the distribution of ₱200,000 assistance to every barangay. Batangas 1st District Rep. Leandro Legarda Leviste, however, said in a statement that at least 84 barangays were not invited and one barangay captain was told by the Batangas Liga ng Barangay president that

- [MRT-3 operations disrupted by Edsa-Ortigas bus fire](#) (2026-04-24 18:56)

MANILA, Philippines – Metro Rail Transit (MRT-3) operations were delayed Friday evening due to a bus fire along the Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (Edsa) Ortigas flyover. The MRT-3 reported the delays as of 6:30 p.m. READ: Hopes on track: How are PH railway projects going? “Firefighters are on site and responding to the incident, while

- [Justice sector maps out more ways to fight online child exploitation](#) (2026-04-24 18:42)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Efforts to combat online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC) in Northern Mindanao are expected to gain momentum following a milestone capacity-building convergence of justice sector professionals in Makati City. From April 13 to 17, 28 judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers from across the country gathered at the

- [EMB downgrades haze alert as Metro Cebu air quality improves](#) (2026-04-24 18:19)

TAGBILARAN CITY—Air quality in Metro Cebu has significantly improved, prompting authorities to downgrade the alert status as haze that blanketed the area earlier this week has largely dissipated. In its advisory on Friday, April 24, the Environmental Management Bureau in Central Visayas (EMB-7) reported “improving conditions,” with pollutant concentrations dropping across monitored areas. READ: Metro

- [5 detainees dead after police mobile crashes in Quezon City](#) (2026-04-24 18:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Five persons under police custody (PUPCs) died after the police mobile they were riding crashed into a wall in Quezon City on Friday. Six PUPCs and four Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel escorting them were aboard the police mobile along Payatas Road on the way to the Quezon City Jail when it

- [Revilla got P1.5B project ‘allocation,’ P500M cash – witness](#) (2026-04-24 18:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla has a purported allocation of P1.5 billion worth of projects from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), which was “funded” in 2025, and P500 million in “commitments,” a state witness told the Sandiganbayan on Friday. Revilla, who attended the bail hearing, told reporters before the

- [BOC offers 4 seized Discaya vehicles for negotiated sale on April 30](#) (2026-04-24 18:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The four remaining luxury vehicles seized from contractor couple Pacifico “Curlee” and Cezarah “Sarah” Discaya will be up for negotiated sale after failure to

be sold in previous public auctions, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said on Friday. In an advisory, the BOC said that the negotiated sale will be held next

- [Tricycle drivers in Calabarzon receive cash aid](#) (2026-04-24 18:03)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — The distribution of government cash aid to tricycle drivers across the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) region has benefited 2,230 drivers as of Friday, April 24. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Region IV-A reported that simultaneous payouts were conducted in Tuy, Batangas; Kalayaan, Pakil, and Pangil towns

- [DA braces for impact of looming El Niño on rice production](#) (2026-04-24 17:50)

MANILA – Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has directed the Masagana Rice Industry Development Program (MRIDP) alongside the Philippine Rice Research Institute and other units to be on close watch over the potential effects of the looming El Niño phenomenon on the local rice sector. The Department of Agriculture (DA) is also in close

- [Bullying goes beyond school grounds, child rights advocates say](#) (2026-04-24 16:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Bullying among Filipino children is no longer discussed only within classrooms and school corridors. Child rights advocates said recent incidents — including stories shared publicly by actor and Quezon City Councilor Alfred Vargas and actress Yasmien Kurdi — have reopened a difficult national conversation: Bullying can happen not only inside schools but

- [Temporary outages may be implemented as Mindoro faces power deficit](#) (2026-04-24 15:44)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro, Philippines — The Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative Inc. has placed its system on alert and is preparing for possible manual load dropping (MLD) on Friday as electricity demand is expected to exceed available supply. In a 10 a.m. advisory, Ormeco said it is in “operational readiness” for MLD implementation during morning,

- [Alleged rebel killed, 2 firearms seized in fresh Negros clashes](#) (2026-04-24 15:19)

A suspected member of the New People’s Army (NPA) was killed following a series of armed encounters with government troops in Barangay Bucalan, Canlaon City, Negros Oriental, on Thursday. Brig. Gen. Ted Dumosmog, commander of the 303rd Infantry Brigade, identified the fatality as Jomarie “Yulo” Pañe. Pañe was reportedly a remnant of the dismantled Central

- [LRT-2 to offer free parking for passengers at Santolan starting April 27](#) (2026-04-24 15:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The Light Rail Transit 2 (LRT-2) will offer free parking for its passengers at Santolan Station starting Monday, April 27, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) said on Friday. According to the DOTr, this is in line with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to encourage the use of public transportation amid

- [Pagadian LGU rescues 2 fishers detained in Indonesia after sea ordeal](#) (2026-04-24 14:26)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur— Two fishermen from Zamboanga del Sur have returned home after spending 60 days in detention in Indonesia following a harrowing ordeal at sea that left them drifting for five days without food or potable water. The fishermen were identified as Mark Hugo, 36, of Barangay Kawit, Pagadian City, and Rolando

- [PNP: ‘No-shirt policy’ back in Manila, QC but with ‘common sense’](#) (2026-04-24 14:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The policy against not wearing a shirt in public spaces has been reinstated in Manila and Quezon City, but this time, it is being implemented with “common sense,” the Philippine National Police (PNP) said. The Manila and Quezon City Police Districts previously suspended the policy under the Department of the Interior and

- [Gatchalian seeks social media ban for children under 16](#) (2026-04-24 13:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian has filed a bill seeking to ban Filipino children under 16 years of age from using any social media platforms, emphasizing the need to safeguard children from online risks and threats. Gatchalian filed Senate Bill (SB) No. 2066 or the Social Media Safety for Children Act last April 22.

- [PNP maintains ‘gas-and-run’ incidents ‘isolated cases for now’](#) (2026-04-24 13:31)

MANILA, Philippines — “The PNP (Philippine National Police) is treating recent [gas-and-run] incidents... as isolated cases for now.” The law enforcement agency’s chief, Police Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr., said this in a statement on Friday, three days after the police caught two suspects for allegedly refilling their vehicle with P1,500 worth of fuel then

- [UP Baguio walkout: Students protest killing of peer, Middle East war](#) (2026-04-24 13:29)

BAGUIO CITY — About a hundred students of the University of the Philippines Baguio walked out of their classrooms for a protest rally against the United States and Israeli war on Iran, and the recent disclosure that a UP student was among 19 people killed in a military attack in Negros Occidental. The students lit

- [TIEZA allocates P70 million for Pagadian City airport rehab](#) (2026-04-24 12:55)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur— Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) Chief Operating Officer Mark Lapid inspected the domestic terminal of Pagadian City Airport on Wednesday, assuring passengers that rehabilitation work will be completed before year-end. Lapid, joined by officials from the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) and the local government, said

- [3 family members killed in Zamboanga police raid; probe underway](#) (2026-04-24 12:34)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur— Authorities are investigating a fatal early-morning police operation in Barangay Sinunuc, Zamboanga City, after three members of a family were killed and another wounded during an encounter between law enforcers and armed occupants of a residence linked to a wanted fugitive on Thursday. Police reports said joint operatives of the

- [Revilla case witness returns P130M to gov’ t despite only ‘P10M’ in SALN](#) (2026-04-24 12:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The witness in the malversation case of former Sen. Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr. told the court he has already returned P130 million to the government despite only declaring approximately “P10 million” at the Statement of Assets Liability and Net Worth (SALN). Gerard Oplencia, the former regional director of the Department of Public

- [Heavy traffic hits key sections of NLEX Friday afternoon](#) (2026-04-24 12:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorists experienced slow-moving traffic along parts of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) on Friday afternoon following separate road crashes, according to NLEX Corporation. In its 12 p.m. traffic advisory, NLEX Corp. said vehicles were running at around 10 to 20 kilometers per hour (kph) along the NLEX Harbor Link Interchange

- [Ridon slams Duterte camp’ s bank cash defense as impeachment push builds](#) (2026-04-24 12:25)

MANILA, Philippines – Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon on Friday criticized Vice President Sara Duterte’ s legal team for explaining that her bank cash was lumped under a different category in her net worth statements, calling it an attempt to gloss over her financial inconsistencies as lawmakers weigh grounds to impeach her. In a statement, Ridon

- [DepEd starts repair of heritage Gabaldon school in Batangas](#) (2026-04-24 12:02)

LUCENA CITY — The Department of Education (DepEd) has begun repair and rehabilitation works of a heritage Gabaldon-type school building in Talisay, Batangas. On Thursday morning, Mayor Nestor Natanauan inspected the ongoing works at the Venancio Trinidad Sr. Memorial School compound in the town proper. Natanauan said the inspection aimed to monitor the project’ s progress

- [Charges filed vs Mike Defensor’ s wife, son over human trafficking case](#) (2026-04-24 11:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has filed charges against the wife and son of former Rep. Mike Defensor for allegedly being involved in a human trafficking case. NBI Director Melvin Matibag confirmed this to the INQUIRER on Friday. According to Matibag, the NBI filed a case for violation of the Anti-Trafficking

- [Bam Aquino files bill to strengthen laws vs driving under influence](#) (2026-04-24 11:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Bam Aquino has filed a measure seeking to strengthen and address gaps in the country’ s current anti-drunk and drugged driving law to further protect Filipino

youth. Under Senate Bill No. 2068, received by the Senate Office of the Secretary on Thursday, Aquino seeks to amend Republic Act No. 10586, or the

- [Romualdez continues to oversee congressional duties, still in PH – aide](#) (2026-04-24 11:46)

TACLOBAN CITY — Leyte 1st District Rep. Martin Romualdez remains in the country and continues to oversee his congressional duties despite mounting speculation about his absence from public events, a senior staff member from his Tacloban-based office said Friday. The clarification came after rumors circulated online claiming that the former House Speaker had gone into

- [Rights group seeks ‘independent’ probe on Negros ‘clash’ that killed 19](#) (2026-04-24 11:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Rights group Karapatan called for an “independent” investigation into the anti-insurgency operation in Toboso, Negros Occidental that left 19 individuals dead, supposedly including a University of the Philippines (UP) student, a local journalist and two peasant advocates. “We want to know the truth, what really happened that day,” Karapatan Secretary-General Tinay Palabay

- [Heat index in Batangas town hits 40°C, residents warned](#) (2026-04-24 11:10)

LUCENA CITY — The Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC) of Talisay, Batangas, on Friday warned residents of dangerous heat after the heat index reached 40°C. “As per monitoring from [Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration], Talisay, Batangas is currently experiencing a Heat Index of 40°C, classified under extreme caution,” the MDRRMC

- [Metro Manila air quality ‘still not normal’ due to Navotas landfill fire — PhilSA](#) (2026-04-24 11:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly two weeks after a landfill fire started in Navotas City, the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) said air quality in Metro Manila “has not returned to normal levels.” PhilSA cited Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) data showing “smoldering conditions” as of April 23. It also said nitrogen dioxide concentrations over Metro Manila

- [Bulacan landmark gets colorful makeover ahead of int’l art festival](#) (2026-04-24 11:01)

PULILAN, Bulacan — In this quiet agricultural town, a familiar landmark has been transformed into a striking work of art, offering a symbol of life and hope amid ongoing global tensions and a lingering fuel crisis. The town’s iconic kneeling carabao—once a plain, black cement figure perched atop the Pulilan public market—now bursts with vivid

- [P727-million road project to link Zambales farms to markets](#) (2026-04-24 10:42)

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales — More than 1,500 farmers and about 4,500 households, including indigenous peoples communities, are expected to benefit following the approval of a

P727-million farm-to-market road (FMR) project in Masinloc town. This would pave the way for what officials described as a major boost to agricultural connectivity in the province. The Central Luzon

- [Romualdez seeks Ombudsman disqualification from probe over bias claims](#) (2026-04-24 10:41)

[Updated April 24, 2026, 11:23 a.m.] MANILA, Philippines – Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez sought to stop the Office of the Ombudsman from investigating his alleged role in the flood control scandal, his office said on Friday, as he urged investigators not to single him out in its probe into the graft controversy. An independent

- [Palarong Pambansa host town warns of scams, overpriced homestays](#) (2026-04-24 10:11)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Local officials have moved to curb alleged price gouging in accommodations ahead of the Palarong Pambansa 2026, with Mayor Grace Carmel Paredes-Bravo warning the public against dealing with unauthorized homestay brokers. READ: All systems go for Palarong Pambansa 2026, organizers say In an advisory, Bravo urged homestay owners to

- [Solon asks for more Pera for gov' t workers amid soaring fuel prices](#) (2026-04-24 10:03)

MANILA, Philippines – The government should raise the monthly allowance for state workers to P5,000 from P2,000, ACT Teachers Rep. Antonio Tinio said on Friday, as the increase would help them cope with rising living costs driven by elevated fuel prices from the conflict in the Middle East. In a statement, Tinio said the Personnel

- [Super El Niño, global shocks and PH' s rising rice import risk](#) (2026-04-24 09:54)

The Philippines faces a critical food security challenge in 2026 as projections for rice imports diverge widely. The U.S. Department of Agriculture projects rice imports at 5.1 million metric tons (MMT), while the Department of Agriculture estimates 3.6 to 3.8 MMT, assuming record palay output of 20.3 MMT. The gap reflects the difference between international

- [Eastern Visayas growth slows to 1% in 2025 amid bridge restrictions](#) (2026-04-24 09:50)

TACLOBAN CITY — Eastern Visayas' economy expanded by just one percent in 2025, a sharp slowdown from the 6.1 percent growth recorded in 2024, as mobility restrictions at the San Juanico Bridge and setbacks in public construction dampened economic activity, regional officials said on Thursday. Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that the

- [Multi-sector group plants 300 seedlings for Earth Month in Rizal](#) (2026-04-24 09:28)

LUCENA CITY — A multi-sector tree-planting initiative in San Mateo, Rizal, brought together volunteers, government agencies, and civic groups to celebrate Earth Month and promote environmental sustainability. In a statement on Thursday, Shincheonji Volunteers (SCJ Volunteers) in Manila said they joined forces with the Philippine Army' s 2nd Civil-Military

Operations Battalion, the Department of Agriculture–Bureau of

- [Ex-DPWH exec to testify vs Bong Revilla in Sandiganbayan bail hearing](#) (2026-04-24 09:19)

MANILA, Philippines — After skipping the previous hearing, state witness and former Public Works Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo will testify in the Sandiganbayan against former Senator Bong Revilla on Friday afternoon. Prosecutors told the anti graft court’s Third Division that Bernardo will take the witness stand at 2:00 p.m during the bail hearing of Revilla and

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of April 24, 2026](#) (2026-04-24 09:00)

MANILA, Philippines – Motorists face fresh fuel price adjustments this week as oil companies implemented new oil prices, even as the government warned of strict penalties for firms that violate newly imposed limits under the national energy emergency. The Department of Energy (DOE) said the latest price movements come amid continued volatility in global oil

- [Oriental Mindoro on red alert amid projected power shortfall](#) (2026-04-24 08:27)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The province was placed under red alert on Friday, April 24, as the local electric cooperative projected significant power deficits during all peak periods of the day. Data from the Integrated Control and Command Center of the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (Ormeco) showed that available supply is 58.71 megawatts (MW),

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: 3 areas under ‘danger’ level on Friday – Pagasa](#) (2026-04-24 07:58)

[Updated April 24, 2026, 8:36 a.m.] MANILA, Philippines — Three areas in the country are expected to experience a “dangerous” heat index on Friday, April 24, according to the state weather bureau. These places are Cavite City in Cavite, Cotabato City in Maguindanao del Norte, and Butuan City in Agusan del Norte. Based on the Philippine

- [Easterlies to bring hot, humid weather on Friday, April 24](#) (2026-04-24 07:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The weather system, easterlies, is forecast to continue bringing hot and humid weather with chances of localized thunderstorms across the country on Friday, the state weather bureau reported. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the easterlies, which refer to the warm winds coming from the Pacific Ocean,

- [SWS: Quality of life dips for 5 in 10 Filipinos](#) (2026-04-24 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Five out of 10 Filipinos said their quality of life became worse over the past 12 months, according to the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey released on Wednesday. The survey, which was conducted from March 24 to March 31, found that 50 percent of respondents said their quality of life worsened

- [UP student, journalist killed in clashes](#) (2026-04-24 05:46)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — After the alleged encounters on April 19 that left 19 people dead in Toboso town, Negros Occidental, the military and the New People's Army (NPA) are engaged in a word war over the real events on that day. On Thursday, the NPA's Apolinario Gatmaitan Command in Negros said in

- [Comelec: Birth certificates now a must for bets](#) (2026-04-24 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) will now require candidates for the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) set to be held on Nov. 2 and all other succeeding elections to submit birth certificates along with their certificates of candidacy (COCs). Comelec Chair George Erwin Garcia said on Thursday that the move was

- [MMDA will use traffic cams to spot litterbugs, too](#) (2026-04-24 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) may start using artificial intelligence (AI) cameras to flag improper waste disposal in Metro Manila under the agency's No Contact Apprehension Policy (NCAP) beginning next week, MMDA general manager Nicolas Torre II said on Thursday. This came a day after Torre said the NCAP will soon

- [Witness: 'Boxes, maleta' sent to 2 senators, Bonoan, Cabral, Olaivar](#) (2026-04-24 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — A prosecution witness in the malversation case against former Sen. Bong Revilla said he delivered what would later be revealed as large sums of cash to Revilla, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, then Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan, the now-deceased former Undersecretary Cathy Cabral, and former Education Undersecretary Trygve Olaivar from 2023 to 2025.

- [Palace spox to VP: Travel permit assured, but why take 'vacation' now?](#) (2026-04-24 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang assured Vice President Sara Duterte that the Office of the President (OP) will approve her new travel authority request. However, Palace press officer Claire Castro questioned the timing of Duterte's planned "vacation" covering five countries mostly in Europe, citing the crisis caused by the Middle East conflict and the ongoing House

- [VP blasts Trillanes, COA, AMLC](#) (2026-04-24 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte on Thursday denied that she and her husband had billions of pesos flowing through their bank accounts, lashing back at former Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV for making the allegation and the Commission on Audit (COA) and the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) for backing him. Testifying before the House

- [DepDev: Agri sector helped drive Cordillera growth in '25](#) (2026-04-24 05:04)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — The Cordillera regional economy in 2025 had been robust with a 4.4-percent growth, including a surprise 4.3-percent expansion for the perennially underperforming agriculture sector. The total value of economic production in the region,

known as the gross regional domestic product (GRDP), was P394.96 billion in 2025, its growth driven largely by

- [DA ready to aid farmers, fishers amid El Niño](#) (2026-04-24 05:02)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has activated a comprehensive response strategy to mitigate the impact of El Niño on the country's agricultural sector following the announcement by the state weather bureau on Wednesday about the onset of a dry spell. At a briefing here on Wednesday, Undersecretary Cherryl Marie Caballero, who

- [Pest attack prompts alert in Quezon coconut sector](#) (2026-04-24 01:37)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — Coconut experts in Quezon province have been placed on alert following reports of pest infestation affecting farms in Tayabas City. In a report released Thursday, the provincial government said the Provincial Agriculturist Office-Coconut Development Division conducted pest surveillance on April 16 after farmers reported increasing pest activity in Barangay Ibabang

- [Marawi City drug buy-bust nets shabu worth P6.8M](#) (2026-04-24 01:28)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Anti-narcotics agents arrested a suspected drug peddler and seized about P6.8 million worth of prohibited drugs during a buy-bust operation in Marawi City on Wednesday afternoon, April 22. Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (PDEA-BARMM) Regional Director Edgar Jubay said their operatives, backed by

- [‘Danger’ level heat indices to hit 3 areas; Cotabato to reach 44°C](#) (2026-04-24 01:22)

MANILA, Philippines — At least three areas are expected to reach “danger” level peak heat indices on Friday, April 24, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. Pagasa defines heat index as the “measure of the contribution that high humidity makes with abnormally high temperatures in reducing the body's ability to cool

- [Iloilo City OKs P1.41-B supplemental budget focused on services, aid](#) (2026-04-24 01:19)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — The Sangguniang Panlungsod of Iloilo City approved a P1.41-billion supplemental budget during its 15th regular session on April 22, channeling surplus funds toward social protection, infrastructure, and long-term development programs amid the ongoing national energy emergency. Mayor Raisa Treñas said the additional budget stemmed from a “careful and responsible review” of

- [Sari-sari store in Iloilo City yields P1M in suspected meth](#) (2026-04-24 01:12)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — A sari-sari store in Barangay Bolilao, Mandurriao district here yielded over P1 million worth of suspected meth or shabu during a buy-bust operation on Wednesday, April 22. The suspect who runs the store is identified as alias “Harry,” 36, and

classified by authorities as a High Value Individual (HVI). The operation

- [Military: Detained suspected NPA rebels clashed with soldiers in Negros](#) (2026-04-24 00:45)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS, OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — Police and military authorities tagged five persons who were recently in Talisay City, Negros Occidental as New People's Army (NPA) rebels who were involved in the armed encounter with soldiers in Toboso town last Sunday. Combined forces of the Army and various police units served a warrant against Glenmar

- [BARMM: Fatwa restricting women's unaccompanied travel for work issued](#) (2026-04-24 00:25)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — The Bangsamoro Darul-Ifta' (BDI) has issued a fatwa, or religious ruling, prohibiting women from traveling for work without a mahram, a male relative whom they cannot marry, such as a father, brother, or son. BDI is the official Islamic advisory body in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)

- [DENR, 2 private firms join hands to rehabilitate Cavite, Batangas creeks](#) (2026-04-23 23:39)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Region 4A, has partnered with private firms to rehabilitate two creeks in Cavite and Batangas. On Thursday, April 23, EMB-Region 4A and Jollibee Foods Corporation signed a memorandum of agreement to conserve, protect, and develop

- [NBI nabs man in Cavite for abusing a child](#) (2026-04-23 22:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has arrested a man in Dasmariñas City, Cavite, for allegedly physically and psychologically abusing a seven-year-old child. According to the NBI, its Homicide Division conducted the operation on Tuesday, April 21, following reports from relatives and other witnesses that he inflicted a pattern of harm and

- [DA ready to aid farmers, fishers amid El Niño](#) (2026-04-23 22:06)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has activated a comprehensive response strategy to mitigate the impact of El Niño on the country's agricultural sector following the announcement by the state weather bureau on Wednesday about the onset of a dry spell. At a briefing here on Wednesday, Undersecretary Cherryl Marie Caballero, who

- [April 23: No jackpot winner in SuperLotto, Lotto 6/42 draws](#) (2026-04-23 21:58)

MANILA, Philippines — No jackpot winner emerged in Thursday's draws for SuperLotto 6/49 and Lotto 6/42, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). The PCSO said the winning combination for SuperLotto 6/49 was 11-35-40-01-18-08 for a jackpot of ₱25 million. No ticket holder matched all six numbers. For Lotto 6/42, the winning combination was

- [Lawmaker pushes for more benefits for barangay tanods](#) (2026-04-23 21:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Parañaque Rep. Brian Yamsuan has pushed for more benefits for barangay tanods or barangay watchmen as he hailed their role as “unsung first responders” in maintaining peace and safety in the barangay. Yamsuan filed House Bill (HB) No. 6598, which pushes to upgrade the benefits for barangay tanods who have been in

- [Brian Poe urges evidence-based medical cannabis law](#) (2026-04-23 21:31)

QUEZON CITY — House Assistant Majority Leader Brian Poe called for a carefully designed, evidence-based medical cannabis framework that learns from international experience, during a forum hosted by the UP Law Center Institute of Human Rights at the University of the Philippines College of Law in Diliman. Speaking at the forum titled “From Stigma to

- [BOC seizes P174-M illegal goods in Valenzuela warehouse](#) (2026-04-23 20:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has confiscated P174 million worth of various illegal goods believed to have originated from China. In a statement on Thursday, the BOC said that it conducted an operation last April 14, in close coordination with the Philippine National Police. It noted that it implemented a Letter of

- [Beating the heat: Iloilo City to set up cooling centers](#) (2026-04-23 20:26)

ILOILO CITY — In a proactive bid to protect residents from dangerously high temperatures, the Iloilo City government is finalizing plans to establish cooling centers across various barangays while ramping up its water distribution efforts. Mayor Raisa Treñas announced the initiative as part of the city’s two-pronged approach to combating the extreme heat index currently

- [4 areas reach ‘danger’ level heat indices on Thursday, April 23](#) (2026-04-23 20:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Four areas registered “danger” level peak heat indices on Thursday, April 23, the state weather bureau said. Based on data released by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) as of 5 p.m. of April 23, Cotabato City, Maguindanao reached a peak of 44°C, logging the highest recorded heat index

- [Angara ramps up support for learning continuity spaces rollout](#) (2026-04-23 19:20)

MAKATI CITY — Education Secretary Sonny Angara intensified technical support for field offices of the Department of Education (DepEd) to fast-track the nationwide expansion of Learning Continuity Spaces (LCS), ensuring learners in disaster-prone communities have safer, dedicated areas to study. This strategic push aims to provide resilient facilities that allow classes to go on despite

- [Sara Duterte camp: ‘Suspicious transaction’ doesn’t equate wrongdoing](#) (2026-04-23 19:15)

MANILA, Philippines – “Suspicious transaction does not equate to any wrongdoing or unlawful activity.” This was how Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment counsel responded to the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) report that banks flagged billions worth of suspicious

transactions linked to her and her husband, Manases Carpio. During the House committee on justice’ s impeachment hearing

- [Lawmakers scoff at ‘ampaw’ Sara Duterte defense camp presser](#) (2026-04-23 18:28)

MANILA, Philippines — House lawmakers on Thursday scoffed at the press conference of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s defense team, with one of them calling it “ampaw,” while another dared her to show up at the impeachment proceedings. Deputy Speaker Paolo Ortega V of La Union called it “ampaw” as it did not address the questions

- [Sara Duterte won’ t appear at April 29 House impeachment hearing — Poa](#) (2026-04-23 18:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte will not attend the House committee on justice’ s next hearing on the impeachment complaints against her. Atty. Michael Poa, spokesperson for Duterte’ s defense team, confirmed this in a press conference on Thursday, a day after the justice panel held its second hearing on the impeachment complaints, where the

- [Piñol defends Uy after drug lord tag during VP Duterte impeach hearing](#) (2026-04-23 17:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol on Thursday defended Samuel Uy, whom he said was “unjustly vilified and destroyed” during the House panel proceedings on the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte. On Wednesday, former Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV accused the Dutertes of receiving payouts from Uy, whom Trillanes alleged to be a drug

- [Marcos declares special non-working days for local festivals](#) (2026-04-23 17:48)

MANILA, Philippines – President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has declared several special non-working days in parts of Laguna, Quezon, Batangas, and Misamis Oriental to allow residents to celebrate local festivals and anniversaries. Proclamation 1219 sets April 30 as a special non-working day in the municipality of San Francisco, Quezon, for its founding anniversary. On the same date,

- [CIDG: Uncle arrested for online sexual abuse of minor niece in Tagum](#) (2026-04-23 17:48)

MANILA, Philippines — A man was arrested for allegedly sexually abusing and exploiting his minor niece online, following a rescue operation in Barangay Visayan Village, Tagum City, on April 20. The operation was conducted by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group Davao del Norte Provincial Field Unit, in coordination with the City Social Welfare and

- [NCRPO: 6 nabbed for siphoning palm oil in Valenzuela City](#) (2026-04-23 17:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Six individuals were arrested for allegedly siphoning palm oil in Valenzuela City, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said on Thursday. After a palm oil company’ s delivery driver and his helper supposedly deviated from their scheduled route, operatives tracked them to a vacant lot in Barangay Punturin, Valenzuela City, on Wednesday,

- [Cordillera food fair opens in Burnham Park](#) (2026-04-23 17:30)

BAGUIO CITY — The 7th “Mangan Taku” (Let’s Eat) Cordillera Food Fair opened Thursday at the Rose Garden of Burnham Park, featuring indigenous dishes and traditional food practices from across the region. Visitors flocked to stalls serving Cordilleran staples, with etag (salted and smoked pork) among the top draws. The meat is preserved through curing

- [Palace: Marcos to file comment on SC drug test petition](#) (2026-04-23 17:24)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will heed the Supreme Court’s order for him to comment on a petition seeking a hair follicle test and other examinations related to claims of illegal drug use, according to Palace press officer Claire Castro. “If that is an order from the Supreme Court, it will be carried

- [P3.4-M drugs seized, 4 arrested in Quezon City, Pasay drug stings](#) (2026-04-23 17:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Suspected drugs worth a total of P3.4 million were confiscated, and four individuals were arrested in buy-bust operations in Quezon City and Pasay City on Wednesday night and early Thursday morning. In a statement on Thursday, the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) said it entrapped two suspects in front of a restaurant

- [Villar urges swift passage of urban agriculture bill amid fuel crisis](#) (2026-04-23 16:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Mark Villar is pushing for the immediate passage of Senate Bill No. 1422, or the proposed Integrated Urban Agriculture Act, as rising fuel prices threaten to disrupt food supply chains and drive up the cost of basic goods. Villar said the ongoing fuel crisis, linked to disruptions in the Middle East,

- [House panel to probe Duterte ‘death threats,’ tax records on April 29](#) (2026-04-23 16:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives committee on justice is set to tackle one of the most explosive charges in the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte — her alleged grave threats against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and former Speaker Martin Romualdez — at what could be its final

- [Flood mess: Revilla could be freed on bail without Bernardo’s testimony](#) (2026-04-23 16:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The testimony of the lead witness and former Public Works undersecretary Roberto Bernardo is needed to block the bid for temporary freedom of former Senator Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr. Associate Justice Karl Miranda, the chairman of the anti-graft court’s Third Division, stressed the importance of Bernardo’s testimony during the bail hearing for

- [PNP: Academy undergoing ‘aggressive reforms’ amid fresh hazing case](#) (2026-04-23 16:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. maintained on Thursday that the agency's academy was undergoing "aggressive reforms" amid a new alleged hazing case that surfaced among its cadets. "We will not allow favoritism or any cover-up. Anyone found responsible, regardless of their year level, will face the full

- [PNP to officers: Speed up inspections of trucks with essential goods](#) (2026-04-23 15:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. has ordered police officers conducting checkpoint operations to speed up inspections of trucks transporting essential goods. "Amid the challenging situations that our country is experiencing, our personnel on the ground stationed at checkpoints will ensure that the flow of goods remains unhampered

- [Snake triggers power disruption in Olongapo City](#) (2026-04-23 15:36)

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales, Philippines — An unexpected power interruption affected parts of Olongapo City on Thursday after a snake came into contact with electrical equipment at a local substation. In an advisory, Olongapo Electricity Distribution Company (OEDC) reported that the reptile had climbed onto a gantry structure within one of its substations. The animal's contact with energized

- [Cute, but invasive: Finlayson's squirrels in Metro Manila](#) (2026-04-23 15:29)

They may be attractive, but the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the presence of a non-native squirrel species sighted in Metro Manila last week is "not promoted." The DENR said that "while every wildlife species has inherent value," the Finlayson's squirrel (*Callosciurus finlaysonii*) is an "invasive species that may threaten local ecosystems."

- [Father among 4 arrested in Bulacan teen's rape-slay](#) (2026-04-23 15:04)

BUSTOS, Bulacan, Philippines — A 40-year-old truck driver and three others were arrested by the police on Tuesday for the rape-slay of his 16-year-old daughter almost two weeks ago. Col. Jay Baybayan, Bulacan police director, identified the arrested father of the victim as Daniel Gallano, of Purok 5, Poblacion, this town. He and his cohorts, identified

- [Boxes allegedly sent to Revilla, Estrada, Bonoan; 'maleta' for Olaivar](#) (2026-04-23 14:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Several boxes were allegedly brought for former Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, and ex-Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) chief Manuel Bonoan, a witness told the Sandiganbayan on Thursday. Vergel Niño Garcia, a former driver and aide of state witness and ex-DPWH Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo, made the revelation

- [Marcos inspects 11-ha township built under govt's 'pabahay' program](#) (2026-04-23 14:36)

PALAYAN CITY, Nueva Ecija – President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., on Thursday, inspected the 11-hectare township built under the administration’s Pambansang Pabahay para sa mga Pilipino (4PH) program in Barangay Atate here. READ: LOOK: Marcos visits Palayan City in Nueva Ecija The Palayan City Township Project, which, according to Palayan City Mayor Vianne Nicole Cuevas, already

- [Marcos OKs promotion of 17 senior PNP officers – DILG](#) (2026-04-23 14:29)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has approved the rank promotion of 17 senior Philippine National Police (PNP) officers, according to a memorandum from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The appointment papers had been signed by Marcos and transmitted to the DILG by Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, according to a

- [EU-funded BARMM satellite offices up in Tawi-Tawi, Basilan](#) (2026-04-23 14:24)

TACURONG CITY, Sultan Kudarat– The Office of the Chief Minister (OCM) in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) has established satellite offices, funded by the European Union (EU), in Basilan and Tawi-Tawi to bring the government closer to its constituents there. Interim Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua inaugurated the satellite branches along with Governors

- [Palace to Sara Duterte: Travel authority usually given day before flight](#) (2026-04-23 14:18)

MANILA, Philippines — “Ibigay ang hilig ng walang ligalig.” (Give the desire without trouble.) This was the response of Palace Press Officer Claire Castro to questions on why the Office of the President (OP) approved Vice President Sara Duterte’s request for a 22-day overseas travel. At a briefing on Thursday, Castro also refuted claims that

- [BARMM seeks to safeguard forests, biodiversity](#) (2026-04-23 14:08)

COTABATO CITY — The Forest Foundation Philippines (FFP) and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) have partnered to advance forest restoration, community-based forest management, and climate initiatives across the region, officials announced on Thursday. The collaboration was formalized with the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on April 16, between FFP and

- [Palace distances Marcos from Romualdez corruption scandal allegations](#) (2026-04-23 13:54)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. does not feel alluded to by the video statement of his cousin, former Speaker Martin Romualdez, that the buck stops with the executive branch over the 2025 budget mess and the infrastructure corruption scandal. Romualdez is facing cases of plunder, graft, indirect bribery, and money laundering before the Sandiganbayan in

- [Calapan City hits dangerous 43°C heat index; residents warned anew](#) (2026-04-23 13:43)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (CDRRMD) on Thursday warned residents of dangerous heat levels after the heat index in Calapan reached 43 degrees Celsius. A day before, the heat index in the city was at 42°C. In an advisory issued at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the CDRRMD

- [Sara Duterte impeachment: Senate readiness ensures orderly trial—Garin](#) (2026-04-23 13:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate’s preparations for a possible impeachment trial would help ensure the smooth handling of the case against Vice President Sara Duterte, allowing proceedings to move in an orderly manner and without delay should it be elevated, House Deputy Speaker Janette Garin said on Thursday. She welcomed the Senate’s readiness and the

- [4 nabbed for selling puffer fish in Camarines Sur](#) (2026-04-23 13:21)

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay — Four vendors were arrested on Wednesday after authorities seized more than 66 kilograms of puffer fish being sold at the public market in Nabua town in Camarines Sur. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Bicol (BFAR-5), in coordination with the Nabua police, inspected the public market at 6 a.m.

- [Sara Duterte blasts Trillanes, COA, AMLC: Billions in banks untrue](#) (2026-04-23 13:13)

MANILA, Philippines – After weeks of silence, Vice President Sara Duterte on Thursday denied that there were billions of pesos’ worth of transactions in her bank accounts and blasted not just former Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV for these allegations, but also the Commission on Audit (COA) and the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) for now being

- [MMDA employing AI cameras to flag improper waste disposal under NCAP](#) (2026-04-23 13:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) may start using artificial intelligence (AI) cameras to flag improper waste disposal under the No Contact Apprehension Policy (NCAP) in Metro Manila next week, General Manager Nicolas Torre II said on Thursday. This came a day after Torre said that the NCAP will soon cover littering through

- [Man nabbed in CDO for selling ‘kidney cleanser’ not registered with FDA](#) (2026-04-23 12:56)

MANILA, Philippines — A man was arrested in Cagayan de Oro City for allegedly selling a supposed “kidney cleanser” food supplement that was not registered with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Anti-Cybercrime Group (ACG) said on Thursday. The suspect, identified only by the alias “Carl,” was entrapped along Julio Pacana Street last April

- [Oriental Mindoro youth set up community pantry to aid PUV drivers](#) (2026-04-23 12:56)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Amid rising fuel costs and mounting economic pressure, youth volunteers in this province have launched a relief drive for public utility vehicle (PUV)

drivers while pushing for long-term agricultural reforms. On April 22, the Kilos Ko Youth(KY)–Oriental Mindoro chapter led a “TODA Rescue” initiative in Barangay Camilmil here, setting

- [Cops, soldiers discover arms cache in Butuan City](#) (2026-04-23 12:46)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Joint operating troops from the Police Regional Office in Caraga (PRO-13) and the Philippine Army uncovered an arms cache believed to belong to the New People’s Army (NPA) in Barangay Antongalon, Butuan City, on Monday. Police Brig. Gen. Marcial Mariano P. Magistrado IV, director of PRO-13, said the discovery was

- [4 held for fuel theft in Laguna](#) (2026-04-23 11:45)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Police arrested four men allegedly involved in fuel pilfering, locally known as “paihi,” during a late-night operation on Wednesday in Alaminos, Laguna. The Police Regional Office 4A said local police, assisted by barangay tanods (village watchmen), were conducting a routine patrol when they caught the suspects in the act of siphoning

- [5 alleged NPA rebels arrested in Negros Occidental](#) (2026-04-23 11:38)

BACOLOD CITY—Five alleged members of the New People’s Army (NPA) were arrested during a warrant service operation in Talisay, Negros Occidental, on Wednesday, following a recent deadly clash in the province. READ: Army: NPA leadership in Negros wiped out The military operation was conducted along the Circumferential Road, Barangay Matab-ang of Talisay City, Negros

- [DOTr, OSG settle 345 expropriation cases for railway projects](#) (2026-04-23 11:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Office of Solicitor General (OSG) have finalized 345 expropriation cases to expedite land acquisitions for the North South Commuter Railway project (NSCR) and the Metro Manila Subway Project (MMSP). In a statement on Thursday, the DOTr said that securing right-of-way (ROW) for major transportation projects

- [Apayao town declares state of calamity due to fuel crisis](#) (2026-04-23 11:26)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan -The local government of Calanasan in Apayao province was placed under a state of calamity on Wednesday due to the worsening socioeconomic effects of the ongoing energy crisis. In a statement, the local government said the town council has passed a resolution on the calamity declaration, and Mayor Shamir Bulut approved it.

- [Cops nab suspect, seize P680,000 worth of shabu in Cavite](#) (2026-04-23 11:15)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Anti-narcotics operatives arrested a big-time drug trafficker and seized about P680,000 worth of suspected shabu (crystal meth) in Dasmariñas City, Cavite on Wednesday. In a belated report released Thursday, Police Regional Office 4A said the suspect, identified only by the alias “Amo,” was arrested after selling a P500 sachet of shabu

- [El Niño to hit farmers hard, group warns](#) (2026-04-23 11:04)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Looming dry spells and drought in several parts of the country due to the intensifying El Niño phenomenon will pose tougher challenges for farmers struggling to sustain their livelihoods, a national peasant group said Thursday. “El Niño does not only mean hotter days. For farmers, it means dry fields, weak crops,

- [LOOK: Marcos visits Palayan City in Nueva Ecija](#) (2026-04-23 10:36)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. visited Palayan City in Nueva Ecija on Thursday to review the implementation of several government initiatives aimed at helping the poor. At around 9 a.m., Marcos went to the Palayan City Township Project, one of the key developments under the Expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino Program, where

- [PNP names 6 of 19 fatalities in Negros Occidental clash](#) (2026-04-23 10:30)

BACOLOD CITY—The Police Regional Office Negros Island Region (PRO NIR) has activated a Special Investigation Task Group to establish the identities of bodies recovered following a series of “encounters” in Toboso, Negros Occidental, on Sunday. Through forensic examination, documentation, and coordination with local government units and relatives, the task group aims to provide a formal accounting of the deceased, said the PRO

- [Martin Romualdez still in PH amid travel ban order, says lawyer](#) (2026-04-23 10:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Former House Speaker and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez is still in the Philippines, according to his lawyer and spokesperson Ade Fajardo on Thursday. In a statement, Romualdez’ camp acknowledged the precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) issued by the Sandiganbayan despite getting clearance from House Speaker Bojie Dy to travel to Singapore for

- [Sara Duterte to file new travel request, asks for prompt processing](#) (2026-04-23 10:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte on Thursday said that she will ask for a new travel request as her plans have changed due to uncertainty whether she would be allowed to travel abroad. “Thank you for the last-minute issuance of the travel authority,” Duterte said in a statement addressed to the Office of

- [NTF-Elcac endorses new policies to address insurgency](#) (2026-04-23 09:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) Executive Committee has endorsed several key policy directions to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. aimed at addressing the communist insurgency and advancing development. In a press release on Thursday, the Presidential Communications Office said the committee recommended extending the Amnesty Program and

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of April 23, 2026](#) (2026-04-23 08:31)

MANILA, Philippines- Following a fragile ceasefire in the Middle East, the domestic market has seen a glimmer of relief with two consecutive weeks of substantial fuel price adjustments. As of Tuesday, April 21, 2026, motorists welcomed another major double-digit rollback on diesel prices, which saw a reduction of P24.94 per liter. READ: Oil prices rise

- [HEAT INDEX ALERT: 3 areas to reach 41°C on Thursday — Pagasa](#) (2026-04-23 07:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Three areas are forecast to register the highest record of heat index at 41°C on Thursday, the state weather bureau said. In its latest heat index bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that these areas will hit 41°C hit index: Cotabato City, Maguindanao; Tuguegarao City, Cagayan; and

- [Hot, humid weather in most parts of PH on Thursday, April 23 – Pagasa](#) (2026-04-23 05:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Many areas in the country will experience hot and humid weather with chances of rainshowers on Thursday, the state weather bureau said. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that the ridge of the high pressure area will continue to prevail over Northern and Central Luzon, bringing less chance

- [PNP chief orders audit over rent kickbacks scheme](#) (2026-04-23 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police Chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. on Wednesday ordered a sweeping audit of all regional police training units nationwide following allegations that police trainees in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) were forced to shoulder part of their superiors' housing expenses through a rent "kickback" scheme. "I have ordered a

- [Gov't agencies sign rules to end Pogos for good](#) (2026-04-23 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Government agencies signed on Wednesday a set of rules which "will put the final nail in the coffin" of Philippine offshore gaming operators (Pogos) and "prevent their resurrection in a different form." Executive Secretary Ralph Recto led the signing in Malacañang of the "Inter-Agency Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on the Implementation of

- [PNPA hazing: 7 cadets, 2 police execs charged](#) (2026-04-23 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The police have filed a criminal complaint against seven cadets and two police officers of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) in Silang, Cavite, over the alleged hazing of 22 plebes (first-year cadets) on April 3, Good Friday. The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) filed the complaint for violation of Republic

- [Ombudsman secures court order keeping Romualdez in PH](#) (2026-04-23 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan on Wednesday issued a precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) against former Speaker Martin Romualdez, a travel restriction sought

by the Ombudsman in connection with the case it is preparing against the lawmaker and several others being linked to the flood control corruption scandal. The anti-graft court's Seventh Division granted a

- [Sara Duterte gets Palace approval for 22-day overseas travel](#) (2026-04-23 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Wednesday confirmed that Vice President Sara Duterte had been granted travel authority and will be out of the country from April 23 to May 15. The Vice President's declared itinerary includes the Netherlands, South Korea, Belgium, Germany, and the United Kingdom. In a message to the Inquirer, Executive Secretary Ralph

- [Luistro: Sara Duterte also trying to 'gaslight' House panel](#) (2026-04-23 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The chairperson of the House panel evaluating the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte not only noted her continuing absence in the proceedings but also took issue with how she had chosen to respond to the accusations through press statements and social media posts. For Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro, it seemed

- ['Vindicated' Trillanes tells House: Duterte, kin got drug lord money](#) (2026-04-23 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — It was the 18 confirmed bank transactions worth hundreds of millions of pesos that vindicated his allegations of corruption and links to drug money against Vice President Sara Duterte and her family, but former Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV also lamented that it took 10 years and “huge damage” supposedly caused by the

- ['Smoking gun' ? Gap between VP's bank info, SALN noted](#) (2026-04-23 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Bank transactions worth billions of pesos and tied to Vice President Sara Duterte did not match the net worth she had been declaring annually, based on records presented on Wednesday during House deliberations on the impeachment complaints against her. According to Akbayan Rep. Chel Diokno, the disparity could be the “smoking gun”

- [DPWH exec: Fund release for 'ghost' project illegal](#) (2026-04-23 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) released funds amounting to at least P92.8 million for a flood control project in Pandi, Bulacan, linked to former Sen. Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr. and several others, despite alleged irregularities in billing documents, an official told the Sandiganbayan's Third Division on Wednesday. Testifying at

- [Local journo among dead in Negros Occidental clash](#) (2026-04-23 05:06)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — Community journalist RJ Nichole Ledesma was among 19 people killed in a clash between government soldiers and suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Negros Occidental province on Sunday, Altermidya Network confirmed on Wednesday. The Philippine Army earlier reported that Sunday's series of armed encounters with supposed NPA remnants

- [In Manaoag, Marian image marks crowning centennial](#) (2026-04-23 05:04)

MANAOAG, PANGASINAN, Philippines — The Catholic faithful in Pangasinan marked the centennial on Wednesday of the canonical coronation of the image of Nuestra Señora del Rosario de Manaoag in Manaoag town. The image, which is widely regarded as miraculous, is enshrined at the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag, a major

- [MILF vows cooperation with new peace adviser](#) (2026-04-23 05:02)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) welcomed the appointment of former Interior Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento as the new presidential adviser on peace, reconciliation and unity. “We recognize an opportunity in his appointment for the substantial fulfillment of the CAB (Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro) and building the foundations of

- [BARMM chief lauds outgoing Galvez, welcomes new peace adviser](#) (2026-04-23 01:56)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — The Bangsamoro government extended its gratitude to former presidential peace adviser Carlito Galvez Jr. for his dedicated public service. “The Bangsamoro Government extends its sincere gratitude to Secretary Carlito G. Galvez Jr. for his dedicated service and commitment as Secretary of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation,

- [Illegal cigarette manufacturing: 9 Chinese, 4 locals arrested in Negros](#) (2026-04-23 01:40)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — A cigarette manufacturing operation in a warehouse at Purok Rosas, Barangay Calumangan, Bago City, Negros Occidental, was discovered, and nine Chinese nationals and four Filipinos were arrested on Tuesday, April 21, the police said. A 10th Chinese national remains at large. The discovery was made during an inspection conducted

- [Mother-daughter pair falls in Iloilo drug sting](#) (2026-04-23 00:16)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — A mother-and-daughter duo, both classified as high-value individuals (HVIs) in the regional drug trade, was arrested by authorities following a midnight buy-bust operation in Jaro district here on Tuesday. Personnel from the Iloilo City Police Office-City Drug Enforcement Unit (ICPO-CDEU) conducted the sting at around 12:05 a.m. on April 21, in

- [2 alleged street pushers busted, yield P142,000 worth of shabu in Rizal](#) (2026-04-23 00:08)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — Police anti-narcotics operatives arrested two alleged street drug pushers, and seized P142,000 worth of shabu (crystal meth) in a buy-bust operation early Wednesday, April 22, in Rodriguez town in Rizal province. The Rizal police reported that a team of operatives held “Vonvon,” 33, and “Cristi,” 36, after they sold P500

- [Ilonggo Pride: Oton native tops April 2026 Pharmacy board exam](#) (2026-04-23 00:04)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — The province of Iloilo has once again secured its place as a hub for academic excellence as Royce Arjan Fantillan, a native of Oton town, claimed the top spot in the April 2026 Pharmacists Licensure Examination. The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) announced on Wednesday that Fantillan, a graduate of the University

- [Increased seismic activity recorded in Bulusan Volcano anew – Phivolcs](#) (2026-04-23 00:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Wednesday said increased seismic activity has been recorded at Bulusan Volcano in Sorsogon. Phivolcs issued the advisory after a total of 101 volcano-tectonic (VT) earthquakes were recorded in Bulusan since 4:50 a.m. on Wednesday. According to Phivolcs, these VT events were generated by

- [Raps filed vs Daulah Islamiya suspects in Maguindanao del Sur ambush](#) (2026-04-22 23:57)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Criminal complaints have been filed against several suspects in connection with the ambush of a police patrol team belonging to the Provincial Mobile Force Company (PMFC) of the Maguindanao del Sur Police Provincial Office (MDSPPPO) on the night of March 28. The filing came three weeks after the creation of

- [UP student leader slain in Negros clash](#) (2026-04-22 23:51)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — The UP Diliman University Student Council has confirmed the death of its councilor, Alyssa Alano, while on a community visit in Toboso, Negros Occidental. In a statement, the USC said Alano died while soldiers “rained bullets” on Barangay Salamanca of Toboso town last Sunday. The USC is calling for

- [Wife of ‘killed’ jeepney driver in drug war finds hope in ICC decision](#) (2026-04-22 23:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The wife of a jeepney driver killed at the height of ex-President Rodrigo Duterte’s war on drugs has found hope after the International Criminal Court (ICC) denied the former leader’s jurisdiction appeal over his “crimes against humanity” case. Jane Lee, 43, from Caloocan, was one of the families of drug war victims

- [Farmer, believed drunk, drowns while swimming in Pangasinan](#) (2026-04-22 23:12)

ALAMINOS CITY, Pangasinan – A 58-year-old farmer from this city drowned at the Hundred Islands National Park, where he reportedly drank liquor and went swimming. Police report showed that the victim was staying at a rented cottage on Quezon Island on Wednesday. In the afternoon, while his daughter was cooking, he went for a swim.

- [Benguet town suspends trekking due to forest fires](#) (2026-04-22 23:04)

ITOGON, Benguet — Authorities here have suspended trekking and other eco-tourism activities in key mountain destinations as forest fires across Benguet continue to rise, already surpassing last year’s record. In Executive Order No. 21, series of 2026, Mayor Bernard Waclin ordered the temporary closure of major eco-tourism sites in Itogon, citing the growing number of

- [Pampanga exec charged with estafa set for transfer to Valenzuela City](#) (2026-04-22 22:57)

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga — Board Member Estelito “Shiwen” Lim is set for transfer from the Pampanga Provincial Jail (PPJ) to a Valenzuela City detention center, where he would be held while he continues to face charges of large-scale estafa. Lim’s transfer came after Presiding Judge Mary Jane Dacara-Buenaventura of Regional Trial Court Branch

- [Colmenares, Conti confident ICC will confirm charges vs Duterte](#) (2026-04-22 22:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Bayan Muna Party-list Rep. Neri Colmenares and human rights lawyer Kristina Conti are confident that the International Criminal Court (ICC) will also confirm the charges against former President Rodrigo Duterte next week in connection with his administration’s bloody war on drugs. The human rights lawyers said this following the Appeals Chamber’s

- [Court bars Romualdez from leaving PH](#) (2026-04-22 22:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan has issued a precautionary hold departure order against former Speaker Martin Romualdez over his pending cases at the Office of the Ombudsman that include plunder, graft, indirect bribery, and money laundering. These cases are supposedly linked to national budget insertions tied to anomalous flood control projects. The Sandiganbayan’s Seventh Division

- [No jackpot winner in April 22 Grand, Mega lotto draws](#) (2026-04-22 21:53)

MANILA, Philippines — No bettor won the jackpots for Grand Lotto 6/55 and MegaLotto 6/45 in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office draws on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, according to PCSO. Grand Lotto 6/55 produced the combination 30-43-51-44-46-32 for a jackpot of about ₱62.29 million, with no winner. MegaLotto 6/45 drew 10-37-11-43-18-15 for a jackpot of

- [MMDA: June 12 marathon on Edsa busway won’t disrupt traffic](#) (2026-04-22 21:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Wednesday assured the public that a marathon that will use the Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (Edsa) bus carousel lane on June 12, 2026 will not cause major traffic disruptions. According to MMDA general manager Nicolas Torre II, the agency has started preparing for the Manila

- [Bernardo to skip hearing; court orders condition check in hospital](#) (2026-04-22 20:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan on Wednesday ordered its medical officer to verify the condition in the hospital of state witness and former Public Works Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo, who will skip several hearing dates for the bail hearing of former Sen. Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr. and his co-accused due to illness. Associate Justice Karl Miranda,

- [Boracay Water gets DENR nod for Nabaoy watershed rehab](#) (2026-04-22 20:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has officially validated the successful establishment and maintenance of Boracay Water’ s 20-hectare adopted watershed area in Sitio Mananga, Barangay Nabaoy, Malay, Aklan, reinforcing the company’ s long-term commitment to watershed protection and water security for Boracay Island and the municipality of Malay. The DENR Provincial

- [Mel Sarmiento takes oath as Marcos’ presidential peace adviser](#) (2026-04-22 20:45)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday administered the oath of office to Mel Senen Sarmiento as the new chief of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Opapru) in Malacañang. Sarmiento succeeds Carlito Galvez Jr., who stepped down from the post to spend more time with his family. As

- [MMDA to process up to 1 ton of water hyacinth into coal daily](#) (2026-04-22 20:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is eyeing to process half a ton to a ton of water hyacinth into coal every day, its general manager Nicoles Torre II said on Wednesday. According to Torre, water hyacinth clogs waterways and drainage systems, which also causes major flooding in Metro Manila. Through this

- [Bad day for Dutertes? Sara hit by AMLC report, Rodrigo setback at ICC](#) (2026-04-22 20:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Two of the Duterte family’ s central figures, Vice President Sara Duterte and former President Rodrigo Duterte, were subjected to scrutiny on Wednesday, April 22, as both the impeachment proceedings and the crimes against humanity case before the International Criminal Court (ICC) moved forward. At the House of Representatives’ committee on justice, allegations that

- [Aparri, Cotabato log ‘danger’ level heat indices on April 22](#) (2026-04-22 19:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Two areas registered “danger” level peak heat indices on Wednesday, April 22, said the state weather bureau. Based on data released by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) as of 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Aparri, Cagayan and Cotabato City, Maguindanao each recorded a peak index of 42°C. Wednesday marks

- [WATCH: Trillanes discusses Dutertes’ bank accounts during impeach hearing](#) (2026-04-22 19:51)

This video is part of Inquirer’ s special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — Rep. Percival Cendaña asks former Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV about the bank accounts of Vice President Sara Duterte and former President Rodrigo Duterte during the third House hearing on the impeachment complaints

- [House panel to NBI: Submit report on Sara Duterte ‘threats’ probe](#) (2026-04-22 19:23)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — The House justice panel ordered the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to present the findings of its probe on the "threats" made by Vice President Sara Duterte. House committee on justice chairperson

- [Trillanes 'relieved' after AMLC report, but laments Dutertes' damage](#) (2026-04-22 19:06)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — While he is relieved that Vice President Sara Duterte's questionable transactions — which he mentioned as early as 10 years ago — were confirmed by authorities, former Senator Antonio Trillanes IV believes

- [Sara Duterte as firm board member during VP term against charter — Suan](#) (2026-04-22 18:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on Wednesday said Vice President Sara Duterte appeared to have been listed as a board member of a firm during her term, and Cagayan de Oro 1st District Rep. Lordan Suan said this is against the 1987 Constitution. Gerardo Del Rosario, director of the Company Registration

- [House panel defers opening box containing Duterte tax records](#) (2026-04-22 18:50)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives justice committee voted to defer opening a box containing the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) records of Vice President Sara Duterte, her husband, and their firms. The

- [Trillanes: Magdalo to push for Hontiveros presidential bid](#) (2026-04-22 18:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Magdalo group will push for Sen. Risa Hontiveros to run for president in the 2028 elections, according to former Senator Antonio Trillanes IV. "We've scrutinized the prospective candidates," Trillanes told reporters. "As of the moment, the person whom we want to push for the presidency is Senator Risa Hontiveros. She has

- [PCG rescues 6 from capsized motorbanca off Occidental Mindoro](#) (2026-04-22 17:53)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) rescued six passengers from a capsized motorbanca in waters off Barangay Pag-asa, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, on Wednesday, April 22. According to the PCG, the incident was reported at around 11 a.m., prompting authorities to deploy a search and rescue (SAR) team using a floating

- [Trillanes: Up to Duterte supporters to believe AMLC findings on Uy](#) (2026-04-22 17:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Senator Antonio Trillanes IV said it was up to Vice President Sara Duterte’ s supporters to believe the Anti-Money Laundering Council’ s (AMLC) confirmation of his claims that she had received money from purported drug lord Samuel Uy. “It’ s all been confirmed by the AMLC. I did not make that up. Why would

- [Legarda: Filipinos must unite vs climate crisis this Earth Day](#) (2026-04-22 17:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda urged Filipinos on Wednesday to harness their individual and collective power to combat the climate crisis, marking Earth Day 2026 under the theme “Our Power, Our Planet.” “In the face of a worsening climate crisis, we are called not only to observe, but to reflect and to act. This

- [Drug war victims’ kin gather for ICC decision on Duterte’ s plea](#) (2026-04-22 17:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Families of victims of the bloody war against illegal drugs during the administration of former President Rodrigo Duterte gathered on Wednesday, April 22, to witness the International Criminal Court (ICC) decision on the former leader’ s jurisdiction appeal regarding his “crimes against humanity case.” Also attending the gathering dubbed “Duterte Panagutin’ s Justice Watch”

- [UP president: No commercialization in Diliman campus](#) (2026-04-22 17:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The leadership of the University of the Philippines (UP) on Wednesday maintained that there was no commercialization on its Diliman campus, despite the construction of two establishments that community members have opposed. UP President Angelo Jimenez said the construction of “DiliMall” and the “GyudFood” food hub was decided by the administrations that

- [Belmonte to 142 QC barangays: Slash energy use amid global crisis](#) (2026-04-22 17:19)

QUEZON CITY — Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte has issued a direct order to all 142 barangays to immediately implement aggressive energy-saving measures — marking a critical turning point in the city’ s response to mounting pressures on power supply and fuel availability. Under Memorandum Circular No. 8, Series of 2026, barangays are mandated to reduce

- [Trillanes vindicated: AMLC confirms Sara Duterte’ s 18 transactions](#) (2026-04-22 16:58)

This report is part of Inquirer’ s special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — After years of criticizing the Dutertes, it appears former Senator Antonio Trillanes IV has finally been vindicated as the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) confirmed several financial transactions made by Vice President

- [Madiaga testimony weighs less than Duterte SALNs, AMLC report — Diokno](#) (2026-04-22 16:53)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — The testimony of Ramil Madriaga, the self-proclaimed “bagman” for Vice President Sara Duterte, now weighs less than her Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) and an Anti-Money Laundering Council

- [Barbers flags growing Duterte-Carpio business interests in SALNs](#) (2026-04-22 16:48)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — A year-by-year review of Vice President Sara Duterte's Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) drew fresh scrutiny at the House committee on justice on Wednesday after a lawmaker pressed

- [LTO revokes accreditation of 12 driving schools in NCR over multiple violations](#) (2026-04-22 16:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has revoked the accreditation of 12 driving schools in Metro Manila over multiple violations. In a statement on Wednesday, the LTO said this came after its resolution of multiple show-cause orders issued to the driving schools and its evaluation of their compliance with existing guidelines under Memorandum Circular No.

- [Luistro: Sara Duterte impeach hearings enter ‘forensic truth’ phase](#) (2026-04-22 16:17)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said Wednesday the House Committee on Justice is entering the “territory of forensic truth” in the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte,

- [Diokno: Difference in VP Duterte's SALNs, transactions is ‘smoking gun’](#) (2026-04-22 16:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The difference between Vice President Sara Duterte's Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) and billions of pesos worth of transactions linked to her and her husband is a “smoking gun,” Akbayan party-list Rep. Chel Diokno said on Wednesday. A net inflow of P2.87 billion was recorded in 33 suspicious transaction

- [WATCH: Rep. Marcoleta makes manifestation at VP Duterte impeachment hearing](#) (2026-04-22 16:14)

This video is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — Rep. Paolo Marcoleta makes a manifestation on the impeachment complaints filed against Vice President Sara Duterte on the third hearing conducted by the

House committee on justice. /atm

- [Closer look: Sara Duterte, Carpio careers, businesses from 2006-2025](#) (2026-04-22 16:11)

This video is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. Financial records spanning 2006 to 2025 involving Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, are now under scrutiny. The House of Representatives Committee on Justice is taking a closer look at

- [Pagasa: Fewer but stronger cyclones may hit PH during El Niño](#) (2026-04-22 16:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Fewer but stronger tropical cyclones may enter the country during the development of El Niño this year. This was the answer that Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section chief Ana Liza Solis gave when asked whether there would be fewer but stronger tropical cyclones. "That

- [WATCH: Businesses of VP Duterte, husband examined during hearing](#) (2026-04-22 15:56)

This video is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — The House committee on justice scrutinizes the business interests of Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband, Manases Carpio, on the third hearing on the impeachment complaints filed against the vice president.

- [Solons: AMLC can tackle Duterte's bank accounts; this is an impeachment](#) (2026-04-22 15:55)

This video is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — Several lawmakers have maintained that the House committee on justice can discuss reports from the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) on Vice President Sara Duterte's financial transactions. They also believe impeachment proceedings are

- [Human activities blamed for fires in Agusan Marsh peatlands](#) (2026-04-22 15:54)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — A new wave of peatland fires has once again sounded the alarm over the delicate state of the Agusan Marsh, with authorities and experts blaming human activity for fueling the flames for the second consecutive year. The most recent fire, which ravaged Talacogon Peatland from March 29 to April 9,

- [Angara advances barangay-level mapping of learning gaps](#) (2026-04-22 15:47)

MAKATI CITY — Education Secretary Sonny Angara is moving to adopt barangay-level education mapping to pinpoint learning gaps and direct resources to the most underserved communities, as the Department of Education (DepEd) sharpens its data-driven reforms. The initiative follows

a presentation by University of the Philippines student Timothy Hormigos, who developed a granular map of

- [Ejercito: Dela Rosa waiving Senate pay, perks may help his ethics case](#) (2026-04-22 15:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa’s ethics complaint may be dismissed if he waives his salaries and allowances from the Senate, Sen. JV Ejercito said on Wednesday. Ejercito, who heads the Senate ethics panel, made the remark after he appealed for Dela Rosa to decline his salary while he is absent. In an

- [LOOK: Former Senator Trillanes ‘sinumpaang salaysay’](#) (2026-04-22 15:40)

This report is part of Inquirer’s special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines – Former Senator Antonio Trillanes IV appeared before the House Committee on Justice on Wednesday as it continued its hearing on the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara

- [UP: ‘Inclusive’ 2026 UPCAT results with more passers from public schools](#) (2026-04-22 15:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The University of the Philippines (UP) has touted the 2026 results of its entrance exam as “inclusive,” after more than half of the passers came from public schools, with more from indigenous communities and underserved areas. The 2026 UP College Admission Test (UPCAT) recorded a 12.44 percent qualification rate, or a total

- [EXPLAINER: What are ‘covered, suspicious transactions’](#) (2026-04-22 15:37)

This report is part of Inquirer’s special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. As the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte resumed on Wednesday, April 22, lawmakers put financial review in focus, citing Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) reports on “covered transactions” and

- [Revilla case: Funds released for ‘ghost’ project despite irregularities](#) (2026-04-22 15:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Funds for the P92.8-million flood control project in Pandi, Bulacan, were still released despite alleged irregularities in billing documents. Genevieve Cuaresma, finance director of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), confirmed this when she testified on Wednesday during the bail hearing for the malversation case of former senator Bong Revilla

- [PAF goes on aerial check of Homonhon Island grass fire in Eastern Samar](#) (2026-04-22 14:52)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine Air Force conducted an aerial flight over Homonhon Island in Guiuan, Eastern Samar to assess the extent of a grass fire that has been burning across the

remote areas of the island. Air Force helicopters from the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing and Tactical Operations Group 8 were deployed Tuesday to monitor the

- [WATCH: Chua questions Ombudsman about VP Duterte's SALN](#) (2026-04-22 14:46)

This video is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — Officials from the Office of the Ombudsman answer questions from Rep. Joel Chua about the statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth of Vice President Sara Duterte during the April 22, 2026,

- [Pagasa issues El Niño Alert; drought in PH now likely](#) (2026-04-22 14:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The state weather bureau has issued an El Niño Alert, which means there is a high chance of dry spells and droughts in parts of the country. In a statement on Wednesday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that while the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Neutral prevails

- [Calapan City hits 42°C 'danger' heat index; residents warned](#) (2026-04-22 14:35)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The city's disaster risk reduction and management office (DRRMO) on Wednesday warned residents of dangerous heat levels after the heat index reached 42 degrees Celsius late morning. In an advisory issued at 11 a.m., the DRRMO said the recorded heat index at the Calapan City Public Market monitoring station fell

- [WATCH: VP Duterte impeach hearing continues without her again](#) (2026-04-22 14:09)

This video is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — Rep. Gerville Luistro opens the April 22, 2026, hearing on the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte, noting her continued absence and summarizing the revelations made during the previous proceedings.

- [Over 600 transactions of Sara Duterte worth P6.7B flagged by AMLC](#) (2026-04-22 13:44)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) reported that billions of pesos worth of transactions linked to Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband were flagged by banks. These

- [MMDA pushes 'Yes to Ayos' to enhance order in Metro Manila](#) (2026-04-22 13:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Wednesday pushed its "Yes to Ayos" campaign, an initiative aimed at promoting discipline and responsible behavior in public spaces across Metro Manila. The effort follows President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to strengthen programs that foster a culture of discipline.

READ: Bittersweet traveling in the Philippines

- [Raffy Tulfo flags inaccurate Dole inspections on ‘5-5-5’ jobs](#) (2026-04-22 13:25)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Raffy Tulfo criticized on Wednesday the inaccuracy of the Department of Labor and Employment’s (Dole) inspections in detecting “5-5-5” working schemes, which refers to service contracting that lasts only five months to prevent regularization at the sixth month of employment. Tulfo presided over the Senate Labor, Employment, and Human Resources Development

- [AMLC confirms suspicious transactions made by Sara Duterte, kin](#) (2026-04-22 13:09)

This report is part of Inquirer’s special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) has confirmed to the House committee on justice that it found covered and suspicious transactions made by Vice President Sara Duterte and her

- [PNP orders audit of training units over alleged rental kickbacks](#) (2026-04-22 13:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) ordered a sweeping audit of all regional police training units nationwide following allegations that trainees were forced to cover part of their superiors’ housing expenses through an alleged rental kickback scheme. “I have ordered a mandatory audit of all lease agreements involving trainees,” said the PNP

- [NCAP to soon cover improper waste disposal — MMDA](#) (2026-04-22 12:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The No Contact Apprehension Policy (NCAP) will soon cover improper waste disposal monitored through closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in Metro Manila, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) General Manager Nicolas Torre II said on Wednesday. According to Torre, proper waste disposal is a “cat-and-mouse” situation, noting that some residents only comply with regulations

- [Bid to block Romualdez’s trip abroad up for Sandiganbayan’s resolution](#) (2026-04-22 12:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) against former House Speaker and Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez has been submitted for resolution in the Sandiganbayan. Sandiganbayan Seventh Division chairperson Associate Justice Lorifel Lacap-Pahimna made the announcement during Wednesday’s hearing. PHDO is a written court order directing the Bureau of Immigration to prevent any

- [Bank account under Dutertes’ name still active, says Cendaña](#) (2026-04-22 12:34)

This report is part of Inquirer’s special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — A bank account under the names of Vice President Sara Duterte and her

father, former President Rodrigo Duterte, is still active, according to Akbayan party-list Rep. Perci

- [Marcoleta told: SALN issue included in Duterte impeachment complaint](#) (2026-04-22 12:33)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — Lawmakers cited grounds mentioned in the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte to Sagip party-list Rep. Paolo Henry Marcoleta after he claimed that her Statements of

- [Sara Duterte declared no cash, bank deposits since 2019 in SALNs](#) (2026-04-22 12:17)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte declared having no petty cash nor bank deposits since 2019, according to her net worth documents released on Wednesday, even as her wealth

- [Remulla signals move to block Romualdez's Singapore medical checkup trip](#) (2026-04-22 11:51)

MANILA, Philippines — “It is what it is.” Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said this on Wednesday in response to House of Representatives Speaker Faustino ‘Bojie’ Dy III supposedly allowing Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez to fly to Singapore for a checkup following a previous angioplasty. Would the Office of the Ombudsman block the House's travel clearance

- [Marcos prays for grace as he attends Our Lady of Manaoag event](#) (2026-04-22 11:50)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday prayed for grace to follow the virtues of Our Lady of Manaoag and for a renewed commitment to serve with love and compassion. He made these invocations during the prayer for the centennial anniversary of the canonical coronation of Nuestra Señora del Rosario de Manaoag, enshrined

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of April 22, 2026](#) (2026-04-22 11:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Yesterday, April 21, motorists saw another significant, double-digit rollback for diesel. This means P112 per liter for the regular diesel and around P147 per liter for premium variants—significantly lower from previous highs of about P170 per liter. Gasoline and kerosene also saw small rollbacks of P3.41 and P2 per liter, respectively. READ:

- [Smokey Mountain residents protest P26-B WTE project, cite health risks](#) (2026-04-22 11:42)

MANILA, Philippines—Hundreds of residents, environmental advocates and urban poor groups gathered in Smokey Mountain, Tondo, in April as part of Earth Month activities to oppose a proposed waste-to-energy (WTE) incinerator project, raising concerns about its potential impact on health, housing and livelihoods. The mobilization, organized by groups including the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)

- [Ombudsman exec confirms Sara Duterte’ s SALNs from 2007 to 2024](#) (2026-04-22 11:27)

This report is part of Inquirer’ s special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — An official from the Office of the Ombudsman has confirmed the veracity of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) from 2007 to 2024 that were submitted

- [SC urged: Compel Marcos to undergo medical, drug exams](#) (2026-04-22 11:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez has urged the Supreme Court to compel President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to undergo a physical and mental examinations, including a drug test, citing what he described as signs of a “worsening” health condition. Alvarez, together with Virgilio Garcia, Juan Raña, and Raymundo Junia, filed a petition for mandamus

- [Romualdez should have testified before the Senate blue ribbon – Lacson](#) (2026-04-22 11:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Former House Speaker Martin Romualdez should have appeared during the Senate inquiry into the alleged anomalous flood control projects, Senate President Pro Tempore Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson said on Wednesday. Lacson, who heads the Senate blue ribbon panel, made the remark in a social media post after Romualdez came out to deny

- [Luistro blasts Duterte for skipping probe, ‘gaslighting’ committee](#) (2026-04-22 10:54)

This report is part of Inquirer’ s special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — House justice committee chair and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro has criticized Vice President Sara Duterte for continuing to skip impeachment hearings, saying the country’ s second-highest official has chosen

- [Sara Duterte a no-show in Wednesday’ s impeachment hearing](#) (2026-04-22 10:51)

This report is part of Inquirer’ s special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte did not appear before a congressional panel holding impeachment proceedings against her on Wednesday, signalling that she may continue skipping the hearings that

- [7 PNPA cadets face criminal rap for alleged maltreatment of 22 students](#) (2026-04-22 10:41)

MANILA, Philippines—A criminal case has been filed before the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor in Imus, Cavite against seven cadets of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) over alleged maltreatment of 22 other cadets. The Criminal Investigation and Detection

Group (CIDG) filed the complaint for violation of Republic Act No. 11053 or the Anti-Hazing Act of 2018.

- [South Cotabato's Lake Holon reopens to tourists](#) (2026-04-22 10:23)

KORONADAL CITY, South Cotabato – The scenic Lake Holon in Tboli, South Cotabato, which had been closed for about two weeks due to security concerns, has reopened to the public. Tboli Mayor Keo Dayle Tuan lifted the closure order through Executive Order 31, signed on Monday, with a copy made public on Tuesday at noon. “After

- [103 families left homeless by massive fire in Bacolod City](#) (2026-04-22 10:12)

BACOLOD CITY—A massive fire razed 37 houses in Barangay 14 here on Tuesday, leaving affected families homeless. The fire displaced 103 families with 307 members from Purok Ramon Magsaysay Dawis, according to Richelle Verdeprado-Mangga, head of the Bacolod Department of Social Services and Development. She said that based on the initial count, 27 houses were destroyed

- [Ombudsman Remulla arrives at House panel on Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-04-22 10:11)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla has arrived at the House of Representatives for its justice committee's third hearing on the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte on

- [Nearly ₱280M worth of shabu seized in Quezon City; 2 Chinese arrested](#) (2026-04-22 10:05)

MANILA, Philippines—Suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride, locally known as shabu, valued at ₱278.8 million were confiscated and two Chinese were arrested in a buy-bust operation in Quezon City on Tuesday. Anti-narcotics operatives from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Philippine National Police seized around 41 kilograms of the illegal drugs, hidden in a paper bag

- [Lawmakers resume probe into Sara Duterte impeachment complaints](#) (2026-04-22 10:00)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines – Impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte continued on Wednesday, with lawmakers expected to scrutinize her financial records as part of an inquiry into the complaints that

- [Trillanes, Clavano arrive at House panel hearing on Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-04-22 09:56)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment.

MANILA, Philippines — Former Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano have arrived at the House of Representatives for its justice committee's third hearing on the impeachment complaints

- [PNP probes ₱16.12-M smuggled cigarettes in Lanao del Sur trucks](#) (2026-04-22 09:34)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine National Police (PNP) ordered an investigation on Wednesday into the origin and possible networks linked to ₱16,120,000 worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes found in abandoned trucks in Malabang, Lanao del Sur. Boxes of suspected smuggled cigarettes seized by the Police Regional Office–Bangsamoro Autonomous Region were discovered stashed beneath coconuts in three left-behind

- [Taal Volcano logs minor eruption, 6 seismic events — Phivolcs](#) (2026-04-22 09:22)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — Taal Volcano recorded a minor phreatic eruption, along with four volcanic earthquakes and two tremors, over the past 24 hours, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology reported on Wednesday. The eruption, locally referred to as “pusngat,” occurred at 7:10 p.m. and lasted for about one minute. It generated a plume

- [What to expect: 2nd hearing on Sara Duterte's impeachment raps](#) (2026-04-22 09:10)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. MANILA, Philippines — As the House of Representatives' committee on justice is set to resume discussions on Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment, there are several topics that the panel is expected to discuss. In a

- [WATCH: House impeachment hearing vs VP Sara Duterte | April 22](#) (2026-04-22 08:33)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. The House Committee Justice panel on Wednesday, April 22, resumes its deliberations on the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte. READ: Senate may convene on May 4 for Duterte impeachment upon transmittal READ:

- [UPCAT 2026 results now out](#) (2026-04-22 07:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The results of the University of the Philippines College Admission Test (UPCAT) for the incoming first year college students for school year 2026-2027 have been released. READ: 17,996 applicants pass UPCAT 2025; 6.74% higher than last year This was announced by the state university on Wednesday morning, as it encouraged applicants to

- [UPCAT 2026 results now out](#) (2026-04-22 07:33)

{Updated April 22, 2026, 8:53 a.m.} MANILA, Philippines — The results of the University of the Philippines College Admission Test (UPCAT) for the incoming first year college students for school year 2026-2027 have been released. READ: 17,996 applicants pass UPCAT 2025; 6.74%

higher than last year This was announced by the state university on Wednesday

- [Hot, humid weather forecast in most parts of PH on Wednesday — Pagasa](#) (2026-04-22 06:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Most parts of the country will experience hot and humid weather on Wednesday brought by the easterlies, the state weather bureau said. In the 5 a.m. weather forecast of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration, weather specialist Chenel Dominguez said that the easterlies, or the warm winds coming from the

- [Romualdez on corruption probe: ‘I’ m no scapegoat’](#) (2026-04-22 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez on Tuesday broke his silence over allegations linking him to the controversial portions of the 2025 national budget, saying he would not allow himself “to be turned into the scapegoat so that others who are actually accountable can walk away clean.” Romualdez, a cousin of President Ferdinand

- [Remulla: Romualdez can’ t leave; asset freeze sought](#) (2026-04-22 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Tuesday said his office “did not respond favorably” to Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez’ s request to leave the country for a medical checkup in Singapore, as he disclosed that initial steps had been taken for the issuance of a freeze order on the former Speaker’ s assets. Later in

- [Galvez resigns; Sarmiento next Marcos peace adviser](#) (2026-04-22 05:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Carlito Galvez Jr. resigned on Tuesday as chief of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Opapru), saying he needed to take care of his wife and spend more time with his family. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. named retired general and former Interior Secretary Mel Sarmiento, 65, as

- [Gov’ t to agencies, LGUs: Don’ t delay food trucks](#) (2026-04-22 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday urged national agencies and local government units (LGUs) to help farmers and traders take advantage of reduced toll and port fees to cushion the impact of high fuel prices on food. “This begins with the speedy accreditation of farmers and traders who are qualified for the toll fee waiver,”

- [VP impeach hearing takes up SALN, SEC, BIR papers—and Trillanes](#) (2026-04-22 05:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The committee on justice of the House of Representatives has obtained copies of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), as well as documents from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), in time for today’ s hearing on the impeachment complaints

- [Leni Robredo rules out national run in ’ 28](#) (2026-04-22 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Vice President Leni Robredo on Tuesday ruled out a run for national office in the 2028 elections, saying she preferred to remain in Naga City, a move analysts said could weaken the opposition's effort to challenge Vice President Sara Duterte's political ambitions. Robredo said she plans to seek a second term

- [Cops nab 2 men in second 'gas-and-run' case in QC](#) (2026-04-22 04:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Two individuals have been arrested after they allegedly fled in a white Toyota Vios from a gas station in Payatas Road, Quezon City, without paying for P1,500 worth of fuel, the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) said on Tuesday. In a statement, the QCPD said the suspects identified only as "Tyron" and

- [QC students back Pope's call for peace through paper cranes](#) (2026-04-22 04:50)

MANILA, Philippines — A parish in Quezon City is showing its support for Pope Leo's call for an end to the Middle East conflict by making 1,000 paper cranes. On Tuesday, students from public and private schools gathered at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Project 8, Quezon City, to work on the

- [Army: NPA leadership in Negros wiped out](#) (2026-04-22 04:45)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — Five of the 19 suspected rebels killed in an encounter on Sunday were key officials of the New People's Army's Northern Negros Front (NNF), creating a leadership vacuum in the area, a Philippine Army official said Tuesday. Brig. Gen. Ted Dumosmog, commander of the 303rd Infantry Brigade, said the

- [Bicol farm losses reach P4.8M amid lack of rain](#) (2026-04-22 04:40)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — Agricultural losses in the Bicol region have reached P4.8 million due to declining rainfall and the onset of the dry season, the Department of Agriculture (DA) reported on Tuesday. Lovella Guarin, DA Bicol information officer, told the Inquirer that data from automated weather stations showed below-normal rainfall across the region

- [On Earth Day, Zamboanga geologist shares life behind explorations](#) (2026-04-22 04:35)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — For Dr. Lawrence Zamora, supervising geologist of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in the Zamboanga Peninsula, his profession demands grit, precision, and constant exposure to the elements—whether under scorching heat, heavy rain, or in steep and flood-prone terrain, sometimes even in communities wary of outsiders. Marking Earth

- [Iloilo air stays safe as haze affects other areas](#) (2026-04-22 04:30)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Air quality in Metro Iloilo remains within acceptable levels despite haze reports in Metro Cebu and parts of Metro Manila, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources–Environmental Management Bureau (DENR–EMB) in Western Visayas. In its monitoring on Tuesday, the regional EMB reported Air Quality Index

(AQI) readings ranging from

- [Sara, Rodrigo Duterte’ s alleged joint bank account still active – solon](#) (2026-04-22 01:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Akbayan party-list Rep. Perci Cendaña on Tuesday confirmed that the alleged joint bank account of Vice President Sara Duterte and her father, former President Rodrigo Duterte remains active. Cendaña confirmed the bank account’ s status after depositing money himself ahead of Sara Duterte’ s impeachment hearing before the House justice panel on Wednesday, April

- [LOOK: Strike divides transport workers in Iloilo City](#) (2026-04-22 00:58)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Amid a call for strike, some traditional and modernized jeepneys continue to ply their routes in Iloilo City on Tuesday. The jeepneys drove along Rizal Street and City Proper on Tuesday, April 21, while some transport groups hold a local demonstration to cry “Sobra na! Tama na” pertaining to alleged overpricing

- [Alleged ‘high-value’ drug suspect busted; P680,000 shabu seized in Rizal](#) (2026-04-22 00:50)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — Authorities arrested an alleged high-value drug suspect and seized about P680,000 worth of shabu in a buy-bust operation early Tuesday, April 21, in Angono, Rizal, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Region IV-A reported. Operatives from the PDEA-Rizal office, along with police operatives, apprehended the suspect, identified only by the

- [P1.4M in suspected shabu seized from elderly suspect in Butuan City](#) (2026-04-21 23:41)

TANDAG, SURIGAO DEL SUR, Philippines — Some P1.43 million worth of suspected shabu was seized from an elderly man in a buy-bust operation conducted on Monday, April 20, in Butuan City. The suspect, identified as alias “Angkol,” 63, of Barangay Maon, is classified as a high-value individual. Seized during the operation were approximately 210 grams of

- [Dole to consider impact of Middle East crisis in next wage review cycle](#) (2026-04-21 23:06)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) said it will consider concerns related to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East during the next round of wage review cycle in the National Capital Region that is scheduled this May. In a statement on Monday, Dole said it is preparing for the next

- [Bohol hosts first Glow-in-the-Dark International Dragon Boat Festival](#) (2026-04-21 22:58)

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL, Philippines — Despite external challenges affecting international participation, Bohol successfully staged the first-ever Glow-in-the-Dark International Dragon Boat Festival 2026, held on April 18 to April 19, transforming the waters of Tagbilaran City into a vibrant nighttime sporting spectacle. The two-day night racing event drew eight teams and over 200 paddlers, including participants

- [No jackpot winner in 6/58, 6/49, 6/42 lotto draws on Tuesday, April 21](#) (2026-04-21 22:03)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpot prize in the Ultra Lotto 6/58, SuperLotto 6/49 and Lotto 6/42 draws on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Ultra Lotto 6/58 result: 58-34-43-05-40-03 Jackpot prize: ₱75 million Super Lotto 6/49 result: 45-10-36-43-13-19 Jackpot prize: ₱25 million. Lotto 6/42 result: 22-04-33-11-09-15 Jackpot prize: ₱17.86

- [4,000 more Calabarzon tricycle drivers receive financial aid](#) (2026-04-21 21:57)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) distributed cash assistance on Tuesday, April 21, to 4,000 more tricycle drivers across the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) region. The DSWD-Region IV-A said the tricycle drivers, who will each receive P5,000 from the national government, are from Antipolo City in Rizal, and

- [‘Very weak’ minor phreatic eruption recorded at Taal Volcano – Phivolcs](#) (2026-04-21 21:52)

MANILA, Philippines — A “very weak” minor phreatic eruption was recorded at Taal Volcano on Tuesday evening, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). According to Phivolcs in a time-lapse footage posted in its social media pages, the phreatic eruption was recorded at Taal Volcano’s main crater between 7:10 p.m. and 7:11 p.m.

- [LTO suspends bus driver’s license over fatal Quezon bus crash](#) (2026-04-21 21:47)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has suspended for 90 days the license of the bus driver involved in a fatal road crash in Pagbilao, Quezon on Monday night. In a Facebook post on Tuesday, LTO-Region IV-A said the preventive suspension was imposed “as an initial measure to ensure public safety while

- [Metro Cebu air quality improving](#) (2026-04-21 21:35)

CEBU CITY — Air quality in Metro Cebu is improving as shifting wind patterns help disperse the haze that lingered over the area in recent days, the Environmental Management Bureau in Central Visayas (EMB-7) said Tuesday. As of April 21, the Air Quality Index (AQI) dropped to 139, lowering the classification from “Very Unhealthy” to

- [P16-M suspected smuggled cigarettes recovered in Lanao del Sur](#) (2026-04-21 21:21)

COTABATO CITY – The Police Regional Office–Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PROBAR) seized an estimated P16,120,000 worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes after spotting three abandoned trucks on Monday in Barangay BPS Village in Malabang, Lanao del Sur. Brig. General Jayzen De Guzman, director for PROBAR, said that personnel from the Malabang municipal police station, together with the

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: Aparri, Cagayan to reach 42°C on Wednesday, April 22](#) (2026-04-21 20:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The heat index in Aparri, Cagayan is forecast to reach a peak of 42°C on Wednesday, April 22, said the state weather bureau. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) defines heat index as the “measure of the contribution that high humidity makes with abnormally high temperatures in reducing the

- [Pangilinan respects, disagrees with Leni Robredo plan on '28 nat' I polls](#) (2026-04-21 20:26)

MANILA, Philippines – “We respect her decision even as we disagree with it.” This was the statement of Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan on Tuesday after former vice president and incumbent Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo announced that she will not run for national position in the upcoming 2028 elections “We respect her decision even as

- [Legarda's Local Harvest Support Act protects farmers' livelihoods, ensures food supply](#) (2026-04-21 19:58)

MANILA, Philippines – Senator Loren Legarda has filed Senate Bill No. 2051, or the Local Harvest Support Act of 2026, to strengthen food security and protect the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk at a time when rising fuel costs and soaring prices of basic goods are pushing rural producers to the brink. “Kapag bumabagsak ang

- [Forthwith? Solons believe strong case vs Duterte leads to Senate preps](#) (2026-04-21 19:51)

MANILA, Philippines — At least two ranking House of Representatives lawmakers believe that the strong case and evidence presented against Vice President Sara Duterte has prompted the Senate leadership to prepare for a possible impeachment trial. In a statement on Tuesday, Assistant Majority Leader and Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong said that Senate President

- [DepEd expands summer programs to help struggling learners catch up](#) (2026-04-21 19:44)

MANILA, Philippines — From May 6 to June 3, 2026, learners at risk of falling behind will be given a critical chance to succeed as the Department of Education (DepEd) rolls out its expanded summer remediation programs to help them recover foundational skills and return to grade-level readiness. Education Secretary Sonny Angara emphasized the urgency and purpose of the initiative:

- [AMLC receives House subpoena on Duterte-Carpio transactions](#) (2026-04-21 19:31)

MANILA, Philippines – The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) has received a subpoena from the House committee on justice requiring its top official to appear at the next impeachment hearing this Wednesday and submit financial records involving Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband. The subpoena ad testificandum et duces tecum, dated April 15, 2026, directs

- [PNP tightens security in Negros Occidental after Army clash with NPA](#) (2026-04-21 19:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. ordered the agency to intensify its presence and security measures in Negros Occidental following a clash between government forces and the New People's Army (NPA). "Our top priority is to ensure the safety of our communities while operations continue in Negros Occidental,"

- [P1.53-M shabu seized, 2 nabbed in Parañaque drug sting](#) (2026-04-21 19:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Suspected shabu (crystal meth) worth P1.53 million was confiscated, and two individuals were arrested in a buy-bust operation in Parañaque City early Tuesday morning, the Southern Police District (SPD) said. A poseur-buyer arranged to meet with the two suspects, identified by the aliases "Muksimin," 27; and "Jarbby," 22, along Santa Rita Extension

- [Paper trail: SALN, AMLC records to take center stage in April 22 hearing](#) (2026-04-21 19:13)

MANILA, Philippines – House Committee on Public Accounts Chairperson Terry Ridon said Tuesday the next impeachment hearing against Vice President Sara Duterte this Wednesday will be more consequential, as the House Committee on Justice is set to rely primarily on financial documents, tax records, and bank transactions in determining probable cause over allegations of ill-gotten

- [Ortega to VP Duterte: Do a Madriaga – take oath, sign bank waiver](#) (2026-04-21 19:02)

MANILA, Philippines – As a test of credibility, Deputy Speaker Paolo Ortega V of La Union on Tuesday urged Vice President Sara Duterte to personally attend the next hearing of the House committee on justice on April 22, take her oath, sign a bank waiver, and directly answer allegations raised by resource person Ramil Madriaga.

- [Barrick Gold deposits \\$50-M in escrow; 1st payment in Marcopper mining tragedy](#) (2026-04-21 18:58)

MANILA, Philippines—30 years after the toxic mine tailings spill in the rivers of Boac and other towns in Marinduque, the Canada-based Barrick Gold Corporation has now deposited fifty million dollars in the escrow account for the rehabilitation of the abandoned mine site. This move was confirmed by former Marinduque Governor Presbitero Velasco. The amount is

- [DepEd to start expanded summer programs next month – Sec. Angara](#) (2026-04-21 18:54)

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of Education (DepEd) on Tuesday said it will roll out its expanded summer remediation programs in May to help learners "at risk of falling behind" and return to their grade-level readiness. The program will run from May 6 to June 3 this year, according to Education Secretary Sonny Angara, as

- [NBI arrests man for assaulting, threatening ex-partner](#) (2026-04-21 18:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has arrested a man who allegedly assaulted and threatened his former partner. In a statement on Tuesday, the NBI said the hot pursuit operation against the suspect in Pasay City followed a complaint filed by his ex-partner before the NBI Cybercrime Division on April 10. READ:

- [NBI probing everyone who threatens First Family, not just Baste Duterte](#) (2026-04-21 18:44)

MANILA, Philippines — National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Melvin Matibag has signed an administrative order to investigate not only Davao City Mayor Sebastian “Baste” Duterte but “everyone” who threatens the First Family. In a press conference, Matibag noted that the administrative order was signed “a few days ago” but clarified that “it” s not directed

- [Romualdez says only Escudero, Co responsible for budget decisions](#) (2026-04-21 18:44)

MANILA, Philippines — While he was Speaker of the House of Representatives when the 2025 national budget was crafted, Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez has disputed claims that he interfered in discussions — noting that budget decisions were made just by two officials. According to Romualdez, the two individuals are former Senate President Francis “Chiz” Escudero

- [Cables powering Mayon monitoring station cut, stolen – Phivolcs](#) (2026-04-21 18:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Wednesday said cables used for real-time monitoring data communications at Mayon Volcano were stolen in Albay. According to Phivolcs, the cables were discovered to be cut and stolen during a routine maintenance activity by Mayon Volcano Observatory personnel at the Ligao Observation Station

- [Rights watchdog says PH at critical crossroad; calls for urgent action](#) (2026-04-21 18:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Human rights watchdog Amnesty International Philippines (AIPh) warned that the country stands at a “critical crossroad,” calling on the government to act with urgency amid mounting concerns over shrinking civic space, persistent red-tagging, arrests of protesters, and the killing of journalists. “The Philippines stands at a critical crossroad. Democratic institutions are being

- [Remulla: Co to be included in ‘main’ plunder case vs Romualdez, Escudero](#) (2026-04-21 18:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Former lawmaker Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co will be included in the “main case” of plunder being built against former Speaker Martin Romualdez and former Senate President Francis Escudero, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said on Tuesday. Once he returns to the Philippines, Co will have to answer questions on whether or not he will

- [Romualdez to Ombudsman: Don't single me out in flood probe](#) (2026-04-21 18:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez urged the Office of the Ombudsman to not single him out in the flood control controversy, saying investigators should pursue other leads and not focus solely on him amid furor over alleged involvement in the corruption scheme. In a video statement, Romualdez said he was breaking his silence

- [Romualdez: How can I be mastermind if Congress doesn't build projects?](#) (2026-04-21 18:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, the former House speaker, has broken his silence over the 2025 budget mess and the infrastructure corruption issue, asking how he would become the mastermind of the supposed scheme when crafting the annual budget and implementation of projects does not rest on Congress alone. In a video statement

- [LTFRB suspends 9 buses after fatal road crash in Quezon](#) (2026-04-21 18:03)

MANILA, Philippines – The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has suspended nine units of a bus company for 30 days after issuing a show cause order (SCO) over a fatal road crash in Quezon. In a statement on Tuesday, LTFRB Chair Vigor Mendoza II said the agency had summoned Delmonte Motor Works Inc.,

- [PNP orders probe into cold kidnap-for-ransom cases](#) (2026-04-21 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. ordered the agency to investigate cold kidnap-for-ransom (KFR) cases after the rescue of a 78-year-old kidnapping victim in Parañaque City. “While the Parañaque operation is considered closed, the involvement of rogue ex-personnel necessitates a deeper probe into potential syndicates,” Nartatez said Tuesday.

- [PNP-IAS probes minor's death in GenSan shootout](#) (2026-04-21 17:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police – Internal Affairs Service (PNP-IAS) is investigating the death of a minor during a police shootout with a suspect who had allegedly been firing his gun indiscriminately in General Santos City. “This has been taken up by the Internal Affairs Service as a motu proprio investigation,” Inspector General

- [Castro: Public sees who works, who's on vacation amid ratings](#) (2026-04-21 17:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Palace press officer Claire Castro on Tuesday said she was grateful that the public could see who was truly working and who was merely taking vacations, following President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s recent trust and performance ratings. Based on OCTA Research's Tugon ng Masa survey for the first quarter of 2026, 54 percent

- [Ombudsman seeks precautionary hold departure order vs Romualdez](#) (2026-04-21 17:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman has asked the Sandiganbayan to issue a precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) against Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez. If granted,

this PHDO would prevent the former House speaker from leaving the country. The request came after a petition for PHDO against Romualdez had reached the anti-graft court and

- [Ombudsman seeks to bar Romualdez from leaving PH over plunder complaint](#)

(2026-04-21 17:33)

MANILA, Philippines — A petition for precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) was filed by the Office of the Ombudsman on Tuesday before the Sandiganbayan against Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez over plunder complaints lodged by prosecutors who accused him of allegedly “masterminding” a kickback scheme which they said reached around P56 billion. If granted, this PHDO will prevent the overseas travel

- [LOOK: Piston, Manibela launch transport strike on April 21](#) (2026-04-21 17:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Transport groups Piston and Manibela joined forces on Tuesday as they once again launched a transport strike to protest rising fuel prices that have been affecting their livelihoods since tensions in the Middle East began. READ: Another transport strike set for April 21 Manibela began its main program in front of a gas station

- [BI intercepts 5 suspected trafficking victims at Mactan-Cebu airport](#) (2026-04-21 17:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Five individuals suspected of being trafficking victims were intercepted at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) said Tuesday. According to the BI, the victims — all in their late 30s to 40s — were bound for a Cathay Pacific flight to Thailand on April 12 when they were blocked

- [Dela Rosa urged to decline Senate salary, allowances amid absences](#) (2026-04-21 17:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate ethics committee chairperson Sen. JV Ejercito on Tuesday urged Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, who has been absent from Senate sessions since November 2025, to voluntarily decline his salaries and allowances. “We are appealing to Sen. Bato dela Rosa to voluntarily decline his salaries and allowances in the Senate,” Ejercito said

- [PNP bus driver faces reckless imprudence raps over Edsa busway collision](#) (2026-04-21 17:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The driver of the Philippine National Police (PNP) coaster bus that was involved in a crash with an Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (Edsa) carousel bus is now facing a case for reckless imprudence resulting in damage to property. The case was lodged before the Quezon City Prosecutor’s Office on Tuesday morning, District

- [House OKs Romualdez’s Singapore trip for angioplasty follow-up check](#) (2026-04-21 16:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III has allowed Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez’s travel to Singapore for a check-up regarding a previous angioplasty surgery, but the former Speaker has not left the country yet amid questions on whether he is

free to fly abroad. Romualdez' office on Tuesday provided reporters a copy of his

- [House justice panel gets Sara Duterte' s SALNs, SEC docs following subpoena](#) (2026-04-21 16:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The House committee on justice has obtained copies of Vice President Sara Duterte' s statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth (SALN). It has also received other documents from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that may be used for the impeachment proceedings. Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon on Tuesday sent to the panel

- [Romualdez' lawyer says ex-Speaker not barred from leaving PH](#) (2026-04-21 16:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Former House of Representatives Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez is not barred from leaving the country as only an immigration lookout bulletin order has been issued against him, his lawyer said on Tuesday. In a statement on Tuesday, lawyer Ade Fajardo said that Romualdez is not prohibited to travel as what he simply has

- [Marcos admin guarantees Zaldy Co' s safe return to PH – Palace](#) (2026-04-21 16:18)

MANILA, Philippines — The Marcos administration guarantees the safe return of former lawmaker Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co to the Philippines, but noted that alleged threats against his life have yet to be verified, Malacañang said on Tuesday. At a briefing, Palace press officer Claire Castro was asked to assure Co' s safe return after Sen. JV Ejercito

- [Bureau of Customs – Clark intercepts P33.9-M shabu from Africa, US](#) (2026-04-21 16:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) – Port of Clark seized an estimated P33.945 million worth of shabu from Africa and the United States declared as various items. In a statement on Tuesday, the BOC – Port of Clark said that five parcels showed suspicious images, which led to physical examination, including a

- [Direct flights to Manado to boost Mindanao-North Sulawesi trade](#) (2026-04-21 15:58)

DAVAO CITY — The Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) announced that reviving the direct air route between Davao City and Manado is expected to reduce travel time from 19 hours to just over an hour. Previous attempts to sustain direct flights between the two cities were hindered by inconsistent passenger demand, low cargo volume, and underdeveloped tourism

- [Group lauds Galvez' s service as he steps down as peace adviser](#) (2026-04-21 15:40)

COTABATO CITY – A non-government organization advocating for peace in the country has expressed appreciation to outgoing Peace Adviser Carlito Galvez Jr for his dedicated service to the Filipino people. READ: Carlito Galvez Jr. out, Mel Sarmiento in as new presidential peace adviser The Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG), one of the partners of

- [Palace on not releasing Zaldy Co' s photos: Gov' t being 'careful'](#) (2026-04-21 15:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Amid doubts about the legitimacy of the arrest of former lawmaker Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co, Palace press officer Claire Castro on Tuesday said they cannot release photos and videos of the apprehension because the government is being “careful” since another country is involved. During a briefing at Malacañang, Castro refused to provide details on exactly

- [NBI nabs 3 suspects at KTV bar in Pampanga for human trafficking](#) (2026-04-21 15:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Three individuals were arrested in Mabalacat City, Pampanga, for alleged involvement in human trafficking activity, according to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). The NBI also said in a statement on Tuesday that 21 human trafficking victims were rescued during the entrapment operation. READ: 48 arrested as NBI raided online scamming hub

- [Senate may convene on May 4 for Duterte impeachment upon transmittal](#) (2026-04-21 15:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate may convene as an impeachment court as early as May 4 once the articles of impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte are transmitted from the House of Representatives, Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III said on Tuesday. He made the statement in a press briefing a day before the third

- [Quirino declares state of energy emergency](#) (2026-04-21 15:19)

CABARROGUIS, Quirino — The Sangguniang Panlalawigan (provincial board) here has declared a state of energy emergency amid fuel supply constraints and rising energy costs linked to the ongoing national energy crisis. In a resolution approved on Tuesday, board members authorized the provincial governor to implement urgent measures to ensure the continuity of essential services, disaster

- [Coast Guard tightens port security after Dumaguete travel chaos](#) (2026-04-21 15:10)

DUMAGUETE CITY — The Coast Guard (CG) District Southern Visayas is enhancing security protocols in the ports of Dumaguete and Siquijor following a chaotic weekend, an official said Monday. Commodore Christopher Auro, commander of the CG District Southern Visayas, reported that travelers jostled for tickets at the city port en route to Siquijor for a festival

- [Woman displaced by Navotas landfill blaze dies in Bulacan](#) (2026-04-21 15:08)

OBANDO, Bulacan — A 54-year-old woman evacuated following a fire at the Navotas sanitary landfill died on Tuesday, due to suspected health complications, local officials said. Mayor Leonardo Valeda identified the victim as Arlene Abot, a resident of the island barangay of Salambao in this town. Valeda said Abot was rushed aboard a municipal ambulance

- [Fire volunteer sues 2 Manila cops over alleged blocking of fire truck](#) (2026-04-21 14:59)

MANILA, Philippines — A fire volunteer filed administrative complaints before the National Police Commission (Napolcom) against a Manila Police District (MPD) personnel for allegedly blocking their truck during a fire incident; and the officer's brother for allegedly harassing him. In a statement on Tuesday, Napolcom said the complainant, identified as Manila Department of Social Welfare

- [Ombudsman thumbs down Romualdez's Singapore bid; freeze order looms](#) (2026-04-21 14:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Tuesday said his office “did not respond favorably” to Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez's request to leave the country for medical treatment in Singapore, as initial steps toward a freeze order on the lawmaker's assets are now in the works. The lawmaker's lawyer and spokesperson, Ade Fajardo, clarified

- [Ilocos Norte eyes defunct tomato plant for ecozone development](#) (2026-04-21 13:50)

LAOAG CITY — The dissolved Northern Foods Corporation (NFC) in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte is being considered for development as an economic zone, signaling a strategic shift toward sustainable land use and regional agricultural growth. An ecozone declaration provides investors with tax holidays and other government incentive packages. Rona Leigh Bueno, head of the Ilocos Norte Trade

- [Ejercito: Challenge is bringing Zaldy Co home 'in one piece'](#) (2026-04-21 13:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator JV Ejercito on Tuesday said the biggest challenge in bringing alleged “floodgates scandal” figure Zaldy Co back to the Philippines is ensuring his safety, warning that some groups may not want him to return and testify on the controversy. This statement came as President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. vowed to bring Co

- [Sara Duterte urged to attend impeachment hearing on April 22](#) (2026-04-21 13:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte should attend Wednesday's impeachment hearing and take her oath if she wants to counter the allegations against her, Deputy Speaker Paolo Ortega V said on Tuesday. He also said Duterte should directly respond to the accusations being made against her in the proceedings instead of skipping the hearings

- [Lacson: DOE price adjustments better than giving oil companies control](#) (2026-04-21 13:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Energy's (DOE) price adjustment is preferable than allowing private oil firms control, Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo “Ping” Lacson said on Tuesday. Lacson made the remark after the DOE announced on Monday that it has the authority to prescribe the price of petroleum products during crisis situations. “The government

- [Some teachers claim DepEd didn't consult them over trimestral shift](#) (2026-04-21 13:03)

MANILA, Philippines — A leader of a teachers’ union has accused the Department of Education (DepEd) of failing to consult them regarding proposals to shift from a quarterly to a trimestral school calendar, lamenting that the change may only cause additional burden on faculty members. During the hearing of the House of Representatives’ committee on basic

- [Iloilo groups rally support for April 21 strike](#) (2026-04-21 12:59)

ILOILO CITY — Sectoral groups in Iloilo province stepped up calls for public participation in the nationwide transport and people’s strike on Tuesday, April 21, as at least one town confirmed a temporary suspension of transport operations in support of the protest. On Monday, groups under Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)-Panay staged a picket at the

- [Albay suspends in-person classes amid transport strike](#) (2026-04-21 12:51)

LEGAZPI CITY — In-person classes in Albay province were suspended on Tuesday due to the two-day transport strike. READ: Another transport strike set for April 21 Albay Gov. Noel Rosal said both public and private schools shifted to alternative learning modalities at all levels. Rosal also advised government and private offices to ferry their employees

- [Cabral’s order yields budget for project in Revilla case, court told](#) (2026-04-21 12:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Late Public Works Undersecretary Maria Catalina “Cathy” Cabral was the one who included in the 2025 budget amendments the alleged anomalous project in Pandi, Bulacan, which is the subject of a graft and malversation case against former Senator Bong Revilla. It was the first time Cabral — who died in what authorities

- [Batangas City offers free e-trike rides amid fuel price hike](#) (2026-04-21 12:38)

LUCENA CITY — The Batangas City government will roll out free rides using electric-powered tricycles to help commuters cope with rising fuel costs driven by the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. READ: Batangas City offers free e-trike rides amid fuel price hike The city’s Public Information Office (PIO) said on Monday that the “e-Trike

- [Trillanes, AMLC get subpoena for Sara Duterte’s April 22 impeach hearing](#) (2026-04-21 12:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Both former Senator Antonio Trillanes IV and the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) have received the orders from the House of Representatives’ committee on justice to appear during the next impeachment hearing against Vice President Sara Duterte, to shed light into issues of alleged unexplained wealth. The House committee on Tuesday shared copies of

- [Carlito Galvez Jr. out, Mel Sarmiento in as new presidential peace adviser](#) (2026-04-21 12:20)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has appointed Mel Senen Sarmiento as the new Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Opapru). Palace press officer

Claire Castro in a message on Tuesday confirmed that Marcos earlier accepted the resignation of retired military general Carlito Galvez Jr. from the post. [READ: Oban replaces Año as top security](#)

- [Magnitude 4.4 earthquake jolts Aurora; Intensity IV in Dinalungan](#) (2026-04-21 12:16)

MANILA, Philippines — A magnitude 4.4 earthquake struck parts of Aurora and nearby provinces early Tuesday, April 21, with the strongest shaking reported at Intensity IV in Dinalungan, state volcanologists said. According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), the quake was tectonic in nature and was traced 12 kilometers northwest (N 87°

- [P8.9M methanol seized from tanker, 6 nabbed in Caloocan City — PNP HPG](#) (2026-04-21 12:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Methanol worth P8.9 million was discovered in a tanker traced by the authorities to a lot in a residential area in Caloocan City, leading to the arrest of six workers, the Philippine National Police Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) said Tuesday. Police officers on an anti-carnapping patrol operation just outside the lot along

- [Tagbilaran' s free ride program serves 4,000 commuters daily](#) (2026-04-21 12:02)

TAGBILARAN CITY — The city government' s “Libreng Sakay” program is drawing an average of 4,000 commuters daily just days after its April 13 launch, highlighting its role as an immediate relief measure for residents facing rising transportation costs. The initiative, part of the P40.35-million Energy Crisis Social Protection Package, provides free rides on participating jeepneys

- [QCPD: 2 nabbed over P1,500 ‘gas-and-run’ case](#) (2026-04-21 11:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Two individuals were arrested for allegedly refueling a white Toyota Vios and fleeing without paying for P1,500 worth of fuel at a gas station, the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) said on Tuesday. Identified by the aliases “Tyron” and “Ricky,” the two suspects were arrested at their respective homes in Rodriguez, Rizal,

- [2 dead, 35 hurt as passenger bus falls into ravine in Quezon](#) (2026-04-21 11:46)

LUCENA CITY — Two people were killed while 35 others were injured after a Manila-bound passenger bus plunged into a 32-foot-deep ravine on Monday night in Pagbilao, Quezon, police said. The fatalities were identified only as “Sonny,” 34, of Mercedes, Camarines Norte, and “Ian,” 31, of Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte. Police said the DLTB bus,

- [Accreditation of farmers, traders to program that cuts toll rate urged](#) (2026-04-21 11:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Executive Secretary Ralph Recto has called for the immediate accreditation of farmers and traders to the Department of Agriculture' s (DA) Food Lane Program, which provides reduced toll and port fees. In a press release on Tuesday, he urged

national agencies and local governments to assist truckers of farm produce in utilizing the

- [Emergency fuel shipment arrives in Subic amid energy concerns](#) (2026-04-21 11:33)

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC), a government-owned and controlled corporation, has received a large diesel shipment at the Port of Subic Bay, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) said Tuesday. The delivery, totaling 44,119 metric tons or about 329,505 barrels of diesel, underscores efforts to reinforce fuel reserves and stabilize

- [Sara Duterte urged to return flagged funds for oil crisis response](#) (2026-04-21 11:23)

MANILA, Philippines – The Makabayan bloc on Tuesday urged Vice President Sara Duterte to return to government coffers the hundreds of millions of pesos in confidential funds flagged by the Commission on Audit (COA), saying the money should be redirected to the state's fund for oil crisis response. The disallowed confidential funds should be recovered

- [LTO revokes female vlogger's license after viral traffic violation](#) (2026-04-21 11:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has revoked the driver's license of a female vlogger over a viral traffic violation incident and imposed a two-year disqualification of her license renewal. According to the LTO, the vlogger identified as Ishi Lee failed to attend the hearing and submit a verified explanation to the agency

- [Dawn fire in Urdaneta City leaves 6 dead as probe continues](#) (2026-04-21 11:08)

URDANETA CITY — The cause of a pre-dawn fire that gutted two houses and killed six people, including two children, in Barangay Nancayasan on Monday remains under investigation, police said. A belated police report identified the victims as two 11-year-old girls, two women aged 72 and 59, and two men aged 45 and 42. According

- [1,891 Davao Sur tricycle drivers to get P5,000 fuel subsidy \(April 21-23\)](#) (2026-04-21 11:08)

DAVAO CITY — The Department of Social Welfare and Development–Davao Region (DSWD-11) will distribute cash relief assistance (CRA) to 1,891 tricycle drivers in six Davao del Sur municipalities on April 21 to 23 (Tuesday to Thursday). In a statement Monday, DSWD-11 said the national government program aims to cushion vulnerable transport workers from the impact of

- [Vince Dizon, Vico Sotto inspect damaged F. Manalo Bridge in Pasig City](#) (2026-04-21 10:08)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways is aiming to finish the permanent rehabilitation of the damaged F. Manalo Bridge in Pasig City within one and a half years, citing right of way acquisition as one of the main concerns, its secretary Vince Dizon said on Tuesday. The bridge was temporarily closed

- [Oriental Mindoro faces power deficit, says electric coop](#) (2026-04-21 10:04)

CALAPAN CITY — The Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (ORMECO) has placed the province under red alert on Tuesday, April 21, as projected electricity demand is expected to exceed available supply throughout the day. READ: Luzon, Visayas electricity grids placed under ‘yellow’ alert In its advisory, ORMECO said the province’ s power supply is capped at 60.04

- [P33,950 in church offerings stolen in Southern Leyte parish](#) (2026-04-21 09:49)

TACLOBAN CITY— Authorities are investigating a robbery incident involving nearly P34,000 in church funds reported missing from a parish in Sogod town, Southern Leyte, police said. A parish finance officer, identified as alias “Marie,” 53, reported to the Sogod Municipal Police Station that a total of P33,950 in collected church offerings had been stolen from

- [DOLE Mindoro to hold Labor Day job fair in Calapan](#) (2026-04-21 09:34)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Job seekers in Oriental Mindoro will get a chance to land employment as the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) prepares for the 124th Labor Day Job Fair on May 1. The event will be held at the Bulwagang Panlalawigan, Provincial Capitol Complex in Barangay Camilmil, Calapan City, in partnership

- [LIST: Power interruptions on April 21 in parts of QC, Rizal](#) (2026-04-21 09:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Several areas in Quezon City and Antipolo, Rizal may experience power interruptions on Tuesday, April 21, due to line construction and reconductoring works, the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) announced. According to Meralco’ s advisory, below are the areas possibly affected by the interruptions. READ: Meralco announces power interruptions due to maintenance work Quezon

- [Young farmers pitch innovations for nat’ l grants in Iloilo tilt](#) (2026-04-21 09:17)

ILOILO CITY — More than 100 young agricultural entrepreneurs from 16 regions have gathered in Iloilo City for the Department of Agriculture’ s (DA) Young Farmers Challenge (YFC) National Pitching Competition, where millions of pesos in grants are up for grabs. Running from April 20 to 24, the event features a high-stakes pitching competition, a business

- [Luistro: Duterte-Carpio tax documents next up in impeachment hearing](#) (2026-04-21 08:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives’ committee on justice will touch on the tax documents of Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband Manases Carpio when the impeachment hearing resumes on April 22, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said on Monday. Luistro in an online interview said that while the hearing on Wednesday will focus

- [State of calamity declared in Cagayan due to drought, rising oil prices](#) (2026-04-21 08:28)

TUGUEGARAO CITY — The Cagayan provincial government on Monday, April 20,, declared a state of calamity due to the severe effects of drought and rising oil prices. The declaration came after the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) approved a resolution recommending the move during its second-quarter meeting, led by Provincial

Administrator Atty.

- [HEAT INDEX ALERT: Cavite expected to reach ‘danger’ level Tuesday](#) (2026-04-21 08:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The highest heat index nationwide may reach 43°C in Sangley Point, Cavite, placing it under the “danger” category, while Metro Manila is expected to remain under the “extreme caution” level with temperatures ranging from 38°C to 39°C, according to the state weather bureau. Heat index refers to the “feels like” temperature, or

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of April 21, 2026](#) (2026-04-21 08:20)

MANILA, Philippines – Motorists are set to get a major reprieve starting today as oil companies implement another round of double-digit rollback in diesel. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. announced on Monday that diesel prices will drop by nearly P25 per liter, marking one of the biggest reductions in recent months. READ: Diesel prices to drop

- [Pagasa: Easterlies to bring hot, humid weather, likely afternoon rains](#) (2026-04-21 07:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Easterlies will continue to bring hot and humid weather with chances of isolated thunderstorms across the country on Tuesday, the state weather bureau said. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the easterlies, or warm winds from the Pacific Ocean, are affecting Southern Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. “Hot

- [Asia-Pacific’ s largest news media event reveals program and global speaker lineup for WAN-IFRA Digital Media Asia 2026](#) (2026-04-21 06:00)

The Philippines is set to welcome the world’ s most influential voices in news publishing as WAN-IFRA Digital Media Asia (DMA) 2026 unveils its program and distinguished roster of speakers. With the support of the Department of Tourism and the presence of Manila City Mayor Francisco “Isko” Moreno Domagoso at the opening ceremonies, this landmark event

- [COA disallows P375M in OVP’ s secret funds](#) (2026-04-21 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Audit (COA) has flagged P375 million worth of confidential expenditures under the Office of the Vice President (OVP) in 2023 because they were not justified, lacked supporting documents, and disbursed by unauthorized personnel, documents shared by Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon on Monday showed. Ridon noted that, based on

- [DOE: Hefty fine awaits oil firms defying price orders](#) (2026-04-21 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Local oil firms that defy the government’ s cap on fuel price hikes and the set minimum rollback could face hefty fines and jail time. In a media briefing on Monday, Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said the state of national energy emergency declared by President Marcos gives the government more authority to dictate

- [Court told: Brice Hernandez got P299M in boxes of soy sauce, chips](#) (2026-04-21 05:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The goddaughter of former Public Works engineer Brice Hernandez on Monday testified in court that Hernandez received around P299 million cash placed inside boxes of grocery items like “toyo” (soy sauce) and Piattos potato chips. Monica Louis Ocampo-Santos, the liaison officer of SYMS Construction, made the revelation on the witness stand of

- [CA urged to junk conviction of Tacloban-based journalist](#) (2026-04-21 05:35)

MANILA, Philippines — An advocacy group on Monday urged the Court of Appeals (CA) to overturn the conviction of community journalist Frenchie Mae Cumpio and community worker Marielle Domequil due to the “clear legal inconsistency” in their case. Cumpio and Domequil, who were arrested in Tacloban City in February 2020, were acquitted of illegal possession

- [PNP ‘Libreng Sakay’ driver, supervisor fired over Edsa busway collision](#) (2026-04-21 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The driver of a police bus that collided with an Edsa Carousel public utility bus (PUB) has been relieved of his post along with his immediate supervisor pending an investigation of the accident that happened in Quezon City on April 17, a Philippine National Police official said on Monday. “There are no

- [7 cops relieved over ‘kickbacks’ from rent for trainees’ lodging](#) (2026-04-21 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Seven police officers have been relieved from their posts after they were accused of demanding “kickbacks” from providers of temporary lodging for policemen undergoing field training in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). At a press briefing held in Camp Crame on Monday, a copy of the relief order shared by Philippine National

- [NPA leader, 18 other rebels slain in Negros](#) (2026-04-21 04:45)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — At least 19 alleged members of the New People’s Army (NPA), including a wanted rebel leader with a P2-million bounty, were killed in a series of encounters with Army troops in Barangay Salamanca, Toboso, northern Negros Occidental, on Sunday, officials said on Monday. Brig. Gen. Ted Dumosmog, commander of

- [DENR crackdown forces closure of Bohol furniture workshops](#) (2026-04-21 04:40)

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL, Philippines — More small-scale woodcraft furniture makers in Bohol are facing shutdowns after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued closure and stoppage orders, requiring permits they say were never part of the rules when they began operating. Operators in the towns of Loay, Loboc, and Sikatuna said they received

- [P10-M fish hatchery in Albay to boost Bicol aquaculture sector](#) (2026-04-21 04:35)

ALBAY, Philippines — A P10-million fish hatchery broke ground in Albay recently to boost the aquaculture sector in the Bicol Region, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). The Albay Provincial Multi-Species Freshwater Hatchery at the Albay Farmers Bounty Village in Camalig town will serve as a breeding and grow-out site, as

Source: The Manila Times

- [NBI defends Pasig raid, says more charges to be filed against perpetrators](#) (2026-04-28 06:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Tuesday stood by its operation against a business establishment that was suspected of trafficking women, saying the raid that led to the rescue of dozens of victims was carried out in full compliance with legal procedures and said that more charges would be filed in the coming days. In a statement, the NBI said its actions against the Chicago Family KTV and Bleu Hotel in Ortigas, Pasig City, were guided by the evidentiary standards required under the justice system and conducted in close coordination among government agencies. The clarification came after the bureau, through its Special Task Group, mounted an entrapment and rescue operation on April 21, 2026 targeting a suspected trafficking-in-persons network. The operation, conducted alongside the Department of Justice–Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking and other partner agencies, resulted in the rescue of 54 women and the arrest of 15 individuals, including managers, facilitators, and customers. Investigators said the establishments allegedly employed a “line-up” system where customers selected women inside the nightclub before proceeding to hotel rooms where sexual services were consummated. Transactions were estimated to range from P10,000 to P20,000, with proceeds allegedly shared among those involved in the operation. Authorities said those arrested are facing charges for violations of Republic Act 9208, or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, as amended, and Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. Recovered during the raid were marked money, suspected illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, and documents linked to the alleged activities. The NBI said individuals found at the premises who initially appeared to have no involvement in the alleged crimes were released after proper identification and processing, citing constitutional protections against warrantless detention without probable cause. It added that its focus, consistent with Department of Justice Department Circular 20, was to build cases against operators and traffickers while ensuring the protection of victims. “The Chicago case is far from closed,” the NBI said, noting that additional charges would be filed against other individuals and entities in coordination with the DOJ anti-trafficking council. The bureau said it was exercising caution to ensure that cases filed in court would meet the “standard of certainty of conviction” and withstand legal scrutiny, avoiding dismissals that could prejudice victims. Corporate records obtained during the investigation showed that the registered owners of the establishments included the wife and son of former congressman Mike Defensor. Defensor’s wife Juie denied her involvement in trafficking in a statement over the weekend. The NBI stressed, however, that the information

forms part of an ongoing probe and does not in itself establish criminal liability, adding that all parties are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court. The rescued women have been turned over to social welfare authorities for care and assistance. The NBI reiterated its commitment to transparency, saying the outcome of its investigation would speak for itself as it moves to dismantle trafficking networks and hold those responsible accountable.

- [Impeach complaint hearings exempted from Bank Secrecy Law, says House lawmaker](#) (2026-04-28 04:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The ongoing hearings by the House of Representatives on the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte are exempted from the Bank Secrecy Law, a lawmaker said on Tuesday. "It is clearer than day that impeachment hearings are exceptions to the coverage of the Bank Secrecy Law and Anti-Money Laundering Act," Akbayan Rep. Perci Cendaña said in a statement. Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro, chairman of the justice committee that is presiding over the hearings, said on radio that the panel did not violate the law in disclosing findings of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), after Duterte's husband, Manases Carpio, filed a complaint on Monday at the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office against several people, including Luistro, Cendaña, Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima, and Akbayan Rep. Jose Manuel "Chel" Diokno over the disclosure. The committee is determining whether there is probable cause to impeach Duterte. De Lima said in Filipino in a post on X, "I am not afraid to face any case, especially that we... are not violating any law." Akbayan Rep. Chel Diokno said in Filipino and English in a statement that anyone could file a complaint and that he respected that right, adding that he would "answer the allegations in the proper forum." He then said, "At the same time, I have to emphasize that the House Committee on Justice is merely fulfilling its duty."

- [PH can hit 95% immunization goal, but gaps remain—Unicef](#) (2026-04-28 04:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) Philippines called on the need to strengthen routine immunization systems and address challenges in vaccine supply and demand as part of the observance of World Immunization Week. In a statement Tuesday, Unicef Philippines cited the National Demographic Health Survey, noting that achieving the 95 percent immunization coverage is feasible—pointing to Region I (Ilocos) as its proof—but emphasized that targeted efforts are still needed in remote and underserved areas. "Vaccines have protected generation after generation. But the next generation depends on whether we reach every child today, especially those who remain unvaccinated. We must close the gaps that leave children unprotected by ensuring reliable vaccine supply and quality services and by building trust and demand in communities so that families choose protection for their children," said Kyungsun Kim, Unicef representative in the Philippines.

- [Former Duterte spokesman Roque rejects BIR's tax evasion complaint against him](#) (2026-04-28 03:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Malacañang spokesman Harry Roque late on Monday denied the tax evasion complaint filed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) against himself, his wife Mylah, and his legal counsel, Percival Ortega. In a statement on his Facebook page, the former Palace official said the complaint alleged that Roque, his wife, and lawyer acquired tax deficiencies totaling P3.35 million. “These filings form part of a continuing pattern of actions which we believe are politically motivated and intended to harass and pressure individuals associated with, or perceived to be supportive of, the Duterte administration. We view these developments with serious concern as they raise fundamental issues regarding fairness, equal protection, and the impartial administration of justice,” he wrote. “There has been no issuance of shares whatsoever pursuant to any alleged increase in authorized capital stock. Absent actual issuance or subscription of shares, there is no taxable event that could give rise to liability under Philippine tax law,” he added. Roque said the allegations were “premised on a misunderstanding of basic corporate and tax principles.”

- [Dizon returns to Navotas landfill with Japanese experts as govt ramps up response to toxic blaze](#) (2026-04-28 03:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon returned to the Navotas Sanitary Landfill on Tuesday, leading a high-level inspection team amid escalating concerns over toxic emissions and persistent underground fires at the dumpsite. Dizon was joined by Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Kazuyo Endo, Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna, Navotas City Mayor John Rey Tiangco, and a team of technical experts from Japan’s disaster response units—signaling a stronger international collaboration to address the fire at the Navotas Landfill. The visit marks a critical follow-up effort by the government to assess the current condition of the landfill, where smoldering methane pockets have continued to produce hazardous smoke affecting not only Navotas but nearby cities as well. Authorities said the presence of Japanese experts was expected to fast-track technical solutions, particularly in controlling deep-seated fires that are difficult to extinguish using conventional methods. Dizon emphasized the urgency of the situation, noting that heavy equipment and mitigation measures deployed in previous days must now be evaluated for effectiveness, while identifying additional interventions to finally contain the blaze.

- [Phivolcs pushes geologic hazard communication drive for Bicol residents](#) (2026-04-28 02:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) is set to conduct a communication campaign aimed at enhancing the capacity of public information officers and media practitioners in reporting science-based information on geologic hazards. Phivolcs Director Teresito Bacolcol in a Viber interview with The Manila Times on Tuesday said the information drive, which would focus on volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis, would be held on April 29, 2026 in Naga City, Camarines Sur. Bacolcol said the activity sought to boost the capability of media practitioners and public information officers based in Bicol (Region 5) to effectively communicate science-based information on geologic

hazards. According to the state seismology bureau, Region 5 is home to active volcanoes, specifically Mayon in Albay province which is currently under Alert Level 3; and Bulusan in Sorsogon, under Alert Level 1. These volcanoes pose recurring threats from ashfall, lava flows, and pyroclastic density currents, Phivolcs said. The region is also traversed by active faults capable of generating strong earthquakes that may result in ground shaking, liquefaction, earthquake-induced landslides, casualties, and damage to properties, it said. In addition, coastal areas remain vulnerable to tsunamis triggered by the movement of the Philippine Trench, Phivolcs added. “Given these situations, a clear and locally relevant hazard communication is essential. Misinterpretation or misreporting of geohazard information can lead to confusion or unnecessary panic among the public,” the Phivolcs chief said. He said Phivolcs and its mother agency – Department of Science and Technology (DOST) under the stewardship of former Phivolcs Director and now Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. – acknowledged the crucial role of information officers and media practitioners as key partners in the dissemination of accurate, reliable, and timely information before, during, and after significant geohazard events. Solidum, in separate interview, cited the importance of the information campaign as it promoted responsible science communication, enhances public education and supports informed decision-making of the concerned local government units. “It also contributes to efforts for disaster risk reduction in vulnerable communities across the Bicol Region,” the DOST chief said. Bacolcol said the “Phivolcs InfoPress” was organized in collaboration with DOST’s regional offices, Philippine Information Agency and Office of Civil Defense.

• [Slippery Zaldy eludes PH authorities again, no longer in Czech custody](#) (2026-04-28 01:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Ako Bicol party-list representative Zaldy Co is no longer under the custody of Czech authorities, the Department of Justice (DOJ) confirmed, complicating efforts by the Philippine government to bring him home to face corruption charges. Acting Justice Secretary Frederick Vida disclosed the development following a meeting with Czech officials, saying authorities informed him that Co had been released. “I have to share difficult news. Czech authorities have informed us that Mr. Zaldy Co is no longer in their custody,” Vida said during a briefing. Vida said Co was believed to be staying within the Schengen area, but Czech authorities declined to provide details on his whereabouts, citing data privacy rules and the bloc’s open-border policies. “They’re citing Schengen rules and data privacy provisions,” he said. The justice chief added that Czech officials also pointed to the absence of a formal police cooperation agreement between the Philippines and the Czech Republic, although discussions to establish one are ongoing. Vida expressed frustration over the development after nearly an hour of talks with his counterparts. “I am disappointed by the lack of knowledge. They expressed that they understand the gravity of the case and the Filipino public. I am confused about the legal parameters from which this is coming,” he said. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. announced on April 16 that Co had been arrested in Prague for allegedly entering the Czech Republic without proper documentation. Co is facing charges of corruption and malversation before the Sandiganbayan, filed by the Office of the Ombudsman in November 2025. The case stemmed from an alleged P289-million ghost flood control project in

Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, which also implicates officials from the Department of Public Works and Highways Region 4B and executives of Sunwest Construction and Development Corp. Philippine authorities said efforts were ongoing to locate Co and secure his return to face trial.

- [Public Attorney's Office gets perfect score anew for 100% budget use](#) (2026-04-28 01:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Public Attorney's Office (PAO) under the stewardship of its chief, Persida Rueda-Acosta, has emerged as the only attached agency of the Department of Justice (DOJ) that achieved a perfect score based on the 2025 Annual Agency Performance Review (AAPR) of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Overall, the DOJ obtained a score of 4.15 or very satisfactory, taking into consideration its financial and physical performance and timeliness and quality of the report submissions, according to DBM. Based on DBM documents, copies of which were obtained by The Manila Times, the justice department for fiscal year 2025 registered obligation and disbursement budget utilization rates of 85.59 percent and 86.69 percent, respectively. "The PAO consistently achieved 100 percent utilization across all parameters," acting DBM Secretary Rolando Toledo said in a communication addressed to acting DOJ Secretary Frederick Vida. In 2024, PAO was also declared DBM's top achiever for obtaining a perfect score of 5 for the same financial and physical performance review. Describing PAO in its AAPR report as 'outstanding' in its financial performance, the DBM said it (PAO) has ensured that set goals were carried out within the allocated timeframe and budget. On physical performance, the DBM likewise cited PAO for its almost 100 percent rating on alternative dispute resolutions and public attorneys' perfect attendance in court hearings, among others. PAO has consistently met and exceeded its performance targets for these indicators, according to the same DBM report. Elated by DBM's "remarkable rating," Rueda-Acosta said this would result "in a more effective, organized, and streamlined approach in rendering service to the Filipino people." The chief public attorney reminds her co-officials, lawyers, and staff on the importance of integrity in the agency's expenditures as these funds were from the taxes of the hard-working 'juan dela cruz.' "It is a must that up until the last centavo is accounted for," Rueda-Acosta said. Rueda-Acosta said the outstanding rating was not just the success of PAO but also the victory of all especially the indigents and underprivileged members of society. "For this is an implication that PAO is a well-performing government agency, both in the physical and financial performances, that banks on transparency and accountability," she added. The AAPR report tracks how agencies use their allocated funds as it presents the results of the enhanced review, assessment, and evaluation of the annual performance of national government agencies, other executive offices, constitutional commissions as well as state universities and colleges. An autonomous government agency under Republic Act 9406 (PAO Law), PAO remains attached to the DOJ only for policy and program coordination, meaning, it has no direct control over the former, especially on its day-to-day operations.

- [Hot, humid easterly winds prevail over most parts of PH](#) (2026-04-27 22:27)

The easterlies would continue to be a dominant weather system, affecting most parts of the archipelago at least until the weekend, the national weather agency said on Tuesday. Weather specialist Chenel Dominguez of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in a 5 a.m. briefing that it has not monitored any low-pressure area forming inside or outside the country's area of responsibility in the coming days. Dominguez said the easterly winds would bring not only warm, humid weather but also cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms over Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao del Norte, Maguindanao del Sur, Zamboanga del Sur, and Misamis Occidental. "Even flash floods or landslides due to moderate to at times heavy rains would be possible in these areas," the Pagasa forecaster warned. The same weather system would bring partly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms to Metro Manila and the rest of the country. "Generally, it would be another hot and humid day in the country, and it would be even hotter from late morning until mid-afternoon, so stay hydrated," Dominguez said. A heat index of 42 degrees Celsius could be felt over Metro Manila on Tuesday, and the highest could be recorded over Sangley Point, Cavite, both falling under danger category, under which heat cramps and exhaustion are likely, the state-run weather bureau said.

- [VP's husband sue lawmakers, BSP, AMLC](#) (2026-04-27 16:17)

THE husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, Manases Carpio, filed criminal complaints Monday before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office against four lawmakers, the central bank governor and the head of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), accusing them of violating the Bank Secrecy Law by divulging their bank transactions during a congressional hearing. Named respondents in his complaint were Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Eli Remolona Jr., AMLC Executive Director Ronel Buenaventura, and Reps. Gerville Reyes Luistro, Percival Cendaña, Jose Manuel "Chel" Diokno and Leila de Lima and several unnamed others. Carpio's lawyer, Peter Paul Danao, said the respondents would be facing charges of violating Republic Act 9160 (Anti-Money Laundering Act), RA 1405 (Bank Secrecy Law), and RA 10173 (Data Privacy Act). Carpio, who did not deny that he and the vice president had P6.7 billion in bank transactions over a 20-year period, turned down interviews with the media. Reacting to the filing of charges, the central bank said the "BSP and the Anti-Money Laundering Council continue to perform their mandates in accordance with law, guided by independence, professionalism, and due process" and said it would issue an appropriate response before the proper forum upon receipt of the complaint. Luistro, chairman of the House Committee on Justice, said the case filed against lawmakers was "one of the options" by the defense "to suppress the disclosure of this information." "As far as the committee is concerned, we maintain the position that we did not violate any law," Luistro said. Carpio's lawyer said his client strongly objects to the "conspiratorial act of disclosing and divulging to the general public the purported reports of banks to the AMLC concerning their account deposits, withdrawal, bank balances and related records without prior notice nor prior written consent." During last week's House Committee on Justice hearing on the impeachment complaint against the vice president, the AMLC revealed that it had received reports of "suspicious" and "covered" bank transactions amounting to

P6.77 billion linked to Duterte and Carpio during a period of nearly 20 years. Carpio in the same complaint said that it was indisputable that the AMLC reports involving his and his wife's banking transactions were sensitive information that should not be disclosed to anyone. "Neither I nor my wife were previously notified, let alone have consented, to this public disclosure of our confidential bank transactions. Yet, respondents openly divulged these banking transaction reports in a public hearing before the House Committee on Justice," he said. Carpio maintained that the respondents have "criminally and feloniously" disclosed and unraveled the alleged transaction reports without his consent and despite his objection. In pushing through with the complaint, Danao said they believed that those involved, specifically the respondents, should be criminally penalized for divulging in public the couple's bank transactions without their full consent. "The prohibition is absolute. There is no exception. In fact, even the media are not allowed to divulge any bank transaction reports," Danao said. "That's the same law that was passed and enacted by the members of the House of Representatives themselves," he added. The BSP emphasized its adherence to due process and the rule of law, saying the central bank will respond once it receives a formal copy of the case. "The governor has yet to receive a copy of the complaint and will respond appropriately upon receipt, before the proper forum," the central bank said. In an interview on radio DZMM, Luistro said their actions do not violate the Anti-Money Laundering Act, stressing that what they sought during the hearing were not bank records, but covered and suspicious transactions under the AMLA. She said the totality of all laws pertaining to transactions and bank records must be considered during an impeachment investigation. "This is an accountability mechanism and therefore the exception provided in the Bank Secrecy Law must be interpreted in such a way that it should cover any other confidentiality in other existing laws. Otherwise, no impeachment would continue on the ground of unexplained wealth," Luistro said. Other lawmakers named in the complaint urged Duterte to face the final impeachment hearing on April 29. "My advice to the camp of VP Sara, instead of wasting paper and time in filing cases, they should just face the Committee on Justice hearing on April 29," Akbayan Rep. Percival Cendana said. Malacañang on Monday said it respects the move of Carpio to file complaints and that it would be up to the court to decide whether or not they will hold. "Anyone has the right to file a lawsuit. The only question is, if it will prosper. So, the Palace and the president are no longer in control of what the court's decision will be," Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said in Filipino in a briefing. WITH NIÑA MYKA PAULINE ARCEO AND KRISTINA MARALIT

- [Duterte still leads poll but margin narrowing](#) (2026-04-27 16:16)

IF presidential elections were held today, Vice President Sara Duterte would win in a head-to-head battle with Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo, OCTA Research said Monday. In its Tugon ng Masa survey conducted March 19-25, 2026, Duterte had a voter preference score of 46 percent as opposed to Robredo, who had 35 percent. Some 19 percent were undecided. OCTA noted, however, that while Duterte retains a clear advantage in a direct head-to-head scenario, the margin separating the two candidates is no longer as wide as in previous

survey periods. “This suggests that while VP Duterte remains ahead, the race appears more competitive in Q1 2026 than in earlier quarters,” the pollster said. It also noted the 19 percent who remain undecided was a “substantial segment” of the electorate and thus, remains movable. “This suggests that while the broad structure of the race is already visible, the current margin remains contestable and still open to movement as candidate positioning, alliances, campaign visibility, and national conditions evolve,” OCTA said. OCTA said that Duterte’s lead was due to strong regional concentration than national dominance, highlighting her supermajority lead in Mindanao at 88 percent and majority in Visayas at 53 percent. The pollster suggests that Duterte’s national advantage is reinforced by a strong southern and central regional base, giving her a strong national floor and a clear advantage in a direct two-candidate contest. Robredo, meanwhile, is strong in the National Capital Region at 52 percent and Balance Luzon at 47 percent, suggesting a geographically distinct support coalition centered in urban and northern areas. Duterte also led in Socioeconomic class E voters with 56 percent preference, followed by Classes ABC at 46 percent and Class D at 44 percent. Robredo, meanwhile, has 39 percent preference for Class ABC and 36 percent for Class D. In earlier OCTA survey with 26 names, Duterte led with 33 percent, followed by Robredo at 21 percent, then followed by Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso, and Sens. Raffy Tulfo and Bam Aquino. The survey had 1,200 respondents and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent nationwide.

- [US extends window to buy Russian crude](#) (2026-04-27 16:15)

THE Department of Energy (DOE) announced that the US has issued a new waiver that will allow countries to procure oil from Russia, a move that will benefit the Philippines. “There is a new waiver, effective from April 17 until May 16, which was issued by the US. Also to clarify, the waiver applies to the Philippines as well,” DOE Undersecretary Alessandro Sales said in a media briefing. The United States Department of the Treasury recently renewed a waiver allowing countries to buy sanctioned Russian oil at sea loaded on vessels from April 17 through May 16. This replaces a 30-day waiver that expired on April 11 and excludes transactions involving Iran, Cuba and North Korea. The DOE also announced that all four diesel shipments secured under the government’s Emergency Energy Security Program have arrived, delivering a total of 178,331,781 liters of diesel to help strengthen the country’s buffer amid continued volatility in the global oil market caused by the war in the Middle East. The DOE said that the first shipment, consisting of 142,531.23 barrels or 22,660,613 liters of diesel from Japan, arrived in Batangas on March 26, 2026. The second shipment, consisting of 329,650 barrels or 52,410,065 liters, arrived in Subic. This was followed by the third shipment, consisting of 319,576 barrels or 50,808,430 liters, also delivered to Subic, and the fourth shipment, consisting of 329,918 barrels or 52,452,673 liters, which arrived in Davao City. The department noted that timely fuel arrivals are critical not only to maintaining inventory levels, but also to supporting the uninterrupted operation of key sectors such as transport, logistics, power generation, agriculture, and industry. “The arrival of all four diesel shipments shows that the government is acting with urgency to protect the country’s fuel supply. As the Middle East conflict continues, our priority

is to ensure that the Philippines remains prepared, adequately supplied, and able to respond swiftly to developments that may affect fuel availability and market stability,” Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said. “We assure the public that we will continue to work closely with concerned government entities and industry stakeholders to monitor inventory, facilitate the timely distribution of fuel, and prevent supply bottlenecks that may disrupt essential economic activity,” she added. Also on Monday, the DOE said diesel and kerosene prices will go down, while gasoline prices will increase slightly on Tuesday, April 28, as the market reacted to recent developments in the Middle East. According to the agency, and based on the advisory bulletins of Shell, Seaoil, Jetty Petroleum, and Unioil, diesel prices are estimated to go down by at least P12.94 per liter, while gasoline prices are expected to go up by P0.53 per liter. The cost of kerosene is also expected to drop by at least P15.71 per liter. Last week, diesel prices dropped by around P24.94 per liter, gasoline by P3.41 per liter, while kerosene prices went down by about P2 per liter.

- [Pag-IBIG Fund, DHSUD hold 2 housing fairs](#) (2026-04-27 16:14)

THE Home Mutual Development Fund (HDMF) or Pag-IBIG Fund in partnership with its mother agency — the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) — announced a series of housing fairs in Southern Luzon and Visayas, aimed at bringing more housing options closer to Filipino workers and their families. Pag-IBIG CEO Marilene Acosta said the first of the twin events in Southern Luzon took place at the Jose Rizal Coliseum in Calamba City, Laguna and on April 28, the second housing fair. In the Visayas, it has been set for April 30 and May 1 at the IEC Convention Center Cebu. More than 20,000 housing units from partner developers and the agency’s acquired properties for sale were expected to be showcased during the series of events, the Pag-IBIG chief said. Housing Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling, who chairs HDMF’s board of trustees, said both the housing department and Pag-IBIG continue to heed the call of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to make decent and affordable housing more accessible to Filipino families through the expanded “Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino” (4PH) program. “By continuing these housing fairs in South Luzon and the Visayas, Pag-IBIG Fund is bringing together leading private developers, Pag-IBIG Fund’s affordable financing programs, and government assistance in one accessible venue, so that more workers can move from simply hoping for a home to actually taking concrete steps toward owning one,” Aliling said. The series of housing fairs follow the earlier Central Luzon leg and forms part of the broader regional rollout of housing fairs aimed at making the path to homeownership easier and more accessible, according to HDMF. Acosta said that Pag-IBIG’s housing loans enable low-income and other qualified members, including overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), to access decent housing at monthly amortizations that are often lower than prevailing rental costs. She said that the housing fairs make these homeownership opportunities more accessible by bringing housing options and the agency’s financing assistance together in one venue. “Through Pag-IBIG Fund’s affordable housing loan programs, many families may now find that what they would otherwise spend on rent can already be used to start paying for a home they will eventually own,” Acosta said. “This allows members not only to realize

possible savings on monthly housing costs, but also to build long-term household stability, equity, and a more secure future. Through these housing fairs, we are making that opportunity more tangible by bringing housing options and financing guidance together in one venue, where members can compare choices and take clearer steps toward homeownership,” she said. Aliling said the lowest monthly amortization offered in the fairs is in support to the poverty reduction effort of the Marcos administration by enabling families to shift from renting to homeownership. As a result, he said this would allow them to invest in long-term stability and redirect resources toward other essential needs such as education, health, and livelihood. The socialized housing units under 4PH that are being offered to the prospective homebuyers include the Pasinaya Heights in Laguna, where a unit priced at P1.404 million may be purchased at a monthly amortization of as low as P2,257.91 in the first year, and Asenso Yuhum Residences in Bacolod, where a 24-square-meter condominium unit priced at P1.059 million may be acquired at a monthly amortization of as low as P1,703.08 in the first year. “These affordable monthly payments are made possible through Pag-IBIG Fund’s Housing Loan Program under the Expanded 4PH, which offers a subsidized 3 percent interest rate for the first five years of the loan term, with the possibility of extension for another five years for eligible borrowers,” Acosta said. At the same time, the HDMF is still offering the Early Bird Promo, under which the first 30,000 qualified borrowers may enjoy the same 3 percent interest rate for the first 10 years of their loan, further easing the path to homeownership, she said. Aliling was joined by Acosta during the Calamba housing fair, underscoring the strong partnership to advance more inclusive housing programs, the DHSUD said.

- [Dy to Asean women lawmakers: Push for change](#) (2026-04-27 16:13)

SPEAKER Faustino Dy III called on women parliamentarians in Southeast Asia to push for “deeper, system-level change” and move from representation to real power in governance. In his speech at the 5th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) which was held virtually, Dy said parliamentarians must move beyond “gender-responsiveness toward true transformation — reshaping systems, dismantling barriers, and ensuring women have real decision-making power.”

“Transformation must go beyond representation. It must create real opportunity — for women to lead, to build enterprises, and for marginalized voices to be heard. Inclusion is measured not by presence, but by impact,” Dy said. He linked women’s leadership to stronger institutions and lasting peace in the Southeast Asian region. “Peace is not just the absence of conflict — it is trust in institutions and in the future. When women lead, peace becomes more durable,” Dy said. He highlighted the Philippines’ National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security as part of efforts to promote inclusive and responsive governance. “At the core of all this is people-centered governance — laws grounded in real needs, budgets that reflect everyday realities, and institutions that are open and accountable,” Dy said. In her speech, Deputy Speaker Rachel Arenas underscored the need for sustained leadership and cooperation among women lawmakers in the region. “Though we gather today through extraordinary circumstances, our presence here sends an extraordinary message: that

even in uncertain times, leadership does not pause; cooperation does not weaken; and the work of building a better future must continue,” Arenas said. She stressed that the global energy crisis, driven in part by tensions in the Middle East, is a test of the region’s collective resolve. “Yet even as challenges test our systems, they also reveal our character. Today, by choosing dialogue over delay and action over hesitation, we prove that Asean’s spirit remains strong,” Arenas said. In the session, House Committee on Women and Gender Equality chairman and Laguna Rep. Ann Matibag, who was appointed as the chairman of WAIPA, called on the region’s lawmakers to strive for deeper institutional reforms to build gender-transformative, inclusive, and future-ready parliaments. “A future-ready parliament is one that is inclusive, adaptive, and responsive — able to anticipate change, enhance oversight, and ensure that legislation and public resources respond effectively to emerging risks and inequalities,” Matibag said. The event gathered women lawmakers from across the region to advance cooperation on political participation, economic leadership, and inclusive governance.

- [Scrap fuel taxes, raise wages, groups urge Marcos](#) (2026-04-27 16:12)

A MAJOR labor organization renewed its demand to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for the immediate suspension of excise taxes and value-added tax (VAT) on fuel, and an increase in wages, saying that soaring prices and stagnant pay are squeezing workers dry. The Federation of Free Workers (FFW) on Monday said that while it welcomes the president’s limited suspension of excise taxes on kerosene and LPG, the move barely scratches the surface. The FFW said the high cost of fuel continues to drive up transportation fares, food costs, and basic goods, while wages remain stuck. “If you have the power, use it. Don’t use the law as a display while prices are skyrocketing and workers’ belts are tightening,” said Ma. Victoria Bellosillo of the FFW Women’s Network. Bellosillo said the oil crisis must not become a government cash cow. “Taxes contribute to order. But it’s a different story when the government makes money during a crisis. When VAT increases due to expensive oil, it’s like a receipt for the people’s suffering,” she said. “As crude oil prices rise, the collection increases. The suffering of workers should not be turned into a piggy bank,” she said. FFW urged the President to use his powers under Republic Act 12316 to expand excise tax relief and press Congress to suspend or cut VAT on petroleum products. At the same time, it called for tighter price controls and stronger action against profiteering. “Tax relief and price control must go hand in hand. Otherwise, the profiteers will just take back the comfort they were given. It’s like being given an umbrella with a hole — there’s still a price to pay,” FFW said. Together with major labor coalitions, FFW is pushing for a legislated P200 daily wage hike nationwide. In Calabarzon, FFW unions are preparing a petition for a P1,200 per day regional minimum wage.

- [More benefits for those with eye problems sought](#) (2026-04-27 16:11)

SEN. Bong Go pressed for expanded benefits for people with eye problems. Go made the appeal on Saturday during the 76th National Convention of the Optometrists Association of the Philippines. He urged the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to expand patient benefits that would include visual care support such as reading glasses and prescription

eyewear. Go earlier called for expanded benefit packages, higher case rates, improved outpatient and emergency coverage, and the removal of policies that limit access to benefits. He said public health funds must be felt directly by patients through lower out-of-pocket expenses, wider coverage, and better support in hospitals. "I highly commend your organization for continuously striving to elevate the standards of eye care in our country," Go said in a video message. "Sight is one of our most vital senses, and your profession plays a crucial role in ensuring that Filipinos can see the world clearly, allowing them to lead productive and meaningful lives," he said. Go said optometrists form part of the wider healthcare workforce that helps protect the health and well-being of Filipinos, particularly through preventive, specialized, and community-based care. "As vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, my advocacy has always been centered on protecting the health and well-being of every Filipino," he said. The OAP gathering carried the theme "Optometry and the Future of Care: The Hybrid Model of Practice," to discuss developments in eye care and the evolving practice of optometry. Go expressed hope that the group's national convention would serve as a venue for knowledge sharing, professional collaboration, and continued improvement in the delivery of eye care services.

- [EU hopeful sea code would bring regional peace, stability](#) (2026-04-27 16:10)

EUROPEAN Union Ambassador to Manila Massimo Santoro said the EU is hopeful that the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea being finalized this year would be "legally binding" to ensure peace and stability in the region. The Philippines, as chairman of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in 2026, has expressed commitment to finalizing this year the COC between Asean and China, which has dragged on for 17 years due to some contentious issues. The Asean is composed of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste, Thailand, and Vietnam. "Sometimes somebody asks me, why is the European Union so interested in the South China Sea?" Santoro said in an interview with a select group of reporters over the weekend. "Well, if I move it to the trade dimension, almost 40 percent of the trade that goes to Europe passes from the South China Sea," Santoro pointed out. The envoy expressed confidence that "any side to this negotiation is interested in a code of conduct which is functional for its purpose." "From our side, we also hope a legally binding one. This is what the European Union likes," Santoro added. "Clearly, we are supportive of a code of conduct. This is a good tool for all parties adhering to it, for ensuring stability, for ensuring predictability, for ensuring that no unilateral action occurs, for ensuring full respect of rights, the legitimate rights of each party," he said. "I think that if the code of conduct becomes a good, solid product, fully consistent with Unclos (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), in my view, its potential goes well beyond the only parties to it," the envoy added. Santoro also said that "any negotiation which is multilateral depends on the willingness, on the participation, and on the genuine approach of all sides involved." "I think that it is not a surprise the Philippines is making so far an excellent job in this negotiation. I'm completely confident that the Philippines is an excellent actor for such negotiations," he said. Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro earlier said the COC in the South China Sea, once finalized, would benefit

both the Asean and China.

- [Seafarers tired and worried after being stranded in Persian Gulf for weeks](#) (2026-04-27 16:09)

NEW DELHI — For about eight weeks, Indian Capt. Rahul Dhar and his crew have been stranded on their tanker in the Persian Gulf, sometimes watching drones and missiles explode as the Strait of Hormuz remained effectively shut while the Iran war dragged on. The crew's morale, he said, is holding as they carry on with their routines, but the strain is beginning to show. A shaky ceasefire between the US and Iran has brought "a careful sense of hope" for the crew, but there is still no clear end to the war. "Day to day, we try to keep things normal with open conversations and small team activities that help lift everyone's spirits." The crew sighted drones and missile interceptions several times, both near the ship and along the horizon during their watches. "Those moments were difficult and created real tension for the crew," Dhar told The Associated Press. "None of us expected the warlike situation," he said, noting that reliable internet has helped them stay in touch with families. "Those calls and messages really keep us grounded and give us strength." About 20,000 seafarers are stranded in the Gulf. Around 20,000 seafarers on hundreds of vessels, including oil and gas tankers and cargo ships, have been stuck in the Gulf, unable to cross the Strait of Hormuz. Normally about a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas transits the waterway. Roughly 80 vessels passed through the strait in the week of April 13–19, according to the maritime data firm Lloyd's List Intelligence, compared to approximately 130 or more transits per day before the war. Dozens of ships have come under attack since the war started, and the UN says at least 10 seafarers were killed. Even as US President Donald Trump last week extended the ceasefire indefinitely, the US kept the blockade of Iranian ports. In response, Iran fired on ships in the strait and seized two. "Seafarers are the backbone of global trade, yet we are often the most affected by regional geopolitical conflicts," said Capt. Arun Kumar Rajendran, who also has been stranded with his tanker crew for around eight weeks. Some 'watched blasts from decks' Manoj Kumar Yadav of the Forward Seamen's Union of India said thousands of Indian sailors were aboard the stranded vessels, enduring days of fear and isolation as ships lay anchored near Iranian ports such as Bandar Abbas and Khorramshahr. Explosions sometimes occurred just a few hundred meters (yards) away. "They were watching blasts from their decks," he said, adding that his union has been fielding daily distress calls from crews and their families. "Many of them were on board a ship for the first time, and you can imagine what mental state they have gone through." Yadav said many sailors reported acute shortages of food and drinking water, with some vessels forced to ration supplies. Communication with families in India was sporadic due to internet disruptions and signal jamming. When contact was possible, sailors often paid high roaming charges for just a few minutes of conversation, he said. Sailors' families are growing increasingly anxious, demanding the safe return of their loved ones. Mohamed Arrachedi, the International Transport Workers' Federation's network coordinator for the Middle East, said earlier this month it had received hundreds of requests for assistance, including for food, from seafarers. Stranded off Oman for more than a

month, Reza Muhammad Saleh, an Indonesian chief officer aboard a Greek-owned cargo ship, said a drone exploded near the port shortly after they arrived March 3. At least two more incidents followed, forcing repeated evacuations of the crew to bunkers, he said. No one was harmed. "The biggest problem is the uncertainty. We don't know when Hormuz will be open again," Saleh told the AP. The vessel with 24 crew members from Indonesia, Arab countries, India and Ethiopia typically transports iron ore across Gulf states, transiting Hormuz once or twice a month. It now requires written clearance from Iran. "No company wants to take the risk without it," he said. Though experienced in conflict zones, the crew has been rattled by missile strikes and GPS disruptions that forced it to use manual navigation, he said. "Sometimes we think it's safe, then suddenly it's not. Today we're safe. Tomorrow, nobody knows," he said. Fleet Management Limited usually communicates multiple times a day with dozens of stranded ships that are staffed by more than 400 seafarers, its CEO Capt. Rajalingam Subramaniam said. Stock checks are regularly maintained for food supply, and pickups have been arranged to ensure availability by moving vessels to the nearest points where they can pick up fresh and dry provisions, he said. Some crew changes were still happening, but in limited numbers. "Who wants to go on the ship?" Subramaniam said. "The inbound crew has the right to refuse and we respect (that)." Most of the stranded mariners have been in the Gulf since the war began. "(For) mariners who did not sign up to be in warlike area, they also (need) to be respected so that they do not become the unintended collateral," he said. Among the vessels attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz during the ceasefire, several were fired upon and others turned back. Vessels managed by Fleet Management did not attempt to cross, Subramaniam said. Germany's largest shipping company, Hapag-Lloyd, has had around 150 sailors stranded near the strait, on six vessels. "These are difficult days and weeks," Hapag Lloyd spokesman Nils Haupt told the AP earlier this month. He said Hapag-Lloyd was in contact with the captains and crews at least once a day. "We've been able to rotate some of them (crew) in the meantime, but you can easily imagine that after such a long time, monotony naturally sets in on board," he said. Shortages of global seafarers to worsen. The International Maritime Organization, the UN's shipping agency, and others have called for a safe corridor for commercial vessels in the strait. Most ships are still unable to pass through, even though Iran had said the strait was open to vessels it perceived as non-hostile and demanded to collect tolls for passage. Iran was said to have placed mines in the waterway, and Trump said last week that the US was clearing Iranian mines and would "shoot and kill" boats laying mines in the area. Under heightened risks of mines and attacks on ships, "there is no safe transit anywhere in the Strait of Hormuz," said IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez.

• [Marcos leads teachers' oath-taking in Capiz](#) (2026-04-27 16:08)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday led the oath-taking of more than 8,500 newly promoted teachers and school heads from Western Visayas, marking the largest gathering so far under the Expanded Career Progression (ECP) System. first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos joined the president during the ceremony at Villareal Stadium in Roxas City, Capiz. Similar inductions

were previously held in Cebu, Davao, and Eastern Visayas. In his speech, Marcos assured educators of continued government support, emphasizing efforts to improve career growth, welfare and working conditions. “Rest assured that the government will not stop in ensuring you are being taken care of, given equal opportunity for growth and recognized,” he said. The president said the ECP system addresses the long-standing issue of limited promotion opportunities for teachers by providing clearer career pathways, whether in classroom instruction or school leadership. From August 2025 to date, a total of 79,230 teachers and school heads nationwide have benefited from promotions under the system. Marcos reiterated that his administration is working to ensure that no teacher retires at entry-level rank. He also cited reforms aimed at improving working conditions, including reducing administrative workload, creating more than 61,000 teaching positions, and providing a P10,000 teaching allowance for School Year 2025–2026.

- [‘Pets, farm animals must be included in disaster plan’](#) (2026-04-27 16:07)

AS the government begins its annual budget planning cycle, the Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF) is calling for an urgent overhaul of national laws to ensure that the country’s animal population will not be left behind during catastrophes. Interviewed in the Alerto Siete-Tres-Ocho program at Radyo Pilipinas, AKF Project Director Heidi Marquez-Caguioa said they are leading a legislative push to amend the Animal Welfare Act and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act. The proposed amendments aim to institutionalize animal protection mechanisms, mandating that the welfare of livestock, pets and working animals be integrated into all phases of disaster response. The cost of neglect Caguioa pointed to the 2020 Taal Volcano eruption as a grim case study in logistical failure. During the crisis, thousands of animals — including horses vital to the local tourism industry — were abandoned in the danger zone because evacuation protocols lacked provisions for animals. “The Taal disaster exposed a massive gap in our emergency framework,” Caguioa said. “We saw farm animals and working horses left to fend for themselves, not due to lack of compassion, but due to a complete lack of policy-driven rescue infrastructure.” The AKF proposal seeks to institutionalize animal welfare by requiring the mandatory inclusion of LGU agriculturists and veterinarians in local DRRM councils. By granting these professionals regular membership, AKF said that local governments can ensure dedicated funds and resources specifically for animal rescue, establishment of pre-identified evacuation zones for companion animals (pets) and farm animals (livestock) ahead of the rainy season and policy shifts from reactive response to systematic, prepared rescue operations. Beyond legislative changes, Caguioa identified a persistent administrative problem: the abrupt turnover of government personnel. AKF research showed that training local government employees in animal handling is often rendered futile by the nature of their employment. When skilled workers leave their posts due to the expiration of Job Order or Contract of Service agreements, or when coterminous appointments end, the institutional knowledge is lost. “Every time a trained worker leaves without a transfer of knowledge, our capability-building efforts are set back to zero,” Caguioa explained. “We are effectively wasting time and public funds by training people who are structurally discouraged from staying in their

positions long-term."With the rainy season approaching, the AKF urged lawmakers to expedite these amendments.The foundation maintained that if the country intends to build a truly resilient society, the protection of animals must shift from being an "afterthought" of non-government organizations to a mandatory government function."We have to consider these measures now," Caguioa added. "Disasters do not discriminate between humans and animals, and our policies should reflect that reality."

- [Hold departure order issued against Escudero](#) (2026-04-27 16:06)

(UPDATE) The Sandiganbayan's sixth division issued on Monday a precautionary hold departure order against Sen. Francis Escudero and businessman and alleged bagman Maynard Ngu, preventing them from leaving the country.The issuance of the order followed a closed-door hearing on Monday after the Office of the Ombudsman filed the application on Saturday.Under the order, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration was directed to include Escudero and Ngu in its Hold Departure Order list.Both Escudero and Ngu were implicated in the flood control scandal, where they are expected to be charged with plunder offenses.On Thursday, the same order was issued against former Speaker Martin Romualdez who was also linked in anomalous flood control projects.

- [Vintage bombs found during NAIA excavation](#) (2026-04-27 16:05)

TWENTY rusting vintage bombs were discovered on Sunday during excavations at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Juliet Extension Taxiway.The PNP Aviation Security Group (Avsegroup) Explosive Ordnance Disposal team was called to the excavation site after a backhoe unearthed the bombs.The team recovered 10 50-pound and 18 25-pound inert General Purpose bombs.Last April 22, old military ordnance was also dug up at the same site.The bombs were brought to Avsegroup headquarters in Pasay City for safekeeping and proper disposal.The Juliet Extension is a part of the NAIA modernization project carried out by the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) and the New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC).The phase involves expanding and concreting the taxiway to improve airfield capacity and efficiency.Located in front of Terminal 2, the extension runs parallel to Runway 13/31 and Taxiways November and Delta.Designed to reach the Terminal 4 apron, the project aims to ease congestion at Terminal 3.Once completed, Taxiway Juliet will serve as a diversion route for aircraft during the upcoming reconstruction of Taxiway Delta, the primary taxiway for Terminal 3.

- [Manila' s air quality 'very unhealthy' again](#) (2026-04-27 16:04)

THE air quality in the city of Manila has returned to "very unhealthy" levels after being "fair" for several days as the fire in the sanitary landfill in Navotas City continues to burn after nearly three weeks.On a Facebook post Monday, the Manila City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (MCDRRMD) reported that at 12 a.m., its air quality sensors at four locations recorded "very unhealthy" readings, particularly those near the Puregold Tayuman area.The department said prevailing winds may be carrying smoke from the abandoned landfill fire toward the city, and warned residents — particularly the vulnerable

sectors such as children, senior citizens, and those with asthma — to avoid going outdoors unless necessary. In an interview with The Manila Times, Dr. Lester Tan, Department of Health-Metro Manila Center for Health Development (DOH-MMCHD) regional director, urged the public to continue wearing masks as protection from the polluted air. Tan said a wet cloth can also be used as an alternative to a surgical mask. He advised people with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to limit their outdoor activities because the poor air quality can worsen their condition. Manila's Department of Environment and Public Services later reported that air quality levels had improved to "good." Residents of Pasay City were also advised to wear face masks outdoors to protect themselves as the air quality in the city worsened. Pasay Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano said Monday the smoke from the landfill may carry harmful chemicals and particulate matter that could affect public health. Exposure to the toxic smoke could trigger breathing difficulty, eye irritation, coughing, throat irritation, headache and dizziness. Residents were told to stay indoors as much as possible, keep doors and windows closed, and avoid strenuous outdoor activities. The city government also urged residents to drink plenty of water and seek medical attention if they experience severe breathing difficulties. On Tuesday, Public Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon will return to the landfill to assess operations to extinguish methane pockets that continue to emit hazardous fumes. Dizon said on Monday he will be accompanied by Navotas Mayor John Rey Tiangco. They will evaluate if the heavy equipment deployed last week, such as excavators, has been effective in smothering the fire and containing gas emissions. Initial efforts focused on creating access routes and applying soil cover to cut off oxygen feeding the underground flames. The DPWH is also coordinating with international disaster response specialists, including members of the Japan Disaster Relief team, who have been tapped for their technical expertise in handling similar incidents. Government responders, including personnel from the Bureau of Fire Protection, local disaster risk reduction offices, and environmental agencies, remain on-site to sustain round-the-clock operations. Dizon said that efforts were focused not only on extinguishing the fire but also on minimizing further environmental damage and safeguarding public health amid air quality concerns. He said access to the landfill remains a logistical problem since it requires a 15- to 20-minute boat ride from the BFP Incident Command Post to the site; Tuesday's inspection "is expected to provide clearer direction on the next phase of response efforts," Dizon said. What changed the pace of operations was the completion of a new access road linking the mainland directly to the landfill, with Dizon describing the access road as "a game changer." He admitted that the situation remains critical, with toxic smoke continuing to billow from the landfill and drift across Metro Manila and nearby provinces, including Bulacan and Bataan. Dizon said the prolonged fire, fueled by layers of compacted waste, has created deep underground hotspots that are difficult to reach and extinguish.

- [Remulla chides Makati youth representatives](#) (2026-04-27 16:03)

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Monday castigated two Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) chairmen in Makati City who were suspended after being found guilty of misconduct, saying corruption had reached even the youth sector in affluent

communities. Speaking in Trece Martires City, Remulla identified the officials as Natalia Georgianna Tupaz of Barangay Dasmariñas and Cecilia Louise Yabut of Barangay Magallanes. Both were sanctioned by the Makati Sangguniang Panlungsod through separate resolutions. “Corruption has reached the SK, even in the wealthiest barangay. We do not spare anyone — whether from small or rich communities,” Remulla said. He delivered a sharp rebuke to the officials, saying, “Shame on you. You are already well-off, yet you still choose to steal.” Tupaz was meted a six-month suspension under a March 23, 2026 resolution after she allegedly demanded a 20 percent kickback from a supplier for a Halloween project. Investigators said the arrangement was corroborated through Viber messages and a phone call. She also faced accusations of submitting an SK resolution with a falsified signature of the SK secretary. Tupaz tendered her resignation on March 8, pending acceptance. Yabut was suspended for three months under an April 6 resolution after allegedly submitting documents with forged signatures, including that of an SK kagawad who was reportedly abroad at the time. While she admitted the documents were not personally signed, she claimed prior consent had been given. Remulla said Tupaz could face charges before the Office of the Ombudsman, including direct bribery, violation of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and falsification of public documents. He added that Yabut and her SK treasurer could also be charged with falsification in connection with a purchase request. Remulla raised broader concerns about the structure of the SK, suggesting its possible abolition as part of constitutional reforms. “If there will be constitutional change, I will recommend the abolition of the SK. We are seeing a culture where corruption starts at a young age,” he said. Remulla pointed to high attrition rates among SK officials, noting that many leave their posts within the first year due to marriage, employment, or schooling, prompting barangay to appoint officers-in-charge. “It may be better for the barangay council to designate who will handle youth affairs instead of holding elections,” he said.

- [Two bettors win Mega Lotto 6/45 draw on April 27](#) (2026-04-27 15:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Two bettors won the Mega Lotto 6/45 jackpot on Monday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The winning combination for the Mega Lotto 6/45 draw was 06-04-05-27-34-11, with a jackpot prize of P45,568,562.29. Meanwhile, no bettor won the Grand Lotto 6/55 jackpot. Its winning combination was 43-19-20-12-21-51, with a prize of P69,508,293.74.

- [Health groups file complaints vs ZYN, IQOS Philippines over alleged Vape Law violations](#) (2026-04-27 14:49)

MANILA, Philippines—Health advocates have filed complaints against nicotine pouch brand ZYN and heated tobacco product (HTP) company IQOS Philippines for allegedly violating the Vape Law, or Republic Act No. 11900, which regulates the promotion, distribution, and registration of vaporized nicotine and tobacco products. In a joint statement Sunday, the Philippine Smoke-Free Movement, the Child Rights Network, the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc., Action on Smoking and Health Philippines,

Imagine Law, Parents Against Vape, Youth Against Vape, and HealthJustice urged the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to take immediate action against the companies for allegedly engaging in illegal sponsorships and promotional activities. This comes after the brands were said to promote their products during the Sinulog Festival in Cebu City back in January. The groups noted that such sponsorships violate Section 14(a) of Republic Act No. 11900, which prohibits tobacco and nicotine brands from sponsoring cultural events. They added that these activities “exploit an environment that is both child-centered and culturally significant.” “These violations involving ZYN and IQOS are not isolated incidents—they reflect a recurring pattern of noncompliance by the tobacco industry. These brands continue to insert themselves in cultural, artistic, and entertainment spaces, positioning their products as part of a desirable lifestyle. Worse, one of these brands has been reported to be promoting and distributing a product that has no registration or certification under the law. Immediate regulatory action from the DTI is needed to put an end to these dirty industry tactics and to reaffirm the government’s mandate to protect the health of its people,” said Rizza Duro, national coordinator of the Philippine Smoke-Free Movement.

- [Nothing premature with Marcos’ earlier statement on Zaldy Co, Palace insists](#)
(2026-04-27 14:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Monday insisted there was nothing premature or false about the earlier announcement made by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. regarding the apprehension of former Ako Bicol party-list representative Zaldy Co in the Czech Republic. In a press conference, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro defended Marcos and maintained there was nothing irregular about his pronouncement. “What did the President announce? He announced that Co was held in custody, that’s correct. He said Co was in custody at the Czech Republic, that’s correct also. He also said that we are coordinating with the Czech Republic, that’s right. So, what’s premature with that? There’s nothing premature with that,” Castro said in Filipino. The Department of Justice (DOJ) last week clarified that Co, technically, was not arrested by Czech authorities although his movements were restrained because of immigration violations. Castro reiterated that Marcos did not commit misinformation as the word “arrest” did not come from the chief executive. “First of all, if you notice, on April 16, the president first posted that, “Zaldy Co has been caught.” When we say that Zaldy Co has been caught, it doesn’t necessarily mean that it was an arrest. The word “caught” is very general. So, when he was caught, we can say that he was stopped—stopped or prevented from acting, and the President was not wrong in what he reported on April 16,” she said. “April 17, he posted again. He said here, “Our coordination with the Czech authorities continues. The latest information confirms that Zaldy Co was stopped at the German border after entering from the Czech Republic. He was denied entry and returned to Czech authorities where he remains in custody.” It’s not wrong. The word “arrest” did not come from the president himself,” she added. DOJ Secretary Frederick Vida last week flew to Prague to gather more information regarding Co’s apprehension and to coordinate how Co, who is facing graft and malversation charges in connection to the flood control scandal,

would be brought back to the Philippines.

- [Luistro stresses House justice panel "did not violate law" amid Carpio complaint](#) (2026-04-27 14:29)

MANILA, Philippines - House Justice Committee chairman and Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro said that they acknowledge the filing of criminal complaints against her, several lawmakers and officials of the Anti-Money Laundering Council by the husband of Vice President Sara Duterte. lawyer Manases Carpio, on Monday. Carpio filed violations of Republic Act 9160 (Anti-Money Laundering Act), RA 1405 (Bank Secrecy Law), and RA 10173 (Data Privacy Act) for "disclosing and divulging to the general public the purported reports of banks to the AMLC concerning their account deposits, withdrawal, bank balances and related records without prior notice nor prior written consent." It comes after an AMLC report was released at the House Justice Panel's hearing last April 22 that showed more than P6 billion in transactions recorded by both Duterte and Carpio, which according to some lawmakers were considered as "smoking gun" evidence in the impeachment case. In an interview over radio dzBB on Monday, Luistro believes that the case filed against them is "one of the options" made by the defense "to suppress the disclosure of this information," "This one is a criminal complaint.... we acknowledge that this is one of their options. As far as the committee is concerned, we maintain the position that we did not violate any law," Luistro added.

- [5 inmates die, 4 PNP personnel injured in mobile car crash](#) (2026-04-27 14:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Five persons under police custody (PUPCs) from the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) died while four personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP) were injured after a police mobile they were riding crashed into a wall in Quezon City on Friday. The six PUPCs were being escorted by the four Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel escorting them aboard a police mobile that traversed Payatas Road en route to the Quezon City Jail when it crashed, PLtCol. Josef Geoffrey Lyndon Lim, chief District Traffic Enforcement Unit of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) told reporters on Monday. According to Lim, the driver "lost control" that led to the mobile unit hitting a wall resulting in the instantaneous deaths of the five PUPCs. All of the individuals on board were brought to Rosario Maclang General Hospital, where five of the PUPCs were declared dead shortly after by the attending physician. The remaining PUPC was in a stable condition, Lim said, while the four police officers were also receiving treatment for injuries.

- [Destab plot against Marcos nothing new, says Palace](#) (2026-04-27 14:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Monday said reports that disgruntled former military officials plotting to oust President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is nothing new and has tasked concerned agencies to probe the alleged "power grab". Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro issued the statement in reaction to the disclosure made by Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson over the weekend that there are several "retired officials" supposedly recruiting military personnel to roll out plans to overthrow Marcos and Vice

President Sara Duterte over the controversies they are respective involved in. “That has been news for a long time, they have been wanting to destabilize our president for a long time, that is not new,” Castro said in Filipino in a briefing. The Palace Press Officer further stated that Lacson, being a seasoned investigator, would not make unsubstantiated claims and would always come with “receipts” and urged the security cluster to look into the matter. Lacson, a former top policeman, said that while it is highly unlikely that the retired officers’ plan would be a success, “definitely there is an attempt” to remove the two highest elected officials from office. “First of all, it has to be proven because Senator Lacson, when he speaks, he has receipts. So, once again, to our investigating bodies, you don’t need to be ordered. Just do the investigation.

- [Pag-IBIG Fund, DHSUD hold housing fairs in Southern Luzon, Visayas to expand access to homeownership](#) (2026-04-27 13:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund), in partnership with its mother agency, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, announced on Monday a series of housing fairs in Southern Luzon and the Visayas aimed at bringing more housing options closer to Filipino workers and their families. Pag-IBIG chief executive officer Marilene C. Acosta said the first of two events in Southern Luzon was held at the Jose Rizal Coliseum, while the second leg is scheduled on April 28. In the Visayas, the housing fair will take place on April 30 and May 1 at the IEC Convention Center Cebu. More than 20,000 housing units from partner developers, along with Pag-IBIG’s acquired assets for sale, are expected to be showcased during the events, Acosta said. DHSUD Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling, who chairs the Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees, said the initiative supports the directive of Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to make decent and affordable housing more accessible through the expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa mga Pilipino Program. “By continuing these housing fairs in South Luzon and the Visayas, Pag-IBIG Fund is bringing together leading private developers, affordable financing programs, and government assistance in one accessible venue, allowing more workers to move from simply hoping for a home to taking concrete steps toward owning one,” Aliling said. The events follow an earlier Central Luzon leg and form part of a broader regional rollout aimed at making homeownership more accessible. In a statement, Acosta said Pag-IBIG’s housing loan programs enable low-income members and other qualified borrowers, including overseas Filipino workers, to access homes with monthly amortizations often lower than prevailing rental costs. She added that the housing fairs make these opportunities more accessible by consolidating housing options and financing assistance in a single venue. “Through Pag-IBIG Fund’s affordable housing loan programs, many families may find that what they would otherwise spend on rent can already go toward paying for a home they will eventually own,” Acosta said. She noted that this setup allows members to potentially reduce monthly housing costs while building long-term financial stability and equity. Aliling emphasized that the low monthly amortization rates offered during the fairs support the administration’s poverty reduction efforts by enabling families to transition from renting to homeownership, freeing up resources for other essential needs such as education,

health, and livelihood. Among the socialized housing units under the 4PH program are projects such as Pasinaya Heights, where units priced at P1.404 million may be purchased with monthly amortizations starting at P2,257.91 in the first year, and Asenso Yuhum Residences, offering 24-square-meter condominium units priced at P1.059 million with initial monthly payments as low as P1,703.08. “These affordable payments are made possible through Pag-IBIG Fund’s Housing Loan Program under the Expanded 4PH, which offers a subsidized 3 percent interest rate for the first five years of the loan term, with a possible extension for another five years for eligible borrowers,” Acosta said. She added that Pag-IBIG is also offering its Early Bird Promo, allowing the first 30,000 qualified borrowers to avail of the same 3 percent interest rate for the first 10 years of their loan. Aliling and Acosta attended the Calamba housing fair, underscoring the strong partnership between DHSUD and Pag-IBIG in advancing inclusive housing programs. “The housing fair reflects the administration’s whole-of-society approach—integrating housing development, financing access, and stakeholder collaboration—to ensure that no Filipino family is left behind,” Aliling said.

- [PNP backs CIDG Tondo e-sabong bust amid alleged anomalies](#) (2026-04-27 13:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday expressed support for the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group’s (CIDG) bust on an alleged online cockfighting (e-sabong) operation at the Coliseo de Manila in Tondo last March amid allegations of anomalies. “This is a legal operation and abides by the proper processes,” PNP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Randolph Tuaño said in Filipino in a briefing with reporters in Camp Crame. “If there are any misgivings about the said operation, the Philippine National Police is ready to accept all complaints, and we will answer them at the proper forum,” he added. On March 24, The CIDG conducted an entrapment operation against an alleged e-sabong operation, resulting in the arrest of 28 supposed operators along with 136 bettors. Coliseo de Manila lawyer Carl Jon Mucho filed an administrative complaint before the National Police Commission (Napolcom) against CIDG National Capital Region chief Col. John Guiagui and nine other police officers two weeks ago. The complaint urges Napolcom to hold the cops involved accountable after P40,000 in cash and 22 gamefowl allegedly went missing after the operation. Mucho showed a video showing a supposed CIDG operative taking cash during the entrapment operation. “This was not the operative taking money but taking evidence. His ticket shows that he had entered the e-sabong operation. This was what we call the bet ticket that he recovered since he was an operative,” Tuaño explained in Filipino. “When he got the bet ticket, he gave a signal to his colleagues that the act had been consummated. This is what we call the prearranged signal to start their operation,” he added.

- [Crisis response, not 2028 polls, Marcos’ priority – Palace](#) (2026-04-27 13:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Addressing the energy crisis and alleviating the lives of Filipinos are the top priorities of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and not the forging of alliances for the 2028 national elections, Malacañang said on Monday. In a Palace briefing, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said it is still too early to talk about

politics and reiterated that the president's focus is finding solutions to the problems the country is facing, particularly the effects of the hostilities in the Middle East. Marcos, she said, has not yet thought of any name to endorse as his successor. "Right now, for the president, it is too early to talk about who will run for president in the next election," Castro said in Filipino. "The president is focused on working. The President is focused on addressing the effects of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East so that the supply of petroleum products to our country continue. The President is not focused on politics right now. Work first," she added. Marcos is bent on providing support for those badly affected by the war between the United States and Iran which triggered the prices of petroleum products and other commodities to increase astronomically, the official further noted.

- [Lacson to present flood control progress report in privilege speech](#) (2026-04-27 13:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he opted to present, through a privilege speech, the results of the Senate investigation into the flood control fund mess to pave the way for the resumption of public hearings on the scandal. The Senate president pro tempore said he is set to deliver the chairman's progress report on the alleged flood control anomaly in a privilege speech when the Senate resumes session on May 4. Lacson, chairman of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, said the partial committee report has yet to secure the required nine signatures for filing and sponsorship in plenary. Only six of the panel's 17 regular members have signed the report: Bam Aquino, Risa Hontiveros, Francis Pangilinan, and Erwin Tulfo, along with Senate President Vicente Sotto III and Lacson, both serving as ex-officio members. "I will present it via a privilege speech entitled 'The Chairman's FCP Progress Report.' Other committee members do not seem keen on signing the partial report. If I present it through a privilege speech, I would not need to consult them," Lacson said. He added that once delivered in plenary, the chairman's progress report — which includes the contents of the partial report — may be shared with the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman. "I'll be able to share the report and recommendations with the Ombudsman since it would become a public record after I present it as a privilege speech," he said in a statement Monday. "It would be a waste if the evidence in the progress report could not be used because it did not get enough signatures," Lacson added. Meanwhile, Lacson corrected Rodante Marcoleta over his calls to invite former House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez to the panel's hearings on the flood control controversy. He said the committee had already invited Romualdez twice, following the time-honored tradition of inter-parliamentary courtesy between the Senate and the House of Representatives — but Romualdez did not attend. "Ever since the Philippine Congress adopted a bicameral system, there has been inter-parliamentary courtesy between the two chambers," Lacson said. He explained that invitations to House members are coursed through the Office of the Speaker in line with this tradition. "That's why inter-parliamentary courtesy is considered a time-honored practice," he added. Lacson was responding to Marcoleta's earlier radio interview urging the panel to invite Romualdez, claiming the latter is "ready to talk" about the flood control controversy.

- [Govt ready for El Niño — Palace](#) (2026-04-27 11:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Monday gave assurances that government agencies are already implementing measures to mitigate the potential impact of El Niño, which could bring below-normal rainfall and dry spells in several parts of the country. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said preparations are underway, particularly in the agriculture and irrigation sectors, as the government anticipates possible water shortages in vulnerable farming areas. “We are experiencing El Niño, it is nothing new, so the DA is ready with concrete measures to address it,” Castro said during a press briefing. She cited ongoing coordination with key agencies, including the DA, which has directed field offices to monitor high-risk agricultural areas and strengthen localized interventions based on historical El Niño data. Castro also said the National Irrigation Administration has been tasked to identify irrigation systems and farming areas that may be affected by reduced water supply, including major facilities such as Magat Dam and the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems. Support agencies such as the Philippine Rice Research Institute and the Bureau of Soils and Water Management are also conducting mapping of rain-fed and irrigated farmlands to guide mitigation efforts. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration earlier said there is a 92 percent chance of a moderate to strong El Niño event developing, with some climate models warning of a possible “super” El Niño that could significantly reduce rainfall and strain water resources.

- [Hold departure order issued against Escudero, alleged bagman](#) (2026-04-27 11:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan's sixth division issued on Monday a precautionary hold departure order against Sen. Francis Escudero and businessman and alleged bagman Maynard Ngu, preventing them from leaving the country. The issuance of the order followed a closed-door hearing on Monday after the Office of the Ombudsman filed the application on Saturday. Under the order, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration was directed to include Escudero and Ngu in its Hold Departure Order list. Both Escudero and Ngu were implicated in the flood control scandal, where they are expected to be charged with plunder offenses. On Thursday, the same order was issued against former Speaker Martin Romualdez who was also linked in anomalous flood control projects.

- [Tillis says he's ready to move ahead with confirming Warsh as Trump's pick as Fed chair](#) (2026-04-27 07:42)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Republican senator who had effectively blocked confirmation of President Donald Trump's pick to lead the Federal Reserve said Sunday he was dropping his opposition after the Department of Justice ended its investigation of the current central bank chair. The announcement by Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina removes a big hurdle to Trump's effort to install Kevin Warsh, a former high-ranking Fed official, in the job in place of Jerome Powell, long under White House pressure to lower interest rates. Tillis' opposition was enough to stall the nomination in the GOP-controlled Senate Banking Committee as Powell neared the scheduled end of his term on May 15. “I am prepared to move on with the confirmation of Mr. Warsh. I think he's going to be a great Fed chair,” Tillis told NBC's “Meet the Press,” two

days after the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia said her office's investigation of the Fed's multibillion-dollar building renovations was over. Powell's brief congressional testimony last summer about that work was also under review. The Fed's internal watchdog is scrutinizing a project, now at \$2.5 billion after earlier estimates had put it at \$1.9 billion, that the Republican president has criticized for cost overruns. Powell had asked in July for the inspector general's review. "I believe that there will not be any wrongdoing. Maybe we find a little stupid here in terms of somebody responsible for the project making a decision they shouldn't? Maybe. But it doesn't rise to a criminal prosecution. That was my problem to begin with because I feel like there were prosecutors in D.C. that thought this was going to be a lever to have Mr. Powell leave early," he said. Tillis, who infuriated Trump in June for opposing his big tax and spending cuts bill over Medicaid reductions and then announced he would not seek reelection in 2026, added that he had received assurances from the Justice Department that "the case is completely and fully settled ... and that the only way an investigation would be opened would be a criminal referral from one of the most respect inspector generals." Important week for Fed leadership

The committee on Saturday said it planned to vote Wednesday on Warsh's nomination. The ranking Democrat, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, responded with a statement that "no Republican claiming to care about Fed independence should support moving forward the nomination of Kevin Warsh, who proved in his nomination hearing to be nothing more than President Trump's sock puppet." Also Wednesday, Fed policymakers will meet and are expected to keep their key interest rate unchanged for the third straight meeting, shrugging off Trump's demands for a cut. At a news conference, Powell could indicate whether he will remain on the Fed's board of governors after his term as chair ends, an unusual but not completely unprecedented step that would deny Trump the opportunity to fill another seat on the seven-member board. Powell's term as a governor lasts until January 2028. At a hearing last week, Warsh told senators he never promised the White House that he would cut interest rates and pledged to be "an independent actor" if confirmed as chair. Hours before that, Trump had been asked in a CNBC interview whether he would be disappointed if Warsh did not immediately cut rates. "I would," the president said. Without the constraints of a political campaign, Tillis has spoken out forcefully about Powell, decrying the inquiry by U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro, a longtime Trump ally, as a "vindictive prosecution" and suggested it threatened the Fed's longtime independence from day-to-day politics. Tillis told NBC that he had gotten assurances from the Justice Department that he needed "to feel like they were not using DOJ as a weapon to threaten the independence of the Fed. So this will allow Mr. Warsh to move on with his confirmation." On Saturday, Trump was asked by reporters whether there was now smooth sailing for Warsh with the end of the Justice Department's investigation. "I imagine it's smooth," Trump said, adding that his nominee "is going to be fantastic." The president said he still wanted to find out "how can a building of that size cost ... whatever it's going to be." Trump visited the Fed building in July and, in front of television cameras, said the renovations would run \$3.1 billion. Powell, standing next to him, said after looking at a paper presented to him by Trump, that the president's latest price tag was incorrect. Justice Department pursues Trump adversaries

The investigation was among several undertaken by the Justice Department into Trump's perceived adversaries. For months it had failed to gain

traction as prosecutors struggled to articulate a basis to suspect criminal conduct. Other efforts by the department to prosecute Trump's adversaries, including New York state Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat, and former FBI Director James Comey, have also been unsuccessful. Last month, a federal judge quashed Justice Department subpoenas issued to the Fed in the investigation, describing their purpose as "to harass and pressure Powell to resign" and open the path for a new chair. A prosecutor handling the Powell case had acknowledged at a closed-door court hearing that the government had not found any evidence of a crime. Pirro said Friday on X that she "will not hesitate to restart a criminal investigation should the facts warrant doing so." The acting attorney general, Todd Blanche, told NBC on Sunday that "there is no doubt that we will investigate" if the inspector general finds evidence of criminal conduct. Warsh is a financier and former member of the Fed's board of governors. Trump nominated him in January.

- [Coco Gauff overcomes vomiting on court to beat Sorana Cirstea in Madrid](#) (2026-04-27 07:33)

MADRID, Spain — Coco Gauff has advanced to the fourth round of the Madrid Open despite falling ill and vomiting on court. Gauff, a finalist in Madrid last year, rallied to beat Sorana Cirstea 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 on Sunday. The American threw up on court in the middle of the second set. "When I actually threw up on the court, that was like a little bit embarrassing," Gauff said.

"Then after that first game and the second, I was like that took everything out of me." On Saturday, fourth-ranked Iga Swiatek withdrew due to an unspecified illness while playing her round-of-32 match against American Ann Li. Gauff said she was determined to carry on her match. "I'm someone who doesn't like to pull out. I don't like to do that unless I really feel like I have no other options," Gauff said. "So the plan was to always just try to finish, even if it ended up with me just playing just to get through it." She recovered from a break down three times before winning the set 7-5. The third-ranked Gauff said she doesn't know how she "got through that," and said she almost threw up in the middle of a point. "I felt fine all this morning. I felt a little weird last night, but I was OK. Woke up this morning, felt fine. And mid-first set, I was feeling like I was going to throw up. And then I did," she said. "They gave me some pills and that definitely helped. After that, once I felt the feeling of throwing up, then I just felt nauseous and tired. I just didn't want to throw up in the middle of the point, which I almost did at one point." Gauff will next meet No. 13 seed Linda Noskova.

- [Fitzpatrick brothers capture PGA Tour's Zurich Classic pairs crown](#) (2026-04-27 07:21)

LOS ANGELES, United States — Brothers Matt and Alex Fitzpatrick surrendered a four-stroke lead but combined to birdie the final hole in a dramatic victory at the PGA Tour's Zurich Classic pairs event on Sunday. The English duo posted a one-under 71 in the final-round alternate shot format in New Orleans, with world number three Matt bagging his second PGA Tour title in as many weeks after winning the RBC Heritage. Alex, a DP World Tour regular, earned PGA Tour playing status through 2028, including an exemption to play in the upcoming PGA Championship, the second men's major of the year. Alex Fitzpatrick, 27, made the winning putt

after Matt fired a bunker shot within two feet of the cup as they finished 31-under par for the tournament. "I'm still shaking," Alex Fitzpatrick said "It was crazy." The duo of Alex Smalley and Hayden Springer and the Norwegian team of Kristoffer Reitan and Kris Ventura shared second place, both teams on 30-under. Reitan and Ventura had seized a share of the lead with an eagle at the 18th, where Reitan's shot into the green left Ventura a seven-foot putt. Smalley and Springer were tied for the lead until a bogey at 17 but birdied 18. The Fitzpatricks had begun the day with a four-stroke advantage and were three-under through their first 11 holes. A double bogey on the 12th and a bogey at 14 saw their lead evaporate. "I felt like we played great for the first 11 holes," Matt Fitzpatrick said. "We were really, really, really steady, really solid and didn't really put a foot wrong." Just the one hole on 12, you've made that, and you quickly are sort of scrambling a little bit. "From then on I felt like I struggled with my game, and I didn't play well. Alex played fantastic. He really sort of managed to keep us in it."

- [Oil firms to lower diesel, kerosene prices on April 28](#) (2026-04-27 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Energy (DOE) on Monday said that diesel and kerosene prices will go down on Tuesday, April 28, but the cost of gasoline will increase. The agency said that diesel prices will be lowered by at least P12.94 per liter, while kerosene prices will drop by at least P15.71 per liter. Gasoline prices will increase by up to P0.53 per liter. Last week, diesel prices declined by P24.94 per liter, gasoline by P3.41 per liter, and kerosene by P2 per liter.

- [VP Sara' s husband files criminal complaint over disclosed bank transactions](#) (2026-04-27 04:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Manases “Mans” Carpio, the husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, filed on Monday criminal complaints before the Quezon City Prosecutor’ s Office against four lawmakers, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) governor and head of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) over the disclosure of the couple’ s “sensitive” bank transactions during a committee hearing at the House of Representatives. Carpio was accompanied by his counsel, Peter Paul Danao, when he submitted his complaint-affidavit. He refused to be interviewed by reporters. Named respondents in his complaint were BSP Governor Eli Remolona Jr., AMLC Executive Director Ronel Buenaventura, and Representatives Gerville Reyes Luistro, Percival Cendaña, Jose Manuel “Chel” Diokno and Leila de Lima. Danao said the respondents were charged with violation of Republic Act 9160 (Anti-Money Laundering Act), RA 1405 (Bank Secrecy Law), and RA 10173 (Data Privacy Act). He said that Carpio strongly objected to the “conspiratorial act of disclosing and divulging to the general public the purported reports of banks to the AMLC concerning their account deposits, withdrawal, bank balances and related records without prior notice nor prior written consent.” During last week's hearing of the House Committee on Justice on the impeachment complaint against the vice president, the AMLC revealed that it received reports of "suspicious" and "covered" bank transactions amounting to P6.77 billion linked to Duterte and Carpio during a period of nearly 20 years. Carpio said in the complaint that the AMLC reports involving his and his wife’ s banking

transactions were sensitive information that should not be disclosed to anyone. “Yet, respondents openly divulged these banking transaction reports in a public hearing before the House Committee on Justice,” he said. Carpio maintained that the respondents “criminally and feloniously” disclosed and unraveled the alleged transaction reports without his consent and despite his objection. Danao said they believed that those involved would be criminally penalized for divulging in public the couple’s bank transactions without their full consent. “The prohibition is absolute. There is no exception. In fact, even the media are not allowed to divulge any bank transaction reports,” he said. “That’s the same law that was passed and enacted by the members of the House of Representatives themselves.”

- [DOH pushes child immunization drive in Metro Manila](#) (2026-04-27 03:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) urged parents to have their children vaccinated against preventable diseases as it marked World Immunization Week. The DOH’s Metro Manila Center for Health Development (MMCHD) launched on Monday an immunization drive targeting 240 individuals, covering measles, polio, pertussis, pneumonia, human papillomavirus for grade 4 female students, and tetanus-diphtheria shots for pregnant women. MMCHD Regional Director Lester Tan told The Manila Times that only about 80 percent of children in Metro Manila were fully immunized last year, still below the World Health Organization’s target of 95 percent coverage. The vaccination initiative will run until 3 p.m. on Monday at the Makabagong San Juan Theater.

- [Pasay residents urged to use masks as Navotas landfill smoke reaches city](#) (2026-04-27 03:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Pasay City Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano urged residents to wear face masks outdoors after smoke from the Navotas landfill fire affected air quality in the city, raising health concerns for children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with heart or lung conditions. Calixto-Rubiano on Monday warned that the smoke may carry harmful chemicals and particulates that could affect public health. Residents were urged to stay indoors as much as possible, keep doors and windows closed, and avoid strenuous outdoor activities while the poor air quality persists. The city government also urged residents to drink plenty of water and seek medical attention if they experience severe breathing difficulties. The Pasay City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office said it was monitoring the situation and coordinating with concerned agencies.

- [Tornadoes in northern Texas leave at least 2 dead and destroy multiple homes](#) (2026-04-27 02:55)

RUNAWAY BAY, Texas — A tornado-producing thunderstorm left at least two people dead in northern Texas and displaced at least 20 families, with many homes sustaining major damage, authorities said Sunday. At least one person was killed and numerous homes were damaged Saturday night in the town of Runaway Bay, said Wise County Judge J.D. Clark, who serves as the county’s chief executive. Emergency responders worked to clear debris to reach damaged

homes and provide medical care where needed, Clark said. "Access has been difficult due to blocked roadways and downed utilities, but crews have continued pushing forward to reach those in need," Clark said. The storm also hit Springtown, where Parker County Assistant Fire Chief David Pruitt said in an email that a second person died south of the city limits. There was "significant damage" in the area, Pruitt said. "One of the most significant ongoing challenges is the widespread power outage affecting many residents," he wrote. National Weather Service teams confirmed that an EF-2 tornado with peak winds of 135 mph (217 kph) touched down in the Runaway Bay area. An EF-1 tornado with peak winds of 105 mph (169 kph) was confirmed in the Springtown area, the weather service said. The slow-moving supercell traveled through the area around 10 p.m. Saturday, said meteorologist Patricia Sanchez with the Fort Worth weather service office. It moved southeast from around Wichita Falls, near the Oklahoma border, passing just west of Fort Worth. Runaway Bay is about 45 miles (72 kilometers) northwest of Fort Worth on Lake Bridgeport. Springtown is about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of Fort Worth. Weather service radar picked up a "potentially large and extremely dangerous" tornado near Azle at 10:14 p.m. Saturday. That's about another 10 miles (16 kilometers) southeast of Springtown.

- [Iran's top diplomat briefly returns to Pakistan but Trump says the sides can talk by phone](#) (2026-04-27 02:31)

ISLAMABAD — Iran's foreign minister briefly visited Islamabad again on Sunday as Pakistan's political and military leadership scrambled to reignite ceasefire negotiations between Tehran and Washington, but U.S. President Donald Trump said they could talk by phone instead. Abbas Araghchi had left Pakistan's capital late the previous day, creating confusion around an expected second round of talks there, but he returned before continuing on to Moscow on Sunday, Iranian state media said. He had been in Oman, which previously mediated talks and is on the other side of the strategic Strait of Hormuz. The White House last week said it would dispatch envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Islamabad to follow up on historic face-to-face talks earlier this month. But shortly after Araghchi's departure Saturday, Trump said he had called off the mission because of a lack of progress with Iran. "If they want, we can talk but we're not sending people," Trump told Fox News on Sunday. He said earlier on social media: "All they have to do is call!!!!" Indirect talks between the two sides were ongoing, two Pakistani officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media. Trump last week indefinitely extended the ceasefire the U.S. and Iran agreed to on April 7 that has largely halted the fighting that began with joint U.S.-Israeli strikes on Feb. 28. But a permanent settlement remains elusive in the war that has killed thousands of people and shaken the global economy. Strait of Hormuz at center of Iran's discussions in Oman A standoff remained on in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which a fifth of all traded oil and natural gas passes, as Iran has restricted movement through it and the U.S. enforces a blockade of Iranian ports. Iran wants to persuade Oman to support a mechanism to collect tolls from vessels passing through the strait according to a regional official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss

the matter. Oman's response wasn't immediately clear. The official, who is involved in mediation efforts, also said Iran insists on ending the U.S. blockade before a new round of talks and that Pakistan-led mediators are trying to bridge significant gaps between the countries. Araghchi also spoke by phone with counterparts in Qatar and Saudi Arabia on Sunday. Even before Saturday's developments, Iran's Foreign Ministry said any talks would be indirect and Pakistani officials would act as go-betweens, reflecting Tehran's wariness after rounds of indirect talks last year and earlier this year ended with Iran being attacked by the U.S. and Israel. Trump said Iran has offered a 'much better' proposal. The economic fallout is growing two months into the war as global shipments of oil, liquefied natural gas, fertilizer and other supplies are disrupted by the near-closure of the strategic strait. Both sides have continued to make military threats. Iran's joint military command Saturday warned that "if the U.S. continues its aggressive military actions, including naval blockades, banditry, and piracy" it will face a "strong response." Trump last week ordered the military to "shoot and kill" small boats that could be placing mines in the waterway. Trump told journalists on Saturday, before a security incident at the White House Correspondents' Dinner, that within 10 minutes of him canceling Witkoff and Kushner's trip to Islamabad, Iran sent a "much better" proposal. He did not elaborate but stressed that one of his conditions is that Iran "will not have a nuclear weapon." The status of Iran's enriched uranium has long been at the center of tensions. Tehran has 440 kilograms (970 pounds) of uranium enriched to 60% purity, a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels, according to the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency. Syed Mohammad Ali, an independent political analyst in Pakistan, said the delay in the talks must not be seen as a setback and that indirect talks were progressing. He said tensions between Washington and Tehran cannot be eased overnight and the negotiation process requires patience. "But the good thing is that the ceasefire is holding, and both sides have a desire to end the conflict in a way that does not backfire at home," Ali said. A growing toll even as fragile ceasefires hold. Since the war began, at least 3,375 people have been killed in Iran and at least 2,509 people in Lebanon, where the Israel-Hezbollah fighting resumed two days after the Iran war started. Also, 23 people have been killed in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states. Fifteen Israeli soldiers in Lebanon, 13 U.S. service members in the region and six U.N. peacekeepers in southern Lebanon have been killed. Another ceasefire — between Israel and the Iranian-backed Lebanese militant Hezbollah group — has been extended by three weeks. Hezbollah has not participated in the Washington-brokered diplomacy. Oil prices rise again as Pakistan talks fail to materialize. Oil prices rose when the market opened Sunday as traders absorbed the news of the stalled ceasefire talks. West Texas Intermediate, the U.S.-produced light, sweet crude, was selling for \$96.50 a barrel Sunday, up 2% since the market closed on Friday. The price was 44% higher than before the start of the Iran war, when oil was selling for about \$67 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, was trading at \$107.75 per barrel Sunday, up about 3% since Friday and 48% since the war began, when oil was selling for \$72 a barrel. Oil prices have risen steadily since the war began and tankers full of crude became stranded in the Persian Gulf, unable to safely transit through the Strait of Hormuz.

- [Head to head: Duterte leads Robredo in OCTA survey](#) (2026-04-27 02:18)

MANILA, Philippines — If the presidential election was held today and the contenders were Vice President Sara Duterte and former vice president and Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo, the former would win, a survey conducted by OCTA Research showed. In its Tugon ng Masa survey held from March 19-25, 2026, OCTA Research said Duterte got 46 percent voter preference while Robredo had 35 percent. At least 19 percent of those surveyed were undecided. OCTA said that the pre-election voter preference survey highlighted Duterte's strength in Mindanao at 88 percent and in Visayas at 53 percent. Duterte also led in socioeconomic class E. Robredo, meanwhile, was strong in the National Capital Region at 52 percent and Balanced Luzon at 47 percent. OCTA said that the head-to-head results showed a "narrower and competitive margin than what was observed in previous quarters." "Compared with earlier survey rounds, the current head-to-head spread suggests a closer and more competitive preference landscape entering 2026," it added. It also said that while Duterte retains a clear advantage in a direct head-to-head scenario, the margin separating the two candidates is no longer as wide as in previous survey periods. "This suggests that while VP Duterte remains ahead, the race appears more competitive in Q1 2026 than in earlier quarters," the pollster said. The survey had 1,200 respondents and a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

- [King Charles state visit to US to go on as planned after shooting](#) (2026-04-27 02:05)

LONDON, United Kingdom — The state visit by Britain's King Charles III to the US would take place as planned, Buckingham Palace said on Sunday, following a shooting at a Washington media gala. The incident late Saturday at the annual dinner of the White House Correspondents' Association came less than 48 hours before Charles and Queen Camilla begin a four-day state visit to the United States. The palace said that Charles was "greatly relieved" that Trump, his wife Melania and other guests were unharmed and later on Sunday said the trip would go on as planned. "The King and Queen are most grateful to all those who have worked at pace to ensure this remains the case and are looking forward to the Visit getting underway tomorrow," it said. Earlier, senior UK minister Darren Jones told British broadcasters during a round of interviews that security teams in Britain and the US were "working closely to ensure the security arrangements are put appropriately in place" for the state visit. It is understood the king and queen reached out privately to the Trumps to express their sympathies with those impacted Saturday night, and to share their gratitude to the security services who prevented further injury. Trump has said one law enforcement officer was shot at close range but appeared not to be critically injured. During the four-day state visit -- organised to honour the historic relationship between Britain and the US as America marks 250 years of independence -- Charles and Camilla will visit Washington and New York. Charles will become the first British monarch to address Congress since his mother, the late queen Elizabeth II, in 1991, while the royal couple will have tea with Trump and Melania and attend a state dinner. Tensions It comes as transatlantic tensions over the Iran war and the Epstein scandal's long shadow threaten to intrude on the landmark visit. Trump has repeatedly lambasted British Prime Minister Keir Starmer over his war opposition, as well as his government's immigration and energy policies. The pair spoke by phone Sunday, when Starmer "extended his best wishes... following

the shocking scenes at last night's White House Correspondents Dinner", Downing Street said. "He expressed his relief that the President and First Lady were safe and wished a speedy recovery to the officer injured," it added. They also discussed "the urgent need to get shipping moving again in the Strait of Hormuz, given the severe consequences for the global economy and cost of living for people in the UK and globally," Starmer's office noted.

- [Warm, humid weather to prevail - Pagasa](#) (2026-04-27 01:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Most parts of the country will have sunny weather in the next 24 hours, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said on Monday. Weather specialist Aldczar Aurelio said the easterlies will bring warm and humid weather in the next two to three days. Aurelio said the easterly winds would also result in cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms in Sorsogon, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Southern Leyte, Dinagat Islands, and Surigao del Norte. Metro Manila will have a heat index of up to 41 degrees Celsius, which is under extreme caution category, while the highest could be recorded in Dumangas, Iloilo at 45 degrees Celsius, which falls under the danger level.

- [Colombia road bombing death toll rises to 20](#) (2026-04-27 01:20)

BOGOTÁ, Colombia — The death toll in a weekend highway bombing in Colombia rose to 20, with another 36 people injured, the local department's governor said Sunday on X. The attack -- which local and national officials are blaming on armed groups -- comes one month before the country holds presidential elections on May 31. Cauca Department Governor Octavio Guzman described the bombing as the area's "most brutal and ruthless attack against the civilian population in decades," adding that it left a crater 200 cubic meters in size. Fifteen women and five men, all adults, were killed, he said. Of the injured, three people remain in intensive care. Five children were also injured but "are out of danger." The massive blast left buses and vans mangled on the Pan-American Highway in the restive southwestern region of Colombia. Several cars were flipped over by the force of the explosion. Military chief Hugo Lopez told a news conference on Saturday that the bomb had exploded after assailants stopped traffic by blocking the road with a bus and another vehicle. "It is a terrorist attack against the civilian population," Lopez said. The attack comes just over one month ahead of national elections, in which voters will pick a successor to leftist President Gustavo Petro. "Those who carried out this attack... are terrorists, fascists and drug traffickers," Petro said on X. "I want our very best soldiers to confront them." Petro blamed the bombing on Ivan Mordisco, the South American country's most-wanted criminal, whom the president has compared to late cocaine kingpin Pablo Escobar. The violence came after a bomb attack Friday on a military base in Cali, Colombia's third-largest city, injured two people and set off a string of attacks in the Valle del Cauca and Cauca departments. According to Lopez, 26 attacks have been recorded in the two departments over the past two days. Authorities have boosted military and police presence in the areas, Defense Minister Pedro Sanchez said Saturday. Colombia has a history of armed groups -- which finance their operations through drug trafficking, illegal mining and extortion -- attempting to influence elections through violence. FARC remnants who rejected a 2016 peace deal with the

government have been actively trying to disrupt stalled peace talks with Petro. Security is one of the central issues of the presidential election. Political violence was brought into sharp focus last June, when young conservative presidential frontrunner Miguel Uribe Turbay was shot in broad daylight while campaigning in the capital Bogota. He died two months later. Leftist Senator Ivan Cepeda, an architect of Petro's controversial policy of negotiating with armed groups, is ahead in polls. He is trailed by right-wing candidates Abelardo de la Espriella and Paloma Valencia, both of whom have pledged to take a hard line against rebel groups. All three have reported receiving death threats and are campaigning under heavy security.

- [Iran minister heads to Russia as talks remain stalled](#) (2026-04-27 01:05)

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Iran's foreign minister headed to Russia on Sunday as peace efforts between Tehran and Washington hung in the balance, following a flurry of regional diplomacy and the collapse of planned talks in Pakistan. Abbas Araghchi visited Oman between trips to Pakistani capital Islamabad and is expected to meet President Vladimir Putin on Monday, according to the Iranian ambassador. On Saturday, US President Donald Trump scrapped a planned trip to Islamabad by his envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner. In a sign that efforts were ongoing, the Fars news agency said Iran had sent "written messages" to the Americans via mediator Pakistan outlining red lines, including nuclear issues and the Strait of Hormuz. Fars said the messages were not part of formal negotiations, however. A ceasefire in the US-Israeli war with Iran has so far held, but its economic shockwaves continued to reverberate globally. Iran has sealed off the strait, cutting flows of oil, gas and fertiliser and sending prices soaring, raising fears of food insecurity in developing countries. Hopes for a second round of talks in Pakistan had centred on a planned visit by Witkoff and Kushner, but Trump cancelled the trip, dismissing it as "sitting around talking about nothing". On Sunday, Trump told Fox News that if Iran wanted the talks, "they can come to us, or they can call us." Trump faces domestic pressure as fuel prices rise following Iran's closure of Hormuz, with midterm elections due in November. Polls show the war is unpopular among Americans. Safe transit Asked whether cancelling signalled renewed fighting, Trump said: "No, it doesn't mean that." On Saturday, Araghchi met Pakistan's military chief Asim Munir, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, before travelling to Oman and returning to Islamabad. He later left for Russia for talks with senior officials, his ministry said. Russian and Iranian state media confirmed Araghchi's talks with Putin, citing officials from their respective governments. Iran's official IRNA news agency quoted Iran's envoy to Moscow, Kazem Jalali, saying they would meet in St Petersburg, Russia's second city. Araghchi himself posted on X that the talks in Oman had focused on ensuring safe transit through Hormuz, "to benefit of all dear neighbors and the world." "Our neighbors are our priority," he added. Pressure to end the war has intensified as the Strait of Hormuz remains closed. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they had no intention of lifting their blockade, which has roiled energy markets. "Controlling the Strait of Hormuz and maintaining the shadow of its deterrent effects over America and the White House's supporters in the region is the definitive strategy of Islamic Iran," the Guards said on their official Telegram channel. The United States has imposed a blockade of Iranian ports in retaliation. In a statement

carried by state media, Iran's military warned that continued US "blockading, banditry and piracy" would draw a response. Israel strikes Lebanon Israel and Hezbollah traded blame over violations of the fragile ceasefire in Lebanon, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying the military was "vigorously" targeting the Iran-backed militia as both sides claimed new attacks. Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the Middle East war on March 2 by firing rockets at Israel to avenge the death of Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei, with Israel responding with strikes and a ground invasion. But claims that both sides have breached a 10-day ceasefire agreed earlier this month have continued. Netanyahu told Sunday's weekly cabinet meeting that Hezbollah's actions were "dismantling the ceasefire" while Hezbollah said it would respond to Israeli violations and its "continued occupation". Lebanon's health ministry said Israeli strikes on the country's south on Sunday killed 14 people, including two women and two children, and wounded 37. The state-run National News Agency reported that Israeli warplanes had struck after evacuation warnings in Kfar Tibnit. An Israeli strike on Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, another of the flagged villages, destroyed a mosque and another religious building, the news agency said. Israel, which reported a soldier killed in combat in south Lebanon, says it can act against "planned, imminent or ongoing attacks". "This means freedom of action not only to respond to attacks...but also to pre-empt immediate threats and even emerging threats," Netanyahu said.

- [6.2 quake on Hokkaido island latest to shake Japan](#) (2026-04-27 00:32)

TOKYO, Japan — A strong earthquake rattled Japan's northern island of Hokkaido early Monday, US and Japanese meteorological agencies reported, the latest in a series of powerful tremors to hit the island nation. The 6.2-magnitude quake struck at 5:23 am (2123 GMT Sunday) in Hokkaido's southern region, at a depth of 83 kilometres (52 miles), the Japanese Meteorological Agency reported, revising its preliminary estimate of magnitude 6.1. No tsunami alert was issued, JMA said, and the US Geological Survey predicted that damage to property and threat to life was minimal, given the limited population in the region some 200 kilometres east of Sapporo. But "in areas that experienced strong shaking, the danger of falling rocks and landslides has increased," a JMA official told reporters. JMA also warned that risks of experiencing more quakes of a similar strength in the area in the coming week are high. Hours earlier, a magnitude 5.0 earthquake occurred in the sea a few hundred kilometres south of Hokkaido. The temblors come less than a week after the JMA warned of an increased risk of a megaquake -- 8.0 magnitude or stronger -- after last Monday's 7.7 earthquake off northern Iwate prefecture. Six people were reported injured as a result of that quake, which shook large buildings in Tokyo, hundreds of kilometres from the epicentre. In addition, 80-centimetre (31-inch) tsunami waves lashed a port in Iwate, while small waves also hit elsewhere in northern Japan. Afterward, the JMA said "the likelihood of a new, huge earthquake occurring is relatively higher than during normal times". Japan is one of the world's most seismically active countries, sitting on top of four major tectonic plates along the western edge of the Pacific "Ring of Fire". The archipelago, home to around 125 million people, typically experiences around 1,500 jolts every year and accounts for about 18 percent of the world's earthquakes. Japan is haunted by the memory of a massive 9.0 magnitude undersea quake in 2011, which triggered a tsunami

that killed or left missing around 18,500 people and caused a devastating meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear plant.

- [2 Americans die in Negros clash](#) (2026-04-26 16:13)

THE National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) has expressed serious concern over reports that two Americans were among 19 people killed in clashes between government troops and the New People's Army (NPA) in Toboso, Negros Occidental, on April 19. In a statement, Undersecretary Ernesto Torres Jr., the NTF-Elcac executive director, identified the US nationals as Lyle Prijoles and Kai Dana-Rene Sorem. The Manila Times has been trying to confirm the authenticity of the report from the Negros provincial police. The US Embassy in Manila did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The American fatalities highlight "the increasing involvement of individuals from outside the Philippines in local armed hostilities," Torres said. Prijoles' personal social media accounts indicate his affiliation with Anakbayan-USA since 2012, where he is believed to have served in various capacities, prior to his presence in the Philippines, Torres said. The Americans were among the 19 New People's Army (NPA) combatants whose identities have been established and whose remains have been turned over to their families, he said. Torres sees a "disturbing convergence on foreign nationals in a live combat setting where the risks are immediate and the consequences irreversible." "We encourage Filipino communities abroad to exercise caution in engagements that may extend beyond lawful advocacy and into areas that carry significant personal risk," he said. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has denied claims that civilians were among the fatalities in the Toboso incident. Earlier reports said a student leader and a local journalist died in the clash. Col. Louie Dema-ala, Philippine Army spokesman, questioned the presence of the youth leaders in the encounter site. Gen. Romeo Brawner, AFP chief, said the University of the Philippines student leader had a belt full of ammunition and was shooting at government troops. The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on Sunday said over a hundred families were displaced by the fighting in Toboso. CHR Chairman Richard Palpal-latoc asked concerned authorities to provide humanitarian assistance to the families. The commission expressed grave concern over the incident where student leader Alyssa Alano and community journalist RJ Nichole Ledesma were killed. Palpal-latoc said the agency is investigating the incident. "Information from local human rights advocates prompted coordination with civil society organizations, local authorities, and security forces, including working with the families for the retrieval of the remains," he said. Citing inconsistencies over the identities of those killed, the CHR said that while the military maintains that all the casualties were members of an armed group, other organizations claim that Alano and Ledesma were civilians engaged in community work. "Either of the claims requires thorough, independent verification. Determination of status, circumstances of engagement, and proportionality must be based on verifiable facts and due process," said Palpal-latoc. Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima called for a congressional probe on the Toboso incident. "Beyond the question of whether the military operation was legitimate, there are serious allegations of violations that led to the deaths of 19 individuals, and we must

investigate what truly transpired to find clarity and the truth,” de Lima, a former justice secretary and former CHR chairman, said in a statement. “We will file a resolution at the House to immediately investigate and answer our many questions about this incident,” she said in Filipino. Because of the high number of casualties, the operations carried out by the Philippine Army’s 79th Infantry Battalion in Toboso “warrant an urgent investigation,” de Lima said. Military officials said the clash erupted as army troops responded to information provided by villagers about the presence of suspected rebels and that a rebel commander with a bounty of P1 million on his head was killed. A soldier was wounded in the fighting. Troops seized 24 firearms at the scene of the clashes, and an unspecified number of fleeing guerrillas were captured, the task force said. At its peak decades ago, the insurgent force had an estimated 25,000 fighters, who waged one of Asia’s longest-running communist rebellions. Battle defeats, factional divisions and surrenders, however, have reduced the number of rebels to below 900, according to security officials. Peace talks brokered by Norway collapsed under the previous president, Rodrigo Duterte, after both sides accused the other of continuing deadly attacks despite the negotiations. With REINA TOLENTINO and THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

• [Mans Carpio to file criminal complaint over disclosed bank transactions](#) (2026-04-26 16:11)

MANASES “Mans” Carpio, the husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, is expected to file on Monday, April 27, a criminal complaint before the Quezon City Prosecutor’s Office against four lawmakers, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) governor and head of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) over the couple’s “sensitive” bank transactions divulged during a House committee hearing. Carpio said there is “prima facie” evidence to charge BSP Governor Eli Remolona Jr., AMLC Executive Director Ronel Buenaventura, and Representatives Gerville Reyes Lustrero, Percival Cendaña, Jose Manuel “Chel” Diokno and Leila de Lima, and several unnamed respondents. Carpio’s lawyer, Peter Paul Danao, said the respondents would be facing charges in violation of Republic Act 9160 (Anti-Money Laundering Act), RA 1405 (Bank Secrecy Law), and RA 10173 (Data Privacy Act). “It is indisputable that the AMLC reports involving my and my wife VP Sara’s banking transactions are sensitive information that cannot be disclosed to anyone,” Carpio said. “Yet, respondents openly divulged these banking transaction reports in a public hearing before the House Committee on Justice,” he said. He maintained that he and his wife did not consent to any public disclosure of the “absolutely confidential AMLC reports, much less the alleged bank transactions” cited by the respondents. Carpio said the respondents have “criminally and feloniously” disclosed and unraveled the alleged transaction reports without his consent and despite his objection. The public disclosure of alleged bank transaction reports of his and his wife from 2006 to 2025 was “for pure propaganda purposes,” Carpio said. Danao said his client strongly objects to the “conspiratorial act of disclosing and divulging to the general public the purported reports of banks to the AMLC concerning their account deposits, withdrawal, bank balances and related records without prior notice nor prior written consent.” “The prohibition is absolute. There is no exception. In fact, even the media are not authorized to divulge bank transaction reports,” the lawyer said.

- [Marcos vows unhampered services amid crisis](#) (2026-04-26 16:10)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. reassured Filipinos of the government's round-the-clock work despite the challenges the country is experiencing because of the war in the Middle East. In his latest vlog, Marcos reiterated his administration's commitment to continuously provide social services meant to alleviate the lives of Filipinos. "You know, even though our energy crisis is severe, the government's work cannot stop there. The construction of streets and roads continues; the caring for the sick and students continues; the eradication of crime cannot stop, nor can the support for our athletes, culture, art, and tourism," he said. "We will not allow the services provided by the government to be paralyzed, regardless of the problems that lie ahead," he said. One initiative the government is focused on is shelter. The president said that through the Pambansang Pabahay para Pilipino Program, or 4PH, the housing gap would be narrowed and more Filipinos would have homes they could truly call their own. One of the latest 4PH sites Marcos inspected is the township project in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija. Covering 23 hectares, the Palayan township is a vertical housing community that blends residential buildings with open spaces and shared facilities. Once completed, it will provide housing for 22,596 beneficiaries. Units are priced at about P1.3 million for 29 sqm, with no down payment and an affordable monthly amortization ranging from P3,500 to P4,000 — making homeownership attainable even for minimum wage earners. "For those who still lack housing, we will find a way to provide housing for everyone who needs it," Marcos said.

- [Connectivity project links 5,000 public schools](#) (2026-04-26 16:09)

ABOUT 5,776 public schools nationwide will enjoy satellite-based internet connectivity following the partnership of Data Lake Inc. and We Are IT Philippines Inc. The project integrates nationwide deployment capability with end-to-end connectivity management — from system design and installation to monitoring and support, ensuring consistent, scalable and accountable delivery across all sites. Data Lake, the first and largest authorized Starlink partner in the country, said the initiative followed a rigorous government procurement process, which adheres to national standards for transparency and accountability in public infrastructure initiatives. With the issuance of the Notice to Proceed by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the project has commenced, with the joint venture partners confirming operational responsibilities and transitioning into nationwide implementation. All installations have complied with Terms of Reference (TOR) requirements and safety standards to ensure operational reliability across all deployment sites. Stressing that universal internet access is a critical enabler of education and opportunity, DICT Secretary Henry Aguda said the project would provide a standardized, enterprise-grade connectivity solution across Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Area (GIDA) communities. Aguda said the DICT has been expanding the "Free Wi-Fi for All Program" under Republic Act 10929 to reach unserved GIDA schools. Each deployment kit includes a complete, end-to-end connectivity and infrastructure package designed for reliable operation in remote environments. At its core is the LEO satellite terminal, including Starlink systems, delivering high-speed, low-latency internet access. The systems are supported by a cloud-managed router

and a Wi-Fi 6 access point configuration to enable stable and extended wireless coverage across school facilities. According to Data Lake, the system is complemented by secure equipment housing, structured cabling, mounting systems, and weatherproofing to ensure durability across varying site conditions. Free Wi-Fi signage and user instruction materials are also installed on-site to support accessibility, proper usage and community awareness, it said. To address power instability in geographically isolated areas, each site is equipped with an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) and power distribution components to provide surge protection and backup power. DICT director Edgar Navarro expressed confidence in the success of the project. “We’ve been waiting for this moment so that we can actually start the implementation of this project. It’s been a month or two that we’re preparing this project,” Navarro said. Marcelino Veloso III also hailed the partnership of Data Lake and We Are IT Philippines as an unprecedented collaboration. “I don’t think any project has gone through this length of connectivity in our country’s history. There were a lot of sleepless nights. The draft of the TOR, all the way to the contract, the procurement process, there was tight integration,” Veloso said. “For us, this is not just about winning a project. It’s actually part of our mission and vision. It’s really a partnership between public and private. The children are the future of our country,” David Tanael said. Data Lake said satellite connectivity installation and activations have been fully completed for Lots 1, 2, and 3 as of April, successfully connecting 3,786 public school sites across the country. The final deployment for Lot 4 will link the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to the system. By expanding reliable internet access in remote communities, Data Lake said the Pialeos (Provision of Internet Access via Low Earth Orbit Satellites) project strengthens digital learning, improves access to educational resources, and supports more inclusive school connectivity across the country.

- [Imee Marcos seeks BSKE postponement to 2027](#) (2026-04-26 16:08)

SEN. Imee Marcos filed Senate Bill (SB) 2067 seeking to move the November 2026 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) to October 2027 amid the oil crisis caused by the Middle East war. The senator on Sunday warned that soaring travel costs could bar Filipinos from going to the poll centers. She said that the BSKE is “vital to grassroots democracy,” but the current economic conditions could threaten voter turnout. “The oil crisis has triggered significant increases in transportation fares, creating a serious risk of disenfranchisement, especially for voters registered outside their residence and marginalized sectors already struggling with the cost of living,” Marcos said. She said that a postponement would give voters “more time to transfer their registrations, allowing them to update records and avoid expensive travel come election day.” She also cited the “fiscal strain” of the polls as the P16 billion budget of the Commission on Elections for the BSKE “excludes additional funding” required for support from the Philippine National Police, Department of Education, and local government units. “These funds may be better directed toward urgent needs such as economic relief, basic services, and crisis response,” Marcos said. The delay would ensure continuity in local leadership, allowing barangay (village) officials to remain focused on community concerns amid ongoing economic challenges. The senator raised concern that the election will “fall exactly on

All Souls' Day, when travel demand spikes and fares and fuel prices are expected to rise, adding financial strain on families going to the provinces." "All Souls' Day is important for Filipinos to pay their respects to the dead, but because of increasing travel expenses, it may discourage others to go home, let alone to vote," Marcos said.

- [CSC tightens gambling ban for govt workers](#) (2026-04-26 16:06)

THE Civil Service Commission (CSC) has issued a new rule that totally bans government officials and personnel from engaging in all forms of gambling. CSC Chairman Marilyn Barua-Yap said on Sunday the agency approved a resolution on the Policy on the Prohibition of Gambling among Government Officials and Employees. It covers all officials and employees of the national government, local government units, autonomous regional governments, state and local universities and colleges, and government-owned or -controlled corporations with original charters. "Involvement in gambling may expose public servants to financial vulnerability and conflicts of interest, which can undermine impartiality and erode public trust," Barua-Yap said. Under the new measure, gambling refers to any game played for money or value in which the outcome depends wholly or chiefly on chance, or the use of any mechanical device or contrivance to determine by chance the winner or loser of money. The prohibited acts include entering, staying in, or participating in gambling activities in casinos, gambling houses, or similar establishments — whether land-based or sea-based — within or outside the Philippines, even if such establishments are licensed. Engaging in online or electronic gambling, including online casinos, e-bingo, e-sabong, and internet-based betting using any device, was totally banned. The promotion or facilitation of these activities is also prohibited. The CSC said participating in any other gambling activity — whether traditional, informal, private, social, cultural, or newly emerging — is forbidden, and organizing or facilitating such activities is also disallowed. Activities conducted exclusively for charitable, civic, or public welfare purposes — as well as games not prohibited by law — remain allowed, as long as "participation does not create any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest," Barua-Yap said. Violations may be reported by officials, employees, clients, or the public through the CSC Contact Center ng Bayan or other complaint referral systems. Anonymous reports will be processed in accordance with existing rules. A violator gets a reprimand for the first offense, suspension for the second offense, and dismissal from the service would be slapped for the third offense. Barua-Yap said the policy is anchored on the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees (Republic Act 6713), the Administrative Code of 1987 (Executive Order 292), relevant jurisprudence, and prior directives prohibiting casino entry and related gambling activities.

- [Abandoned parcels at NAIA yield P6.8M illegal drugs](#) (2026-04-26 16:05)

CUSTOMS authorities dealt a major blow to cross-border drug trafficking syndicates after intercepting P6.8 million worth of illegal drugs inside abandoned inbound parcels at the Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said over the weekend that the operation exposed another attempt by international drug syndicates to exploit the country's mail system. Customs officers

uncovered 4,231 grams of dried leaves suspected to be Kush marijuana, with an estimated street value of P6.34 million, along with 325 pink tablets believed to be 'ecstasy' or MDMA worth about P487,500. The drugs were cleverly concealed in parcels falsely declared as everyday items such as “Mama Cake Durian,” “Dog Food,” and “Science Dino-Bot” — a tactic commonly used to evade detection. The shipments originated from Thailand, the United States, and the Netherlands, and were bound for recipients in various parts of Luzon and Mindanao. Despite being abandoned by their consignees, the packages did not escape scrutiny. Authorities flagged the shipments through profiling and inspection, ultimately uncovering the concealed contraband. The interdiction was carried out by the NAIA Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group, in close coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), highlighting the growing synergy among agencies in combating drug smuggling. All confiscated substances have been turned over to the PDEA Laboratory Service for confirmatory testing and proper disposition, while legal proceedings are underway against those behind the shipments. Violators face charges under Section 4, Article II of Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. BOC-NAIA District Collector Yasmin Obillos-Mapa said that the bureau remains relentless in tightening border controls, particularly in high-risk entry points such as international mail facilities. Officials stressed that even abandoned parcels are not beyond the reach of authorities, and attempts to smuggle illegal drugs — no matter how disguised — will be uncovered. With smuggling tactics becoming increasingly sophisticated, the Bureau of Customs vowed to enhance intelligence, inspection, and inter-agency coordination to safeguard the public and keep dangerous drugs off Philippine shores.

- [Expert cites obstacles in drawing of SCS code](#) (2026-04-26 16:05)

A FILIPINO political scientist and security analyst said efforts to finalize a Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea continued to face significant hurdles, despite intensified negotiations led by the Philippines during its Asean chairmanship. Speaking at a forum organized by Manila-based think tank Asian Center for Peace and Security Studies Inc. (ACPSSI) over the weekend, Rommel Banlaoi said negotiators had been holding almost monthly meetings across the region — including in Cebu, Singapore and Bangkok — in a bid to produce a draft COC for possible approval during the Asean leaders summit later this year. “They are discussing heavily the legal character of the COC — whether it is binding or non-binding — the geographic scope, the activities to be covered, and most importantly, the dispute settlement mechanism,” Banlaoi said. Despite the accelerated pace, he said he was “not very optimistic anymore about the conclusion of the COC because I see real obstacles,” among them competing national interests among Asean member states. Banlaoi said that as this year’s Asean chairman, the Philippines had been trying to broker a consensus among countries with “colliding national interests,” while working with fellow Asean members Singapore and Malaysia under the troika mechanism to push negotiations forward. Even if an agreement were reached, he said it might fall short of expectations. “If there will be any conclusion at all, it may be a middle ground,” Banlaoi said. But even a “soft” or less binding arrangement could still be an important step toward maintaining peace in the disputed waterway. He noted that while there was mutual

interest among claimant states, particularly the Philippines and China, to pursue cooperation, legal and political constraints remained substantial. Under Philippine law, Banlaoi said, there was no explicit framework for “joint development,” only for joint ventures structured through contracts that could imply recognition of Philippine sovereignty — a condition Beijing has been reluctant to accept. “The devil is always in the details,” he said. Banlaoi said domestic political pressures in both countries, along with the influence of external powers, could further complicate the quest for an agreement. “At the end of the day, the success of any agreement will boil down to domestic politics,” he said. “Remove domestic political factors and external pressures, and the Philippines and China can develop natural gas and oil. But the reality on the ground is different.” He said Manila needs to take decisive steps to manage both internal opposition and external geopolitical pressures if it hoped to push negotiations forward. The Philippines has been aiming for a draft COC within its Asean chairmanship. ACPSSI President Herman Tiu Laurel blamed obstacles to the negotiations in part to policy positions taken by then foreign secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. Laurel said Locsin had insisted on a non-negotiable condition that any COC must involve third-party powers such as the United States. Laurel said Locsin’s view was not shared by the majority of Asean members and China, which prefer limiting the involvement of external actors. Tiu Laurel said recent shifts toward a more independent foreign policy, reinforced by a “white paper” issued by retired Philippine ambassadors calling for “balanced diplomacy” and non-alignment, could accelerate the pace of negotiations.

- [Retired officers planning to grab power – Lacson](#) (2026-04-26 16:05)

(UPDATE) SOME “retired officers” are planning to grab power amid the controversies involving President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said on Sunday. Former representative Zaldy Co had linked Marcos to the flood control fund scandal, while Duterte is facing impeachment proceedings for alleged unexplained wealth. The senator said he received information that the unidentified retired officers are recruiting supporters within the Armed Forces of the Philippines for a possible military-backed “people power revolution.” “There is definitely an attempt but this is outside the AFP. Those behind this could only recruit a few, if at all, from inside the AFP,” Lacson said in a radio interview. “My contacts in the Philippine National Police (PNP) say there is no indication this ‘movement’ will snowball. But definitely there is an attempt, mostly by retired officers,” he said in Filipino and English. Lacson served in the uniformed services from 1971 to 2001, in both the AFP and PNP. He served as PNP chief from 1999 to 2001. However, the Senate president pro tempore believes that the planned takeover would not succeed because the AFP is a professional organization. “So long as the AFP is professional, and I would like to believe it is, there is no compelling reason to have a military junta or another People Power revolution,” he said. Last year, Lacson rejected the idea of a military-backed “reset” or junta amid public outrage over corruption issues. Lacson in November 2025 confirmed that some retired military officers had approached him to be part of a “transition council” to change the government, but he declined. In rejecting unconstitutional changes of leadership, he pointed out that under

the 1987 Constitution, the succession of leadership ends with the House speaker. Lacson said this was why he filed last year his “Designated Survivor” bill that extends the line of succession to include the most senior Senate and House member. The hit Netflix series “Designated Survivor” followed the story of a low-level US Cabinet official who becomes President of the United States after a catastrophic bombing during the State of the Union address kills everyone ahead of him in the line of succession.

- [Over 115K jobs up for grabs on Labor Day fairs](#) (2026-04-26 16:04)

MORE than 115,000 job opportunities await Filipino employment seekers as the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) rolls out nationwide job fairs for the Labor Day celebration on May 1, 2026, one of the largest coordinated hiring events in recent years. The initiative will bring together job seekers and employers under one roof, in several venues nationwide. As of April 23, DOLE has identified at least 88 job fair venues nationwide, most of them strategically located in major malls and accessible public spaces to ensure convenience, high foot traffic, and wider reach. Labor officials said the number of job vacancies currently stands at 115,358, offered by 1,280 participating local employers. These figures are still expected to rise as more companies confirm their participation in the days leading up to Labor Day. Opportunities span a wide range of industries, reflecting both traditional and emerging labor demands. Among the sectors with the highest number of openings are wholesale and retail trade, manufacturing, construction, business process outsourcing (BPO), and accommodation and food services. In retail, companies are urgently hiring stock clerks and sales associates to meet growing consumer demand. The manufacturing sector is seeking production operators and factory workers, while the construction industry continues to require skilled workers, such as carpenters, foremen, and steelmen, in ongoing infrastructure projects. The BPO sector remains a major employer, with thousands of openings for customer service representatives, while the hospitality industry is ramping up hiring for service crew, line cooks, and baristas as tourism and dining activities rebound. DOLE underscored that the nationwide job fairs support the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in addressing unemployment and poverty by accelerating job matching and reintegrating workers into productive sectors of the economy. Job seekers are encouraged to seize the opportunity being offered at the one-day hiring processes in several sites, with some employers expected to conduct on-the-spot interviews and even issue immediate job offers to qualified candidates. To streamline the application process, job seekers are advised to come prepared with multiple copies of their resumes, valid identification cards, and other necessary documents. In the National Capital Region alone, several major venues will host job fairs on May 1, including SMX Convention Center, Robinsons Manila, Ayala Malls Circuit Makati, and the Quezon City MICE Center, among others, with additional schedules extending into May in select locations. Similar large-scale job fair activities will take place in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, covering key cities and provinces — from Baguio and Laoag to Cebu, Davao, and General Santos — ensuring that opportunities are accessible even outside Metro Manila. Some regions have also scheduled extended or follow-up job fairs beyond May 1, signaling sustained efforts to connect job seekers with employers beyond the Labor Day

celebration. The 124th Labor Day carries the theme “Disenteng Trabaho para sa Lahat: Iisang Hangarin, Bagong Pilipinas Sama-samang Mararating,” reinforcing the government’s push for inclusive growth and quality employment for all Filipinos. With thousands of vacancies waiting to be filled, DOLE is urging the public to seize the opportunity, emphasizing that the nationwide job fairs are not just a celebration — but a concrete pathway to employment and economic recovery.

- [Recruitment of Filipinos for overseas wars alarms BI](#) (2026-04-26 16:03)

THE Bureau of Immigration (BI) has raised the alarm over a trend of recruiting Filipino men online to work as soldiers abroad under deceptive and high-risk schemes. The Immigration Protection and Border Enforcement Section (I-Probes) issued the warning following a series of interceptions at the country’s major airports in recent weeks as authorities intensify efforts to curb human trafficking and illegal recruitment to protect Filipinos from exploitation overseas. In a report to Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado, the I-Probes said that on March 31, a 52-year-old Filipino was stopped at NAIA Terminal 3 after attempting to leave the country disguised as a tourist. Immigration officers grew suspicious after spotting inconsistencies in his statements during primary inspection. The victim was referred to the I-Probes, where he eventually admitted the real purpose of his trip: he had been recruited to serve in a foreign military. The victim, an army reservist, said recruiters contacted him through Facebook and instructed him to pose as a tourist to avoid detection. He was lured by a lucrative offer — a monthly salary of \$2,500 and a hefty \$25,000 signing bonus. Just a day later, two more men, aged 38 and 39, were intercepted at Clark International Airport before boarding a flight to Bangkok. Initially claiming they were on vacation, the pair later confessed they had also been recruited online to work as soldiers abroad. They were promised \$1,500 in monthly pay and a \$30,000 joining bonus. Recruiters contacted them through a Facebook group and continued communication via WhatsApp, directing them to travel to Thailand and await further instructions. On April 5, two more victims, aged 49 and 50, were stopped at NAIA Terminal 3 while attempting to depart via Ethiopia on a similar arrangement. On April 12, another 51-year-old man was intercepted at NAIA Terminal 1 after attempting to leave for China, also under the guise of tourist travel but ultimately bound for military work abroad. Authorities said these cases point to a coordinated and dangerous recruitment network exploiting social media platforms to lure Filipinos into potentially life-threatening roles in undisclosed locations. Extreme danger Viado warned that such schemes place victims in extreme danger, with little to no protection or legal safeguards. “Our officers remain vigilant in detecting these schemes at our borders. These interceptions likely saved lives,” Viado said, stressing that the promises of high pay and bonuses are often used to mask the real risks involved. He described the trend as “deeply alarming,” noting that recruiters deliberately obscure key details about the job, including the exact location, nature of duties, and legal status of employment. The BI urged the public to exercise extreme caution when encountering overseas job offers — especially those involving “security” or “military” roles that lack proper documentation or are arranged informally through social media. All intercepted individuals will be turned over to

the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking for assistance, while authorities are working to track down and prosecute those behind the recruitment network.

- [Marina extends expiry of documents for seafarers](#) (2026-04-26 16:02)

THE Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) has issued a 90-day extension for the expired or expiring credentials of Filipino seafarers currently unable to disembark due to the security crisis in the Middle East. The measure applies to Seafarer's Record Books (SRBs), Seafarer's Identification and Record Books (SIRBs), and Seafarer's Identity Documents (SIDs). The extension is automatic for documents expiring on or before June 30, 2026, removing the need for individual applications. Marina moved to ease the burden on seafarers who continue to serve at sea under difficult and uncertain conditions, ensuring that documentary requirements do not add pressure to those already delayed onboard due to circumstances beyond their control. Shipping companies, ship owners, and Licensed Manning Agencies (LMAs) must report all covered cases to Marina through mds@marina.gov.ph. Meanwhile, authorized company representatives or vessel masters must sign all submissions and follow the prescribed format under Annex 1 of Marina Advisory 2026-21. Marina Administrator Sonia Malaluan emphasized the urgency and human focus of the agency's response. "Our seafarers are trapped in a situation they did not choose, far from their families and unsure of when they can finally come home. We act not just as a regulator, but as a government that stands with them in their most difficult moments," Malaluan said. "This extension gives them breathing space and assures them that Marina is with them every step of the way," she added. Marina reaffirmed its commitment to protect Filipino seafarers deployed worldwide and to respond swiftly to crises that affect their safety, welfare, and dignity at sea.

- [Thai police arrest Indonesian wanted for \\$10M cyberfraud](#) (2026-04-26 15:07)

BANGKOK, THAILAND — Police in Thailand have arrested an Indonesian who allegedly defrauded Americans of about \$10 million, Thai authorities said Sunday, adding that they will extradite him to the United States. The 33-year-old Indonesian man was arrested on Friday at a luxury resort in the coastal town of Phuket after a tip-off from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Suriya Pounsombat of the national immigration police told AFP. The FBI had informed Thai authorities that the suspect left Dubai and travelled to the Southeast Asian nation on Wednesday, according to Suriya. After his arrest, the man was sent to an immigration detention centre in the capital Bangkok and was awaiting extradition to the United States, he said. "The FBI said he was wanted for committing fraud against Americans of about \$10 million," he added. The FBI did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment on Sunday. Another Thai immigration police officer told local media that the suspect allegedly hired models to lure targets into phony investment schemes over video calls, dating apps and social media, and he managed the scams from the United Arab Emirates. Southeast Asia has emerged as a hotspot for cyberscam operations in recent years, with organised criminal groups using casinos, hotels and fortified compounds in the region as bases to carry out sophisticated online cons. Cyberscammers have defrauded victims around the world of tens of billions of dollars

annually, often through fake cryptocurrency investments and phony romantic relationships. But fraudsters and their associates are also believed to have expanded outside the region. According to a 2025 report from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, foreign workers in the UAE have been "lured into scam work in Southeast Asia", suggesting "Dubai is becoming a global hub for recruitment and trafficking linked to the cyber-enabled fraud industry". The UAE, the report adds, "have been targeted as a base for individuals involved in the laundering of funds acquired through illicit online activity, many of whom have purchased property in Dubai".

- [Gauff overcomes stomach bug to beat Cirstea in Madrid](#) (2026-04-26 14:46)

MADRID, SPAIN — Coco Gauff became the latest victim of the stomach virus that has been sweeping through the draw at the Madrid Open but the ailing American still found a way to beat Sorana Cirstea 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 on Sunday and reach the round of 16. Several players have been struggling with illness in the Spanish capital this week, including Iga Swiatek, who was forced to retire from her match against Ann Li on Saturday, and Marin Cilic, who had to withdraw ahead of his second-round meeting with Joao Fonseca on Friday. Liudmila Samsonova also pulled out of the tournament on Sunday citing illness ahead of her third-round match with Linda Noskova. Gauff vomited in a bin on the court during her clash with Cirstea, and asked for a medical timeout during the latter stages of the match before she completed the win in two hours and 21 minutes. "Yeah, I don't know, honestly (how I got through that)," said Gauff, who will face Noskova in the last 16. "I was just trying to finish the match and one point turned into another. I think I got what everybody else is having here in Madrid, unfortunately. So, I'm just going to try to push through for tomorrow." A runner-up to Aryna Sabalenka in the Spanish capital 12 months ago, Gauff has 3,300 points to defend on clay from Madrid through to her Roland Garros title defence in early June. "I pulled out in Indian Wells. I'm not someone who likes to pull out, so I didn't want to pull out again today. So, I'm glad that I was able to get through it," added the two-time Grand Slam champion. "I did start to feel better, not feeling like I had to throw up. They gave me some pills, so that definitely helped." But I was really tired... The first part was literally just trying to keep whatever I ate down. Once they gave me something to help with that, then I was just nauseous and tired. But I can deal with that."

- [Israel PM says Hezbollah 'dismantling' ceasefire with Lebanon](#) (2026-04-26 14:41)

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday said Hezbollah's actions were threatening the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon, as he pledged to "vigorously" target the Iran-backed group. "It must be understood that Hezbollah's violations are, in practice, dismantling the ceasefire," Netanyahu said during a weekly cabinet meeting. Under the terms of the truce, which was recently extended, Israel reserves the right to respond to "planned, imminent or ongoing attacks" and has been striking targets in south Lebanon almost every day. "We are acting vigorously in accordance with arrangements agreed with the United States and, incidentally, also with Lebanon," Netanyahu said. "This means freedom of action not only to respond to attacks, which is obvious, but also to pre-empt immediate threats and even emerging threats." Shortly after Netanyahu's remarks, the Israeli military said it had intercepted

three drones before they could enter Israeli territory. Earlier on Sunday, the Israeli military issued evacuation orders for residents of seven villages in south Lebanon ahead of planned strikes targeting Hezbollah positions. Lebanon's National News Agency reported multiple strikes on villages in the south on Sunday, particularly in the village of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah where "an Israeli enemy drone hit a motorcycle". The agency also reported shelling on several border villages since early Sunday. Lebanon's health ministry said seven people were killed on Saturday in Israeli strikes, revising upwards an earlier toll of six. US President Donald Trump had on Thursday announced that a 10-day ceasefire which began on April 17 had been extended for three weeks. Tehran-backed Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the Middle East war on March 2 by firing rockets at Israel to avenge the death of Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei in US-Israeli strikes. Israel responded with airstrikes and a ground invasion in southern Lebanon.

- [Gunman planned to target top Trump officials — attorney general](#) (2026-04-26 14:36)

WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES — Investigators on Sunday said the gunman who tried to storm a gala dinner attended by US President Donald Trump planned to target top government officials, as scrutiny grew over the event's security. Trump, who was rushed out of the hotel ballroom in Washington by Secret Service agents, posted surveillance camera footage of the gunman attempting to sprint past a security checkpoint as guards drew their weapons. After an exchange of gunfire, the suspect was detained at the scene and was being questioned Sunday before he is due to appear in court on Monday. "He's not actively cooperating. I expect that he will be formally charged tomorrow morning in federal court in Washington," acting US Attorney General Todd Blanche told CBS's "Face The Nation." "We do believe, based upon just a very preliminary start to understanding what happened, that he was targeting members of the administration." Blanche added no further motive was known for the attack, confirming the suspect -- who was armed with a shotgun, handgun and knives -- was staying at the Washington Hilton hotel where the black-tie dinner was held on Saturday evening. "We believe that he traveled by train from Los Angeles to Chicago, and then from Chicago to Washington," Blanche said. "It appears he purchased these firearms in the past couple years." Attendees dove under tables in chaotic scenes as Secret Service agents swarmed into the glitzy White House Correspondents' Association dinner, held annually in the US capital. Crowded into the ballroom were Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, Vice President JD Vance, several cabinet members and top lawmakers, and hundreds of guests in black tie.

- [Inside the world's largest art heist when over \\$500M of paintings were stolen from a Boston museum](#) (2026-04-26 14:21)

BOSTON, AP — For decades, the 1990 theft of 13 artworks from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum — now valued at more than \$500 million — has remained unsolved. It remains the largest art theft in history — far surpassing more recent museum thefts, including a daylight heist at the Louvre that involved far fewer works and was resolved more quickly. In 2013, the FBI said it knew who was responsible for the Boston museum heist but declined to name them, fueling speculation that persists today. A former FBI agent who led the investigation for more

than two decades is now offering the first detailed account of how investigators reached that conclusion — and publicly identifying the men he believes were involved. In a new book, Geoff Kelly traces how the artworks moved through criminal networks, where violence took the lives of key suspects and witnesses, and challenges long-circulating theories by revisiting key details. The irony at the center is that Gardner's intention was for the museum to remain frozen in time, stipulating in her will that nothing in the Venetian palazzo-inspired building would be changed after her death. Gardner, who lived in the museum and died there in 1924, intended for the paintings, sculptures and architectural fragments to remain exactly as she had arranged. The empty gilded frames of the missing paintings still hang in the museum today — silent witnesses to what was taken.

- [Iran's foreign minister returns to Pakistan as Islamabad races to save negotiations with US](#)
(2026-04-26 14:17)

ISLAMABAD, AP — Iran's foreign minister arrived in Islamabad again on Sunday as Pakistan's political and military leadership scrambled to reignite ceasefire talks between Tehran and Washington. Abbas Araghchi had left Pakistan's capital late Saturday, creating confusion around an expected second round of talks, but he returned to Islamabad before continuing on to Moscow, Iranian state media said. He had been in Oman, which previously mediated talks and is located on the other side of the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Two Pakistani officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the efforts, did not say when the Americans might return to the region to follow up on historic face-to-face talks earlier this month. The White House on Friday said it would dispatch envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Islamabad for a second round of talks. But shortly after Araghchi's departure was reported, President Donald Trump said he had called off the mission because of a lack of progress with Iran. "They can call us anytime they want," he said. Trump last week indefinitely extended the ceasefire that U.S. and Iran agreed to on April 7 that has largely halted the fighting that began with joint U.S.-Israeli strikes on Feb. 28. But a permanent settlement remains elusive in the war that has killed thousands of people and shaken the global economy.

- [Getting the most out of barrier-free tours for yourself or someone with a disability](#)
(2026-04-26 14:03)

BERLIN, GERMANY — For people living with disabilities, barriers to tourism can range from the obvious — such as an out-of-service elevator — to the unseen, like an outing that's too long or a setting that's too loud. As the baby boom generation ages, the travel industry is increasingly catering to older adults with the time and money to sightsee internationally and who sometimes need additional assistance. Truly inclusive accessibility, though, accommodates a much greater range of tourists, from individuals with physical disabilities to people with autism or dementia. To better serve visitors with visible or invisible disabilities, museums and other cultural institutions worldwide have added specialized guides and barrier-free tours, some made possible by advances in technology. These include sign-language tours for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, touch-based events for guests with blindness or low vision, and

programs designed for people on the autism spectrum. Tourism agencies dedicated to serving disabled travelers have sprung up, too. Offering barrier-free tours shows people with disabilities they are welcome in cultural spaces, said Ashley Grady, an accessibility program specialist at the Office of Visitor Accessibility of Washington's Smithsonian Institution. The services are a way of saying, "we've thought of you," Grady said. "We want you to come to our museums. We want you to see yourselves reflected in our staff and our collections. And we want to make these programs as accessible as possible for you, your family, your loved ones, your friends." Still, gaps remain. Ivor Ambrose, managing director of the nonprofit European Network for Accessible Tourism, said there's a continuing lack of awareness around the different levels of accessibility that travelers need. "This is actually a really big market and an opportunity, which is still not fulfilled by the operators in all these different areas of tourism," he said. Here is advice from several experts about how to take advantage of barrier-free options for yourself or someone else.

- [The wide-brimmed Sombrero galaxy is revealed in all its splendor by a telescope in Chile](#) (2026-04-26 13:50)

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA — The Sombrero galaxy and its glowing halo of stars have never looked this good. The U.S. National Science Foundation's NOIRLab released the latest photo of the popular hat-shaped galaxy on Friday. A telescope in Chile observed it four years ago, but the color imaging was not completed until this week. Located approximately 30 million light-years away, this spiral galaxy — formally known as Messier 104 — is one of the largest in the constellation Virgo cluster. It's an estimated 50,000 light-years across. A light year is about 6 trillion miles. Captured in incredible detail, the galaxy's stellar halo appears to be triple the size of the sombrero itself. A dark energy camera on the telescope also caught a stream of stars pouring out of the galaxy's southern edge. Scientists believe the stars in this stream, as well as the halo, were ripped from other galaxies in a long-ago collision. Astronomers discovered the galaxy back in the 1700s.

- [Badminton eyes 'next generation' with new scoring system](#) (2026-04-26 13:32)

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA — Badminton chiefs say they have "strengthened the sport" for the future after the governing body voted to change the scoring system in a major move. Currently matches are the best of three games with the winner of each game being the first to 21 points. From January 2027 it will be the first to 15 points. Badminton World Federation president Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul called it an important milestone. "We are building a sport that speaks to the next generation, while continuing to invest in the long term future of our players," Leeswadtrakul said. "The 3×15 scoring system is intended to deliver more exciting and competitive badminton, improved scheduling, more consistent match durations and potential benefits for player welfare and recovery." By bringing high pressure moments earlier and creating tighter scores and more dramatic finishes, the format aims to keep fans engaged from the first rally to the last. "Leeswadtrakul acknowledged that traditionalists would be concerned by the move. "This decision does not change the fundamental nature of badminton," she said in

remarks released on Saturday. "The skill, the tactics, the physical and mental demands, and the drama of the sport will remain."

- [Japan inflation cools demand for vending machine drinks](#) (2026-04-26 13:20)

TOKYO, JAPAN — From post offices and parks to stations and even the summit of Mount Fuji, Japan's vending machines are ubiquitous. But with the rapid pace of inflation cooling demand for their drinks, operators are being forced to rethink the business. Last month beverage giant DyDo Group Holdings announced it would remove about 20,000 vending machines -- around seven percent of their stock nationwide -- by January 2027, in order to "reconstruct a profitable network". Pokka Sapporo Food & Beverage, based in Nagoya, also said in March it would sell its 40,000-machine operation to Osaka-based Lifedrink Co. "The strength of the vending machine business has been to sell at list prices," a spokeswoman for Pokka Sapporo told AFP. But "a rise in list prices is pushing more people to look to shops that sell drinks at a discount", she said. Tetsuharu Kawaguchi, 31, who works for a food delivery company, said cost was the leading factor in his decision to ditch vending machines -- which stock a host of Japan's favourite thirst-quenchers from iced tea to canned coffee. From a machine, even "water... ends up being around 130 yen (80 cents). If you go to a convenience store, you can sometimes get it a bit cheaper, and places like drugstores often sell it for quite a low price", he explained. While Japan was long haunted by deflation, it has more recently faced a surge in living costs. Kazuhiro Miyashita of Inryo Soken, a research institute focused on the beverage industry, told AFP that increased costs for fuel and staff to keep machines stocked were eating into profits. "If they can curb prices through cost-cutting, they may be able to hold their own against convenience stores." Takayuki Ishizaki of Nomura Research Institute said that growing environmental awareness was also playing a part in the troubling situation for operators. It "has led some people to stop buying drinks outside and instead bring their own bottles (to refill)", he said. Despite the decline, vending machines -- where ramen noodles, cut fruit, kimchi and crepes are also on offer -- are unlikely to disappear anytime soon. "Ultimately the overwhelming convenience of being able to find one just by walking a short distance practically anywhere (in Japan) is something that can't really be replaced," Ishizaki said. "The move now is toward being more strategic and selective in terms of placement." Taisuke Oguro, 27, a hairdresser in Tokyo, is holding out for their survival. "In places where there aren't any convenience stores, I do think it's actually pretty handy to have one," he said.

- [Revilla camp confident: No evidence presented vs former senator](#) (2026-04-26 12:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of former senator Ramon Revilla Jr. believes that no evidence was presented to link the former lawmaker to the alleged ghost project in Pandi, Bulacan following days of hearings conducted by the Sandiganbayan. The prosecution presented its last witness in the bail hearing in the malversation through falsification case filed against Revilla and other people last Friday, April 24. "We will not preempt what the court's assessment will be but we are very confident in our position," Reedy Anthony Balisi, one of Revilla's lawyers, said in an interview with reporters. "From the time that this fiasco happened to the time that he was

charged, to the time that he surrendered, to the time that we started the bail hearing, and now, culmination, last day of the bail hearing, what have we been saying ever since? There is no evidence that can link [former] senator Bong Revilla," Balisi said. The Office of the Ombudsman filed the case before the Sandiganbayan in Jan. 2026. Revilla's co-accused include Brice Hernandez, Juanito Mendoza, Arjay Domasig, Emelita Juat, Christina Mae Pineda, and Jaypee Mendoza. All of them, except Mendoza, sought bail. The bail hearing started on Apr. 6. The National Institute for Transparency and Accountability (NITA) cited weaknesses in the case presented by the prosecution. "There is clear overreliance on one witness, and that is Bernardo. All other testimonies trace back to him," NITA Executive Director Carlos Ayala said in a statement. Ayala was referring to state witness Roberto Bernardo, former undersecretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways, who took the witness stand last Friday. "Despite allegations involving hundreds of millions, there is a lack of documentary link—no bank records, no receipts, no direct financial trail connecting Revilla to the supposed transactions," Ayala said. "What we saw in court was largely hearsay and derivative testimony—accounts based on what was told to them, not on personal knowledge." "Instead of directly implicating Revilla, the witnesses presented highlighted the gaps in the narrative," he said. The Sandiganbayan is expected to hand down its ruling in the coming weeks. The court will determine if Revilla will remain in detention or be released on bail.

- [Trinidad remains AFP's spokesman for West Philippine Sea](#) (2026-04-26 09:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Rear Admiral Roy Vincent Trinidad will remain the spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for the West Philippine Sea (WPS), after he retires from military service, the Philippine Navy said on Saturday. "While Rear Admiral Trinidad formally retires from active military service, he will continue to serve as WPS' mouthpiece as a naval reservist, in recognition of the value of his continued voice, and as a demonstration of his sustained service and credibility in communicating the Armed Forces' position on maritime issues," the Navy said in a statement. Trinidad was honored during his retirement ceremony on Thursday in Taguig City, led by Philippine Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Adm. Jose Ma. Ambrosio Ezpeleta. "By underscoring what is right and what is true, he has contributed to bolstering public faith in our actions, as well as fortifying our country's diplomatic messaging on the global stage," Ezpeleta said. Trinidad is a member of the Philippine Military Academy "Sambisig" Class of 1991.

- [Group of retired officers planning to grab power — Lacson](#) (2026-04-26 09:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Some "retired officers" are planning to grab power amid the controversies involving President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said on Sunday. Former representative Zaldy Co had linked Marcos to the flood control fund scandal while Duterte is facing impeachment proceedings for alleged unexplained wealth. The senator said he received information that the unidentified retired officers are recruiting supporters within the Armed Forces of the Philippines for a possible military-backed "people power revolution." "There is definitely an attempt but this is outside the AFP. Those

behind this could only recruit a few, if at all, from inside the AFP," Lacson said in a radio interview. "My contacts in the Philippine National Police (PNP) say there is no indication this 'movement' will snowball. But definitely there is an attempt, mostly by retired officers," he said in Filipino and English. Lacson served in the uniformed service from 1971 to 2001, in both the AFP and PNP. He served as PNP chief from 1999 to 2001. The Senate president pro tempore believes that the planned takeover would not succeed because the AFP is a professional organization. "So long as the AFP is professional and I would like to believe it is, there is no compelling reason to have a military junta or another People Power revolution," he said.

- [Two Americans among 19 killed in Negros Occidental clashes](#) (2026-04-26 07:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Two Americans were among 19 people killed in clashes between government troops and members of the New People's Army (NPA) in Toboso, Negros Occidental on April 19, 2026. In a statement, the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) identified the two as Lyle Prijoles and Kai Dana-Rene Sorem. "The two were among the 19 NPA combatants whose identities have now been established and whose remains have been turned over to their respective families," NTF-Elcac said. The agency said it sees a "disturbing convergence on foreign nationals in a live combat setting where the risks are immediate and the consequences irreversible." It warned Americans of Filipino descent in the US to be wary of being lured by left-wing activist groups into joining or supporting Filipino insurgents in the Philippines.

- [Bernardo's P1B restitution offer seen weakening case vs Revilla in bail hearings](#) (2026-04-26 07:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The P1 billion restitution offer made by former Public Works undersecretary Roberto Bernardo has emerged as a pivotal issue in the bail hearings of former senator Ramon Revilla Jr., with the defense arguing that the move undercuts the prosecution's claim that evidence of guilt is strong. At the latest hearing before the Sandiganbayan Third Division, Associate Justice Ronald Moreno raised questions about Bernardo's offer to return the amount to the government as part of his bid to qualify as a state witness. Lawyers for Revilla contended that the scale of the proposed restitution suggests Bernardo was not a minor participant but a central figure in the alleged irregularities involving flood control projects. They argued that the ability to return such a large sum points to direct access to, or control over, project funds. Defense counsel Reody Anthony Balisi pressed the issue during cross-examination, directly asking Bernardo if he was the "mastermind" behind the scheme, citing his alleged deep involvement and proximity to the funds. "You cannot return such a large amount unless you are right at the center of the movement of the money," Balisi said during the hearing. Presiding Justice Karl Miranda also addressed the issue in open court, noting public sentiment surrounding the case and asking Bernardo to respond directly to questions about his alleged role. "You answer the question of Atty. Balisi: are you really the mastermind?" Miranda said. The prosecution presented Bernardo as its principal witness in an effort to demonstrate that the evidence against Revilla is strong — a legal threshold required to deny bail. The defense

argued that Bernardo's testimony should be treated with caution, describing it as uncorroborated and motivated by his desire to avoid prosecution. They maintained that his offer to return ₱1 billion indicates a strong personal incentive to cooperate with the government. Other prosecution witnesses, according to the defense, failed to directly link Revilla to the alleged misuse of funds. A Public Works director assigned in the National Capital Region testified on project processing and implementation but did not implicate Revilla. Instead, the testimony outlined internal coordination within the department, where Bernardo allegedly held influence. Another witness, Engineer Paul Cortez, detailed documentation and procedures related to project listings but did not identify any instruction, transaction, or meeting involving Revilla. The defense said these accounts show that while witnesses described how the system operated, none established direct participation by Revilla. They argued that the testimonies pointed to Bernardo's central role across various stages of the projects. The prosecution also presented Bernardo's driver and staff aide to support claims of alleged deliveries to Revilla. Under cross-examination, the defense said the two witnesses merely echoed Bernardo's statements and did not provide independent confirmation. Revilla's legal team maintained that the case relies heavily on a single witness whose credibility is in question, backed by testimonies that do not independently establish the former senator's involvement. They added that Bernardo's restitution offer not only signals the extent of his alleged participation but also raises doubts about the reliability of his statements. The Sandiganbayan has yet to rule on Revilla's bail petition, with the court expected to determine whether the prosecution's evidence meets the constitutional standard required to keep the accused in detention.

- [Parts of Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite to have water interruptions this week due to maintenance works](#) (2026-04-26 05:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila, Rizal, and Cavite will have water interruptions this week because of maintenance works, Manila Water Company Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. said. Manila Water said that in Taguig City, some places in the villages of Katuparan and North Signal will have no water on April 27-28 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing activities at MRT Ave. corner Pag-asa St. to detect possible leaks. Also, some areas in Brgy. Ligid-Tipas will have service interruptions on April 27-28 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to declogging works at Dr. Natividad St. cor. J. Ramos St. In Pateros City, some locations at Brgy. Poblacion will have water interruptions on April 27-28 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of declogging activities at B. Morcilla St. cor. M. Almeda St. In Rizal, some portions of Brgy. San Isidro in Taytay will have no water on April 27-28 and between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing works along Sierra Valley, San Isidro. Next, other areas in Brgy. San Isidro will have no water service on April 30-May 1 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing activities along E. Rodriguez St. Some places in the villages of San Juan and Muzon in Taytay; several areas in the villages of San Isidro, Kalayan, Sto. Niño, San Vicente, San Roque, Bagumbayan, San Pedro, Poblacion Itaas, Poblacion Ibaba in Angono; And some locations in the villages of Brgy. Pag-Asa, Binangonan will have water interruptions on April 27-28 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of zero pressure testing activities along

National Rd. in Brgy. San Juan, Taytay. Also, some areas in Brgy. San Isidro in Rodriguez, Rizal will have no water on April 28-29 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to step testing works at Eastwood Greenview Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3, Phase 4, Phase 5, Phase 3A, Phase 3B, Phase 5E and Victoria Trails. Some parts of Cainta and Taytay in Rizal will have service interruptions on April 28-29 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. also because of step testing activities. Meanwhile, Maynilad said that in Parañaque City, some areas in Brgy. Tambo will have water interruptions on April 26-27 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of decommissioning activities at Diosdado Macapagal near Macaraeg Bridge. In Manila City, some places in the villages of 313, 314, 329, 330 and 335 at Santa Cruz will have service interruptions on April 26-May 3 between 10 p.m. and 5.00 a.m. because of leak exploration works. In Tondo, Manila City, some areas in the villages of 124, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 177, 179, 180, 181, and 182, will have no water on April 26-May 3 between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of leak exploration. Still in Tondo, some places in the villages of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 74, 75, 76, 78, 81, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 163, 168, 169, 170, 171, and 172 will have service interruptions on April 27-May 3 everyday between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration activities. Some areas in the villages of 36, 39, 40, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197 in Caloocan City; and also some places in the villages of 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220 and 202-A in Manila City will have water interruptions on April 27-May 3 between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration works at Rizal Ave. Some parts of the villages of 167 and 169 in Caloocan City, and some places in the villages of Nagkaisang Nayon and San Agustin in Quezon City will have water service interruptions on April 27-28 between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of the replacement of a gate valve. Some places in Brgy. Novaliches Proper, Quezon City will have no water service on April 27-28 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of leak detection activities. In Valenzuela City, some places in the villages of Gen. T. De Leon, Karuhatan, Malinta, Marulas, Maysan, and Parada will have no water on April 27, April 28, April 30, and May 1 between 12:01 a.m. and 4 a.m. due to network maintenance activities. In Imus City, Cavite, several places in the villages of Alapan I-C, Anabu I-A, Anabu I-B, Anabu I-C, Anabu I-D, Anabu I-E, Anabu I-F, Anabu II-A, Anabu II-B, Anabu II-C, Anabu II-D, Anabu II-E, Bayan Luma I, Bayan Luma II, Bayan Luma III, Bayan Luma IV, Bayan Luma V, Bayan Luma VI, Bayan Luma VII, Bayan Luma VIII, Bayan Luma IX, Bukandala III, Bukandala IV, Bukandala V, Carsadang Bago I, Carsadang Bago II, Malagasang 1-A, Malagasang I-B, Malagasang I-C, Malagasang I-D, Malagasang I-E, Malagasang I-F, Malagasang I-G, Medicion I-B, Poblacion III-B, Poblacion IV-B, Poblacion IV-D, and Tanzang Luma VI will have no water on April 27-May 1 between 5 a.m. and 12 a.m. because of high water demand at the Patindig Araw pumping station.

- [Riders push urgent motorcycle taxi law, seek stronger livelihood protection](#) (2026-04-26 03:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorcycle taxi riders urged the government to prioritize livelihood protection in regulating the industry and called for the immediate passage of a motorcycle taxi

law. In a statement, Motorcycle Taxi Community Philippines Chairman Romeo Maglunsod said any policy governing the sector must ensure that riders can earn sustainably while maintaining dignity in their work. The group welcomed the government's P5,000 fuel subsidy, describing it as a meaningful relief as rising fuel prices continue to cut into riders' earnings. "We are grateful for the assistance extended by the government to riders during the fuel crisis. For many riders, almost half of their daily income is already spent on fuel, and the P5,000 assistance is a big help," Maglunsod said. However, he stressed that financial aid is only a temporary solution, adding that long-term protection should come from stable and humane livelihood policies. "At this time of crisis, no rider's family should go hungry or suffer because of the lack of humane and stable livelihood," he said. The group said the passage of a motorcycle taxi bill has become urgent, noting that the government's pilot program has been in place for nearly a decade. Maglunsod said the proposed law should recognize motorcycle taxis as part of the gig economy and uphold the rights of gig workers, including flexibility and independence. "What riders want is to remain the boss of their own livelihood," he said, citing the need for riders to freely choose platforms, access incentives, and manage their working hours. The group also proposed that franchises or accreditation be granted directly to individual riders, similar to transport network vehicle service drivers, instead of being held by platforms. Under such an arrangement, riders would have greater control over their operations, while platforms would serve mainly as tools to connect them with passengers and provide support services, Maglunsod said. "The rider should hold the power to decide how to earn a living. Platforms should be instruments that support riders, not structures that limit their freedom," he added. The group also pointed to the public service role of motorcycle taxi riders, saying they help commuters reach workplaces, schools, hospitals, and other essential destinations. "Our call is clear: protect rider livelihoods, protect our freedom as gig workers, and pass the motorcycle taxi bill in a way that is fair, just, and humane," Maglunsod said.

- [Shooting suspect was 'would-be assassin,' Trump says](#) (2026-04-26 02:58)

WASHINGTON, United States — US President Donald Trump said Saturday that the suspect behind a shooting incident at a media gala in Washington was a "would-be assassin," adding that the man was "armed with multiple weapons." The man charged past a security checkpoint, Trump told a press briefing at the White House, adding: "One officer was shot but saved by the fact that he was wearing a, obviously, a very good bulletproof vest." "We looked at all of the conditions that took place tonight, and I will say, you know, it's not a particularly secure building," the US leader added.

- [Some areas in Metro Manila, 3 provinces to have power interruptions due to maintenance works](#) (2026-04-26 02:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Some parts of Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, and Quezon will have power interruptions this week because of maintenance works, Meralco said on Sunday. Some areas in the villages of Payatas and Commonwealth in Quezon City will have no power on April 28 between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. because of the relocation of electricity facilities along Payatas

Road (Litex Road).Also, some parts of Brgy. San Bartolome in Novaliches will have power interruptions on April 29-30 between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of the replacement of electricity poles and line reconductoring works along Pablo dela Cruz St. and inside RT Gonzales Ville Subd.In Valenzuela City, some areas in Brgy. Marulas will have no electricity on April 28 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. due to the upgrading and installation of electricity facilities along Tampoy 2 St.In Manila City, some areas in Sta. Cruz will have no power on April 28-29 between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of line reconductoring works and also maintenance works along Fuguso St. near Rizal Ave.Some portions of Sampaloc, Manila City will have no electricity on April 29 between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. because of electricity line conversion works along Piña Ave.In Mandaluyong City, some places in Brgy. Highway Hills will have power interruptions on April 29-30 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of the replacement of an electricity pole along Madison St.In Las Piñas City, some areas in BF Martinville Subd., Brgy. Manuyo Dos will have no electricity on April 29-30 between 11:30 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. due to the replacement of a badly-leaning electricity pole along Exodus St.In Caloocan City, some locations in Camarin will have no power on May 1 between 12:01 a.m. and 5 a.m. because of line reconstruction works and the replacement and installation of electricity poles along Camarin Road.In Bulacan, some areas in Brgy. Duhat, Bocaue, and some places in Brgy. Patubig, Marilao will have power interruptions on April 28-29 between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of the replacement and installation of electricity facilities and line reconductoring works.Some parts of Brgy. Borol 2nd, Balagtas, Bulacan will also have no electricity on April 30 between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. due to line reconductoring works in the village.In Cavite, the whole of Magallanes and Ternate; Brgy. Kaytitinga II in Alfonso; the villages of Aguado, Cabuco, De Ocampo, Lapidario, Pasong Kawayan I, and San Agustin in Trece Martires City; The villages of A. Dalusag, Batas, Castaños Cerca, Castaños Lejos, Kabulusan, Lumipa, Tabora, and town proper in Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo; the villages of Bucal 1, Bucal 2, Bucal 3-B, Bucal 4-A, Bucal 4-B, Caingen, Garita 1-A, Garita 1-B, Layong Mabilog, Mabacao, Mabato, Pinagsanhan 1-A, Pinagsanhan 1-B, San Miguel A, San Miguel B, Talipusngo, Tulay Kanluran, Tulay Silangan and town proper in Maragondon; and the villages of Bagong Kalsada, Bancaan, Bucana Malaki, Bucana Sasahan, Calubcob, Gomez-Zamora, Halang, Humbac, Ibayo Estacion, Ibayong Silangan, Kanluran, Labac, Latoria, Mabolo, Makina, Malainen Bago, Malainen Luma, Molino, Munting Mapino, Muzon, Nazareno, Palangue 1, Palangue 2, Palangue 3, Sabang, San Roque, Santulan, Sapa, Timalan Balsahan, Timalan Concepcion, and Timalan Lontoc in Naic will have short power interruptions on April 29 and April 30 between 11:30 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. (April 29) and 6:01 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. (April 30) because of the energization of the Meralco-Osorio substation.In addition to this, some areas in Brgy. Osorio, Treces Martires City will have no power on April 30 between 6 a.m. and 11 a.m. because of the energization of the Meralco-Osorio substation.In Quezon, some places in the villages of Kinatihan II, Malabanan Norte, Malabanan Sur, Masalukot I, Masalukot III, Masalukot IV, Mayabobo, Pahinga Norte, San Andres, San Isidro, Sta. Catalina Norte, Sta. Catalina Sur, and Poblacion in Candelaria; and the villages of Manggalang-Bantilan and Manggalang-Kiling in Sariaya will have power interruptions on April 27 between 12:01 a.m. and 1 a.m. and also between 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. because of the replacement of electricity facilities along Maharlika Highway in Brgy. Lumingon, Tiaong.Some areas in the villages of Lalig, Bulakin, Bungoy and

Dagatan in Tiaong will have no electricity on April 27 between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m. because of the replacement of electricity facilities along Maharlika Highway in Brgy. Lumington, Tiaong.

- [LTFRB completes taxi fuel subsidy rollout, P135M disbursed](#) (2026-04-26 02:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said it had completed the distribution of fuel subsidies to taxi drivers, releasing a total of P135 million to help cushion the impact of rising fuel costs on the transport sector. In a statement issued Sunday, LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said 5,440 taxi drivers received P5,000 each on April 25, amounting to P27.2 million in assistance. The payout was extended until 9 p.m. to accommodate all qualified beneficiaries present at designated sites. The previous day's rollout covered around 2,000 drivers, with roughly P10 million released. Mendoza said that fuel subsidies for other public utility vehicle (PUV) sectors have also been distributed, partly through checks issued to transport service entities in various regions to facilitate payouts to their members. He credited coordination among government personnel and stakeholders for the smooth rollout of the program. Beyond the one-time P5,000 assistance, the LTFRB said it is working with the Department of Energy and Land Bank of the Philippines on the implementation of a P10-per-liter fuel discount scheme for PUV operators nationwide.

- [Shots fired, Trump evacuated unhurt from press dinner in Washington](#) (2026-04-26 02:26)

WASHINGTON, United States — Shots were fired as US President Donald Trump attended a media gala in Washington on Saturday night, with the gunman detained at a screening area just outside the hotel ballroom where hundreds of guests had gathered. Trump was rushed off the stage and security teams swarmed past groups of invitees at the black-tie White House Correspondents' Dinner, as people dived under tables in chaotic scenes. "Secret Service and Law Enforcement did a fantastic job. They acted quickly and bravely. The shooter has been apprehended," Trump said on social media. He said he would shortly hold a press conference at the White House. "Law Enforcement has requested that we leave the premises," he added. "The First Lady, plus the Vice President, and all Cabinet members, are in perfect condition." He said he planned to re-schedule the event within a month despite the security scare. The Secret Service confirmed that one suspect was in custody, adding the shooting incident took place near the main security screening area. Tactical teams with guns drawn took position on the stage where Trump had been sitting during dinner before he was evacuated. Police swarmed the Washington Hilton Hotel, and helicopters hovered overhead. Glitzy annual gala The incident erupted after the welcoming speech and during dinner, before Trump was due to speak. Trump administration officials appeared to have been evacuated first and uncertainty remained as to what exactly happened. A cabinet official, Mehmet Oz, said "shots fired upstairs" as he was rushed out by security. Trump was the target of an assassination attempt during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania in 2024. A gunman fired several shots, killing a rally goer and lightly wounding the president in the ear. A few months later, another man was arrested after a Secret Service agent saw the barrel of a rifle poking from the bushes on the perimeter of the West Palm Beach golf course where Trump was playing a round. The Washington Hilton where Saturday's gala was

taking place was the site where Republican President Ronald Reagan was shot by a would-be assassin in 1981. Organizers told guests that the White House Correspondents' Dinner would continue despite the incident, before announcing it had been postponed. Trump was attending the event for the first time while in office. The White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA) invited Trump this year despite his repeated attacks on the media. Unlike all other presidents from the past 100 years, Trump had never attended while in office. The "Nerd Prom" as attendees dub it brings together hundreds of Washington journalists and media executives to raise funds for scholarships and awards. The event often has a comedian joking about the president, who traditionally gets his own back with some jokes, though no comedian was booked this year.

- [Despite Iran tensions, King Charles III will follow his mother's lead in celebrating US-UK bonds](#) (2026-04-26 01:56)

LONDON — The challenge for King Charles III when he embarks on next week's state visit to the U.S. is, as always, to live up to his mother's example. The late Queen Elizabeth II wowed Congress in 1991 with a speech that celebrated the shared democratic traditions of Britain and the United States, quoted Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Ralph Waldo Emerson, and highlighted the deep bonds between the two nations. Those themes will also be at the top of Charles' agenda as he celebrates America's 250th birthday and seeks to calm tensions surrounding Prime Minister Keir Starmer's refusal to support U.S. President Donald Trump's war against Iran, said Douglas Brinkley, a presidential historian at Rice University in Texas. "We've got to always make the distinction that there's a difference between the government of the U.K. and the kings and queens of Great Britain, who are really always coming to try to put (on) a good face," Brinkley told The Associated Press. "Politics come and go, prime ministers, presidents, come and go, but there's something deeper about the special relationship between the United States and the U.K." Charles and Queen Camilla will begin their four-day trip on Monday, when they will have tea with the president and first lady Melania Trump, then tour the White House beehive in a nod to the king's focus on conservation. The formal arrival ceremony will take place on Tuesday, with a 21-gun salute, brass bands playing the national anthems of both countries and a contingent of U.S. service members passing in review. The ceremonies will be followed by a meeting between Trump and Charles. Behind the scenes But beneath the pomp and pageantry will be a carefully choreographed diplomatic event staged, like all royal visits, at the request of the British government. Starmer resisted pressure to cancel it after Trump belittled the British military's sacrifices in Afghanistan and criticized him personally for failing to back the U.S. in Iran. Despite those tensions, Trump has continued to speak warmly about Charles. "History has shown that President Trump really tries to be impressive whenever he's dealing with British royalty," Brinkley said. "And I'm sure it'll be the same this time around." Ever since 1939, when King George VI became the first British monarch to set foot on the soil of the country's former colony, there's been a special sort of excitement whenever the royals come to the United States. Take that first visit, which took place as World War II loomed over Europe. The royals toured the east coast and attended a "picnic" at

Roosevelt's private home in Hyde Park, New York. "King tries hot dog and asks for more," declared the New York Times. But the big moment was when the royals traveled to Mount Vernon to lay a wreath at the tomb of George Washington, America's first president. It showed respect at a time of isolationism. "People could see the handwriting on the wall and know that it was going to be important for the United States and Britain to stay strong for fighting against Hitler," said Barbara Perry, a presidential scholar at the University of Virginia's Miller Center. But bonding over sausages had broader benefits, helping the royals build links to the general public as well as its leadership. After war broke out in September 1939, Queen Elizabeth, the wife of George VI and mother of the future Elizabeth II, wrote to first lady Eleanor Roosevelt to say how moved she'd been by letters from Americans who enclosed small sums for British forces. "Sometimes, during the last terrible months, we have felt rather lonely in our fight against evil things, but I can honestly say that our hearts have been lightened by the knowledge that friends in America understand what we are fighting for," she wrote. The queen's connection Queen Elizabeth II built on those relationships, making four state visits to the U.S. during her 70-year reign. She helped President Gerald R. Ford celebrate America's bicentennial in 1976 and met with President George W. Bush in 2007 as British and American forces fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. Smoothing turbulent waters and reminding both sides about their common bonds were what those trips were all about. Charles' visit will be no different. It includes a commemoration of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, a ceremony honoring fallen service members and an event to be attended by Queen Camilla to mark the 100th anniversary of Winnie the Pooh stories by British author A.A. Milne. Awkward events will be avoided. The royals won't meet with Jeffrey Epstein's victims, despite calls for the king to address his brother's links to the convicted sex offender. Nor are there plans for Charles to meet with his son Prince Harry, who has been a critic of the monarchy since giving up royal duties and moving to California. Those issues aren't the priority, said Robert Hardman, author of "Elizabeth II: In Private. In Public. The Inside Story." "He's going because 250 years ago the Founding Fathers of the USA kicked out his great-times-five grandfather, and he's going to say, 'No hard feelings, it's been a great divorce, we've had a lovely 250 years and let's reflect on the high points,'" Hardman said. "I mean, there are going to be some very, very large elephants in the room during that visit ... but, you know, there are plenty of other things for the king to focus on." History, not politics Charles' speech to a joint session of Congress offers the chance to deliver the message that long-term friendship is more important than transient disputes. He is also likely to offer a bit of humor, as his mother did when she faced lawmakers in 1991. Wearing soft peach amid a sea of gray suits, the diminutive monarch began her remarks with a joke about an earlier blunder at the White House when her lectern was so tall it obscured the audience's view of her. "I do hope you can see me today from where you are," she deadpanned. The chamber erupted in laughter. A standing ovation followed. Then she launched into a speech about democratic values, the rule of law and the Atlantic Alliance. But Charles will have to offer his own take on those ideas, Brinkley said. "The theme of the speech is going to be American exceptionalism, American history, the importance of U.S.-British alliance, and some memories from the past," he said. "But also about the love affair the two countries share with each other, even though it goes over rocky rapids from time to time."

- [Easterlies, frontal system to bring rain, cloudy skies — Pagasa](#) (2026-04-26 01:40)

MANILA, Philippines —The easterlies and a frontal system will prevail in the next 24 hours, bringing cloudy skies and scattered rains, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Sunday. The easterly winds which pass through the Pacific Ocean will affect Caraga, Eastern Samar, and Southern Leyte where cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms are likely, weather specialist Veronica Torres said. The easterlies will also affect Metro Manila and the rest of the country where partly cloudy to overcast skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms are likely. Meanwhile, Torres said Batanes will have scattered rains and isolated thunderstorms due to the frontal system within the day. “Flash floods or landslides due to moderate to at times heavy rains would be possible,” she said in a 5 a.m. forecast. A frontal system is defined as a “transition-boundary separating two air masses of contrasting properties (temperature and humidity).” “Simply put, fronts form when one kind of air mass enters an area occupied by another kind of air mass,” Pagasa chief Nathaniel Servando explained. Pagasa said Metro Manila would likely have a heat index of 41 degrees Celsius on Sunday, which falls under extreme caution category, while the highest could be in Negros Occidental at 44 degrees Celsius.

- [A sudden shift: ICE arrests drop nearly 12% after Minneapolis killings and immigration shake-up](#) (2026-04-26 01:33)

At the peak of the crackdown, carloads of masked immigration officers were a common sight in the streets of Minneapolis, while thousands of people were being arrested every week in Texas, Florida and California. “Turn and burn,” top Border Patrol commander Gregory Bovino called the strategy, with relentless displays of force and teams of agents descending on restaurant kitchens, bus stops and Home Depot parking lots. In December, arrests by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents peaked at nearly 40,000 nationwide and were nearly as high the next month, according to data provided to UC Berkeley’s Deportation Data Project and analyzed by The Associated Press. In late January, the killings in Minneapolis of two American citizens by immigration officers and growing concerns over the government’s heavy-handed tactics led to a shake-up of top immigration officials. In the weeks that followed, ICE arrests across the country dropped on average by nearly 12%. Polling has found the general public felt the immigration enforcement operation in Minnesota went too far, a factor that may have contributed to the abrupt firing of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem in early March. The numbers don’t follow the same pattern everywhere. Bovino, who swaggered through raid scenes in tactical gear and was the public face of the Trump administration crackdown, was pushed aside following the killings in Minneapolis of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. Border czar Tom Homan was then sent to the Twin Cities to chart a new course for immigration enforcement, and he announced the drawdown of immigration agents in the state on Feb. 4. An AP analysis of ICE arrest records show the department averaged 7,369 weekly arrests nationwide in the five weeks after Homan’s drawdown announcement, the most recent period for which data is available, down from 8,347 per week in the previous five weeks. Those arrest numbers were still higher on average than during much of the first year of President Donald Trump’s second term, and were

dramatically higher than during the Biden administration. The numbers were not, however, uniform across the country. ICE arrests rose significantly in Kentucky, Indiana, North Carolina and Florida during those five weeks, in some cases hitting their highest weekly count since the start of Trump's second term. In Kentucky alone, weekly arrests more than doubled, reaching 86 by early March. Those increases were offset by steep drops in a handful of large states, including Minnesota and Texas. Many arrested were not Trump's 'worst of the worst' The Trump administration insists it is targeting the most vicious criminals living illegally in the U.S., and the president has referred to them as "the worst of the worst." In some cases the description is accurate, but the reality is complicated. Many of the toughest criminals taken into ICE custody were already in prison, but many others who were arrested have no criminal history. Nationally, some 46% of the people ICE arrested in the five weeks before Feb. 4 had no criminal charges or convictions, dropping to 41% in the five weeks that followed. Yet that's still above the 35% weekly average for the time since Trump returned to office. And in a number of states, even after Feb. 4, the share of noncriminals being arrested went up, not down. Has there been a change in approach? Across the country, thousands of federal court filings offer an imperfect window into how the Trump administration's deportation tactics remain in high gear, even if activity has waned. Like the 21-year-old Honduran man with no criminal record who has filed a petition for release after being arrested Feb. 22 in a suburban San Diego traffic stop. The father of three U.S. citizen children — ages 5, 3 and 10 months — had been under ICE surveillance, the petition says, before officers in tactical gear pulled him over. Or the 33-year-old Venezuelan woman, a well-known South Texas doctor who worked in a region designated as medically underserved, who was arrested earlier this month with her five-year-old daughter, a U.S. citizen, on her way to her husband's asylum hearing. She was arrested, officials said, for overstaying her visa. Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, a senior fellow with the research and advocacy group the American Immigration Council, says he sees signs of change in lower arrest and detention numbers but warns it's too early to know if those shifts are permanent. "The Trump administration says: 'We're not slowing down,' 'Nothing has changed,'" in immigration enforcement, he said. "But it's very clear that they have pulled back from some of the tactics of Operation Metro Surge," the crackdown that swept Minneapolis.

- [An explosive device kills 13 and injures 38 on a bus in southwestern Colombia as violence persists](#) (2026-04-26 01:14)

BOGOTÁ, Colombia — An explosive device killed 13 people traveling on a bus in southwestern Colombia on Saturday, an attack the country's army chief described as a "terrorist act" that also left at least 38 injured as violence linked to drug trafficking in the region escalates. Octavio Guzmán, the governor of the region of Cauca, said on X that the device was set off while the bus was traveling along the Panamerican Highway in the municipality of Cajibío. Five children were among the injured, Cauca Health Secretary Carolina Camargo told Noticias Caracol, a TV news program. Gen. Hugo López, commander of Colombia's Armed Forces, told a news conference that it was a "terrorist act" and blamed the network of a man known as "Iván Mordisco" — one of Colombia's most wanted figures — and the Jaime Martínez faction. Both are dissidents of the

now-defunct Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia that operate in the region. Neither Iván Mordisco nor the Jaime Martínez faction abide by the peace agreement signed with the state in 2016. Colombian President Gustavo Petro condemned the attack on X. "Those who carried out the attack and killed seven civilians — and wounded 17 others — in Cajibío — many of them Indigenous people — are terrorists, fascists, and drug traffickers," he wrote. The attack is the latest in a spate of explosions that have attempted to target public infrastructure. At least 26 incidents have taken place in the past two days in southwestern Colombia, which López said has only affected civilians. They included a shooting at a police station in the rural area of Jamundi, and an attack on a Civil Aviation radar facility in El Tambo, where authorities took down three explosives-laden drones earlier on Saturday. No one was hurt. On Friday, two vehicles rigged with explosives were detonated near military units in Cali and Palmira, causing material damage. The escalation of violence in that region — a territory contested by illegal armed groups linked to drug trafficking — prompted the mobilization of high-ranking officials on Saturday. Led by Defense Minister Pedro Sánchez, the delegation that includes regional governors and local authorities, was meeting in Palmira when the deadly explosion occurred. "These criminals seek to instill fear, but we will respond with firmness," Sánchez said on X. Meanwhile, Francisca Toro, governor of Valle del Cauca, has called upon the national government to provide "immediate support." In a message on X, Toro called for a reinforcement of public security forces, enhanced intelligence operations and "decisive actions" against crime in the face of a "terrorist-level escalation." According to authorities, Cauca and Valle del Cauca serve as a critical hub for illicit activities of illegal armed groups vying for control over sea and river access routes leading to the port of Buenaventura — a key transit point used to traffic drugs to Central America and Europe. The government has also offered a reward of more than 1 million dollars for information leading to the capture of "Marlon," who is identified as the leader of the region's dissident group. On Friday, local authorities offered more than \$14,000 for information leading to the identification and location of those behind the attacks in Cali and Palmira.

- [Close watch on how Trump and journalists will get along at White House correspondents' dinner](#) (2026-04-26 01:00)

Donald Trump's attendance at Saturday's annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner in Washington for his first time as president is putting his administration's often-contentious relationship with the press on full public display. Trump arrived Saturday night to an event where the leaders of a nation at war mingled with celebrities, journalists and even a puppet — Triumph the Insult Comic Dog — in a dinner that typically generates debate about whether the relationship between journalists and their sources should include socializing together and putting aside sometimes adversarial relationships. Trump was being watched closely at the event held by the organization of reporters who cover him and his administration. Past presidents who have attended have generally spoken about the importance of free speech and the First Amendment, adding in some light roasts about individual journalists. The Republican president did not attend during his first term or the first year of his second. He

came as a guest in 2011, sitting in the audience as President Barack Obama, a Democrat, made some jokes about the New York real estate developer. Trump also attended as a private citizen in 2015. Trump entered the subterranean banquet hall of the Washington Hilton to the strains of "Hail to the Chief" and greeted prominent journalists on the dais, also pausing to laud White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt with a cheerful pointing of his finger. Past dinners have also featured comedians who poke at presidents. This year, the group opted to hire mentalist Oz Pearlman as the featured entertainment. Trump's appearance is rekindling a longer running debate about the dinner and events like it — in particular, whether it is poor form for journalists to be seen socializing with the people they cover. The New York Times, for example, stopped attending the dinner more than a decade ago for that reason. "What was once (a fairly long time ago) a well-intended night of fundraising and camaraderie among professional adversaries is now simply a bad look," wrote Kelly McBride, ethics expert at the Poynter Institute, a journalism think tank. A contentious relationship between berating individual reporters, fighting organizations like the Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Associated Press in court and restricting press access to the Pentagon, the administration's animus toward journalists has been a fixture of Trump's second term. On the eve of the dinner, nearly 500 retired journalists signed a petition calling on the association "to forcefully demonstrate opposition to President Trump's efforts to trample freedom of the press." The WHCA president, CBS News reporter Weijia Jiang, said the organization was fighting for all different forms of the press that have a line in to the American people. "I don't think people realize how closely we are working with the White House," she said on CSPAN before the dinner convened. "The relationship is important. It can be complicated. It can be intense. But it is robust." Welcoming guests, Jiang alluded to the contentious relationship in thanking Leavitt "for everything your team does to work with us every day, whether you like it or not." Veteran reporter Manu Raju of CNN, as he entered the Washington Hilton for the dinner, said it was not his role to express his opinion on Trump's relationship with the press. "I'm not an activist," he said. "My job is not to protest." A few dozen protesters stood across the hotel in the runup to the event. One was dressed in a prison uniform, wearing a Pete Hegseth mask and red gloves. Another carried a sign saying "Journalism is dead." Many reporters who attend consider it a valuable opportunity to get story ideas and establish personal connections with those in government, one that may pay dividends with returned telephone calls in the future. Some news organizations invite sources as guests. Journalists often invite sources as guests at the dinner. It will be noticed Saturday whether administration officials who have also expressed hostility to the press will attend, and with whom they will be sitting. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said he was invited by the New York Post; Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and Secretary of State Marco Rubio were NBC guests. The Associated Press invited a former Trump official that it sued last year. Taylor Budowich, a former White House deputy chief of staff who crafted communications policy, was a named defendant last year when the AP sued the administration after it reduced its access to the president because the news outlet did not follow Trump's lead in renaming the Gulf of Mexico. "We maintain professional relationships with people across the political spectrum because we are nonpartisan by design — focused on reporting the facts in the public's interest," AP spokesman Patrick Maks said. The White House correspondents will also hand out awards for

exemplary reporting. That includes some stories that displeased Trump, such as one from the Journal about a birthday message Trump once sent to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. The story led to a presidential lawsuit.

- [Julie Defensor denies human trafficking rap](#) (2026-04-25 16:14)

THE wife of former lawmaker Mike Defensor denied allegations she was involved in the recent National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) raid on a Pasay City establishment engaged in human trafficking. In a statement late on Friday, Julie Defensor called the accusations against her and her daughter baseless and malicious. “I am issuing this statement to categorically and forcefully deny the baseless, malicious allegations directed at me, my daughter, and our associated businesses,” Mrs. Defensor said. “Let me be absolutely clear regarding the recent NBI operation: we have absolutely no connection to the targeted establishment or its operations. Any attempt to link our family to the abhorrent acts allegedly committed there is a deliberate, dangerous, and desperate lie,” she added. Mrs. Defensor described the motive of the NBI operations as part of a smear campaign, saying that 1,000 employees’ lives are at stake because of a “political attack.” “This is a fabricated pretext designed to artificially manufacture a case, with the chilling goal of filing unwarranted, unbailable charges against me and my daughter,” she said. “This is part of a relentless pattern of harassment, and the collateral damage is devastating. Because of these political attacks, approximately 1,000 hardworking employees across various companies have abruptly lost their jobs — simply due to a perceived association with my husband, Mike. These are 1,000 families stripped of their livelihoods in the middle of a crisis. It is unconscionable that innocent workers are being sacrificed as pawns in someone else’s political vendetta,” Mrs. Defensor added. She also told NBI director Melvin Matibag that if he has any problem with her husband, he should take it up with him. “I address this to attorney Matibag: if you have a political or personal grievance with Mike, have the courage to resolve it with him directly. Stop using me, our daughter, and hundreds of innocent, displaced workers as collateral damage in a dispute that has nothing to do with us,” Mrs. Defensor said. “As a mother, my priority will always be the protection of my family. We will not be bullied, silenced, or intimidated by these cowardly tactics. We will exercise the full extent of the law to clear our names, expose this harassment, and hold those responsible accountable,” she added. In a statement on Friday, the NBI said they rescued 54 women in an “entrapment and rescue operation” against a suspected “trafficking-in-persons network operating” in the Chicago Nightclub and Bleu Hotel in Ortigas, Pasig City, allegedly owned by Mrs. Defensor. Defensor defended his wife and daughter in an interview with radio DZMM and said it had something to do with his involvement in the 18 Marines, who served as bagmen for fellow former lawmaker Zaldy Co. “Don’t touch my family... of course, for me, I know that they have a case against me, but people are also being affected,” he said. The former lawmaker said his family gave up ownership of the hotel in 2019. “We gave up the operations of this hotel in 2019. I think there’s a document saying we still own this place, but technically, the corporation of the hotel operating under my name is no more,” Defensor said in Filipino. “It still exists but the operations ceased in 2019, but some

financial documents need to be fixed, so it hasn't closed," he added. Defensor said the karaoke bar where the NBI operation took place is not owned by them.

- [ICC prosecutors seek to remove defense redactions](#) (2026-04-25 16:13)

PROSECUTORS at the International Criminal Court (ICC) have asked judges to order the public release of a redacted defense filing in the case against former president Rodrigo Duterte, arguing that confidentiality claims are unjustified and could undermine witness confidence. In a submission dated April 24 before Pre-Trial Chamber I, the Office of the Prosecutor sought the reclassification of a defense response that had been partially withheld from public view. The chamber is composed of Judges Iulia Antoanella Motoc, Reine Adelaide Sophie Alapini-Gansou, and Maria del Socorro Flores Liera. Prosecutors said the redactions conceal a key clarification by Duterte's legal team that six individuals — Salvador Medialdea, Salvador Panelo, Martin Delgra, Silvestre Bello, Alfredo Lim, and Cesar Dulay — are not members of the defense team in the ICC case. According to the filing, the defense had earlier "affirmed, confirmed, assured and guaranteed" that the six lawyers were not part of Duterte's ICC counsel. However, this statement was later removed in the public version of the response. The prosecution argued that the defense's justification — to protect the lawyers' "dignity" — does not outweigh the court's principle of transparency. "It is unclear how confirming to the public that these lawyers do not work for the Defense team would negatively impact their dignity," prosecutors said, adding that court proceedings should generally remain public. The Office of the Prosecutor, led by Deputy Prosecutor Mame Mandiaye Niang, also said keeping the information confidential could create confusion among potential witnesses and victims. Prosecutors said earlier statements and actions by defense counsel had created the impression that the six lawyers were part of Duterte's legal team, prompting a formal request for clarification in March. They warned that leaving the issue unresolved in public records could have a "chilling effect" on ongoing investigations, particularly if witnesses fear that individuals linked to Duterte might have access to sensitive case information. The prosecution added that some of the six lawyers had held senior government positions during Duterte's presidency, a period covered by the ICC investigation into alleged crimes. Efforts to resolve the issue privately failed after the defense declined to seek reclassification, maintaining that the redactions were appropriate to avoid possible embarrassment to the individuals involved. Prosecutors, however, questioned that reasoning and said the defense had not explained its apparent change in position after previously agreeing to make certain information public.

- [Dangerous heat index levels seen in 14 areas](#) (2026-04-25 16:12)

FOURTEEN areas in the country will experience sweltering temperatures due to a danger-level heat index, the weather bureau said Saturday. Heat index is what the temperature feels like to the human body when relative humidity combines with air. A peak heat index of 45 degrees Celsius is forecast in Dumangas, Iloilo and Butuan City, Agusan del Norte, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). The following areas will also see danger-level heat indices: San Ildefonso, Bulacan – 43 CSangley

Point, Cavite – 42 C Aboitan, Palawan – 44 C Roxas City, Capiz – 42 C Mamburao, Capiz – 42 C Iloilo City, Iloilo – 43 C La Granja, La Carlota, Negros Occidental – 44 C Catbalogan, Western Samar – 43 C VSU Baybay, Leyte – 42 C Borongan, Eastern Samar – 44 C Guiuan, Eastern Samar – 42 C Cotabato City, Maguindanao del Norte – 43 C Heat cramps and heat exhaustion are likely under a danger-level heat index of 42 C to 51 C. Meanwhile, the heat index may reach 41 C in Aparri, Cagayan; San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; Puerto Princesa City and Cuyo in Palawan; Legazpi City, Albay; Catarman, Northern Samar; Tacloban City, Leyte; Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte; Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur; and Davao City, Davao del Sur. A heat index of 40 C is forecast over Dagupan City, Pangasinan; Tuguegarao City, Cagayan; ISU Echague, Isabela; Baler and Casiguran in Aurora; CLSU Muñoz, Nueva Ecija; TAU Camiling, Tarlac; Ambulong, Tanauan, Batangas; Romblon, Romblon; Daet, Camarines Norte; Siquijor, Siquijor; Mactan, Cebu; Maasin, Southern Leyte; Surigao City, Surigao del Norte; and Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur. Meanwhile, cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms are expected over Batanes due to the frontal system. The rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to the easterlies and localized thunderstorms. Light to moderate winds and slight to moderate seas will prevail across the archipelago. The Department of Health (DOH) warned the public against heat-related illnesses as the heat index across the country continues to rise. With many areas experiencing heat index levels exceeding 40 degrees Celsius, DOH spokesman Albert Domingo told The Manila Times on Saturday that it is important for the public to avoid outdoor activities between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and to stay hydrated. “The DOH warns against heat-related illnesses ranging from heat cramps and heat exhaustion to life-threatening heat stroke. Heat stroke is a medical emergency occurring when body temperatures exceed 40 C, potentially leading to seizures, coma, or altered mental status,” Domingo said. He added that while everyone can be affected, individuals with comorbidities like hypertension or diabetes are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses. “Prevention centers on staying hydrated with 8-10 glasses of water daily (for those not undergoing dialysis) while avoiding dehydrating drinks like coffee, soda, or alcohol,” Domingo added. The agency also said that certain medications and alcohol may increase the risk of heat-related illnesses by accelerating dehydration. “When outdoors, shield yourself from direct sunlight by wearing light, breathable clothing and using umbrellas, caps, or fans,” Domingo said. The weather bureau raised an El Niño alert on Tuesday, which may bring “drier-than-usual” conditions, further exacerbating the heat levels.

- [Panel found probable cause to impeach Sara, lawyer says](#) (2026-04-25 16:11)

LAWYER Lorna Kapunan said she believes that the House of Representatives Committee on Justice has seen and heard enough — from the discrepancies in Vice President Sara Duterte’s declared net worth to the flagged bank transactions — to find probable cause to impeach her. “The House Committee on Justice has already met its target to prove probable cause, that a crime was committed, that a violation of law was committed, and that the vice president is probably guilty thereof. But it’s not guilt beyond reasonable doubt,” she said in Filipino and English in a radio interview on Friday. The veteran litigator also warned the public not to be

swayed by the vice president's press releases, her defense team, or online trolls seeking to discredit the nondisclosure findings in Duterte's statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs) and the Anti-Money Laundering Council's (AMLC) report. "No spin can change what is already on official record," she said. "With all the evidence, follow the numbers. Don't believe the press releases, trolls, and statements outside the Committee on Justice. Believe in the numbers. Let the numbers speak for themselves," she said. Kapunan noted that the evidence shown are official records of government agencies: the Office of the Ombudsman for the SALNs; the AMLC reporting on suspicious and covered transactions; and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for the companies of the Vice president and her husband, Manases Carpio. The records, she said, raise legitimate questions that cannot be ignored. "So, these are records, they don't lie. When speaking of litigation, there is already the presence of hard evidence, documentary from official sources. This is not opinion, this is not hearsay. These are documents," Kapunan said. During the April 22 hearing, committee members uncovered a more than elevenfold jump in Duterte's net worth, from P7.2 million in 2007 to P88.4 million in 2024. Despite the dramatic surge, it also found that she had failed to report her cash on hand and bank deposits under personal assets in her SALNs from 2019 to 2024. Meanwhile, the AMLC reported to the justice panel that more than 600 transactions worth P6.7 billion from Duterte and her husband's bank accounts had been flagged as covered or suspicious from 2006 to 2025. The AMLC also confirmed that 19 of the bank transaction entries presented by former senator Antonio Trillanes IV matched its own records on the same dates and amounts, including the P22 million Duterte had allegedly received from Samuel Uy, a purported drug lord and close business associate of the Duterte family. Kapunan, meanwhile, noted that the Committee on Justice has given the Vice President ample opportunity to address the allegations and defend herself, but instead, the defense team filed a non-answer and Duterte continues to shun the hearings. She emphasized that Duterte cannot hide behind jurisdictional arguments to avoid attending the hearings, pointing out that the Constitution itself grants the House the authority to initiate impeachment proceedings. Moreover, she noted, the hearings are clarificatory rather than evidentiary, meaning the Committee on Justice is simply examining the facts cited in the impeachment complaints and giving the respondent the opportunity to be heard before ruling on probable cause. Duterte's defense team also cannot claim to be "surprised" at the evidence and testimonies being examined, she said, given that "all hearings are being televised and subpoenas publicly issued." The Committee on Justice is set to hold its final hearing on April 29, where the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will present its findings on the alleged death threats Duterte made against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and former House speaker Martin Romualdez. The panel will then vote on whether probable cause exists for each allegation in the impeachment complaints. Due process. Meanwhile, Sen. Robinhood Padilla emphasized that any impeachment proceedings against Duterte must strictly adhere to due process, warning against attempts to expedite or bypass constitutional procedures. Interviewed on a TV news program, Padilla, a Duterte ally, said the process should not skip mandated steps, particularly the requirement for deliberation in the House of Representatives before advancing to the Senate for trial. "The process cannot be skipped. It must go through due process. The Supreme Court of the Philippines has

repeatedly underscored its importance,” Padilla said. “If we skip it, we risk wasting the people’s time and money.” Padilla also raised broader concerns about the relevance of impeachment proceedings amid pressing national issues, suggesting that economic concerns, such as wages, should take precedence. “Is impeachment really the solution to the country’s problems?” he asked. “Why don’t we talk about people’s wages, like the minimum wage? That is the real problem of the people.”

- [Bonoan denies alleged box deliveries](#) (2026-04-25 16:10)

FORMER Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) secretary Manuel Bonoan denied the alleged delivery of 55 boxes allegedly meant for him. In a statement on Friday, Bonoan said Garcia “made uncorroborated statements against me regarding the alleged deliveries.” Bonoan described the testimony as false. “I categorically and vehemently deny and have no knowledge whatsoever regarding these vague and unfounded allegations. In the first place, let it be of record that I am not involved in any manner as regards the subject case of the former senator Revilla Jr.,” Bonoan said. Bonoan said “in the absence of specific details surrounding his accusations or corroborating evidence to support his allegations, Garcia’s statements are mere hearsay.” On Thursday, Vergel Niño Garcia testified before the Sandiganbayan Third Division that he was a former driver of state witness and former DPWH undersecretary Roberto Bernardo. Garcia testified that there was a delivery of the following to Bonoan: 15 sealed boxes allegedly taken by a then-driver of Bonoan in November 2024; 20 boxes in 2025; and 20 boxes allegedly taken by the said then-driver of Bonoan in Quezon City. Garcia, who also testified on the alleged delivery of boxes allegedly meant for several other people, was testifying before the court as a prosecution witness in the bail hearing in the malversation through falsification case filed against former senator Bong Revilla and other people. The Office of the Ombudsman filed the case before the Sandiganbayan in January 2026 in connection with the alleged ghost project in Pandi, Bulacan. Bonoan is not an accused. Garcia, who did not see the contents of the alleged boxes, testified that he learned about the alleged contents only during an investigation of the flood control mess. On Thursday afternoon, the prosecution presented Francisco Dela Fuente Jr. as witness. “Our reaction? Is it believable? To us, no,” Reody Anthony Balisi, Revilla’s lawyer, said in Filipino and English in an interview on Thursday. “If you will notice and if you listened carefully, they did not attach proof in their sworn statements,” Balisi said. Revilla’s camp has said that Revilla had no hand in the project in Pandi, whether it was a ghost project or not. Balisi said in the interview on Thursday that for the defense, the two testimonies were not relevant. “If you will notice, in all that they (witnesses) said, and this was not denied by the prosecution, NCR projects were what was being discussed..... That was clear. So we just wanted to point out, why are we still talking about this here?” he said. Balisi said that the defense’s position has always been that “there is no evidence linking him (Revilla) to this project.” The other accused were Brice Hernandez, Juanito Mendoza, Arjay Domasig, Emelita Juat, Christina Mae Pineda, and Jaypee Mendoza. The accused, except Jaypee Mendoza, seek bail. Revilla refused to enter a plea during his arraignment in February but the Sandiganbayan Third Division entered a not guilty plea for him. Juanito Mendoza, Hernandez, Jaypee Mendoza,

Domasig, Juat, and Pineda pleaded not guilty to the charge.

- [Taxi drivers get P10M fuel subsidy](#) (2026-04-25 16:09)

THE Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) announced the release of P10 million in fuel subsidies to taxi drivers on the first day of a two-day payout. In a statement, LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said approximately 2,000 taxi drivers received P5,000 each after claiming their subsidy at designated distribution points, including the central offices of the LTFRB and the Land Transportation Office (LTO). The subsidy forms part of the national government's broader assistance program for the public transport sector, with nearly P98 million initially allocated for taxi drivers nationwide. With the additional P10 million disbursed on Friday, total funds released for the sector have exceeded P108 million so far, the agency said. Mendoza, however, cautioned drivers against attempting to claim the subsidy more than once after 10 individuals were flagged for alleged double claims during the first day of distribution. "We are sending this warning that once any taxi driver is caught, we will request the LTO to revoke his driver's license," Mendoza said. Despite the incident, the LTFRB maintained that the overall distribution process remained orderly and efficient. The LTFRB said it has intensified monitoring measures to allow for real-time intervention in case of issues during the payout. Mendoza also assured that the agency would continue the distribution process until all intended beneficiaries have received their assistance, in line with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The fuel subsidy program aims to cushion the impact of rising fuel costs on public utility drivers and operators resulting from the war in the Middle East.

- [PLHIV at higher risk of tuberculosis](#) (2026-04-25 16:08)

THE Department of Health (DOH) warned that people living with human immunodeficiency virus (PLHIV) are more susceptible to developing tuberculosis (TB) due to a weakened immune system. "HIV is a disease that attacks the immune system, particularly the CD4 T-cells," the agency said in a Facebook post on Friday. CD4 T-cells are a type of white blood cell that serve as the immune system's managers, helping defend against bacteria. The DOH said that when the CD4 T-cells run out, the body's defense against various diseases is weakened. "This is where opportunistic infections such as tuberculosis enter. Many of us may have TB bacteria sleeping inside the body because it is usually controlled by a strong immune system. But because HIV weakens the immune system, TB wakes up and becomes an active disease," it added. The agency noted that this could lead to chronic diseases such as blood clotting, body collapse and possible death. The DOH urged PLHIV to avail themselves of medications against TB, as well as the importance of promoting safe sex through the use of condoms, lubricants and pre-exposure prophylaxis, which is said to be 99-percent effective against HIV. "For persons living with HIV, the key is to take an antiretroviral therapy, or ART, for HIV, along with TPT (tuberculosis preventive treatment) for TB; it is effective in stopping the spread of the same disease and can reduce the risk of other complications," it said. DOH spokesman Albert Domingo said in an interview that while taking TB medication can be challenging, the treatment can be completed in only four to nine months. "Let's not be afraid of the next pandemic. The next variant of

Covid is not scary; TB is scary. It does not have to choose the rich or the poor; everyone can have TB because it is airborne,” Domingo said.

- [Senate panel pushes stricter standards, national framework for local colleges](#) (2026-04-25 16:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate Committee on Higher and Technical-Vocational Education has called for sweeping reforms to strengthen oversight and improve the quality of local universities and colleges (LUCs), amid concerns over uneven standards and rapid sector growth. Chaired by Senator Loren Legarda, the hearing, held on Wednesday, April 23, highlighted long-standing governance gaps affecting LUCs, which are established and funded by local government units (LGUs). Lawmakers and education officials emphasized the need for a unified national framework to ensure accountability and quality across institutions. Data presented by the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2) showed that LUCs are now the fastest-growing segment of the higher education system. Enrollment in baccalaureate programs rose by 44 percent—from around 343,000 in 2021 to approximately 493,000 in 2023—reflecting increasing reliance on locally run institutions for tertiary education access. Despite this growth, oversight remains inconsistent. Of the 152 LUCs listed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), only 107 have been granted Institutional Recognition for Academic Year 2024–2025, raising concerns about compliance with minimum standards. EDCOM 2 Commissioner Sherwin Gatchalian warned that a significant portion of LUCs may be operating below required quality benchmarks. “About 34 percent of LUCs do not have institutional recognition. That means there are issues with quality and compliance with CHED requirements, and in effect, these institutions cannot access free higher education,” Gatchalian said. Structural challenges persist. Beyond regulatory gaps, officials pointed to systemic constraints affecting LUC performance, particularly disparities in faculty compensation. According to EDCOM 2 Executive Director Karol Mark Yee, salaries in LUCs are tied to the income classification of their respective LGUs, limiting the ability of poorer areas to attract qualified educators. “In some cases, instructors in LUCs receive only about 65 percent of the salary of their counterparts in state universities and colleges,” Yee said, describing a cycle where limited resources hinder faculty recruitment and, ultimately, education quality. The commission also underscored the lack of a clear legal framework governing LUCs. While their establishment is generally anchored on the Local Government Code of 1991 and Batas Pambansa Blg. 232, these policies are seen as outdated and insufficient to address current challenges. Compliance with CHED standards has historically been weak, Yee noted, with many LUCs only seeking recognition after the enactment of the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, which tied government subsidies to quality assurance. Push for nationwide standards. CHED Chairperson Shirley Agrupis backed proposals to introduce stricter, standards-based pathways for LUC development, emphasizing that public support should be contingent on demonstrated capacity and compliance. Legarda said the proposed measure would establish mandatory national guidelines covering the creation, operation, and quality assurance of LUCs, including minimum requirements that LGUs must meet before setting up

institutions. “We need to ensure that from the outset, LUCs meet quality standards. Over a third of publicly funded institutions operate without meeting minimum requirements, and that is a problem we must address,” she said.

- [OFWs warned against fraudulent contracts](#) (2026-04-25 16:06)

THE Philippine Embassy in Cairo issued an advisory to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to validate employment contracts before accepting jobs abroad. “Ensuring your contract is properly reviewed and authenticated protects your rights and welfare as a worker,” the advisory read. It said that employment contracts must be thoroughly reviewed and officially authenticated to ensure legitimacy and compliance with both Philippine and host country laws. This process, the embassy stressed, verifies essential details such as salary, job responsibilities, working hours and benefits, and confirms that these terms are recognized by authorities in both countries. It added that authentication helps prevent illegal recruitment, contract substitution and unsafe working conditions — common risks faced by migrant workers. Such a measure also plays a vital role in combating human trafficking and labor exploitation. The Philippine Embassy has established several critical guidelines for Filipinos seeking employment in Egypt to ensure their protection and legal standing. Primarily, individuals are advised never to sign or accept any contract that is unclear or not fully understood. It is essential to verify the legitimacy of all recruiters and to report any suspicious job offers immediately to the proper authorities. Once in the country, workers must remain vigilant against contract substitution or unauthorized changes to their terms of employment. Furthermore, employees should not agree to any transfers involving their employer, job position or workplace without obtaining proper authorization and a newly authenticated contract. Finally, it is vital to ensure that the actual job role and workplace address consistently align with the specific terms outlined in the original employment agreement. The advisory aligns with the efforts of the Department of Migrant Workers to strengthen protections for OFWs through stricter documentation and monitoring requirements. For verification or assistance, OFWs may contact the Philippine Embassy or Consulate in Egypt through official communication channels.

- [Go calls for stronger fire preparedness](#) (2026-04-25 16:04)

SEN. Bong Go on Thursday underscored the importance of fire preparedness and accessible emergency support systems as he visited families affected by a recent blaze in Barangay Bagong Ilog, Pasig City. He inspected the fire-hit area and met with displaced residents alongside Vice Mayor Richard Vincent Jude “Dodot” Jaworski and local officials, including councilors and barangay leaders. The visit aimed to assess damage, deliver assistance and ensure that the immediate needs of affected families were being addressed. Immediate response A total of 152 families displaced by the fire received relief packages during the distribution held at Bagong Ilog Elementary School Pavilion. Assistance included food packs, water, clothing, vitamins, recreational items and financial aid intended to help families begin recovery. Go encouraged victims to remain resilient, emphasizing community solidarity. “Don’t thank me. I should be the one to thank you because you allowed me to help,” he said, urging Filipinos to support one

another during crises. Push for fire preparedness The senator reiterated calls for stricter adherence to fire safety measures, particularly those issued by the Bureau of Fire Protection. He warned against illegal electrical connections and unsafe cooking practices, which are among the leading causes of residential fires in densely populated communities. Go is the principal author and co-sponsor of Republic Act (RA) 11589, a law mandating a 10-year modernization program for the fire service. The measure includes provisions for upgraded equipment, expanded manpower, enhanced training and intensified fire prevention campaigns in coordination with local government units. Long-term solutions Highlighting the need for sustainable disaster-response infrastructure, Go pushed for the construction of permanent evacuation centers. He cited RA 12076, which requires every city and municipality to establish disaster-resilient evacuation facilities. According to the senator, such centers are essential to ensure that displaced families — especially children — have access to safe, clean and comfortable temporary shelter, reducing the risk of illness while awaiting resettlement. “Preparedness means investing in permanent, well-equipped facilities rather than relying on improvised shelters,” Go said, recalling discussions with local officials on prioritizing such infrastructure. Go also linked disaster preparedness to health care access, highlighting the role of Malasakit Centers in assisting victims with medical expenses. He authored and sponsored RA 11463, which institutionalized these one-stop service centers nationwide. Operated in coordination with the Department of Health, Malasakit Centers help indigent patients reduce hospital bills and access government assistance. As of the latest data, 167 centers are operational nationwide, including one at Rizal Medical Center in Pasig. Amid broader national and global challenges, Go called for unity and vigilance, urging Filipinos to remain focused on public welfare and the fight against corruption. “The whole world is in turmoil... When the world is in turmoil, our people are affected,” he said. “Let’s not forget to fight for our countrymen.”

- [St. Luke’s, German group pilot theranostics in PH](#) (2026-04-25 16:02)

THE St. Luke’s Medical Center (SLMC) has partnered with Germany-based International Centers for Precision Oncology (ICPO) Foundation to launch a global pilot program on theranostics, positioning the Philippines as a potential model for future precision oncology initiatives worldwide. In a statement on Friday, SLMC highlighted the crucial role that theranostics, or targeted therapeutics and diagnostics for cancer treatment, will play in advancing cancer care for its patients. “Theranostics exemplifies the promise of personalized medicine by integrating molecular imaging with targeted therapy. It allows us not only to see disease with remarkable clarity but also to deliver treatment with precision and purpose,” said Dr. Anthony Perez, St. Luke’s-Global City SVP and medical director. SLMC is the first and only ICPO Clinical Theranostics Center of Excellence in the Philippines, which was granted on May 15, 2025. In its recent hosting of the “Theranostics Day: Awareness and Exchange about New Precision Cancer Care,” the SLMC highlighted how theranostics is reshaping modern medicine, which is moving beyond the typical “one-size-fits-all” approach. “It is a true precision medicine approach where treatment is tailored specifically to the patient,” said Dr. Eduardo

Erasto Ongkeko, head of the St. Luke's-Global City Department of Nuclear Medicine and Theranostics. Meanwhile, Akbayan Party-list Rep. Chel Diokno hopes for accessible precision treatment for Filipino patients. “What is most important to me regarding this event is the equality in terms of access to affordable health care,” said Diokno.

- [Wife being forced out of residence by a cheating husband](#) (2026-04-25 16:01)

Dear PAO, I am in a difficult situation and I need legal advice. I recently discovered that my husband has a mistress. He is trying to force me out of our condominium unit. My question is simple: What should I do? Should I just leave and let him live there with his mistress? Or can I require them to leave because I am the legal wife? The problem is that the condo is registered solely in his name. He never transferred the title to include my name. I need to know my rights. I feel like I should not be the one to leave, but I am not sure whether I have the power to evict them. Please give me a clear answer. Can I go back to the condo and stay there? If I do that, can he call the police against me?

Mitsuha Yamano

Dear Ms. Yamano,

Republic Act (RA) 9262, or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004, provides remedies for women victims of domestic violence, the purpose of which “prevents further acts of violence against the victim, safeguards them from harm, minimizes disruptions in their life and helps regain control over their life.” (Ruiz vs. AAA GR 231619, 15 Nov. 2021; Ponente: Senior Associate Justice Marvic M.V.F. Leonen) Section 8 of RA 9262 provides that a woman may apply for a protection order, which not only covers prevention of a respondent from threatening to commit or committing, personally or through another, acts of violence, but also to direct the respondent to do or desist from doing certain acts: “SECTION 8. Protection Orders. — A protection order is an order issued under this Act for the purpose of preventing further acts of violence against a woman or her child specified in Section 5 of this Act and granting other necessary relief. The relief granted under a protection order should serve the purpose of safeguarding the victim from further harm, minimizing any disruption in the victim's daily life, and facilitating the opportunity and ability of the victim to independently regain control over her life. The provisions of the protection order shall be enforced by law enforcement agencies. The protection orders that may be issued under this Act are the barangay protection order, temporary protection order and permanent protection order. The protection orders that may be issued under this Act shall include any, some or all of the following reliefs: xxx “d. Directing the respondent to stay away from petitioner and designated family or household member at a distance specified by the court, and to stay away from the residence, school, place of employment, or any specified place frequented by the petitioner and any designated family or household member; xxx” In your case, the infidelity of your partner, not to mention the threat to unhouse you from your home may be considered a form of domestic violence, which is covered by the law's definition of psychological violence, if done with intent to cause mental or emotional anguish, public ridicule or humiliation to you, as his wife. (XXX264870 vs. People, GR 264870, 21 April 2025; Ponente: Senior Associate Justice Marvic M.V.F. Leonen). This means that you are not helpless. The law gives you a specific remedy: a protection order. Once you apply for one — either through the barangay or the PNP Women's and Children's Desk —

the court or barangay can direct your husband to stay away from the condo and allow you to stay there, even if the title is in his name alone. You do not need to wait until you are on the street; the protection order is designed to prevent further harm and disruption to your life. You may go to the barangay hall or the nearest police station. Tell them you are a legal wife being unlawfully ejected from the conjugal dwelling, which causes psychological abuse or violence to you. Ask for assistance in applying for a protection order. If issued, such an order will give you the legal backing to have your husband and his other woman removed from your condo. Do not let the fact that the title is in his name stop you — your right as a wife to be secure in your home is protected by law. We hope that we were able to answer your queries. This advice is solely based on the facts you have narrated and our appreciation of the same. Our opinion may vary when other facts are changed or elaborated. Thank you for your continued trust and support. Editor's note: Dear PAO is a daily column of the Public Attorney's Office. Questions for Chief Acosta may be sent to dearpao@manilatimes.net.

- [Hold departure order against Escudero sought](#) (2026-04-25 16:00)

THE Office of the Ombudsman is seeking a precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) from the Sandiganbayan against Sen. Francis Escudero and his alleged bagman, Maynard Ngu. The Ombudsman's application was raffled off to the anti-graft court's Sixth Division. While it was not clear yet what exactly the application stemmed from, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said in a press conference earlier this month that they have been "seriously preparing a case of plunder against" Escudero, who is a former Senate president, and Leyte 1st District Rep. and former speaker Martin Romualdez. What was being prepared at that time was in connection with the budget process. Remulla said the "element of conspiracy" was "involved in the preparation of the complaint." Last year, former Public Works undersecretary Roberto Bernardo had alleged that Ngu was Escudero's bagman. The senator denied the allegations.

- [Court orders freeze on Romualdez assets](#) (2026-04-25 16:00)

(UPDATE) THE Court of Appeals has ordered a 20-day freeze on a P1.665-billion Forbes Park estate and dozens of bank accounts connected to former House speaker Martin Romualdez and businessman Jose Raulito Enoy Paras, as authorities pursue a widening investigation into alleged corruption involving public infrastructure funds. In a resolution dated April 22, the appellate court said there was sufficient basis to believe the assets may be linked to unlawful activity, including potential violations of Republic Act 9160, or the Anti-Money Laundering Act. The freeze order prevents any movement, transfer, or withdrawal of the identified properties and funds while proceedings continue. The order covers a 3,196-square-meter residential property on Tamarind Road in South Forbes Park, Makati, which was purchased in 2023 by Golden Pheasant Holdings Corp., a company wholly owned by Paras. The estate was previously owned by shipping executive Doris Magsaysay-Ho. Also included are 35 bank accounts reportedly associated with Romualdez, some jointly held with family members, as well as 38 accounts linked to Paras. The businessman is also connected to corporate holdings that include cash deposits and seven condominium units in Bonifacio Global City. The Court of Appeals

directed that a summary hearing be conducted within 20 days to determine whether the freeze order should be extended or lifted. The petition originated from the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) following a complaint filed by the Office of the Ombudsman. The complaint alleges plunder, graft, and bribery tied to a supposed P56-billion kickback scheme involving flood control projects. The freeze application cited testimonies from Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearings, where witnesses claimed that cash-filled suitcases were delivered to residences allegedly linked to Romualdez and former lawmaker Zaldy Co, who has been in hiding in several European countries. Other statements pointed to alleged intermediaries who facilitated the movement of funds connected to public works contracts. In a press briefing on April 21, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said the Office of the Ombudsman endorsed a complaint to the AMLC and that his office was waiting for the council to seek a freeze order on Romualdez. On April 22, 2026, the Sandiganbayan Seventh Division issued a precautionary hold departure order (HDO) against Romualdez. The application was anchored on the complaint-affidavit filed by the Ombudsman's Special Panel of Investigators before the Office of the Ombudsman's Preliminary Investigation, Administrative Adjudication and Monitoring Office against Romualdez and others for plunder. The Office of the Ombudsman said the complaints involved "the alleged kickback scheme tied to flood control projects, purportedly masterminded by the respondent, with the total amount of such kickbacks reaching" P56 billion. Mentioned in the application were Co's statements in video recordings as well as Orly Guteza's testimony. Romualdez has denied any wrongdoing. "I have never authorized, instructed, or allowed anyone to engage in any conduct that would betray the people or taint my name," he said. He has reiterated that he never received any alleged kickback in any infrastructure project. In a video message issued on April 21, Romualdez said that he would defend himself fully and not let himself be turned into the scapegoat in connection with the flood control mess. "And to those who think they can throw me under the bus to save themselves, this is what I have to say to you: I am ready to defend my name," he said.

- [No winners in Grand Lotto 6/55, Lotto 6/42 draws for April 25](#) (2026-04-25 15:15)

There were no winners in the Grand Lotto 6/55 and Lotto 6/42 draws on Saturday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The winning combination for the Grand Lotto 6/55 was 41-43-35-15-10-40, with a jackpot prize of P66,008,898.49. There were also no winners in the Lotto 6/42 draw, which had the winning combination 26-32-19-01-22-17 and a jackpot prize of P24,655,209.60.

- [Tourist bus fire forces Ortigas flyover closure](#) (2026-04-25 13:24)

THE EDSA-Ortigas Flyover southbound lane was temporarily closed to vehicles on Saturday, April 25, after a tourist bus caught fire in the area the night before. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said the closure remained in effect as of 10 a.m., advising motorists to take alternate routes while authorities continued post-incident clearing and safety measures. The fire was first reported at around 6:10 p.m. on Friday, April 24, along the EDSA-Ortigas southbound lane, occupying two lanes and causing heavy traffic in the area. In an

interview, Senior Fire Officer 4 Alvic Alabastro of the Mandaluyong Bureau of Fire Protection said the driver was alone when the incident happened. “Upon interview with the driver, he was alone. When he was going up the flyover, he suddenly felt that something seemed wrong with the movement of his bus, like something slammed the brakes, then the tire suddenly caught fire and burst. The tire exploded,” Alabastro said. “We are investigating the possible cause of the bus explosion. But according to the driver, allegedly, it suddenly seemed like something stopped the movement of his bus,” he added.

The Department of Transportation earlier said MRT 3 operations resumed at 6:50 p.m. on Friday after slight delays caused by the fire, with trains running at reduced speeds between Ortigas and Santolan stations due to smoke from the burning bus. On Saturday, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) announced that the southbound lane of the flyover was opened to motorists following a thorough inspection and assessment. “Based on the assessment conducted by PDD (Planning and Design Department) Structural Engineer and District Representatives, the southbound lane of the Ortigas flyover has been cleared and is now passable to traffic,” it added.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered the agency to conduct a safety check to ensure the lane is safe after the Friday fire incident. Meanwhile, the DPWH-NCR said the EDSA–Ortigas Interchange will undergo a more detailed inspection on Saturday to determine the extent of the damage and assess its structural integrity. “For the Ortigas Flyover Interchange, it is recommended to restrict access to light vehicles only,” it said. “Further testing is also advised to support a more detailed structural analysis, as exposed rebars and areas of spalling were observed in sections affected by the fire incident.”

- [DMW: 36 OFWs return home from Middle East, over 5K since March](#) (2026-04-25 10:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Amid the ongoing war in the Middle East, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) on Saturday said that 36 overseas Filipino workers and two dependents arrived in two separate flights from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Filipinos were assisted by representatives of the DMW and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and were given financial assistance, transport services and temporary accommodation. According to the DMW, from March 5 until April 25, 7,674 OFWs have returned home since the start of the Middle East war. Among them were 7,051 Filipinos, with 5,669 OFWs included, 1,382 dependents, who elected to return via government-chartered flights. “The government continues to strengthen its repatriation and reintegration programs in line with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., to ensure the safety of OFWs and to support their smooth return and fresh start in the country,” the DMW said in Filipino.

- [UP identifies second student killed in Negros clash](#) (2026-04-25 10:08)

MANILA, Philippines — The University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) on Saturday identified another student killed in a military encounter in Negros Occidental last week. Maureen Keil Santuyo was killed alongside UP Diliman political science major Alyssa Alano at Barangay Salamanca, Toboso, last April 19. Santuyo is an Associate of Arts student of UPOU and described as “a compassionate youth advocate who has committed to supporting and

working with marginalized agrarian communities.” “The University also expresses concerns over circumstances surrounding the military encounter. We call for a transparent and thorough investigation, with full accountability if human rights violations are established,” UPOU said. “We urge sobriety in public discourse, especially in instances that promote the spread of unverified accusations and the labeling of members of the academic community without evidence,” it added.

- [Probable cause exists to impeach Sara, says veteran lawyer](#) (2026-04-25 09:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawyer Lorna Kapunan said she believed that the House of Representatives Committee on Justice has seen and heard enough – from the discrepancies in Vice President Sara Duterte's declared net worth to the flagged bank transactions – to find probable cause to impeach her. “Na-meet na ng House Committee on Justice ‘yung target nila na (The House Committee on Justice has already met its target) to prove probable cause, that a crime was committed, that a violation of law was committed, and that the Vice President is probably guilty thereof. Hindi naman (But it's not) guilt beyond reasonable doubt,” she said in a radio interview on Friday. The veteran litigator also warned the public not to be swayed by the vice president's press releases, her defense team, or online trolls seeking to discredit the non-disclosure findings in Duterte's Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALNs) and the Anti-Money Laundering Council's (AMLC) report. “No spin can change what is already on official record,” she said. “Siguro naman sa dami ng ebidensya, follow the numbers. Huwag tayong maniwalang sa mga press release, sa mga trolls, sa mga statements outside the Committee on Justice. Maniwala tayo sa numbers (With all the evidence, follow the numbers. Don't believe the press releases, trolls, and statements outside the Committee on Justice. Believe in the numbers). Let the numbers speak for themselves.” Kapunan noted that the evidence shown were official records of government agencies: the Office of the Ombudsman for the SALNs; the AMLC reporting on suspicious and covered transactions; and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for the companies of the Vice President and her husband, Manases Carpio. The records, she said, speak for themselves and raise legitimate questions that cannot be ignored. “So, these are records, they don't lie. Kung litigation ang pinag-uusapan natin, nandyan na ang (When speaking of litigation, there is already the presence of) hard evidence, documentary from official sources. This is not opinion, this is not hearsay. These are documents,” Kapunan said. During the April 22 hearing, committee members uncovered a more than elevenfold jump in Duterte's net worth, from PHP7.2 million in 2007 to PHP88.4 million in 2024. Despite the dramatic surge, it also found that she had failed to report her cash on hand and bank deposits under personal assets in her SALNs from 2019 to 2024. Meanwhile, the AMLC reported to the justice panel that more than 600 transactions worth PHP6.7 billion from Duterte and her husband's bank accounts had been flagged as covered or suspicious from 2006 to 2025. The AMLC also confirmed that 19 of the bank transaction entries presented by former Senator Antonio “Sonny” Trillanes IV matched its own records on the same dates and amounts, including the PHP22 million Duterte had allegedly received from Samuel “Sammy” Uy, a purported drug lord and close business associate of the Duterte family. Kapunan,

meanwhile, noted that the Committee on Justice has given the Vice President ample opportunity to address the allegations and defend herself, but instead, the defense team filed a non-answer and Duterte continues to shun the hearings. She emphasized that Duterte cannot hide behind jurisdictional arguments to avoid attending the hearings, pointing out that the Constitution itself grants the House the authority to initiate impeachment proceedings. Moreover, she noted, the hearings are clarificatory rather than evidentiary, meaning the Committee on Justice is simply examining the facts cited in the impeachment complaints and giving the respondent the opportunity to be heard before ruling on probable cause. Duterte's defense team also cannot claim to be “surprised” at the evidence and testimonies being examined, she said, given that “all hearings are being televised and subpoenas publicly issued.” The Committee on Justice is set to hold its final hearing on April 29, where the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will present its findings on the alleged death threats Duterte made against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and former House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez. The panel will then vote on whether probable cause exists for each allegation in the impeachment complaints.

- [Pasay roads closed for Quaker Fit Run 2026](#) (2026-04-25 06:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Several roads in Pasay and parts of Makati will be closed early Sunday for a marathon event. The Pasay Traffic and Parking Management Office said the closures would be implemented from 1:30 a.m. to 7 a.m. on Sunday morning for the Quaker Fit Run 2026. The affected areas are some roads around the Makati Triangle, Buendia from Makati to Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City, and the southbound lane of Roxas Boulevard from Quirino Avenue to Pasay City. Authorities said the Buendia closure would cover the inner lane, with a zipper lane to be used during the event. Motorists were advised to plan their trips ahead and use alternate routes to avoid delays during the road closure period.

- [DOH warns against cramps, exhaustion, stroke as heat index rises](#) (2026-04-25 06:53)

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Health (DOH) warned the public against heat-related illnesses as the heat index across the country continues to rise. With many areas experiencing heat index levels exceeding 40 degrees Celsius, DOH Spokesman Albert Domingo told The Manila Times on Saturday that it was important for the public to avoid outdoor activities between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and to stay hydrated. “The DOH warns against heat-related illnesses ranging from heat cramps and heat exhaustion to life-threatening heat stroke. Heat stroke is a medical emergency occurring when body temperatures exceed 40°C, potentially leading to seizures, coma, or altered mental status,” Domingo said. He added that while everyone can be affected, individuals with comorbidities like hypertension or diabetes are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses. “Prevention centers on staying hydrated with 8-10 glasses of water daily (for those not undergoing dialysis) while avoiding dehydrating drinks like coffee, soda, or alcohol,” Domingo added.

- [Ombudsman seeks precautionary 'hold order' vs Escudero, alleged bagman from Sandiganbayan](#) (2026-04-25 06:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman is seeking a precautionary Hold Departure Order (PHDO) from the Sandiganbayan against Sen. Francis Escudero and his alleged bagman. The Ombudsman filed on Saturday the Verified Ex Parte Application for the issuance of a PHDO. There is no case filed before the Sandiganbayan against Escudero or Maynard Ngu, the tech billionaire who was reported to have funded the senator's campaign.

- [Truck crashes into bridge entering Marikina after losing brakes](#) (2026-04-25 06:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorists were advised to avoid Barangka Bridge entering Marikina City after a truck lost its brakes and crashed into a store along A. Bonifacio Avenue, according to Marikina Rescue 161. Motorists heading to Marikina were advised to use Marcos Highway as an alternate route. The Manila Times has reached out to Marikina Rescue 161 for confirmation of injuries or fatalities, but has yet to receive a response as of posting time. Authorities also reminded drivers to take extra caution when passing through nearby roads.

- [CA issued freeze order on Romualdez assets, says Ombudsman](#) (2026-04-25 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said the Court of Appeals (CA) issued a freeze order on the assets of Leyte 1st District Rep. and Ferdinand Martin Romualdez. "Yes", Remulla said when asked in DZRH's Executive Session on Saturday whether the court granted the petition for a freeze order. In a press briefing last April 21, 2026, Remulla said the Office of the Ombudsman endorsed a complaint to the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and that his office was waiting for the AMLC to seek a freeze order on the former speaker.

- [Court of Appeals freezes Romualdez assets, bank accounts](#) (2026-04-25 05:25)

(UPDATE) MANILA, Philippines — The Court of Appeals has ordered a 20-day freeze on a luxury property at a posh subdivision in Makati City and dozens of bank accounts linked to former speaker Martin Romualdez and a businessman in connection with an expanding probe into alleged corruption tied to public infrastructure spending. In an order dated April 22, the appellate court said there was probable cause to believe the assets were related to unlawful activities, including possible violations of the Republic Act 9160. The freeze prohibits any withdrawal, transfer, or movement of the identified funds and properties while the case undergoes further review. Central to the order is a 3,196-square-meter estate on Tamarind Road in South Forbes Park, Makati, acquired in 2023 for ₱1.665 billion by Golden Pheasant Holdings Corp., a company wholly owned by Jose Raulito Enoy Paras. The property had previously been owned by shipping executive Doris Magsaysay-Ho. The freeze order also covers 35 bank accounts linked to Romualdez across major financial institutions, some jointly held with family members. Paras, for his part, is associated with 38 accounts in several banks, along with assets under his holding firm, including deposits and seven high-end condominium units in Bonifacio Global City. The court said a summary hearing would be conducted before the 20-day period lapses to determine whether the freeze order should be extended or lifted. The action stemmed from findings by the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), which initiated a financial investigation following a complaint filed by the Office of the Ombudsman. The complaint

accuses Romualdez and others of plunder, bribery, and graft in connection with an alleged ₱56-billion kickback scheme tied to flood control projects. Testimonies cited in the court order were drawn from hearings of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, where witnesses claimed that cash-filled suitcases were delivered to residences associated with Romualdez and former lawmaker Elizaldy Co, who has reportedly gone into hiding. Other accounts pointed to intermediaries allegedly tasked with handling funds linked to public works contracts. Earlier on Saturday, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla disclosed the CA freeze order in a radio interview. In a press briefing last April 21, 2026, Remulla said the Office of the Ombudsman endorsed a complaint to the AMLC and was waiting for it to seek a freeze order on the former speaker.

- [DOH warns people with HIV at higher risk of tuberculosis](#) (2026-04-25 04:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) warned the public, particularly people living with human immunodeficiency virus (PLHIV), that they are more susceptible to developing tuberculosis (TB) due to a weakened immune system. In a Facebook post Friday, the DOH said that if a person has HIV, they were more likely to develop TB as the virus weakens the body's immune system. "HIV is a disease that attacks the immune system, particularly the CD4 T-cells," the agency said. CD4 T cells are a type of white blood cell that serve as the immune system's managers, helping defend against bacteria. The DOH said that when the CD4 T cells run out, the body's defense against various diseases is weakened. "This is where opportunistic infections such as tuberculosis enter. Many of us may have TB bacteria sleeping inside the body because it is usually controlled by a strong immune system. But because HIV weakens the immune system, TB wakes up and becomes an active disease," the agency said.

- [Former DPWH secretary Bonoan denies alleged box deliveries in flood control hearing](#) (2026-04-25 04:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) secretary Manuel Bonoan denied the alleged delivery of 55 boxes meant for him. "I categorically and vehemently deny and have no knowledge whatsoever regarding these vague and unfounded allegations. In the first place, let it be of record that I am not involved in any manner as regards the subject case of the former senator Revilla, Jr.", Bonoan said in a statement on Friday. Bonoan said that "in the absence of specific details surrounding his accusations or corroborating evidence to support his allegations, Garcia's statements are mere hearsay." Last Thursday, Vergel Niño Garcia testified before the Sandiganbayan Third Division that he was a former driver of state witness and former DPWH undersecretary Roberto Bernardo. Garcia testified that there was a delivery of the following as to Bonoan: 15 sealed boxes allegedly taken by a then driver of Bonoan in Nov. 2024; 20 boxes in 2025; and 20 boxes allegedly taken by the said then-driver of Bonoan in Quezon City. Garcia, who also testified on the alleged delivery of boxes meant for several other people, was testifying before the court as a prosecution witness in the bail hearing in the malversation through falsification case filed against Revilla and other people. The Office of the Ombudsman filed the case before the Sandiganbayan in January 2026 in

connection with the alleged ghost project in Pandi, Bulacan. Bonoan is not an accused.

- [Ex-congressman Defensor's wife denies trafficking allegations, calls them a 'political attack'](#) (2026-04-25 03:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The wife of former lawmaker Mike Defensor denied allegations she was involved in the recent National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) operation involving a Pasay City establishment linked to her, describing it as a "political attack." In a statement late on Friday, Julie Defensor said she called the accusations against her and her daughter as baseless and malicious. "I am issuing this statement to categorically and forcefully deny the baseless, malicious allegations directed at me, my daughter, and our associated businesses," Defensor said. "Let me be absolutely clear regarding the recent NBI operation: we have absolutely no connection to the targeted establishment or its operations. Any attempt to link our family to the abhorrent acts allegedly committed there is a deliberate, dangerous, and desperate lie," she added. Defensor described the motive of the NBI operations as part of a smear campaign, saying that 1,000 employees' lives are at stake because of a "political attack." "This is a fabricated pretext designed to artificially manufacture a case, with the chilling goal of filing unwarranted, unbailable charges against me and my daughter," she said. In a statement on Friday, the NBI said they rescued 54 women in an "entrapment and rescue operation" against a suspected "trafficking-in-persons network operating" in the Chicago Nightclub and Bleu Hotel in Ortigas, Pasig City, allegedly owned by Defensor.

- [EDSA-Ortigas flyover, interchange partially open after bus fire, authorities say](#) (2026-04-25 03:18)

MANILA, Philippines — The southbound lane of the EDSA-Ortigas flyover in Mandaluyong City is now open, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said on Saturday, a day after a bus caught fire, affecting train operations and causing heavy traffic in the area. Based on the incident report, the DPWH-National Capital Region (NCR) said motorists were now allowed to pass the structure after the Planning and Design Department Structural Engineer and District Representatives assessed that the southbound lane of the Ortigas flyover has been cleared and is now passable to traffic. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ordered the agency to conduct a safety check to ensure that the road was safe for travel after a public utility bus caught fire on Friday. Meanwhile, the DPWH-NCR said the EDSA-Ortigas Interchange would undergo a more detailed inspection on Saturday to determine the extent of the damage and assess its structural integrity. "For the Ortigas Flyover Interchange, it is recommended to restrict access to light vehicles only," it said. "Further testing is also advised to support a more detailed structural analysis, as exposed rebars and areas of spalling were observed in sections affected by the fire incident." In a separate advisory, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) advised motorists to take alternate routes while authorities continued post-incident clearing and safety measures. A bus caught fire along the EDSA-Ortigas flyover on Friday evening. The fire was first reported at around 6:10 p.m. on Friday, along the EDSA-Ortigas southbound lane, occupying two lanes and causing heavy traffic in the area. In an interview, Senior Fire Officer 4

Alvic Alabastro of the Mandaluyong Bureau of Fire Protection said the driver was alone when the incident happened. “When he was going up the flyover, he suddenly felt that something seemed wrong with the movement of his bus, like something stopped the brake, then the tire suddenly caught fire and something exploded. The tire exploded,” Alabastro said. “We are investigating the possible cause of the bus explosion. But according to the driver, allegedly, it suddenly seemed like something stopped the movement of his bus,” he added. The Department of Transportation said MRT-3 operations resumed at 6:50 p.m. Friday after slight delays caused by the fire, with trains running at reduced speeds between Ortigas and Santolan stations due to smoke from the burning bus. Two lanes along EDSA White Plains were affected, causing heavy traffic in the area.

- [Pagasa warns of dangerous heat index levels in 14 areas](#) (2026-04-25 03:12)

MANILA, Philippines – Fourteen areas in the country will experience sweltering temperatures due to a danger-level heat index, the weather bureau said Saturday. Heat index is what the temperature feels like to the human body when relative humidity combines with air. A peak heat index of 45°C is forecast in Dumangas, Iloilo and Butuan City, Agusan del Norte, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). The following areas will also see danger-level heat indices: - San Ildefonso, Bulacan - 43°C- Sangley Point, Cavite - 42°C- Aborlan, Palawan - 44°C- Roxas City, Capiz - 42°C- Mamburao, Capiz - 42°C- Iloilo City, Iloilo - 43°C- La Granja, La Carlota, Negros Occidental - 44°C- Catbalogan, Western Samar - 43°C- VSU Baybay, Leyte - 42°C- Borongan, Eastern Samar - 44°C Guiuan, Eastern Samar - 42°C Cotabato City, Maguindanao del Norte - 43°C Heat cramps and heat exhaustion are likely under a danger-level heat index of 42°C to 51°C. Meanwhile, the heat index may reach 41°C in Aparri, Cagayan; San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; Puerto Princesa City and Cuyo in Palawan; Legazpi City, Albay; Catarman, Northern Samar; Tacloban City, Leyte; Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte; Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur; and Davao City, Davao del Sur. A heat index of 40°C is forecast over Dagupan City, Pangasinan; Tuguegarao City, Cagayan; ISU Echague, Isabela; Baler and Casiguran in Aurora; CLSU Muñoz, Nueva Ecija; TAU Camiling, Tarlac; Ambulong, Tanauan, Batangas; Romblon, Romblon; Daet, Camarines Norte; Siquijor, Siquijor; Mactan, Cebu; Maasin, Southern, Leyte; Surigao City, Surigao del Norte; and Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur. Meanwhile, cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms are expected over Batanes due to the frontal system. The rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to the easterlies and localized thunderstorms. Light to moderate winds and slight to moderate seas will prevail across the archipelago.

- [Around P10M fuel subsidy released to taxi drivers on first day — LTFRB](#) (2026-04-25 02:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said it distributed around P10 million in fuel subsidies to taxi drivers on Friday, the first day of a two-day payout, describing the rollout as “peaceful and orderly” while warning against fraudulent claims. In a statement, LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said approximately 2,000

taxi drivers received P5,000 each after claiming their subsidy at designated distribution points, including the central offices of the LTFRB and the Land Transportation Office (LTO). The subsidy forms part of the national government's broader assistance program for the public transport sector, with nearly P98 million initially allocated for taxi drivers nationwide. With the additional P10 million disbursed on Friday, total funds released for the sector have exceeded P108 million so far, the agency said. Mendoza, however, cautioned drivers against attempting to claim the subsidy more than once after 10 individuals were flagged for alleged double claims during the first day of distribution. "We are sending this warning that once any taxi driver is caught, we will request the LTO to revoke his driver's license," Mendoza said. Despite the incident, the LTFRB maintained that the overall distribution process remained orderly and efficient. The agency expects more drivers to claim their subsidies on the second and final day of distribution in Metro Manila on Saturday, April 25. The LTFRB said it has intensified monitoring measures to allow for real-time intervention in case of issues during the payout. Mendoza also assured that the agency would continue the distribution process until all intended beneficiaries have received their assistance. The fuel subsidy program aims to cushion the impact of rising fuel costs on public utility drivers and operators.

- [ICC asked to order public release of redacted Duterte defense filing to avoid withholding of key info](#) (2026-04-25 02:20)

MANILA, Philippines -- Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court (ICC) have asked judges to order the public release of a redacted defense filing in the case against former president Rodrigo Duterte, arguing that confidentiality claims are unjustified and could undermine witness confidence. In a submission dated April 24, 2026 before Pre-Trial Chamber I, the Office of the Prosecutor sought the reclassification of a defense response that had been partially withheld from public view. The chamber is composed of Judges Iulia Antoanella Motoc, Reine Adelaide Sophie Alapini-Gansou, and Maria del Socorro Flores Liera. Prosecutors said the redactions concealed a key clarification by Duterte's legal team that six individuals — Salvador Medialdea, Salvador Panelo, Martin Delgra, Silvestre Bello, Alfredo Lim, and Cesar Dulay — were not members of the defense team in the ICC case. According to the filing, the defense had "affirmed, confirmed, assured and guaranteed" that the six lawyers were not part of Duterte's ICC counsel. However, this statement was later removed in the public version of the response. The prosecution argued that the defense's justification — to protect the lawyers' "dignity" — did not outweigh the court's principle of transparency. "It is unclear how confirming to the public that these lawyers do not work for the Defense team would negatively impact their dignity," prosecutors said, adding that court proceedings should generally remain public. The Office of the Prosecutor, led by Deputy Prosecutor Mame Mandiaye Niang, also raised concern that keeping the information confidential could create confusion among potential witnesses and victims. Prosecutors said statements and actions by defense counsel had created the impression that the six lawyers were part of Duterte's legal team, prompting a formal request for clarification in March. They warned that leaving the issue unresolved in public records could have a "chilling effect" on ongoing investigations, particularly if witnesses fear

that individuals linked to Duterte might have access to sensitive case information. The prosecution added that some of the six lawyers had held senior government positions during Duterte's presidency, a period covered by the ICC investigation into alleged crimes. Efforts to resolve the issue privately failed after the defense declined to seek reclassification, maintaining that the redactions were appropriate to avoid possible embarrassment to the individuals involved. Prosecutors, however, questioned that reasoning and said the defense had not explained its apparent change in position after previously agreeing to make certain information public.

- [Brawner on UP student killed in Negros clash: 'She was armed, she was fighting'](#) (2026-04-24 21:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Romeo S. Brawner Jr. on Friday said University of the Philippines (UP) student leader Alyssa Alano was “armed and fighting” during the Toboso, Negros Occidental clash supporting the military's claim that all 19 casualties were identified members of the New People's Army (NPA). “If she is innocent and she has no intentions of joining the armed group then bakit nung nakita siya naka rig siya, combat rig, may vest kung saan nandito ‘yung mga magazines,” Brawner told reporters in an interview in Cebu. (If she is innocent and has no intentions of joining the armed group, then why was she in a combat rig, with vest full of magazines.) “She was armed, she was fighting. Kitang-kita ng mga sundalo natin na lumalaban sila (our soldiers clearly saw they were fighting) unlike dun sa case ni Chantal na nahuli sa Mindoro (unlike Chantal [Anicoche] who was found in Mindoro.)” Filipino-American activist Chantal Anicoche was found alive after she went missing following a deadly encounter between government troops and NPA rebels in Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro. Brawner emphasized that soldiers are “not human rights violators.” He said it was the series of civilian killings in the NIR caused by the remaining members of the NPA are what caused the armed forces to elevate their operations in the area.

- [NBI files trafficking raps vs Defensor kin after Pasig raid; 54 women rescued](#) (2026-04-24 21:41)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has filed human trafficking charges against the wife and son of former congressman Mike Defensor following an entrapment and rescue operation that uncovered an alleged sexual exploitation scheme involving a nightclub and hotel in Pasig City. NBI Director Melvin Matibag confirmed that cases for violations of Republic Act 9208 were filed before the Pasig City Prosecutor's Office against Julie Defensor and Miguel Defensor, along with several other individuals. The charges stem from an April 21, 2026 operation conducted by the NBI Special Task Group in coordination with the Department of Justice–Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking and the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The operation targeted Chicago Nightclub and Bleu Hotel in Ortigas. Authorities said the probe began after a confidential informant reported the alleged recruitment and sexual exploitation of women. Surveillance and case build-up indicated that customers were entertained at the nightclub through a “line-up” system, after which selected women were

brought to rooms in the adjacent hotel where sexual services were allegedly carried out. Investigators said transactions ranged from ₱10,000 to ₱20,000 per encounter, with proceeds reportedly shared among facilitators, managers, and other individuals involved. The raid led to the rescue of 54 women and the arrest of 15 individuals, including managers, facilitators, and customers who allegedly availed themselves of the victims' services. Authorities said the customers may also face charges under laws penalizing the exploitation of trafficked persons. Recovered during the operation were marked money, suspected illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, and documentary evidence linked to the alleged activities. These findings prompted additional charges under Republic Act 9165. Matibag said investigators established that the Defensor family owns the hotel where the alleged exploitation took place. He clarified, however, that ownership records are part of the ongoing probe and do not, by themselves, establish criminal liability. The rescued women have been turned over to social welfare authorities for care, protection, and assistance. The NBI said it will continue pursuing those behind the operation, reiterating that all respondents are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.

- [VP Duterte poll lead slips, Robredo gains](#) (2026-04-24 16:15)

(UPDATE) VICE President Sara Duterte's lead has narrowed in the survey on possible presidential candidates for 2028 survey conducted by OCTA Research. The survey, conducted from March 19 to 25, also had former vice president and Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo coming in second to Duterte. Duterte still leads with 33-percent preference, down by 5 percentage points from 38 percent in the fourth quarter of 2025. Robredo had a 21-percent preference, up 13 points from the previous quarter, the largest gain among all presidential hopefuls surveyed. The gap between Duterte and Robredo has shrunk from 30 percentage points to 12 percentage points. OCTA noted that despite the narrowing gap, Duterte's decline is still within the survey's margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent. This is the first survey since Duterte announced her presidential run on Feb. 18. It did not cover the announcement of Robredo on April 20 not opting to run for a national post. Coming in third was Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso at 10 percent, an increase of 2 percent from the previous survey, followed by Raffy Tulfo at 4 percent, and Sen. Bam Aquino also at 4 percent. A small proportion of respondents were undecided or refused to answer, while other personalities account for 20 percent of the responses, indicating that preferences beyond the top five remain widely distributed and fragmented. OCTA said that while Duterte continues to lead, the observed decline in her support should be interpreted cautiously, and does not, on its own, conclusively establish a definitive downtrend. Robredo's 13-point surge, on the other hand, suggests a "statistically meaningful gain and a notable change in respondent preference within the survey period," OCTA said. The results reflect a "hypothetical and early stage preference measure, and are not predictive of actual electoral outcomes," the pollster said. "[T]hey provide a snapshot of current public sentiment, which may evolve as political conditions, candidate positioning, alliances and national issues develop," OCTA said. The survey had 1,200 respondents nationwide.

- [Palace: No contradiction in Co' s Prague detention](#) (2026-04-24 16:13)

(UPDATE) MALACAÑANG on Friday maintained there was no contradiction in the pronouncements of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and other Philippine officials regarding the detention of former lawmaker Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co in the Czech Republic. In a statement, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said Co was apprehended due to immigration concerns, and that the word “arrest” did not come from the president. “The President and Secretary of Justice Frederick Vidua were clear in their statements. There is no contradiction,” Castro said. “What the President said was that Zaldy Co is in the custody of the Czech Republic due to a lack of proper documentation. Zaldy Co was apprehended due to immigration concerns,” she said. Quoting Justice spokesman Polo Martinez, Castro said “Co’ s liberty was indeed restrained due to lack of proper documentation.” She said “it’ s similar to a situation in the airport where the person arrives and immigration denies entry or excludes the person.” “There is a deprivation of liberty to a certain degree. Apprehended due to immigration concerns,” Castro said. On April 16, Marcos announced that Co was apprehended in Prague, the Czech Republic capital, after allegedly crossing the border without the required documents. He has since been under the custody of Czech authorities. On Thursday, Vidua and Chief State Counsel Dennis Chan left for Prague to discuss with Czech authorities the possible return of Co. The Department of Justice has said it was considering deportation, extradition or invoking the United Nations Convention Against Corruption — to which both the Philippines and the Czech Republic are signatories — as options to facilitate Co’ s return. Co has been charged with malversation of public funds and graft in connection with a P289.5-million road dike project in Oriental Mindoro. His whereabouts have been unclear since he left the country in July last year, supposedly for medical treatment in the United States. In September, his travel authority was revoked, and he was ordered to return after he was implicated in budget insertions and anomalous flood control projects. He later resigned as Ako Bicol Party-list representative.

- [PH, Indonesia reaffirm strategic partnership](#) (2026-04-24 16:12)

THE Philippines and Indonesia reaffirmed their long-standing partnership and expanded areas of cooperation during the 8th ministerial meeting of the Philippines-Indonesia Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC), officials said on Friday. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro and Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono. The commission serves as the primary dialogue mechanism between the two Southeast Asian neighbors, providing a platform to review engagements, identify new areas of collaboration and implement initiatives under the Philippines-Indonesia Plan of Action (2022–2027). Discussions during the meeting were described as “comprehensive and productive,” covering a wide range of priority areas, including:– Enhancement of border agreements.– Strengthening defense and maritime cooperation.– Expansion of trade and investment ties.– Energy collaboration.– Food security initiatives.– Legal cooperation.– People-to-people exchanges. The two sides highlighted the importance of ensuring the welfare of Persons of Filipino Descent residing in Indonesia. The ministers exchanged views on key

regional concerns, including developments in Myanmar, tensions along the Cambodia–Thailand border and ongoing disputes in the South China Sea. They also acknowledged the broader implications of the Middle East conflict, particularly its impact on energy supply and food security across the region. The ministers committed to supporting regional approaches within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to address shared challenges. Ahead of the ministerial meeting, a Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) was held, co-led by Philippine Assistant Secretary Marshall Louis Alferez and Indonesian Director General Santo Darmosumarto. The SOM reviewed the status of existing agreements and negotiations aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two maritime nations. The JCBC was established through a memorandum of understanding signed in 1993, but had not convened for a decade until its revival under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The Philippines and Indonesia established diplomatic relations on Nov. 24, 1949, making it Indonesia's oldest bilateral relationship in the region and among the earliest for the Philippines in Southeast Asia. The two countries are founding members of Asean.

- [PH must 'choose dialogue' in sea row](#) (2026-04-24 16:11)

THE Philippines could become a “bridge nation” by working with China's concept of a Maritime Community of Shared Future, a prominent Filipino security analyst said last Friday. Speaking at a forum organized by based think tank Asian Century Philippines Strategic Studies Institute, Prof. Rommel Banlaoi said the Philippines could position itself as a “bridge nation” between major powers by embracing Beijing's concept of a Maritime Community of Shared Future (MCSF), rather than acting as a proxy in the geopolitical rivalry between China and the United States. Banlaoi, who is director of the Philippines-China Studies Center and president of the Philippine Society for International Security Studies, outlined what he described as a “maritime governance triad” to manage maritime tensions. Under this framework, the MCSF provides the overarching vision, the Bilateral Consultative Mechanism (BCM) between Manila and Beijing serves as the operational platform, and the proposed Asean-China Code of Conduct (COC) institutionalized rules at the regional level. China and Asean have accelerated negotiations on a binding COC this year, adopting a road map in January to fast-track talks. The Philippines and China also resumed BCM discussions last month in Fujian, covering cooperation in fisheries conservation, marine environmental monitoring, coast guard communication and scientific research. Banlaoi clarified that the COC is “not a peace treaty or boundary delimitation accord. It is a mechanism to ensure that all parties will exercise good manners and right conduct at sea.” He outlined four governance principles embedded in China's maritime vision: shared security to address transnational threats, shared prosperity through joint development of resources, shared responsibility among coastal states and shared heritage — a concept he is promoting among scholars and practitioners. “We need to educate scholars and practitioners to view the South China Sea as a shared maritime heritage,” he said, noting that historically, the contested waters served as a “port of connection” among coastal states. Despite maritime tensions and overlapping claims, China has remained the Philippines' largest trading partner since 2016, with bilateral trade reaching \$42.27 billion in 2024, Banlaoi

said. He proposed practical areas for cooperation, including joint marine scientific expeditions, climate and disaster resilience initiatives, blue economy projects such as sustainable aquaculture and offshore renewable energy, and expanded academic exchanges. Banlaoi rejected concerns that engagement with Beijing could weaken Philippine sovereignty, saying dialogue is itself an assertion of national independence. Engaging with China “is not appeasement. It is not surrender. It is in fact a positive exercise of sovereignty,” he said. As chairman of Asean in 2026, Manila must balance national interests with regional stability, Banlaoi said, stressing that security norms in Southeast Asia should emerge from within the region rather than be dictated by external powers. “Instead of confrontation, choose dialogue. Instead of competition, choose cooperation. And instead of rivalry, choose a community of shared future,” he said.

- [Sandigan: DPWH exec’s testimony flawed](#) (2026-04-24 16:10)

THE members of the Sandiganbayan’s Third Division expressed dismay over the testimony of Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) National Capital Region Director Gerard Oplencia, saying he did not know how commitments for flood control projects were prepared. “Commitments” are the percentage money received by DPWH district engineers from contractors. Testifying at the bail hearing of former senator Ramon Revilla Jr. and his co-accused at the anti-graft court on Friday, Oplencia said that he was the one who submitted the list of projects for funding to former DPWH undersecretary Roberto Bernardo. Oplencia identified to Associate Justice and Division Chairman Karl Miranda four district engineers to whom he gave these lists: Denryl Caesar Cortuna, Manny Bulusan, Ruel Umali, and Arturo Gonzales Jr., whom he alleged prepared the “commitments” for these projects. He claimed to be the one who delivered the list of commitments to the respondents at the Manila Diamond Hotel. When Miranda asked if he had knowledge of how these commitments were implemented, Oplencia said that he had limited knowledge on the matter because his role was only for coordination. Miranda accused Oplencia of “cherry picking his testimony” despite being under conditional immunity. Upon further questioning by Associate Justice Ronald Moreno, Oplencia reiterated that his only duty was to give the project list to Bernardo. He added that he has no knowledge of the flood control projects in Bulacan, which led the justices to question why he was accepted as a state witness in the first place. Oplencia said that he became a state witness after the determination of the Department of Justice that he was involved in the anomaly and was ordered to return P150 million. When asked by Moreno how he got P150 million, Oplencia said that it came from “pasasalamat” or “thank you” money from contractors after completing such projects in his district. He stressed that the money came after the projects were completed. Oplencia said the idea of “project commitments” came from Bernardo, whom he said he owes a lot of gratitude as he was the one who recommended him to be appointed as district engineer and regional director. After Oplencia’s testimony, Revilla told reporters that he is now seeing the truth coming out. Meanwhile, after being indisposed for a few days, Bernardo appeared at the court wearing a face mask. He told the court that he still has bouts of cough but was otherwise well enough to appear before the division. Before the

cross-examination, both the prosecution and the defense were debating on whether they would demonstrate how many boxes would fit inside a Toyota 4Runner after his affidavit noted that he was able to fit around six to 15 boxes of money when he was delivering it to the proponent Revilla. He said in his affidavit that he was able to deliver P135 million in 2024 and a total of P375 million in 2025 separated into two tranches. Both the prosecution and the defense stipulated later on being against the demonstration, with the cross-examination of Bernardo's affidavit being conducted by Revilla counsel Reedy Balisi.

- [Survey: Tax cut sentiment tied to govt trust deficit](#) (2026-04-24 16:09)

PUBLIC support for tax reduction, postponement, or abolition has strengthened alongside declining trust in government institutions, with concerns largely driven by perceived gaps in transparency and accountability, according to the latest pollster Pahayag survey. The PQ1-2026 nationwide survey found that a dominant majority of voters, or 88 percent, supported calls to reduce, delay, or remove certain taxes. Researchers said the sentiment reflected broad fiscal dissatisfaction and frustration over governance issues. The same level of public attention was observed for transparency-related issues, with respondents expressing strong backing for a Supreme Court petition seeking the release of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee report on alleged flood control anomalies. Closely linked to this was a concern about the handling of investigations into alleged irregularities in flood control programs, which was shared by 84 percent of respondents. Support for political reform also remained high, with 81 percent of those surveyed favoring a proposal to ban political dynasties up to the second degree of consanguinity, covering grandparents, grandchildren, siblings, and half-siblings. Meanwhile, 50 percent of respondents supported the termination of the Independent Commission for Infrastructure (ICI) on March 31, 2026, citing perceived deficiencies in transparency and accountability in its operations. The survey results indicated that calls for tax relief were closely associated with broader demands for governance reforms, particularly on transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption measures. PQ1-2026 was an independent, noncommissioned nationwide purposive sampling survey conducted from March 21 to 24, 2026, with 1,509 respondents who were registered Filipino voters. Participants were randomly selected from the market research panel of PureSpectrum, a US-based panel marketplace with global operations and a regional office in Singapore. The survey had a national margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent. Pahayag is the corporate social responsibility arm of Publicus Asia Inc., which has tracked key governance and public opinion metrics since 2017. Vox Opinion Research has served as its commissioned research arm since 2013.

- [Price of diesel down, gasoline up next week](#) (2026-04-24 16:08)

THE price of diesel is expected to drop by as much as P10 next week, while that of gasoline will rise by P1. The estimates are based on the Mean of Platts, Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis of refined goods in Southeast Asia. A local oil industry source said “renewed geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have caused the MOPS prices and premiums to rebound during the past two trading days, in turn reducing the potential rollback for diesel next week.” Diesel continued its

sharp price decline, slashed by P24.94 per liter this week. In a related development, the Philippine National Police (PNP) has stepped up its monitoring of “gas-and-run” incidents — motorists leaving gasoline stations after filling up without paying. PNP chief Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said recent cases, including those in Metro Manila, are still considered “isolated” but are being closely analyzed. “While we treat these as isolated cases for now, we are not letting our guard down. We are analyzing the patterns to ensure this doesn’t evolve into a common modus operandi,” Nartatez said in a statement. On April 21, two gas-and-run suspects were arrested by police in Barangay Payatas, Quezon City. Police said a motorist driving a white Toyota Vios took P1,500 worth of fuel and fled toward Barangay Commonwealth without paying. The case is the second reported in Metro Manila within a month. On March 22, a 27-year-old transport network vehicle service driver later surrendered after fleeing a gas station in Balintawak, Quezon City, with P5,196 worth of unpaid fuel. Nartatez has ordered police units to boost visibility, particularly in high-risk and 24-hour establishments, and to work with private businesses to enhance CCTV coverage and real-time reporting. In a press briefing on Friday, PNP spokesman Randulf Tuaño reported that 77 individuals have been arrested over various fuel-related crimes, including hoarding and profiteering, as of Thursday. Tuano said the PNP recorded nine incidents of hoarding, one case of profiteering and 21 other violations, including “paihi,” an illegal fuel pilferage scheme. Based on PNP monitoring, 287 of the country’s 14,529 gas stations remained closed as of April 23 due to supply constraints linked to the war in the Middle East.

- [Romualdez urges Ombudsman to inhibit from his case](#) (2026-04-24 16:08)

FORMER House speaker and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez has filed a motion to the Office of the Ombudsman, asking it to inhibit from the flood control scam case against him. Romualdez said the probe is tainted by a “pattern of prejudgment” that violated due process. In a four-page letter dated April 22, signed by his lawyers Alejandro Navarro, Augusto San Pedro, Ruth Nichole Ureta and Via Monina Valdepenas, Romualdez argued that the public statements by Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla and his officials show that a prosecution for plunder had effectively been decided in advance — despite the absence of a formal complaint or preliminary investigation. “There is a reasonable impression that the Ombudsman has already resolved to prosecute our client,” it read. It added that the alleged bias was evident as early as November 2025, when Remulla announced that his office had been studying the case for weeks and was already discussing possible plunder charges. By April 2026, these statements had escalated into public declarations that a plunder case was being “seriously prepared,” possibly involving conspiracy and multiple actors. Romualdez’s lawyers deemed the statements no longer neutral investigative updates but early disclosures of a prosecution theory. They flagged statements within the Ombudsman’s ranks, including a press briefing by Assistant Ombudsman and Spokesman Jose Dominic Clavano IV that referred to Romualdez as a “master plunderer.” They noted that even as Remulla acknowledged the difficulty of proving plunder under current jurisprudence, he continued to publicly discuss filing such charges — suggesting, they argued, that the charge had been predetermined. Taken together, the lawyers said the

statements create the impression that any investigation would be a “mere formality” to justify a pre-set outcome. They warned that even subordinate officials may feel compelled to align with their chief’s public position. Invoking Supreme Court doctrine on the appearance of impartiality, Romualdez asked that the Ombudsman inhibit from the case and that any complaint be handled by a neutral and independent-minded official. “This is not about questioning integrity, but about safeguarding due process and public confidence in the justice system,” the letter said. In an earlier statement, Romualdez’s spokesman, Ade Fajardo, said they would question the precautionary hold departure order issued to him by the Sandiganbayan.

- [Go says misuse of funds hurts people](#) (2026-04-24 16:06)

SEN. Bong Go called for accountability and prioritization of public welfare as court proceedings on diverted health funds continue. During the second round of oral arguments on Tuesday, Supreme Court magistrates examined the constitutionality of unprogrammed appropriations embedded in the 2024, 2025, and 2026 General Appropriations Act. The hearings focused on whether such funds — typically contingent on excess revenues or new financing — were used within constitutional bounds. Government economic managers defended the allocations as flexible fiscal tools necessary for economic stability. However, several budget analysts warned that unprogrammed appropriations have increasingly enabled opaque spending practices. A key issue raised during the session was whether the Bicameral Conference Committee exceeded its authority by increasing budget allocations beyond the president’s original proposal. Critics argued that this could mirror earlier justifications used in the controversial transfer of funds from PhilHealth to the National Treasury. Go, vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, said the legal questions now before the court stem from unresolved concerns over the diversion of 89.9 billion pesos in PhilHealth funds, including an initial 60 billion peso tranche. “As Supreme Court lawyers debate unprogrammed funds, let’s not forget where it all began. The current oral arguments are just a continuation of what we fought for before against the PhilHealth fund sweep,” Go said. The senator had been among the earliest critics of the fund transfer, calling it “immoral” and “unacceptable,” and insisting that contributions earmarked for health services should not be repurposed. “Health money should be used only for health. It is not ‘excess’ while many Filipinos still cannot afford to pay for hospitals,” he added. Go first raised concerns publicly on July 19, 2024, warning of potential repercussions on health care delivery. By July 30, during a Senate hearing, he intensified his criticism, describing the move as “maybe legally but morally wrong.” A petition challenging the legality of the transfer was filed before the Supreme Court on Aug. 2, 2024, followed by similar filings from advocacy groups in October. Beyond legal technicalities, Go emphasized the human impact of fiscal decisions, pointing to what he described as a “double blow” to the health sector: the fund transfer itself and the subsequent lack of budget allocation for PhilHealth in the following year’s General Appropriations Act. “The ones who are being hurt are the sick who are relying on government assistance... patients who were not given free medicine or who were not able to get dialysis because the funds that should have been for them were gone,” he said. “This is

not just an accounting issue — this is an issue of accountability to the people,” Go added.

- [Affordable housing gets boost](#) (2026-04-24 16:05)

THE Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has partnered with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) to expand access to affordable housing for qualified beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). The collaboration aims to assist 4Ps graduates in transitioning to homeownership through the Expanded Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) program. The initiative forms part of a whole-of-government approach to sustain the gains of the country's flagship anti-poverty program. Under the program, qualified beneficiaries are those who have achieved self-sufficiency and can consistently pay monthly amortizations for housing units. DSWD Secretary Rexlon Gatchalian met with 4Ps beneficiary-homeowners who successfully availed themselves of housing assistance. “The plan of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is that after graduating from 4Ps, beneficiaries should be able to enter the 4PH program so that support continues, and we are helping many graduates access housing through our partnership with DHSUD,” Gatchalian said. Beneficiaries shared that the housing program has provided them with safer living conditions and reduced their financial burden compared to previous rental arrangements. The DSWD noted that the synergy between the 4Ps and 4PH programs allows families to transition from financial assistance to long-term stability. The housing initiative also reinforces responsibility among beneficiaries by encouraging them to sustain their payments and invest in their future. Through the partnership, the government aims to empower low-income families by providing both social protection and opportunities for permanent homeownership.

- [Meeting with Takaichi to cap Marcos visit to Japan](#) (2026-04-24 16:05)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will visit Japan from May 26 to 29 to further reinforce Manila's strategic partnership with Tokyo, Malacañang announced on Friday. The Presidential Communications Office said the president was invited to by the Japanese government. Marcos and first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos will be received by Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako at the Imperial Palace for a welcome ceremony, state call and state banquet. Marcos will hold talks with Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae to discuss ways to strengthen their countries' ties. They will resume their recent discussions on current international developments, especially about energy, food security and maritime security. Marcos will also meet with Japanese business groups and members of the Filipino community during the state visit. The visit coincides with the 70th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan. The two countries established diplomatic ties on July 23, 1956, and elevated their relations to a “Strengthened Strategic Partnership” in June 2015 through a joint declaration between the late president Benigno Aquino III and then-prime minister Shinzo Abe. Emperor Emeritus Akihito and Empress Emerita Michiko last made a state visit to the Philippines in January 2016. Marcos last state visit to Japan was in February 2023. He went there in December of that year for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Japan Summit. In June of last year,

the first couple visited Osaka for the World Expo 2025.

- [Public schools get land ownership](#) (2026-04-24 16:05)

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced Friday the issuance of 660 legal titles granting public schools permanent ownership of the land they occupy. It said the initiative is a joint project with the Department of Education (DepEd), noting special patents or presidential proclamations remove the risk of land disputes or repossession, establishing school lots as permanent government assets. DENR Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna said that clear titles allow school leaders to confidently build stronger facilities and improve classrooms without legal uncertainty. He added that the initiative is an investment in the Filipino youth, securing educational spaces that will drive social progress and economic growth. “Education is the surest path out of poverty and the foundation of national development,” said Cuna.

“When we secure the land where our children study, we protect their classrooms, their playgrounds, and their future. A titled school lot means safer buildings, better planning, and more opportunities for every child to learn and grow.” The land titling process starts with identification, where DepEd provides the DENR with a list of school sites and identifies which schools need titling. According to the DENR, 44,178 school sites were on DepEd's list as of March 6. After identification, the DENR's regional field offices begin validation by conducting on-the-ground surveys, mapping boundaries, and verifying them. Field validation involves consulting representatives such as school principals, village officials, and community members. The next step is processing legal documents for applications for special patents or presidential proclamations that recognize the school sites as permanent government assets. The DENR said its Land Management Bureau oversees and monitors the entire project implementation. The titling initiative is a component of the DENR's Handog ng Pangulo: Luntian Bukas program. This four-part approach secures land titles, promotes climate-ready homes, creates public green spaces, and restores forests while supporting livelihoods. Cuna vowed to ensure a transparent and inclusive process by working alongside local government units in publishing maps and keeping communities informed about the initiative.

- [Hontiveros renews call for solid waste law review](#) (2026-04-24 16:04)

SEN. Risa Hontiveros has renewed her call for a comprehensive review of the country's solid waste management framework following a massive landfill fire in Navotas that blanketed nearby communities in hazardous smoke and raised serious environmental and public health concerns. “For days, residents in the Camanava area, some parts of the National Capital Region, and even as far as Bataan, have been exposed to unhealthy air quality that was never supposed to pose this kind of danger. This incident is deeply alarming,” Hontiveros said. The senator pointed to systemic weaknesses in the implementation of Republic Act (RA) 9003, the country's primary law governing waste management. She emphasized the need to revisit both the law and its amendments to address recurring failures in landfill regulation and oversight. In February, Hontiveros filed Senate Resolution (SR) 285, which seeks a Senate investigation into the country's solid waste management system. The resolution was prompted by the collapse

of the Binaliw landfill in Cebu City, an incident she described as symptomatic of broader institutional lapses. “This is exactly what we wanted to avoid when we filed SR 285. Such incidents should never happen again. The real tragedy is if we do nothing to fix the obvious lapses in our solid waste management system,” she said. Hontiveros emphasized that the Navotas fire is not an isolated case, citing past landfill-related disasters in Cebu City and Rodriguez. She warned that continued reliance on landfills — rather than waste reduction, segregation, and recycling — has increased the risks of environmental hazards. “Our laws are clear. Landfills are meant to be the last resort and not the default solution. But gaps in implementation at the local level continue to push large volumes of waste into landfills,” she noted. The senator also flagged regulatory gaps in monitoring landfill operations. She cited provisions under DENR Administrative Order 2017-15, particularly Section 16.1, which limits Multipartite Monitoring Teams (MMTs) to Environmentally Critical Projects (ECPs). As a result, landfills classified as non-ECPs or Category B projects often escape regular oversight. “If monitoring is weak, there is a real risk of environmental standards being violated. The DENR must ensure that obligations under the Environmental Compliance Certificate are strictly implemented, including proper closure and rehabilitation of landfills,” Hontiveros said. She reiterated her call for an immediate inquiry under Senate Resolution 285, stressing the urgency of accountability and reform. “This is no longer a simple waste management issue. The health of the people, the environment, and the safety of our communities depend on it. We need immediate action before the tragedy is repeated elsewhere,” she said.

- [Govt extending support to 3 Pinoys in Algeria](#) (2026-04-24 16:03)

THE Philippine government is supporting three Filipino seafarers detained in Algeria, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) said Friday. In a statement, the DMW said they coordinate with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to monitor the three expatriates. DMW Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac said they remain in “close contact with the families and are providing assistance as the case moves forward.” According to the DMW, the three Filipinos were aboard the commercial vessel Harris, and were arrested on July 28, 2023, after Algerian authorities discovered 35.8 kilograms of cocaine in their possession. The agency, in coordination with the DFA through the country’s embassy in Tripoli, Libya, conducted jail visits to the detained Filipinos to check on their welfare. Cacdac said the government is “carefully reviewing” the legal remedies for the three Filipinos’ case. “We remain in touch with the families and have been supporting them throughout the past three years as the case continues,” the DMW chief said. “We are working closely with the DFA to assess the merits of their plea and its potential impact on the appeal. Based on this, we will make the appropriate recommendation to the president (Ferdinand Marcos Jr.),” he added.

- [Pasig completes P2.2M drainage, sidewalk](#) (2026-04-24 16:02)

PASIG City has completed a P2.2-million drainage and sidewalk project in Kapitolyo, combining flood control work with safer pedestrian access along part of East Capitol Drive and Sta. Rosa Street. Pasig City government announced Friday that the project covered the installation of a

232-meter drainage line canal made of reinforced concrete culvert pipes, with concrete inletmanholes to carry rainwater from the road into the drainage system. A one-meter-wide concretesidewalk was also built above the drainage line and fitted with safety bollards to protectpedestrians. Mayor Vico Sotto said the city would strictly enforce laws against the discharge ofuntreated wastewater into drainage systems, a practice that can worsen clogging andflooding. He also said Pasig was working to make its roads more walkable by ensuring thatsidewalks are safe and usable for pedestrians. The master plan was launched through Pasig CityResolution 175-11, series of 2023, to lay down long-term solutions to drainage and floodingproblems in Pasig.

- [Air-conditioned waiting area opened at LRT-1 Baclaran Station](#) (2026-04-24 16:01)

THE Light Rail Manila Corp. (LRMC) on Friday launched an air-conditioned waiting room at the northbound area of Baclaran station, aiming to provide relief to commuters amid rising summer temperatures. The facility, open to all LRT-1 passengers, offers a cooled space where commuters can stay while waiting for incoming trains, particularly during peak heat hours. LRMC president and chief executive officer Enrico Benipayo said the project forms part of the company’ s efforts to improve daily travel conditions for passengers. “Our goal is to constantly find ways to make the daily journey better for our passengers. This new air-conditioned space is a simple yet significant way to provide additional comfort, especially during these hot summer months,” Benipayo said. The waiting area was developed through a partnership with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries – Mahajak Air Conditioners Co. Ltd., which supplied the cooling systems installed at the station. LRMC said priority use of the facility will be given to senior citizens, pregnant women, and persons with special needs, in line with efforts to make station amenities more inclusive. Passengers were also advised to use the waiting room only during train intervals and proceed to the boarding area once their train arrives, to allow others to access the space.

- [ICC jurisdiction over Duterte case doubted](#) (2026-04-24 16:00)

A JUDGE of the International Criminal Court (ICC) said the tribunal may have exceeded its legal bounds in asserting jurisdiction over Rodrigo Duterte, even as the court’ s Appeals Chamber cleared the way for the trial of the former president to proceed. In a partly dissenting opinion issued on April 22, Judge Gocha Lordkipanidze said the ICC should not be able to exercise jurisdiction over alleged crimes linked to Duterte’ s antidrug campaign, since the prosecution failed to formally trigger the court’ s authority before the Philippines’ withdrawal from the Rome Statute took effect. The Appeals Chamber majority dismissed all four grounds of appeal raised by Duterte’ s defense and upheld an earlier ruling by Pre-Trial Chamber I upholding jurisdiction, reasoning that the prosecution had already begun a preliminary examination before the Philippines withdrew from the ICC. The ruling effectively affirmed the court’ s authority to hear the case and allowed proceedings against Duterte to move forward. Lordkipanidze broke with the majority on a central issue — the interpretation of Article 127(2) of the Rome Statute, which governs the effects of a state’ s withdrawal. While he agreed that Article 12(2), which sets the preconditions for jurisdiction, must be read alongside Article

127, he rejected the conclusion that a preliminary examination constitutes a “matter under consideration” by the court prior to withdrawal. “A preliminary examination is not a ‘matter under consideration by the Court,’ ” he wrote, stressing that only a formally authorized investigation by a pretrial chamber meets that threshold. A situation comes under the court’s consideration only when judges authorize an investigation under Article 15(4) — not when prosecutors begin preliminary review, which Lordkipanidze described as informal and lacking sufficient legal weight. He argued that the ICC’s jurisdiction must be “triggered” before a state’s withdrawal becomes effective, and that this requirement was not met in the Philippines’ case. The Philippines formally withdrew from the ICC in 2019 under Duterte’s administration amid growing scrutiny of his controversial drug war. Lordkipanidze emphasized that Article 127 enshrines a state’s “fundamental right” to withdraw from a treaty, warning that an expansive interpretation of the court’s powers risks undermining that right and upsetting the balance between state sovereignty and the ICC’s mandate to end impunity. He also argued that the Pre-Trial Chamber committed an error in law in interpreting Article 127(2), and that the majority’s position could conflict with principles under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Lordkipanidze noted that in previous cases, such as Burundi, the ICC retained jurisdiction because judicial authorization for investigation had been secured before withdrawal took effect — a condition he said was absent in the Philippines’ case. On Friday, Malacañang brushed aside the claim of Duterte lawyer Nicholas Kaufman that the Philippine government under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was aiding the prosecution instead of assisting the defense. In a statement, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro told Kaufman to concentrate on defending Duterte instead of monitoring Philippine political developments. “He should focus on his defense and legal strategies, not on President Marcos Jr. He is losing track of his case because he keeps monitoring Philippine politics,” Castro said. Kaufman said in an interview with international media the Marcos government was facilitating the case, contrary to its public stance of noncooperation with the ICC. The Philippine government has been “helping the prosecution right from before the time that the former president was surrendered to the court,” he said. Castro said the government respects the Pre-trial Chamber’s unanimous ruling. She said the ruling marked a significant step toward ensuring accountability. “We respect the ruling of ICC that confirms all charges of crimes against humanity against the former President Duterte. Justice is what needs to be achieved in these cases,” she said. Duterte faces charges of crimes against humanity, including murder and attempted murder, allegedly committed when he launched the antidrug war during his time as Davao City mayor and later as president. Government records showed that around 6,200 drug suspects were killed, while human rights organizations claim the number could reach 30,000. Duterte was arrested in Manila in March 2025 and flown hours later to The Hague, Netherlands, where he was placed under ICC detention. A group of Filipinos in the Netherlands welcomed the ICC decision to confirm the charges against Duterte. In a statement sent to The Manila Times late on Thursday, the Panagutin Netherlands Network said confirming the charges is a victory for the families of drug war victims. “For years, they carried immense grief and endured fear of retaliation, yet they continued to demand accountability even when giving up was the easier path. Their perseverance and the determination of the entire Filipino people brought this case to where it is

today,” the group said. The group hopes to see more officials, particularly Senators Ronald Dela Rosa and Bong Go, and former police chief Oscar Albayalde, put on trial. “And while we celebrate this win today, we know this is just the beginning of a longer battle for accountability ahead. Those who planned, enabled and carried out the bloodshed must also be investigated and held to account,” Panagutin said. Former senator Antonio Trillanes IV, who filed one of the cases to the ICC, also welcomed the ruling. “I am happy for the thousands of families of the victims of EJKs (extrajudicial killings). This is another big step toward achieving the justice we have long hoped for. The next thing we will wait for is the start of Duterte’s trial,” he wrote late on Thursday. Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima, who was detained in Camp Crame for almost the duration of the Duterte administration, said the former president should have been charged a long time ago. “The charges against Duterte have finally been confirmed for crimes for which he should have been punished a long time ago. The wheels of justice should not have taken this long to turn. But we take what we are dealt with for the sake of the rule of law,” de Lima wrote on Thursday. “This is still a great day for the fighters against impunity and state-sponsored violence. This is also a victory for the families of the victims — for those left behind who have long been seeking justice. Today we celebrate even as we grieve for those we lost to Duterte’s madness,” she said.

- [New obesity drug launched](#) (2026-04-24 16:00)

GLOBAL pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk launched Friday a prescription-based management for obesity. Wegovy is a semaglutide 2.4 mg once-weekly injectable medication that mimics the glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) hormone, which is responsible for regulating appetite and blood sugar produced by the body. The drug can help individuals feel fuller for longer periods, reducing cravings and supporting sustained weight management. According to the Epidemiological Burden and Cost of Obesity in the Philippines (Epicob-PH), four in 10 Filipinos are obese, a problem that cost the Philippine economy approximately P1.9 trillion in 2025. During the launch of the new treatment in Makati City, Dr. Christiana Vida Montefalcon, head of Clinical, Medical, Regulatory and Pharmacovigilance of Novo Nordisk Philippines, emphasized the need for improved obesity treatments in the country — shifting from short-term weight loss to long-term overall health outcomes. “Science now helps us understand how the body regulates hunger, how metabolism adapts, and why sustained change can be difficult.... As long as it's prescribed by health care professionals and used as a part of a comprehensive care approach, these solutions are now moving us forward into the future,” said Montefalcon. Unlike Ozempic — which has also been proven to be effective in weight loss — Wegovy contains a higher dose of semaglutide. Ozempic is mainly used to treat Type 2 diabetes. Wegovy, on the other hand, is designed for obesity treatment. While semaglutide is not a cure-all, its benefits extend far beyond aesthetics, such as improving cardiometabolic health, aside from the reduction of food cravings and supporting fat loss. Novo Nordisk stressed the importance of pairing medication with lifestyle change, stressing that medication alone is not enough. “Medication alone is never going to solve all the problems. And we need the diet, and we need the exercise as well. So it's important to actually have the lifestyle change together

with the medication,” said Wei Sun, general manager of Novo Nordisk Philippines. Wegovy, soon available in drugstores nationwide, cannot be dispensed without a prescription.

- [No winners in Ultra Lotto 6/58, Mega Lotto 6/45 draws for April 24](#) (2026-04-24 14:40)

There were no winners in the Ultra Lotto 6/58 and Mega Lotto 6/45 draws on Friday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The winning combination for the Ultra Lotto 6/58 was 37-42-36-21-47-27, with a jackpot prize of P75,000,000.00. There were also no winners in the Mega Lotto 6/45 draw, which had the winning combination 41-15-38-11-33-43 and a jackpot prize of P41,679,165.33.

- [Recto: Nothing unusual with giving travel authority day before trip](#) (2026-04-24 14:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Executive Secretary Ralph Recto on Friday said there was nothing unusual with Malacañang granting a travel authority a day before the trip of a government official. Recto issued the statement after Vice President Sara Duterte claimed that the Office of the President belatedly issued her travel authority on purpose to derail her plans. Speaking to reporters in Batangas City, Recto denied that Duterte's travel request was approved at the last minute. "As there are many travel authority, it usually happens that we issued it a day before the trip," Recto said during a chance interview. Based on a document signed by Recto, Duterte has been granted travel authority to the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Belgium, Germany, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from April 23 to May 15.

- [Marcos to visit Japan to tackle strategic ties with Takaichi](#) (2026-04-24 14:08)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will visit Japan from May 26 to 29 to advance Manila's strategic partnership with Tokyo, Malacañang announced Friday. The Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said the state visit was upon the invitation of the Japanese government. During the visit, Marcos and First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos will be received by Their Majesties, Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, at the Imperial Palace for a welcome ceremony, state call, and state banquet. Marcos will hold a summit meeting with Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae where they are expected to discuss the future trajectory of the Philippines and Japan's strengthened strategic partnership. They will also continue their recent discussions on current international developments, especially about energy, food security, and maritime security. Marcos will also meet with Japanese business groups and members of the Filipino community during the state visit.

- [AFP chief: Firing against government troops makes you a combatant](#) (2026-04-24 13:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Romeo S. Brawner Jr. on Friday reminded everyone that firing against government troops automatically makes the attacker a “combatant” which legitimizes counter action from soldiers. His clarification came amid backlashes to the military following its controversial operation in Toboso, Negros Occidental that resulted in 19 deaths of 14 individuals believed to be members of the NPA sling with some identified leaders. Apart from the casualties, multiple high-powered firearms were

also confiscated - a confirmation, the AFP says, of the legitimacy of their intelligence report.

“Once you start fighting, firing against government forces then, you are a combatant and of course kasama ka sa maaring maging casualties (you can be a casualty),” Brawner told reporters during a visit to Cebu. The Philippine Army (PA) clarified that the clash was an “intelligence-driven legitimate armed encounter” from verified civilian reports. It also denied that it was an attack on civilians and that residents were safely evacuated to safer grounds before government troops rained gunshots on the rebels. Despite the PA’s series of clarifications, various groups have expressed condemnation over the clash even calling it a “massacre” of civilians because of deaths of youth leaders “confirmed” by institutions they belong to.

- [WHO urges leaders in the Western Pacific to reach ‘zero-dose’ children](#) (2026-04-24 13:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The World Health Organization (WHO) has urged leaders in the Western Pacific Region to prioritize reaching “zero-dose” children and expanding immunization efforts. In a statement released Friday for World Immunization Week, the WHO highlighted the critical role vaccines play in protecting people of all ages, while warning of the risks posed by the resurgence of vaccine-preventable diseases. The agency said around 2.1 million children in the Western Pacific region have missed at least one vaccine dose. “When children are still being missed and diseases like measles can return, it is a stark reminder that we must protect progress,” said Saia Ma’u Piukala. “World Immunization Week is a call to action: to reach those left behind, strengthen trust in science, and ensure immunization remains strong for every generation,” he added. The WHO also noted a rising trend of misinformation about vaccines, particularly on social media, which threatens immunization gains. As part of its campaign, the organization is emphasizing the importance of providing families with accurate, science-based information to help them make informed decisions about vaccination. WHO said it is working with governments and partners across the region to strengthen immunization systems, improve access for underserved populations, and respond to emerging health threats. “Political leadership at the highest levels must commit to investing in policies and decisions aimed at protecting every generation,” said Huong Tran. The agency also encouraged families to review their vaccination records and catch up on missed doses during World Immunization Week, which runs from April 24 to 30. “Vaccines save lives. This week, we call on families to check their vaccination records, communities to seek trusted health information, and countries to prioritize immunization as a cornerstone of public health,” Tran added.

- [DNA test confirms body of high-ranking NPA leader in Samar](#) (2026-04-24 13:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) Forensic Group has confirmed through DNA testing the identity of a decomposing cadaver recovered in the hinterlands of Cabalagnan, Hinabangan last March as a high-ranking leader of the New People's Army (NPA). On March 14, troops from the 63rd Infantry Battalion discovered the remains following an armed encounter between Barangays Cabalagnan and Tabay while pursuing two fleeing

members of the Sub-Regional Committee (SRC) Sesame. Former NPA members initially identified the body through personal belongings as Lupito Bucatcat, also known as “Hunyo,” believed to be the secretary of SRC Sesame under the Eastern Visayas Regional Party Committee (EVRPC). The 63rd Infantry “Innovator” Battalion, under the 8th Infantry Division, said the body was already in an advanced state of decomposition. However, DNA testing yielded a 99.9 percent kinship and paternity match from collected samples, confirming the identity as Bucatcat. Alias “Hunyo” was considered a key figure in the dwindling insurgent structure in the province and had spent years involved in armed struggle, reportedly playing a role in directing activities and maintaining influence in affected communities. Lt. Col. Ricky James L. Rosalejos, commanding officer of the 63rd Infantry Battalion, said Bucatcat was ultimately abandoned by the organization he served. “Instead of being rescued, cared for, or even given dignity in death, Lupito Bucatcat was left behind, neglected, and ignored by the same group he fought for,” Rosalejos said. “His decomposing body, recovered alone in the hinterlands, reflects the harsh reality behind the group’s claims of brotherhood and loyalty,” he added.

- [Recto: Marcos 'master of multitasking, healthy leader'](#) (2026-04-24 13:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Executive Secretary Ralph Recto on Friday assured the public that President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. remains fit to lead, dismissing what he described as baseless rumors about the President’s health from a “few weak-minded critics.” Recto issued the statement as he also confirmed that he and Marcos would comply with a directive from the Supreme Court of the Philippines to comment on a petition seeking the disclosure of the President’s medical examination report. Speaking during an aid distribution event at the Batangas Province Events Center in Batangas City, Recto described the 68-year-old President as a “master of multitasking” who maintains an intense work pace both inside and outside Malacañang. “I think reports even serve as his pillow at night. That is not the style of a ‘low-batt’ leader, unlike the baseless attacks coming from a few weak-minded critics,” Recto said. “This is a high-energy presidency of a healthy leader—no wheelchair, no cane, and not frail or weak,” he added.

- [Marcos vows to increase financial support for LGUs](#) (2026-04-24 13:16)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Friday vowed to increase funding for local government units (LGUs) in the next national budget to help expand their programs. The President made the commitment during his visit to Batangas City, where he witnessed the distribution of rice under the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF), observed an orientation for Presidential Scholars under the Socio-Civic Projects Fund (SCPF), and led the turnover of SCPF financial assistance to presidents of the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC). In his remarks, Marcos urged local officials to properly implement government programs to justify increased funding in the coming year. “We will continue doing this, and I’m telling all of you, do not think this is a one-time effort. But I also return the challenge to you—our government officials and our local governments—do your best in implementing these programs,” Marcos said. “If the results are good, you can expect that in the next budget, we

will allocate even more funds for this,” he added.

- [Pasig eyes zero-balance billing deal with The Medical City](#) (2026-04-24 13:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Pasig City is looking to forge a formal agreement with The Medical City to help qualified patients in its 51-bed PhilHealth ward leave the hospital with zero balance billing. Mayor Vico Sotto said on Friday, April 24, that the city government plans to propose an arrangement where Pasig would shoulder additional costs not covered by PhilHealth or the Department of Health. Sotto, along with Health Secretary Ted Herbosa, was given a tour of the hospital's PhilHealth ward, also known as the Bengzon Patient Access Ward. “Did you know that The Medical City Pasig also has a 51-bed PhilHealth ward?” Sotto said. “Depending on the patient's eligibility and condition, they are already implementing zero balance billing,” he added. Sotto noted that countries with more advanced universal health care systems rely heavily on private hospitals while keeping patients' out-of-pocket expenses low. He cited Japan and Netherlands as examples where hospitals are largely privately run but patients pay minimal costs. He added that the Philippines should move toward a similar model as PhilHealth coverage and processes continue to improve. “Especially now that PhilHealth's coverage and processes are improving, we should also think like this here,” Sotto said. “We should support private institutions in these efforts and strengthen our health care provider network,” he added.

- [PH, Indonesia reaffirm strategic ties at ministerial meeting](#) (2026-04-24 07:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines and Indonesia reaffirmed their longstanding partnership and expanded areas of cooperation during the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the Philippines-Indonesia Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC), officials said Friday. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro and Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono, marking a continued effort by both nations to strengthen bilateral relations across political, economic, and security fronts. Key platform for bilateral cooperation The JCBC serves as the primary dialogue mechanism between the two Southeast Asian neighbors, providing a platform to review ongoing engagements, identify new areas of collaboration, and implement initiatives under the Philippines-Indonesia Plan of Action (2022–2027). Discussions during the meeting were described as “comprehensive and productive,” covering a wide range of priority areas, including: Enhancement of border agreements Strengthening defense and maritime cooperation Expansion of trade and investment ties Energy collaboration Food security initiatives Legal cooperation People-to-people exchanges Both sides also emphasized the importance of ensuring the welfare of Persons of Filipino Descent (PFDs) residing in Indonesia.

- [Palace clarifies: Co not arrested, but 'liberty was restrained' due to immigration concerns](#) (2026-04-24 06:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Friday clarified that there was no contradiction on the pronouncements of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and other Philippine officials regarding former lawmaker Zaldy Co, saying he was indeed apprehended due to immigration concerns. In

a statement, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said that the word "arrest" did not come from the President. "The President and Secretary of Justice Frederick Vida were clear in their statements. There is no contradiction," Castro said. "What the President said was that Zaldy Co is in the custody of the Czech Republic due to a lack of proper documentation. Zaldy Co was apprehended due to immigration concerns," she added. Quoting Justice spokesman Polo Martinez, Castro said that "Co's liberty was indeed restrained due to lack of proper documentation." "For analogy, it's similar to a situation in the airport where the person arrives and immigration denies entry or excludes the person," Castro said. "There is a deprivation of liberty to a certain degree. Apprehended due to immigration concerns," she added. On April 16, 2026, Marcos announced that Co was apprehended in Prague, Czech Republic after allegedly crossing the border without proper documentation. He has since been held under the custody of the Czech authorities.

- [Public Works engineer's testimony at Revilla bail hearing boosts ex-senator's innocence](#)
(2026-04-24 05:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Members of the Sandiganbayan's third division were dismayed over the testimony of Department of Public Works and Highways National Capital Region Director Gerard Opulencia for not knowing how the "commitments" for flood control projects were prepared. "Commitments" are the percentage money given by contractors and district engineers to be delivered to alleged recipients. Testifying at the bail hearing of former senator Ramon Revilla Jr. and his other co-accused at the anti-graft court on Friday, Opulencia said that he submitted the list of projects for funding to former DPWH undersecretary Roberto Bernardo. Opulencia identified before Associate Justice and Division Chairman Karl Miranda four district engineers to whom he gave these lists — Denryl Caesar Cortuna, Manny Bulusan, Ruel Umali, and Arturo Gonzales Jr. — and for whom he prepared the "commitments" for these projects. When Miranda asked if he had knowledge on how these commitments were implemented, Opulencia said that he had limited knowledge on the matter because his role was only for coordination. Miranda was visibly irked by Opulencia's response. Upon further questioning by Associate Justice Ronald Moreno, Opulencia reiterated that his only duty was to give the project list to Bernardo. Opulencia also revealed that he was ordered by the Department of Justice to return P150 million, which he said came from "pasasalamat" or "thank you" money from contractors after completing the projects. After Opulencia's testimony, Revilla told reporters that "he is now seeing the truth coming out."

- [Romualdez urges Ombudsman to inhibit from investigating him to avoid 'prejudgment'](#)
(2026-04-24 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez filed a motion to the Office of the Ombudsman to inhibit from investigating him over the alleged flood control scandal, noting that the probe is tainted by a "pattern of prejudgment" that violated his due process. In a four-page letter dated April 22, 2026, Romualdez's counsels, Villaraza and Angcangco, argued that the public statements by Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla and his officials showed that a "

prosecution for plunder had effectively been decided in advance—despite the absence of a formal complaint or preliminary investigation. "The lawyers who signed the letter were Alejandro Navarro, Augusto San Pedro, Ruth Nichole Ureta, and Via Monina Valdepenas. "There is a reasonable impression that the Ombudsman has already resolved to prosecute our client," they added. The letter traced the alleged bias to as early as November 2025, when Remulla disclosed that his office has been studying the case for weeks and was already discussing possible plunder charges. By April 2026, these statements had escalated into public declarations that a plunder case was being "seriously prepared," possibly involving conspiracy and multiple actors. His camp believes that these statements are no longer neutral investigative updates—but early disclosures of a prosecution theory. They also flagged statements within the Ombudsman's ranks, including a press briefing by Assistant Ombudsman and Spokesman Jose Dominic Clavano IV that referred to Romualdez as a "master plunderer." Taken together, according to his counsels, the statements create the impression that any investigation would be a "mere formality" to justify a pre-set outcome. They even warned that even subordinate officials may feel compelled to align with their chief's public position. Invoking Supreme Court doctrine on the appearance of impartiality, Romualdez asked that the Ombudsman inhibit from the case and that any complaint be handled by a neutral and independent-minded official. "This is not about questioning integrity, but about safeguarding due process and public confidence in the justice system," the letter said.

- [UPD committee condemns Negros killing of student](#) (2026-04-24 05:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman, Quezon City on Friday condemned the killing of one of its students during a military "encounter" in Negros Occidental. "Alyssa was widely admired by her peers and teachers as a decisive student leader with a sharp, critical mind that discerned the structure of injustice perpetuating the deep poverty and oppression of the landless farmers and agricultural workers of Negros. She understood how work in the student council intersected with service to the basic masses that sustain the education of the Iskolar ng Bayan. Through her work with progressive organizations, she learned that violence waged to silence the voices of truth and enrich those in power must always be met with resistance. This is the enduring lesson that took her from the lecture halls of the University to the sugarcane fields of Negros, where the sakadas then became her teachers. She will also be remembered for her warmth, generosity, and infectious energy that inspired all who knew her to live more fully," according to the statement by the Committee on the Protection of Academic Freedom and Human Rights (CPAFHR). The group said, "We cannot ever rejoice in the 'triumph' of a state that maintains the dehumanization of the poorest Filipinos and then snuffs out our brightest lights—supposedly to protect us. But protect us from whom? Systemic injustice and inequality are the biggest threats to our freedoms and rights. As long as they remain, it is our responsibility to confront their reality, dismantle their mechanisms, and bring their perpetrators to justice. The root of decades-long suffering on the island of Negros is the exploitation of sugarcane workers by powerful hacienderos, heightened by counter-insurgency military operations that seek to suppress dissent and organization through

manifold killings and human rights violations throughout history.”

- [Duterte lead in 2028 presidential survey down, Robredo gains ground](#) (2026-04-24 04:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's lead narrowed while predecessor and Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo gained ground although still in second spot in the 2028 Presidential election survey conducted by independent pollster OCTA Research. In its Tugon ng Masa survey conducted from March 19-25, 2026, Duterte is still ahead with a 33 percent preference but down by five percentage points from 38 percent in the fourth quarter of 2025. Second is Robredo, with a 21 percent voter preference, a 13 point increase from the previous quarter and the largest among all candidates surveyed. As a result, the gap between Duterte and Robredo has narrowed from 30 percentage points in the previous quarter to 12 percentage points in the current quarter. OCTA, however noted, that while there was a drop in Duterte's lead against Robredo, the decline was still within the survey's margin of error of plus or minus three percent. Coming in third was Manila Mayor and 2022 presidential candidate Isko Moreno at 10 percent, followed by Raffy Tulfo at 4 percent and Sen. Bam Aquino at 4 percent. A small proportion of respondents were undecided or refused to answer. OCTA stressed that the results reflected a "hypothetical and early-stage preference measure, and are not predictive of actual electoral outcomes. Rather, they provide a snapshot of current public sentiment, which may evolve as political conditions, candidate positioning, alliances, and national issues develop." The survey had 1,200 respondents nationwide.

- [Marcos to pay state visit to Japan in May](#) (2026-04-24 02:50)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr will make a state visit to Japan from May 26 to 29 at the invitation of the Japanese government, his office said on Friday. During the visit, Marcos is set to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to discuss their countries' strategic partnership.

- [Dissenting Opinion: ICC judge says court may have overstepped legal bounds in jurisdiction case](#) (2026-04-24 01:32)

MANILA, Philippines — A judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has warned that the tribunal may have overstepped its legal bounds in asserting jurisdiction over former president Rodrigo Duterte, even as the court's Appeals Chamber allowed the case to proceed. In a dissenting opinion issued April 22, Judge Gocha Lordkipanidze said the court should not be able to exercise jurisdiction over alleged crimes linked to Duterte's anti-drug campaign, arguing that prosecutors failed to formally trigger the court's authority before the Philippines' withdrawal from the Rome Statute took effect. The majority of the Appeals Chamber dismissed all four grounds of appeal raised by Duterte's defense and upheld a previous ruling that the ICC retained jurisdiction because the prosecution had begun a preliminary examination prior to the country's withdrawal. But Lordkipanidze rejected that reasoning, saying a preliminary examination does not qualify as a matter "under consideration" by the court under Article 127(2) of the Rome Statute. "A situation is only under consideration by the Court once a

pre-trial chamber authorizes an investigation,” he wrote, emphasizing that preliminary examinations are informal and do not carry sufficient legal weight to establish jurisdiction. He argued that the ICC’s jurisdiction must be triggered before a state’s withdrawal becomes effective, which in this case would have required authorization of a formal investigation within the one-year withdrawal period. According to the dissent, allowing jurisdiction based solely on a preliminary examination risks stretching the court’s authority beyond what the treaty permits and could undermine the rights of states to withdraw. Lordkipanidze also pointed to what he described as a careful balance in the Rome Statute between ending impunity and respecting state sovereignty, warning that the majority’s interpretation could upset that balance. “The Statute thus gives the Court an opportunity to assert its jurisdiction. However, it also respects the States’ right to withdraw,” he said, adding that extending jurisdiction indefinitely would render the withdrawal clause meaningless. He argued that the Pre-Trial Chamber committed an error in law in interpreting Article 127(2), and that the ICC should not proceed with the case. Despite the dissent, the Appeals Chamber’s ruling stands, allowing proceedings against Duterte to continue before the ICC.

- [ICC confirms charges; Duterte to stand trial](#) (2026-04-23 16:20)

(UPDATE) THE International Criminal Court (ICC) on Thursday confirmed crimes against humanity charges against former president Rodrigo Duterte, paving the way for his trial to proceed over his alleged role in a deadly anti-drugs campaign that killed thousands of civilians. In a sweeping 50-page decision, the Pre-Trial Chamber I ruled that Duterte, who served as president from 2016 to 2022 and previously as mayor of Davao City, bears individual criminal responsibility for murders and attempted murders committed between November 2011 and March 2019. The chamber confirmed three counts against the 81-year-old former leader, involving at least 78 victims across 49 incidents cited as illustrative examples of a far wider campaign of violence. Prosecutors say the actual scale of victimization included thousands of killings. Duterte is charged under multiple legal theories: as an indirect co-perpetrator who controlled a “common plan” to “neutralize” alleged criminals and alternatively as having ordered, induced, or aided and abetted the killings. A “widespread and systematic” attack. The court found that Duterte, first as mayor of Davao City and later as president, led a hierarchical network that carried out a “widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population” of the Philippines. During his mayoral period, the court said, Duterte controlled the so-called Davao Death Squad — a combination of police officers and paid hitmen who killed alleged drug pushers, thieves and other suspected criminals. After becoming president in June 2016, he expanded the operation nationwide through what prosecutors called the “National Network.” The chamber concluded that the word “neutralize” as used by Duterte and his associates meant “to kill” — despite defense arguments that it referred to lawful restraint or arrest. Essential contributions. Presiding Judge Iulia Antoanella Motoc, writing for the unanimous three-judge panel, detailed how Duterte made “essential contributions” to the criminal scheme. These included designing the policy, publicly naming targets, providing weapons and resources, offering financial rewards, appointing key personnel and shielding perpetrators from

prosecution. The court cited witness testimony that Duterte personally approved killing operations in Davao City, and that law enforcement officers who failed to kill enough people faced threats and potential death. The chamber noted that Duterte's public speeches contained "clear directives and incitement to kill criminals," including promises to protect and pardon those involved in killings. It rejected defense arguments that official documents containing self-defense language negated criminal intent, finding that such references could not be assessed in isolation from the broader pattern of violence.

Victim incidents Among the confirmed incidents cited in the decision:— Three alleged drug pushers killed in Davao City in 2013.— The November 2016 killings of two men in police custody at Leyte Sub-Provincial Jail.— The July 2017 killings of Ozamiz City Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr. and multiple others at the mayor's residence.— The August 2017 killing of 17-year-old Kian Loyd Delos Santos in Caloocan City.— Two attempted murders of individuals who survived being shot.

Fit for trial The chamber found Duterte fit to participate in proceedings despite defense requests for indefinite adjournment based on medical concerns. The former president waived his right to attend the February 2026 confirmation hearing. Duterte was surrendered to the court on March 12, 2025, following a warrant issued March 7, 2025. He has remained in detention, with appeals chambers twice confirming decisions denying his interim release. The court rejected defense arguments that the charges were overbroad, finding that given the "scale of criminality" and Duterte's position "at the apex" of the operation, a broader description of charges through illustrative examples was "necessary to cover the extent of [his] alleged criminality." Duterte now faces trial before an ICC Trial Chamber. The court ordered the registrar to transmit the decision and record of proceedings to the presidency.

Jurisdiction settled Earlier this week, the Pre-Trial Chamber threw out the Duterte defense team's challenge to the ICC's jurisdiction over the case. Defense lawyer Nicholas Kaufman said he was not surprised by the decision, but maintained it raised serious legal concerns and would continue to be contested. In a statement issued after the ruling, Kaufman said the defense would press on with legal remedies, including a possible further appeal, while arguing that Duterte's rights were not adequately upheld during the proceedings. For families of those killed in the antidrug campaign, the ruling on Wednesday affirming the ICC's jurisdiction over the case marked a decisive step in their long pursuit of justice. In a joint statement, victims' lawyers Joel Butuyan and Gilbert Andres said those affected welcomed the ruling, describing it as a "triumph of victims' rights to the truth and justice." The Appeals Chamber affirmed the ICC's authority to proceed with the case despite the Philippines' withdrawal from the Rome Statute, reinforcing the treaty's objective of ending impunity for perpetrators of grave international crimes. "The decision sends a strong message that mere withdrawal from the Rome Statute does not shield state officials from accountability for crimes against humanity," the lawyers said. They pointed in particular to Article 127(2) of the Rome Statute, which provides that a state's withdrawal does not affect ongoing proceedings already under consideration by the court prior to the withdrawal taking effect. The lawyers noted the ruling's significance in light of Duterte's role in initiating the Philippines' exit from the ICC while now facing charges of crimes against humanity, specifically murder, before the tribunal. WITH JAVIER JOE ISMAEL

- [Palace: President will comply with SC order](#) (2026-04-23 16:19)

(UPDATE) PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Executive Secretary Ralph Recto will heed the order of the Supreme Court to submit his comment on a petition that seeks the disclosure of his medical examination report, Malacañang said on Thursday. “If that is the order of the Supreme Court, we will follow. A comment will be made,” Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said in Filipino in a press briefing. “Soon as there is a comment, we will immediately release it,” Castro said. The high tribunal’s order stemmed from the petition of Pantaleon Alvarez, Virgilio Garcia, Juan Raña and Raymundo Junia against Marcos and Recto. They argued that the chief executive’s health is a matter of public concern, especially with the country dealing with the effects of the crisis triggered by the hostilities in the Middle East. In their petition for a writ of mandamus, they sought to have Marcos submit himself to physical and mental examinations, including a hair follicle drug test. It also requires the chief executive to make public results of the tests, including medical and clinical confirmation of his physical and medical fitness to prove whether or not he is fit to discharge the powers and duties as president. They invoked Section 12, Article VII of the Constitution, which mandates public disclosure of the chief executive’s health in case of serious illness. Marcos last January was diagnosed with diverticulitis and had to scale back attending events in and out of Malacañang. The president himself recently said he has since fully recovered and does not have any restrictions in his activities or his diet. The president even went as far as tagging as liars those who have been spreading unverified reports about his health. “So, from now on, those people who told you that I’m sick, that I’m disabled, they are all liars. Everything they say is a lie. So, don’t believe whoever those people are. Now you know who the liars are and who is telling the truth,” he said.

- [Sara denies transaction reports, attacks AMLC](#) (2026-04-23 16:18)

(UPDATE) VICE President Sara Duterte on Thursday said reports by the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) that she and her husband had P6.7 billion in bank transactions over the last 20 years were “untrue,” and that real thieves do not put money in banks, but rather in suitcases. Her statement came after testimony before the House Committee on Justice, which is hearing impeachment complaints against her, detailed bank transactions that were not reflected in Duterte’s statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs). In the same hearing, which she did not attend, former senator Antonio Trillanes IV alleged that Duterte received millions of pesos from alleged drug lord Sammy Uy, and had ill-gotten wealth alongside her father, former president Rodrigo Duterte. In a statement on Thursday, Duterte said that Trillanes has been “peddling the same incredible story about alleged billions in bank accounts,” for the past 10 years. But Trillanes, Duterte said, is now backed by a “sitting president who must be compelled to submit to a simple drug test; ‘law-bender’ members of the House of Representatives that have received ‘maletas’ (suitcases) and have repeatedly disregarded constitutional limits; a Commission on Audit that appears to time its issuances in a manner that conveniently aligns with political attacks; and newly installed AMLC officials who remain silent and refuse to clarify that there have been no findings of violations of anti-money

laundering laws, and the billions of peso in bank accounts are untrue.” “The timing of all this also cannot be denied. The series of allegations and cases against me began after I left the Cabinet, at a time when I refused to sign a national budget that I could not defend to the people,” Duterte said. She said her service record is clean, she did not have a case involving the use of public funds, and she declared all her assets and money in her SALN. Duterte was accused of misusing the confidential funds of her office, a charge that was supported by documents showing that the funds were disbursed to people with fictitious names that combined the names of restaurants and snack food brands, such as Mary Grace Piattos. “Every centavo comes from a legitimate source and is supported by documentation. Real thieves do not put their money in the bank — they put it in suitcases,” Duterte said. Instead of explaining the bank transactions, however, Duterte attacked the administration for the billions lost to corruption. She urged Filipinos to “not be deceived by the noise of this impeachment.” But Malacañang said the vice president should explain the billions of pesos in transactions flagged by the AMLC, saying that accountability and transparency were expected from all public servants like her. Speaking to reporters, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said these revelations were not new and did not warrant a comment from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “It would be better for us to hear the Vice President’s reaction because billion-peso transactions in her bank accounts have been disclosed,” she added. Meanwhile, Duterte’s impeachment defense team said the P6.7-billion bank transactions that were unreported in her SALN are aggregated transactions from 2006 to 2025, which could lead for the figures to be “bloated.” They also reiterated that her continued nonappearance before the panel is based on their position that the committee has no jurisdiction on the ongoing proceedings. In a press briefing on Thursday, Defense panel spokesman Michael Wesley Poa said the AMLC presented the aggregate of all transactions during the years covered. “All inflows, all outflows are added up, so there is a tendency for those figures to be bloated,” Poa said. He added that if both outflows and inflows are “bloated,” it means that the net amount of transactions will be bloated. “It is not determinative or conclusive how much [is] inside the account. For us we believe the numbers are bloated,” Poa said. He said that Duterte’s SALNs before she became vice president should not be included in the discussion. In the House hearing on Wednesday, the AMLC noted a significant increase in Duterte’s assets, which grew from P504,000 in 2005 to P280 million in 2007, when she was first elected as vice mayor of Davao City. Meanwhile, amid calls for her to show up at the House impeachment hearing, lead counsel Shiela Sison reiterated that the current proceedings are “unconstitutional” as they believe that the evidence should only be scrutinized at the proper forum, which is the Senate Impeachment Court. Several current and former lawmakers also defended Duterte from unexplained wealth claims and the figures presented by the AMLC. “An AMLC report is not a conviction. It is not proof of plunder. It is not proof of malversation. It is not proof that public funds entered a personal account,” Davao City 3rd District Rep. Isidro Ungab said. He said that under AMLC rules, a suspicious transaction may be reported based on red flags such as unusual activity, lack of apparent economic purpose, deviation from a client’s profile, or possible relation to unlawful activity. “If there is real evidence of money laundering, the law provides the proper route: the AMLC may cause the filing of complaints with the DOJ or the Ombudsman for prosecution of money laundering

offenses. Until that happens, the House cannot treat ‘reported transaction’ as equal to ‘stolen money,’ ” Ungab said. Without citing any figures or proof, former Bagong Henerasyon Partylist representative Bernadette Herrera said the claims against Duterte are not only “inaccurate but also exaggerated.” “They are stretching the facts in order to paint a negative picture against the vice president. This is all being done to condition the minds of the people even before any real evidence has been presented to substantiate the allegations against the vice president,” Herrera said.

- [88% favor impeachment trial for vice president](#) (2026-04-23 16:17)

(UPDATE) A LARGE majority of Filipinos want Vice President Sara Duterte to face a Senate impeachment trial, with 88 percent saying she should answer allegations in a formal proceeding, a survey released on Thursday by research firm Tangere showed. The poll, conducted from April 22 to 23, indicated that respondents view a Senate trial not primarily as punishment but as a venue for the vice president to publicly defend herself and address the accusations against her. About 70 percent of those surveyed said Duterte should personally testify and respond to the allegations, while 51 percent want her to present evidence — such as bank records — to clarify financial issues raised against her. The same proportion cited the need to uphold due process, describing the Senate trial as the proper constitutional mechanism for resolving impeachment complaints. The survey also pointed to expectations that a trial could help restore confidence in government. Around 52 percent said facing the allegations directly could rebuild public trust in the Office of the Vice President, while an equal share said a public trial would ensure transparency. Meanwhile, 44 percent believe a definitive legal process could end ongoing political attacks. Support for a Senate trial was consistent across political affiliations, including Duterte supporters, opposition voters, administration allies and undecided respondents, the firm said. Tangere Chief Executive Martin Peñaflor said the findings suggest broad agreement among Filipinos on the need for a formal legal process. “Whether supportive or critical, there is a shared view that the vice president should address the allegations in the Senate and be given the opportunity to defend her integrity,” Peñaflor said. The noncommissioned survey polled 1,200 respondents nationwide using a mobile-based application and stratified random sampling, with a margin of error of ± 2.77 percent at a 95-percent confidence level. Meanwhile, the petitioners who filed a case before the Supreme Court challenging aspects of the impeachment process against the vice president raised concerns over the House Committee on Justice hearing on April 22, saying the proceedings went beyond the original impeachment complaints. In a statement, the petitioners, led by lawyer Israelito Torreon, said what transpired during the hearing “confirmed” their position before the Supreme Court that the committee had considered materials not originally attached to the impeachment complaints, including post-filing affidavits, statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs), Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC)-related documents, and corporate and tax records of entities not cited in the complaints. They described this as a “continuing post-filing expansion” of the case, arguing that impeachment proceedings should remain limited to the allegations and supporting documents as originally filed. The petitioners raised

particular concern over the use of SALNs they said were not part of the impeachment complaints and covered periods when Duterte was not yet vice president. They also questioned the presentation of AMLC-related materials covering transactions over several years, including periods outside her current term. According to the group, impeachment should be confined to acts or omissions committed during the current term of an impeachable official and should not be used to examine earlier public positions or unrelated periods. They further criticized the alleged failure to provide the AMLC-related report to the respondent prior to the hearing, saying this deprived her of the opportunity to properly examine and respond to the material. The petitioners also took issue with the public discussion of AMLC-related findings during the hearing, saying that such reports are not proof of wrongdoing but only investigative leads that require proper validation and a clear financial trail.

- [Ex-driver of DPWH exec testifies at bail hearing](#) (2026-04-23 16:16)

PROSECUTION witness Vergel Niño Garcia testified before the Sandiganbayan Third Division on Thursday he delivered boxes that supposedly contained cash payoffs to former senator Ramon Revilla Jr. The prosecution presented Garcia as a witness in the hearing on the bail petitions of Revilla and several of his co-accused. Revilla and six other people are facing a malversation case in connection with the alleged ghost flood control works in Pandi, Bulacan. Most of the accused have petitioned for bail. Garcia testified he had served as a driver for Roberto Bernardo, now a former undersecretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), for about 15 years. Bernardo is a state witness in the case. Garcia testified that he delivered the boxes to Revilla, fellow senator Jinggoy Estrada, Trygve Olaivar, a certain person surnamed Villa, the late DPWH undersecretary Cathy Cabral and former Public Works secretary Manuel Bonoan. Garcia told the court he delivered 12 boxes to Estrada at the senator's residence in San Juan City in November 2024. He said he also made three deliveries to Olaivar, one at Rockwell involving four suitcases; one at Magallanes involving four suitcases; and one at Airport Road involving several boxes. Garcia said he delivered eight boxes to Villa's house in January 2025, and a sealed paper bag to the house of Cabral in 2023. That same year, he handed over a sealed box to Cabral's driver at the Quirino Grandstand in Luneta Park, Manila. Garcia said he delivered 15 sealed boxes to a driver of Bonoan in November 2024; 20 boxes in 2025; and 20 boxes in Quezon City. Garcia maintained that he never saw the contents of his deliveries, and learned about it only during an investigation of the flood control scandal. The prosecution presented Francisco Dela Fuente Jr. in the afternoon. Reody Anthony Balisi, Revilla's lawyer, refuted the testimonies of Garcia and dela Fuente. He said the defense has not wavered in its position that there is no evidence linking Revilla to the Bulacan project. Accused with Revilla were Brice Hernandez, Juanito Mendoza, Arjay Domasig, Emelita Juat, Christina Mae Pineda and Jaypee Mendoza. All except Jaypee Mendoza are seeking bail. The case was filed by the Office of the Ombudsman last January. Revilla refused to enter a plea during his arraignment in February. The Sandiganbayan Third Division thus entered a not guilty plea for him. All the other accused pleaded not guilty.

- [Palace: Govt confident Co will be brought home](#) (2026-04-23 16:15)

(UPDATE) THE government is confident that former congressman Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co, one of the central figures in the multibillion-peso flood control scandal, will be brought home, Malacañang said Thursday. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro issued the statement after Justice Secretary Frederick Vida confirmed that he and Chief State Counsel Dennis Chan would fly to Prague, the Czech Republic, on Thursday to discuss with Czech authorities Co’s return. Castro said the government’s next steps in securing the return of Co would depend on its coordination and agreement with the Czech Republic. Asked how confident is the administration that Co will be brought back to the country after Vida’s trip, she said the government was “definitely confident.” “Since other countries are involved, let us just hope that Zaldy Co will be brought back to our country soon,” Castro said during a Palace briefing. The Department of Justice has said it was considering deportation, extradition or invoking the United Nations Convention Against Corruption — to which both the Philippines and the Czech Republic are signatories — as possible means to facilitate Co’s return. Co is facing an arrest warrant for alleged malversation of public funds and graft in connection with a P289.5-million anomalous dike project in Oriental Mindoro. He left the country in July last year, supposedly for medical treatment in the United States. In September, the government revoked Co’s travel papers after he was implicated in budget insertions and anomalous flood control projects. He later resigned as Ako Bicol Party-list representative. Co is being detained by Czech authorities after being flagged for illegal entry. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has said Co’s return would follow due process and international legal procedures.

- [Romualdez to question hold departure order](#) (2026-04-23 16:14)

(UPDATE) THE spokesman of former speaker Martin Romualdez said they will question the Precautionary Hold Departure Order issued to him by the Sandiganbayan. The anti-graft court issued the order on Wednesday, after the Office of the Ombudsman said it found probable cause that Romualdez might leave the country to evade arrest. Romualdez is being investigated for allegations of plunder, direct bribery and malversation in relation to the flood control scandal. In a statement, lawyer Ade Fajardo said. Romualdez “is in the Philippines and has not left the country. Any report or insinuation that he has fled is false and irresponsible.” Fajardo said Romualdez is seeking and securing necessary travel authority, and coordinated in good faith with the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Immigration. Romualdez was looking for a “brief, long-overdue four-day medical checkup with his attending physician in Singapore,” after his angioplasty surgery, she continued. “This is fully consistent with his conduct from the very beginning — one of cooperation, transparency and respect for legal processes. Unfortunately, this legitimate act has been twisted to create a prejudicial narrative that he intended to flee.” The congressman from Leyte “remains committed to facing these allegations squarely,” Fajardo said. Partido Demokratiko Pilipino deputy national spokesman Ferdinand Topacio on Friday appealed to Romualdez to “redeem himself and his family’s legacy” by exposing everything he knows about the corruption in government, including unconstitutional insertions in the General Appropriations Act and the flood control scandal. “We are aware that such revelations may involve close members of his family,

including the President, and that he may be holding back information to protect certain personalities, but his recent warnings that he will spill the beans, as it were, should charges against him be politicized and he become the ‘fall guy’, indicates that Romualdez knows many things that will help unravel the Gordian knot regarding these massive anomalies,” Topacio said. On Thursday, Malacañang said the President does not feel alluded to by Romualdez’ s remarks. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro told reporters it was Marcos himself who ordered an investigation into anomalous flood control projects. “Whatever defense will be made against the possible accusations against former Speaker Romualdez, that is his defense,” Castro said. “And if he is saying that the executive has command responsibility, that is precisely why the President gave orders: the matter was not ignored, there was no cover-up, and he initiated an investigation. So that if there are any anomalies and whoever should be held accountable, they must indeed be held accountable.” Romualdez, a cousin and a close ally of the President, denied any role in the supposedly corruption-tainted 2025 national budget, saying there was “no evidence that proves that he committed plunder, conspiracy to commit plunder, or any similar offense that the Ombudsman may be contemplating against me.” He said that if anyone bears command responsibility over the budget, it would be the Executive branch. “If corruption were to occur on the scale alleged in recent months, it is clear that it would not happen at the level of general legislative approval alone. It happens at the level of execution of the General Appropriations Act,” Romualdez said in a video message. “That is why command responsibility is more logically attributed to the Executive branch, where there is actual supervision, operational control and on-the-ground implementation, rather than to a collegial legislative body whose constitutional role is deliberation and appropriation,” he said. Romualdez did not name Marcos, and pointed instead at former Senate president Francis Escudero and former House appropriations committee chairman Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co. Castro said that when the President found out about the anomalous flood control projects in 2025, “he himself ordered the investigation. He created an independent investigating body to ensure that there will be no cover-up, especially about the actions and inactions of the DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways).” Castro said some DPWH officials, including former Public Works secretary Manuel Bonoan, have been charged in court. She refused to characterize the relationship between Marcos and Romualdez, following the latter’ s resignation as speaker in September last year.

- [Go calls for stronger OFW safeguards after Beirut killings](#) (2026-04-23 16:13)

SEN. Bong Go has called for stronger protection for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) following the fatal shooting of two Filipina household service workers in Beirut, Lebanon. The incident, confirmed by the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), occurred on April 15 during a hostage situation in the Lebanese capital. Authorities reported that the victims were shot by their employer. The suspect has been arrested and is awaiting the filing of charges. “This news is painful. Our compatriots working abroad are sacrificing for their families, so we must ensure that they are safe wherever they are,” Go said, underscoring the risks faced by Filipino workers overseas. The DMW said it is coordinating closely with the Philippine Embassy in Lebanon and

local authorities for a thorough investigation. Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac has directed concerned agencies to extend full assistance to the victims' families, including repatriation arrangements, financial aid and access to government benefits. Go stressed that beyond immediate relief, authorities must reinforce preventive mechanisms, including stronger coordination with host governments and stricter monitoring of working conditions for deployed Filipinos. He emphasized that the tragedy highlights risks faced by OFWs, particularly domestic workers. He said that in 2018, during the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte, the Philippines stopped deploying workers to Kuwait following a series of OFW abuse and death cases. Deployment resumed only after both countries agreed on enhanced labor protection and monitoring systems. Go reiterated the importance of institutional reforms such as Republic Act 11641, which created the Department of Migrant Workers to streamline services and strengthen protection mechanisms for OFWs. He is among the law's authors and co-sponsors. The Beirut killings come amid growing concerns over the safety of Filipinos in volatile regions. Recent reports also confirmed the deaths of Filipina workers in Israel. Mary Ann de Vera was identified in March as the first Filipino casualty in the ongoing war, followed by another Filipina killed in a missile strike in Haifa in April.

- [All systems go for Asean Summit – palace](#) (2026-04-23 16:12)

MALACANANG on Thursday said it is “all systems go” for the staging of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit and Related Summits this year despite the crisis the nation is facing. In a press briefing, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro gave assurances that the first high-level meeting, the 48th Asean Leaders' Summit and Related Meetings in Cebu on May 7 and 8, is all set. “All systems go. We are ready,” she said in Filipino. Last month, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered a recalibration of the Philippines' hosting of Asean 2026, scaling down non-essential activities “in order to save on expenses and focus on the most important” amid the effects of the war in the Middle East. While smaller engagements would be conducted virtually, the Leaders Summit would be face-to-face in a “very bare-bones” format. Marcos earlier said he had consulted with fellow leaders, who agreed to push through with the summit. The Palace earlier said 650 ministerial and senior official meetings that the Philippines was supposed to host would instead be conducted online. Asean leaders are expected to join the Leaders' Summit on May 7 to 8 in Cebu. Meanwhile, the Asean Summit and Related Meetings are set in Manila later this year.

- [Taiwanese official visits disputed island](#) (2026-04-23 16:11)

TAIPEI — A Taiwanese government minister has made a rare visit to a Taiwan-controlled island in the hotly contested South China Sea, as the coast guard held drills including a simulated boarding of a suspect vessel. Taiping island, also known as Itu Aba, is the largest in the disputed Spratly archipelago, which is also claimed by China, the Philippines and Vietnam. Ocean Affairs Council Minister Kuan Bi-ling visited Taiping on Tuesday, the Coast Guard Administration said in a statement on Wednesday. Kuan is the first Taiwanese government minister to set foot on the island in seven years, Taiwan's Central News Agency reported. Taiwan's coast guard held

exercises during Kuan's visit, including armed special forces practice boarding a suspicious cargo ship that had failed to respond to calls. In another drill, coast guard personnel carried out a humanitarian emergency rescue operation. The defense ministry also dispatched a C-130 transport aircraft to join the exercises. To assert its claim on Taiping, Taiwan has installed a solar-powered lighthouse, an airstrip and a pier. The island covers about 0.51 square kilometers (0.19 square miles) and most of its inhabitants work for the coast guard. Taiwan has rejected a 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, which was brought by the Philippines against China over the South China Sea. The tribunal found China's claims to almost the entire waterway had no legal basis. It also stated that Taiping was legally a "rock" and not entitled to its own exclusive economic zone, undermining Taiwanese claims to waters surrounding the island. Taiwan's government rejected the court's ruling, saying it "severely jeopardized" Taiwan's rights. It said the judgment has no legally binding force since the tribunal did not formally invite Taipei to take part in its proceedings or solicit its views.

- [Nuclear energy is having a global revival 40 years after Chernobyl](#) (2026-04-23 16:10)

THE 1986 Chernobyl disaster fueled global fears about nuclear power and slowed its development in Europe and elsewhere. Four decades later, however, there's a revival around the world, a trend that has been given a big boost by war in the Middle East. Over 400 nuclear reactors are operational in 31 countries, while about 70 more are under construction. Nuclear power accounts for producing about 10 percent of the world's electricity, equivalent to about a quarter of all sources of low-carbon power. Nuclear reactors have seen steady improvements, adding more safety features and making them cheaper to build and operate. While Chernobyl and the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan diminished the appetite for such power sources, it was clear years ago that there probably would be a revival, said Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency. With the war in the Middle East, "I am 100-percent sure nuclear is coming back," he added. "It's seen as a secure electricity generation system, and we will see that the comeback of nuclear will be very strong, both in (the) Americas, in Europe and in Asia," Birol told The Associated Press (AP). Nuclear energy reliance stays strong. The United States is the world's largest producer of nuclear power, with 94 operational reactors accounting for about 30 percent of global generation of nuclear electricity. And it is increasing efforts to develop nuclear energy capacity with a goal to quadruple it by 2050. "The world cannot power its industries, meet the demands of artificial intelligence, or secure its energy future without nuclear power," US Undersecretary of State Thomas DiNanno said last month. China operates 61 nuclear reactors and is leading the world in building new units, with nearly 40 under construction with a goal to surpass the US and become the global leader in nuclear capacity. European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen has acknowledged that it was Europe's "strategic mistake" to cut nuclear energy and outlined new initiatives to encourage building power plants. Russia, meanwhile, has taken a strong lead in exporting its nuclear know-how, building 20 reactors worldwide. Chernobyl's Reactor No. 4 exploded on April 26, 1986, while Ukraine was still part of the Soviet Union. The accident contaminated nearby areas and spewed radiation across Europe. Ukraine still relies heavily on nuclear plants

to generate about half of its electricity. Those plants have played a vital role after Russia sent troops into Ukraine in 2022. Moscow's forces have captured Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, and Kyiv accused Russia of a drone attack on the protective containment structure covering the damaged Chernobyl reactor. Japan has restarted 15 reactors after reviewing the lessons of the earthquake and tsunami that damaged the Fukushima plant, and 10 more are in the process of getting approval to restart. South Africa has the only nuclear power plant on the African continent, although Russia is building one in Egypt, and several other African nations are exploring the technology. "The momentum we are seeing today is the result of a growing recognition that reliable, low-carbon electricity will be essential to meet the world's rising energy demand," said Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency. EU eyes nuclear expansion Europe sought to wean itself off Russian energy after the Ukraine conflict, but its dependence on hydrocarbons was underlined by the war in the Middle East. The European Commission has shifted its perception of nuclear energy and views it as part of clean energy, along with wind and solar power, to achieve climate goals. In 1990, nuclear energy accounted for about a third of Europe's electricity; now it's only about 15 percent, and von der Leyen has acknowledged that its reliance on imported fossil fuels puts it at a disadvantage. "I believe that it was a strategic mistake for Europe to turn its back on a reliable, affordable source of low-emissions power," she said recently. "In the last years, we see a global revival of nuclear energy. And Europe wants to be part of it." The EU is considering the development of Small Modular Reactors. Expected to become operational in the early 2030s, they are seen as cheaper and faster to build and more flexible than traditional reactors. France and a few other EU members, including Sweden and Finland, have spearheaded nuclear power. On the other hand, Germany, Austria and Italy are among the EU members that outlawed its use. In a major policy reversal last year, Belgium repealed a law that demanded the closure of its reactors and extended their lifespan. Spain, meanwhile, still plans to phase out its nuclear capacity and shut down its seven operational reactors between 2027 and 2035. France remains a nuclear powerhouse. With 57 reactors at 19 plants, France relies on nuclear power for nearly 70 percent of its electricity. Successive governments have backed nuclear power as central to France's energy independence, undeterred by the Chernobyl disaster. In 2022, President Emmanuel Macron announced plans to build six new pressurized water reactors, aiming to cut greenhouse gas emissions and support the transition to low-carbon energy. The Covid-19 pandemic, combined with the gas supply crunch triggered by the conflict in Ukraine, "revealed the limits of deploying renewable electricity and Europe's dependence on gas," said Nicolas Goldberg, a partner at Paris-based Columbus Consulting. "France has therefore been reinforced in its strategy of maintaining its existing nuclear plants, which means extending their lifespan as much as possible," he said. Germany stands firm in phasing it out. Decades of anti-nuclear protests in Germany, stoked by past accidents, had pressured successive governments to end using a technology that critics saw as unsafe and unsustainable. Germany switched off its last three nuclear reactors in 2023, the final step in plans that had been drawn up by governments of various political stripes over two decades. A significant nuclear revival in Europe's biggest economy still looks far-fetched, despite recent talk among some in Chancellor Friedrich Merz's center-right bloc about being open to a possible future generation

of small modular reactors. “The decision is irreversible — I regret it, but that’s how it is,” Merz said, noting the plant operators’ “consistent answer was: ‘We are too far along with demolition.’” Russian domestic nuclear expansion Russia has aggressively expanded its nuclear power capacity both domestically and internationally. It has 34 operational reactors, including eight Chernobyl-type RBMK reactors, known as the light water graphite reactors, which account for about a quarter of all nuclear power generation. They have seen extensive modernizations, adding safety features to fix the inherent design flaw that, coupled with human error, triggered the Chernobyl disaster. Key projects under construction include new units at the Kursk, Leningrad and Smolensk sites, a prospective plant in the Far East, and prospective floating nuclear units. Russia also is building 20 reactors in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and has signed contracts to launch construction in several other countries. Russia has built the first nuclear reactor for neighboring ally Belarus, which has seen a third of its territory contaminated from the Chernobyl accident.

- [Marcos still against PH rejoining ICC](#) (2026-04-23 16:09)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has not changed his stance to not allow the Philippines to rejoin the International Criminal Court (ICC), Malacañang said Thursday. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro issued the statement after the ICC Appeals Chamber upheld its jurisdiction over former president Rodrigo Duterte. Some groups have urged the government to return to the ICC to strengthen accountability mechanisms and safeguard against abuses. “The President said we are not rejoining the ICC for now,” Castro said during a press conference. She also maintained that the government’s actions were independent of the ICC ruling on the Duterte case. Castro said the move was based on Philippine laws and international obligations through law enforcement channels. “The transfer of former president [Rodrigo] Duterte was not to comply with an ICC order. As we said, this is based on our laws and our relationship with Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization),” she said. Castro also pushed back against remarks by Duterte’s lawyer Nicholas Kaufman, who questioned the Marcos administration’s position on ICC jurisdiction. “Tell Attorney Kaufman not to live in the past,” she said. The Philippines withdrew from the ICC on March 17, 2019, a year after the government revoked its ratification of the Rome Statute, the treaty that established the court. Duterte initiated the withdrawal a year earlier following the ICC prosecutor’s preliminary examination into alleged crimes linked to his administration’s antidrug campaign. Despite the country’s exit, the ICC retained jurisdiction over alleged crimes committed while the Philippines was still a member of the court. Duterte has been in ICC detention in The Hague since his arrest in March 2025, and is facing charges of crimes against humanity for actions tied to the antidrug campaign during his tenure as Davao City mayor and later as president. The ICC tries people accused of the most serious crimes under international law, including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

- [DILG tightens accountability measures](#) (2026-04-23 16:08)

THE Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said it is intensifying the nationwide monitoring of more than \$57 billion worth of Local Government Support Fund (LGSF) projects. It added that for 2026, the Marcos administration allocated \$57.87 billion for the LGSF to finance priority infrastructure and essential services in local government units (LGUs), particularly in areas where local governments have limited fiscal capacity. At the core of the monitoring framework is the SubayBAYAN portal, an online system that allows LGUs to register and update project status in real time, enabling both government and the public to track progress. This is supported by the Project Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PrIME) system, which identifies high-risk projects and flags delays or implementation gaps for immediate intervention. In 2025, the PrIME system assessed 161 projects nationwide. On the ground, local project monitoring committees oversee implementation in LGUs, focusing on compliance with standards, timeliness, and responsiveness to community needs. The DILG has expanded third-party monitoring in partnership with civil society organizations, which has so far tracked 933 infrastructure projects valued at \$5.8 billion. The department said the system is complemented by continuous capacity-building programs for LGUs, aimed at improving planning, execution, and long-term sustainability of local infrastructure. Several completed projects were cited as examples of the program's impact. The DILG said it would continue strengthening oversight mechanisms to ensure timely and effective delivery of LGSF-funded projects, stressing that improved local development contributes to national progress.

- [QC villages urged to cut energy use](#) (2026-04-23 16:07)

(UPDATE) MAYOR Joy Belmonte ordered Thursday all 142 villages of Quezon City to implement strict energy-saving measures to mitigate the effects of the war in the Middle East on fuel prices. Belmonte said the villages are mandated to cut their monthly electricity and fuel consumption by at least 10 percent while ensuring that frontline services remain fast, efficient, and uninterrupted. “The effects of global instability are already being felt at the community level,” Belmonte said. “Concerned barangay authorities in the city must act decisively — reducing energy use while continuing to deliver responsive and reliable services to our people,” the city chief executive stressed. To meet targets, the villages were required to enforce several measures including the use of air conditioning units from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., keeping temperatures at 24 degrees Celsius and switching off non-essential lighting, including a lights-off period from noon to 1 p.m. Village officials were ordered to ensure electricity is turned off in unused spaces, ban personal appliances within city facilities and reduce unnecessary travel, among others. Village officials were also directed to encourage residents to avail of city programs such as the QCity Bus “Libreng Sakay” (free ride) and the QC E-Services Platform. Belmonte also urged businesses and civil society organizations to adopt energy-saving practices. “Private sector partners are likewise encouraged to support food rescue and redistribution efforts and assist in price and supply monitoring under the Quezon City Price Coordinating Council,” she said.

- [Foreigner arrested for assaulting NAIA guard](#) (2026-04-23 16:06)

(UPDATE) A FOREIGNER was arrested for theft and physical assault at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3, airport security said Wednesday. Initial reports showed that Lockheed Security Agency personnel, in coordination with terminal food outlet staff, reported the suspect to the Philippine National Police Aviation Security Group (Avsegroup) for allegedly refusing to pay his bill. It noted that the store's staff and manager confronted the suspect, who refused to cooperate. During the confrontation, the suspect allegedly turned violent and repeatedly struck a responding security officer, causing injuries. He was later subdued by other responding airport security and immediately brought to NAIA Police Station 3 for investigation, documentation and proper disposition. In another incident, a 27-year-old American was detained by police at NAIA Terminal 1 following unruly behavior. The Avsegroup said that the Taipei-bound man was apprehended "due to disorderly and scandalous actions." The incident occurred in the NAIA departure lobby on April 21, 2026. Police added that the suspect is now in the custody of NAIA Police Station 1 and will undergo inquest proceedings for violation of Article 155 of the Revised Penal Code. Cases of unruly behavior at Philippine airports fall under the jurisdiction of Avsegroup by virtue of the rules of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines.

- [More charges to be filed against Italian entrepreneur](#) (2026-04-23 16:05)

(UPDATE) THE Department of Justice (DOJ) said it has recommended the filing of additional charges for large-scale illegal recruitment and estafa against London-based Italian entrepreneur Adel En Nouri and several co-accused in connection with an alleged recruitment scam. In a 10-page resolution, the DOJ Office of the Prosecutor in Tanauan City, Batangas, granted a motion for reconsideration filed by complainants Maria Anne Castro and Brian De Chavez, reinstating Adel En Nouri and Mohammed En Nouri as respondents after their earlier exclusion. The complainants initially withdrew the case but later sought their re-inclusion, saying they did not fully understand the legal implications of their earlier move. The respondents also failed to submit a required comment despite a DOJ directive. The DOJ found probable cause that En Nouri conspired with other accused in an illegal recruitment scheme involving Tamber International Placement Agency, which is not licensed by the Department of Migrant Workers. The complainants reportedly paid 160,000 pesos in total based on false job offers. The resolution also recommended estafa charges, citing deliberate misrepresentation that induced the victims to part with their money. The case is separate from earlier proceedings. The Bacoor City Regional Trial Court previously issued arrest warrants for qualified human trafficking on March 4, followed by another warrant on April 10 for serious illegal detention and large-scale illegal recruitment, all non-bailable. The complainants have also sought assistance in pursuing an Interpol red notice against En Nouri for possible international tracking and arrest.

- [Malabon marks 25th cityhood anniversary](#) (2026-04-23 16:04)

MALABON City Mayor Jeannie Sandoval urged residents Thursday to embody the spirit of "bayanihan" (communal unity) amid energy challenges resulting from the war in the Middle East. The mayor issued the call as Malabon celebrates its 25th cityhood anniversary. "As we

celebrate Malabon's 25th Cityhood Anniversary, let me remind that cooperation and volunteerism must prevail upon us in the wake of the economic challenges most of us are experiencing nowadays," Sandoval said in a statement. "The spirit of bayanihan would serve as our strength in order for all of us here in our beloved city to overcome whatever crisis that will come," she added. Sandoval noted that the city remains proactive in ensuring the continuous delivery of basic and direct services while encouraging volunteerism among residents. City Administrator Alex Rosete said Malabon has rolled out several programs under the "Walang Tulugan Serbisyo" caravan for the occasion, including the release of the second tranche of the Malabon Ahon Blue Card financial assistance to 93,000 households and a mega job fair. "We also hold the monthlong Malabon Pasalubong Trade Fair, which promotes products of local micro, small and medium enterprises to boost the local economy," Rosete said. Rosete named other projects such as mobile shower, mobile laundry, mobile water and charging station, first aid and safety training, and distribution of financial assistance and pensions to senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Malabon became a city by virtue of Republic Act 9019, which was authored by former representative Ricky Sandoval, the mayor's husband.

- [Customs agents raid Valenzuela smuggling hub](#) (2026-04-23 16:03)

A SUSPECTED smuggling hub packed with P174 million worth of illicit goods was raided by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), the bureau said Thursday. Assistant Commissioner Vincent Philip Maronilla said operatives of the BOC and the PNP raided a warehouse believed to be a distribution point for illegally imported vape products and other contraband based on gathered intelligence. Maronilla said that found inside the warehouse were vape products, machinery, electronic devices, imported medicines, food items, apparel, cosmetics, and LED lighting equipment, suggesting a large-scale, multi-product smuggling operation. Authorities estimated the total value of the seized items at P174,863,576.94. Investigators believe the goods originated from China and were brought into the country without the required import permits, duties, and regulatory clearances. Maronilla said the operations were indicative of sophisticated methods used by smuggling syndicates to evade detection. He noted that unaccounted goods not only undermine legitimate businesses but also deprive the government of revenue. The BOC is coordinating with the National Bureau of Investigation to build cases against the perpetrators. Maronilla said the operation aligns with the order of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to intensify the campaign against smuggling. "What concerns us most is that these products, if they make their way into our markets and homes, may pose serious risks to the health and safety of our people," Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said.

- [Pasig geriatric facility to widen services](#) (2026-04-23 16:02)

PASIG City has taken over the operations of the Magokoro elderly care facility to expand its services, the city government said Thursday. This comes after the project, supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), completed its one-year pilot implementation. The

200-square-meter care facility is located inside the Pasig City Mega Dialysis Center on Eusebio Avenue in San Miguel. JICA said the initiative showed how Japanese-style, people-centered care could be adapted to the local context. “Through this JICA-supported pilot initiative, Magokoro Pasig has shown how Japanese-style, people-centered care can be thoughtfully adapted to the local context, providing dignity, comfort, and an improved quality of life for senior citizens,” JICA said. Pasig City said its plans for 2026 to 2028 include improving the exterior of the facility, adding more caregivers and conducting home-based caregiving training for the community. JICA Chief Representative Baba Takashi, Infic President Masuda Masatoshi and Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto met on April 16 to confirm the project’s achievements and the city’s future plans for the program. Infic Inc. is a specialized Japanese company that combines traditional nursing care with advanced technology (CareTech) to support elderly independence.

- [No winners in Super Lotto 6/49, Lotto 6/42 draws for April 23](#) (2026-04-23 14:24)

There were no winners in the Super Lotto 6/49 and Lotto 6/42 draws on Thursday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The winning combination for the Super Lotto 6/49 was 11-35-40-01-18-08, with a jackpot prize of P25,000,000.00. There were also no winners in the Lotto 6/42 draw, which had the winning combination 09-23-42-37-24-10 and a jackpot prize of P21,185,563.23

- [Marcos doesn't feel alluded to by Romualdez remarks on flood mess](#) (2026-04-23 14:07)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. does not feel alluded to by former Speaker Martin Romualdez's remarks that command responsibility for the 2025 budget mess and the infrastructure corruption scandal lies with the Executive branch, Malacañang said Thursday. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said that Marcos himself ordered an investigation into alleged anomalous flood control projects based on command responsibility. “Whatever defense will be made against the possible accusations against former Speaker Romualdez, that is his defense,” Castro said during a press conference. “And if he is saying that the executive has command responsibility, that is precisely why the president gave orders: the matter was not ignored, there was no cover-up, and he initiated an investigation. So that if there are any anomalies and whoever should be held accountable, they must indeed be held accountable,” she added.

- [Kiko Pangilinan: Robredo's refusal to seek 2028 presidency may create a 'leadership vacuum](#) (2026-04-23 13:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis Pangilinan expressed concern that Leni Robredo’s refusal to run for president in 2028 could create a “leadership vacuum” that may be difficult for other contenders to fill. In a recent radio interview, Robredo said she intends to seek a second term as mayor of Naga City, adding that she is certain she “will no longer run for any national position.” Pangilinan said it would be best if Robredo reconsiders and “heeds the growing clamor of the people for her to lead the nation’s fight for genuine service and good governance.” “Now more than ever, having witnessed the largest corruption scandal in

Philippine history, our people are crying out for good governance and public accountability,” Pangilinan said. “Now more than ever, all those who believe in meaningful change, honesty, and integrity in our public institutions must come together and sacrifice our time and effort for the sake of a better future for our children,” he added. Meanwhile, former senator Antonio Trillanes IV said on Wednesday that the Magdalo group, where he belongs, would endorse Sen. Risa Hontiveros if she decides to run for higher office in 2028. Trillanes said it would be preferable for Robredo to endorse either Hontiveros or Sen. Bam Aquino should she opt not to seek the presidency, so that her support base could be transferred to them. Hontiveros and Aquino have yet to respond to media queries regarding Trillanes’ statement. Earlier, Pangilinan warned that Robredo’s refusal to join the 2028 presidential race “could lead to disunity among our ranks and the splintering not just of our forces but of all potential allies outside our ranks.” “The net effect will be the fielding of various political parties and groups with their respective presidential bets, further weakening our chances and delivering victory to our adversaries,” Pangilinan wrote on Facebook.

- [De Lima greets Robredo on her birthday](#) (2026-04-23 13:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima greeted Naga Mayor Leni Robredo on her birthday. “Beyond leadership, you remain a source of hope, strength, and inspiration to many of us. In these times, as the country faces issues of corruption, your service remind us what accountability, transparency, and integrity truly look like”, de Lima said in a post on social media. The lawmaker also said that “we remain hopeful for your continued leadership and guidance, just as we also wish you and your beautiful family good health, success and happiness.”

- [DMW: 15 Pinoy seafarers onboard Iran-held ships safe](#) (2026-04-23 13:07)

The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) on Thursday said that 15 Filipino seafarers aboard two container ships intercepted by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps are safe and unharmed. In a statement, the DMW said the families of the crew members have been informed of their condition. DMW Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac said the vessels Epaminondas and MSC Francesca were attempting to leave the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday when they were intercepted by the IRGC. Ten Filipinos were on board the Epaminondas, while five others were aboard the MSC Francesca. “We have been assured that all 15 seafarers are safe and unharmed. We remain in close coordination with their families, the manning agency, and shipowners, and continue to provide updates and support,” Cacdac said.

- [Imee Marcos slams ICC decision to commit former president Rodrigo Duterte to trial](#) (2026-04-23 12:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Imee Marcos criticized the decision of the International Criminal Court to confirm charges against former president Rodrigo Duterte and commit him to trial. The ICC’s Pre-Trial Chamber I unanimously confirmed all charges against Duterte, consisting of three counts of crimes against humanity, and ordered that he stand trial before a Trial

Chamber. In a statement issued Thursday, Marcos said the ICC's action "once again raises serious concerns about selectivity and fairness in the exercise of international justice." "It is difficult to ignore the perception that cases are pursued more aggressively against smaller or less influential states, while more powerful nations remain beyond its reach," she said. Marcos also raised concerns about how Duterte was handled domestically. "Equally troubling is the manner by which former President Rodrigo Duterte was dealt with domestically," she added. She warned that "any action that appears to sidestep constitutional safeguards in order to achieve political ends diminishes public trust in our institutions and weakens the rule of law." A known ally of Duterte, Marcos had earlier expressed disappointment over the ICC's assertion of jurisdiction over the case. "This determination disregards the Philippines' sovereign withdrawal from the Rome Statute," she said. In its ruling, Pre-Trial Chamber I said there are substantial grounds to believe Duterte is responsible for crimes against humanity, specifically murder and attempted murder, under the Rome Statute. "These crimes were committed as part of a widespread and systematic attack against a civilian population on the territory of the Republic of the Philippines between November 1, 2011 and March 16, 2019, in the context of the 'war on drugs' campaign," the ICC said. The chamber based its decision on evidence and arguments presented by both the prosecution and defense during the confirmation of charges hearings held from February 23 to 27, as well as documents submitted by victims' families.

- [Duterte to face ICC trial after judges confirm charges](#) (2026-04-23 10:19)

(UPDATE) MANILA, Philippines — The International Criminal Court confirmed charges of crimes against humanity on former president Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday, finding substantial grounds to believe he orchestrated a deadly anti-drugs campaign that killed thousands of civilians. In a 50-page decision, Pre-Trial Chamber I ruled that Duterte, who served as president from 2016 to 2022 and previously as mayor of Davao City, bore individual criminal responsibility for murders and attempted murders committed between November 2011 and March 2019. The chamber confirmed three counts against the 81-year-old former leader, involving at least 78 victims in 49 incidents cited as illustrative examples of a far wider campaign of violence. Prosecutors say the actual scale of victimization included thousands of killings. Duterte is charged under multiple legal theories: as an indirect co-perpetrator who controlled a "common plan" to "neutralize" alleged criminals, and alternatively as having ordered, induced, or aided and abetted the killings. A 'widespread and systematic' attack The court found that Duterte, first as mayor of Davao City and later as president, led a hierarchical network that carried out a "widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population" of the Philippines. As mayor, the court said, Duterte controlled the so-called Davao Death Squad — a combination of police officers and paid hitmen who killed alleged drug pushers, thieves, and other suspected criminals. After becoming president in June 2016, he expanded the operation nationwide through what prosecutors called the "National Network." The chamber concluded that the word "neutralize" as used by Duterte and his associates meant "to kill" — despite defense arguments that it referred to lawful restraint or arrest. Essential contributions Presiding

Judge Iulia Antoanella Motoc, writing for the unanimous three-judge panel, detailed how Duterte made "essential contributions" to the criminal scheme. These included designing the policy, publicly naming targets, providing weapons and resources, offering financial rewards, appointing key personnel, and shielding perpetrators from prosecution. The court cited witness testimony that Duterte personally approved killing operations in Davao City, and that law enforcement officers who failed to kill enough people faced threats and potential death. The chamber noted that Duterte's public speeches contained "clear directives and incitement to kill criminals," including promises to protect and pardon those involved in killings. It rejected defense arguments that official documents containing self-defense language negated criminal intent, finding that such references could not be assessed in isolation from the broader pattern of violence.

Victim incidents Among the confirmed incidents cited in the decision:

- Three alleged drug pushers killed in Davao City in 2013
- The November 2016 killings of two men in police custody at Leyte Sub-Provincial Jail
- The July 2017 killings of Ozamiz City Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr. and multiple others at the mayor's residence
- The August 2017 killing of 17-year-old Kian Loyd Delos Santos in Caloocan City
- Two attempted murders of individuals who survived being shot

The chamber found Duterte fit to participate in proceedings despite defense requests for indefinite adjournment based on medical concerns. The former president waived his right to attend the February 2026 confirmation hearing. Duterte was surrendered to the court on March 12, 2025, following a warrant issued March 7, 2025. He has remained in detention, with appeals chambers twice confirming decisions denying his interim release. The court rejected defense arguments that the charges were overboard, finding that given the "scale of criminality" and Duterte's position "at the apex" of the operation, a broader description of charges through illustrative examples was "necessary to cover the extent of [his] alleged criminality."

Duterte now faces trial before an ICC Trial Chamber. The court ordered the registrar to transmit the decision and record of proceedings to the presidency. Duterte will be the first Asian former head of state to face trial at the ICC, which prosecutes individuals for the world's worst crimes such as war crimes and crimes against humanity. The court faces the most difficult time in its 24-year history, with the United States sanctioning key judges and officials after the ICC issued arrest warrants for Israel's leader over the Gaza war. It is unclear whether the 81-year-old Duterte will attend his trial.

'Smoking gun' During the confirmation of charges hearing, his defense lawyer Nicholas Kaufman said his client "maintains his innocence absolutely." Kaufman acknowledged that Duterte's speeches were peppered with threats but told judges there was no proven link between his client's rhetoric and the alleged crimes. "There is no smoking gun in this case," Kaufman told the three-judge panel at the ICC. "Not one witness relevant to any of the 49 incidents with which Mr. Rodrigo Duterte is charged will testify that he received a direct order from the former president to go out and kill someone." Kaufman also accused prosecutors of "cherry-picking" the speeches, noting there were several examples of Duterte telling authorities to only act within the law. A lawyer for the victims, Paolina Massidda, said the loved ones of those killed "have waited years for this moment." Addressing the judges directly, Massidda said: "Today, the victims stand before you with the hope that justice long denied may finally be within reach. This court is their last refuge." In a separate procedure, the ICC Appeals Court on Wednesday confirmed the court had jurisdiction on the case, quashing a

challenge from the defense.

- [Philippine Army refutes reported civilian casualties in Negros clash](#) (2026-04-23 08:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Thursday rejected claims that among those who were killed in the Toboso, Negros Occidental were “civilians.” “The AFP underscores that the operation was conducted in accordance with established rules of engagement and with full regard for civilian safety,” Col. Francel Padilla, AFP spokesman, said in a statement. “In close coordination with local government units and partner agencies, affected residents were safely evacuated at the height of the encounter and have since returned to their communities. The AFP continues to work hand-in-hand with local authorities to ensure security, stability, and the swift restoration of normalcy,” she added. The PA confirmed that an armed encounter occurred last April 19 in Barangay Salamanca, Toboso, Negros Occidental between troops of the 79th Infantry “Masaligan” Battalion, under the 303rd Infantry Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, and members of the New People’s Army (NPA) in the Northern Negros area. This resulted in the death of 19 members, including some identified leaders operating in the region. The operation was launched based on verified reports from civilians on the presence of armed elements in the area, the PA said. The PA’s statement came amid accusations of the NPA’s Apolinario Gatmaitan Command that only a small number of those killed were armed fighters and that some were civilians. “Among the casualties were local and foreign journalists and human rights advocates who only carried notebooks, cameras, and the grievances of the poor — tools far more threatening to the status quo than any rifle,” the group said. On Wednesday night, the University of the Philippines Diliman University Student Council said student leader Alyssa Alano was among those killed. The Philippine Army countered this claim by asking the supposed civilians on the purpose of their presence in the encounter site. “Ano ang ginagawa ng mga sinasabi nilang journalist, social workers, faculty members, spokesperson ng mga progresibong grupo sa loob ng encounter site na may mga bitbit na baril at nakikipagbarilan sa ating mga sundalo?” Colonel Louie Dema-alas, Philippine Army (PA) spokesman, said in a statement. “Yan ang tanong ko sa kanila,” Dema-ala said. (What were these so-called journalist[s], social workers, faculty members, spokesperson[s] of these progressive groups doing inside an encounter site, holding guns and exchanging fire with government troops? That is my question to them.) Dema-ala cleared that “the AFP did not hunt people — it responded to the community’s own call for protection.”

- [PH confident Co will be brought home, says Palace](#) (2026-04-23 08:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government is confident that fugitive lawmaker Zaldy Co, one of the central figures in the multibillion-peso flood control scandal, will be brought home, Malacañang said Thursday. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro issued the statement after Justice Secretary Frederick Vida confirmed that he and Chief State Counsel Dennis Chan would fly to Prague on Thursday to discuss with Czech authorities the possible return of Co. “On the part of the Philippines, we are definitely confident. Since other countries are involved, let us just hope that Zaldy Co will be brought back to our country soon,” Castro said during a press

conference. The Department of Justice said it was considering deportation, extradition or invoking the United Nations Convention Against Corruption – to which both the Philippines and the Czech Republic are signatories – as possible means to facilitate Co's return. Co is facing an arrest warrant for alleged malversation of public funds and graft in connection with a P289.5-million anomalous road dike project in Oriental Mindoro.

- [Who believes them, says Teodoro on China claim PH ship dumping garbage in Ayungin Shoal](#) (2026-04-23 06:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on Thursday trashed China's recent accusation that the Philippine Navy ship anchored on Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) has been damaging the marine ecosystem by burning garbage and dumping waste into the open sea. Chinese media outlets released a video of what they claim to be the BRP Sierra Madre (LS-57) with crew on board seen burning items on the deck. The video later focused on a supposed Philippine Coast Guard vessel whose crew were caught throwing what seems to be trash into the sea. Chinese daily Chinadaily.com also reported that the "latest incident is not an isolated case" and that "It is yet another exposure of the Philippines' long-term pollution of the ecosystem around Ren'ai Reef" — China's name for Ayungin Shoal. "Maniwala ka naman dyan sa mga 'yan. Eh accuse ng accuse 'yang mga 'yan eh. O kung may accusation sila prebahan nila, bakit lahat ng accusation nila e ayaw nilang prebahan," Teodoro said on the sidelines of the Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Yultong at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. (They keep accusing. If they have an accusation then prove it, why can't they prove all of their accusations?) "Nung tayo ang nademanda sa arbitral tribunal. Magagaling lang yan sa ganyan, pag oras na kailangang prebahan na nila sa isang patas, patas ha na proceeding na sa ilalim ng internal law ayaw nila," he said. (When we filed a case [against them] at the arbitral tribunal, they were only good at [accusing]. The moment they need to substantiate [their claim] in a fair proceeding, under international law, they don't want to.) Teodoro said he has yet to see the actual video but stressed that it was China who would spread false and deceptive narratives. "I don't know what video they're pushing. Who likes to fake? Who likes to copy?" he said.

- [88% of Filipinos want Sara Duterte to face Senate impeachment trial — survey](#) (2026-04-23 06:45)

MANILA, Philippines — A large majority of Filipinos want Vice President Sara Duterte to face a Senate impeachment trial, with 88 percent saying she should answer allegations in a formal proceeding, according to a survey released Thursday by research firm Tangere. The poll, conducted from April 22 to 23, indicated that respondents viewed a Senate trial not primarily as punishment but as a venue for the vice president to publicly defend herself and address the accusations against her. About 70 percent of those surveyed said Duterte should personally testify and respond to the allegations, while 51 percent want her to present evidence—such as bank records—to clarify financial issues raised against her. The same proportion cited the need to uphold due process, describing the Senate trial as the proper constitutional mechanism for

resolving impeachment complaints. The survey also pointed to expectations that a trial could help restore confidence in government. Around 52 percent said facing the allegations directly could rebuild public trust in the Office of the Vice President, while an equal share said a public trial would ensure transparency. Meanwhile, 44 percent believe a definitive legal process could end ongoing political attacks. Support for a Senate trial was consistent across political affiliations, including Duterte supporters, opposition voters, administration allies, and undecided respondents, the firm said. Tangere chief executive Martin Peñaflor said the findings suggest broad agreement among Filipinos on the need for a formal legal process. “Whether supportive or critical, there is a shared view that the vice president should address the allegations in the Senate and be given the opportunity to defend her integrity,” Peñaflor said. The non-commissioned survey polled 1,200 respondents nationwide using a mobile-based application and stratified random sampling, with a margin of error of ± 2.77 percent at a 95 percent confidence level.

- [‘All systems go’ for Asean Summit, Palace says](#) (2026-04-23 06:21)

MANILA, Philippines – Malacañang on Thursday maintained it was “all systems go” for the staging of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit and related Summits this year despite the crisis the nation is facing. In a press briefing, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro gave reassurance that the first high-level meeting, the 48th Asean Leaders Summit and Related Meetings in Cebu on May 7 and 8, is all set. “All systems go. We are ready,” she said in Filipino. Last month, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered a recalibration of the Philippines’ hosting of Asean 2026, scaling down non-essential activities “in order to save on expenses and focus on the most important” amid the effects of the war in the Middle East. While smaller engagements would be conducted virtually, the Leaders Summit would be face-to-face in a “very bare-bones” format.

- [Metro Manila air remains polluted—PhilSA](#) (2026-04-23 06:15)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) said the air quality in Metro Manila remained polluted as the Navotas Landfill fire continued to deteriorate the air quality. In a statement, PhilSA reported that as of 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, its daily satellite monitoring showed that Metro Manila and surrounding areas were still experiencing elevated levels of air pollution. The agency explained that its satellite images use color indicators to show concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), with darker red hues representing higher levels of pollution. PhilSA noted, however, that its observations were limited to that time alone, as “NO₂ levels generally decrease throughout the day.”

- [Ecologist warns against ‘alarming’ presence of invasive squirrel](#) (2026-04-23 06:10)

MANILA, Philippines — An ecologist warned that the presence of the Finlayson’ s squirrel—an invasive species classified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)—is alarming, noting that its presence competes with native wildlife. This comes after the DENR warned the public following multiple sightings of the non-native squirrel species across Metro

Manila, noting that its presence is “not promoted.” In an exclusive interview with The Manila Times on Thursday, Von Eric Tagarino of the University of the Philippines Baguio explained why this was a growing threat. “These squirrels are generalist species. They can feed on a variety of food sources. So they’re really survivalists in a sense. So they feed on seeds, fruits, crops, and even bird eggs—which can be concerning,” Tagarino said. He added that it directly competed with native species for resources, potentially disrupting local ecosystems.

- [Rep. Romualdez's camp to question 'Hold' order](#) (2026-04-23 04:55)

MANILA, Philippines —A spokesman for Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez said they will question the Precautionary Hold Departure Order (PHDO) issued to his client by the Sandiganbayan. The anti-graft court issued the order on Wednesday night, saying that the Office of the Ombudsman finds probable cause for the respondent to fly out of the Philippines to evade arrest. The former speaker is being investigated for allegations of plunder, direct bribery and malversation in relation to the flood control scandal. In a statement, lawyer Ade Fajardo said they acknowledged the issuance of the order against his client. “At the outset, we categorically clarify: Rep. Romualdez is in the Philippines and has not left the country. Any report or insinuation that he has fled is false and irresponsible,” Fajardo said. Fajardo said that Romualdez followed the proper process by seeking and securing necessary travel authority, and coordinated in good faith with the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Immigration. Romualdez Fajardo said, was looking for a “brief, long-overdue four-day medical check-up with his attending physician in Singapore,” after his angioplasty surgery. “This is fully consistent with his conduct from the very beginning—one of cooperation, transparency, and respect for legal processes. Unfortunately, this legitimate act has been twisted to create a prejudicial narrative that he intended to flee,” Fajardo said. Fajardo reiterated that his client would “avail of all appropriate legal remedies to question the issuance of this order before the proper forum.” “Rep. Romualdez remains committed to facing these allegations squarely,” Fajardo said.

- [Marcos to heed SC order to comment on petition to disclose health, medical tests](#) (2026-04-23 04:33)

MANILA, Philippines – President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will heed the order of the Supreme Court (SC) to submit his comment on a petition that seeks the disclosure of his medical examination report, Malacañang said on Thursday. The same order was handed down to Executive Secretary Ralph Recto. “If that is the order of the Supreme Court, we will follow. A comment will be made,” Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said in Filipino in a press briefing. The high tribunal’s order stemmed from the petition of Pantaleon Alvarez, Virgilio Garcia, Juan Raña, and Raymundo Junia against Marcos and Recto. The petition for a writ of mandamus sought to have Marcos submit himself to physical and mental examinations, including a hair follicle drug test. It also requires the chief executive to make public results of the tests, including medical and clinical confirmation of his physical and medical fitness to prove whether or not he is fit to discharge the powers and duties as president. “Soon as there is a comment, we will immediately release it,” Castro said.

- [UP student leader's death in military 'encounter' with NPA rebels in Negros condemned](#) (2026-04-23 04:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Students from the University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman, Quezon City are in mourning after one of their own was killed in what the military described as an encounter with rebels of the New People's Army (NPA) in Toboso, Negros Occidental last April 19, 2026. The UP Diliman University Student Council confirmed late on Wednesday that the victim was identified as Alyssa Alano, an Education and Research Councilor. "In connection with this, the UP Diliman University Student Council reports that one of those killed was our fellow Iskolar ng Bayan, USC Councilor Alyssa Alano, due to the fascist attack and military repression in Negros," the council said in a statement in Filipino. The council condemned Alano's killing by the Philippine Army's 79th Infantry Battalion against an innocent civilian. "Alyssa lived and studied among our farmer brothers and sisters in Negros to understand their true conditions in the face of land grabbing, exploitation, and militarization," the council said. "As long as the root causes of poverty remain unresolved, there will be more like Alyssa who are willing to study society and fight for a society free from exploitation. The spirit of Alano will never fade among the ranks of Iskolar ng Bayan, who will further strengthen unity to ultimately defeat an oppressive and exploitative social system," they added. Meanwhile, the UP Office of the Student Regent also condemned the death of Alano, who also served as chairman of the UP Diliman division of the League of Filipino Students and led a walkout that was participated by 8,000 students. "Even before this, Alyssa had already made significant contributions in amplifying campaigns against corruption, against the militarization of the university, and for increasing the UP budget. Her commitment to immersing herself in the conditions of farmers reflects the spirit of public service and compassion expected of an Iskolar ng Bayan," the office said.

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- [Pasig takes over JICA-backed elderly care facility, eyes wider services](#) (2026-04-23 03:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Pasig City has taken over the Japan International Cooperation Agency-backed Magokoro elderly care facility after the completion of its one-year pilot implementation, with the local government set to continue and expand services for senior citizens, the local government said Thursday. Magokoro facility is a 200-square-meter care facility located at the Pasig City Mega Dialysis Center on Eusebio Avenue in San Miguel village where activities initiated by JICA, INFIC Inc. showed how Japanese-style, people-centered care could be adapted to the local context. “Through this JICA-supported pilot initiative, Magokoro PASIG has shown how Japanese-style, people-centered care can be thoughtfully adapted to the local context, providing dignity, comfort, and an improved quality of life for senior citizens,” JICA said. Pasig City said its plans for 2026 to 2028 included improving the exterior of the facility, adding more caregivers and conducting home-based caregiving training for the community. JICA Chief Representative Baba Takashi, INFIC President Masuda Masatoshi and Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto led the project results meeting on April 16, 2026 to confirm the project’s achievements and the city’s future plans for the program. As the project formally transitions to Pasig City, JICA said it expected the initiative to continue growing under stronger local ownership and operational capacity. “With strengthened local ownership and operational capacity, Magokoro PASIG is well-positioned to expand its reach and serve more beneficiaries in the years to come,” JICA said. It added that the initiative was expected to inspire and serve as a model for inclusive, community-based elderly care in the Philippines.

- [Quezon City villages ordered to cut energy use, boost efficiency](#) (2026-04-23 03:39)

MANILA, Philippines – Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte has ordered all 142 villages to implement strict energy-saving measures—aimed at reducing costs, stabilizing supply, and protecting communities from the ripple effects of the ongoing crisis. In a memorandum circular, Belmonte said the villages were mandated to cut their monthly electricity and fuel consumption by at least 10 percent while ensuring that frontline services remained fast, efficient, and uninterrupted. “The effects of global instability are already being felt at the community level,” Belmonte said. “Concerned barangay authorities in the city must act decisively—reducing energy use while continuing to deliver responsive and reliable services to our people,” the city chief executive said. To meet targets, the villages are required to enforce several measures, including the use of air conditioning units from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., keeping temperatures at 24 degrees Celsius and switching off non-essential lighting, including a lights-off period from 12

p.m. –1 p.m. In the same directive, village officials must also make sure that power is turned off in unused spaces, personal appliances are banned within barangay facilities and unnecessary travel, among others, is prohibited. Beyond internal operations, the villages are also directed to help residents lower their own energy costs by maximizing city programs such as the QCity Bus ‘Libreng Sakay’ (free ride) and the QC E-Services Platform, which provide accessible, efficient alternatives for mobility and government transactions. In related development, Belmonte issued an executive order, calling businesses and civil society organizations to adopt similar energy-saving practices and improve fuel efficiency through trip consolidation and smarter operations. “Private sector partners are likewise encouraged to support food rescue and redistribution efforts and assist in price and supply monitoring under the Quezon City Price Coordinating Council,” the city chief executive said. To ensure effective implementation, the city’s Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Department and the Business Permits and Licensing Department will provide guidance and technical support to organizations ready to take part, she added.

- [Philippine airport security busy subduing foreigners for unruly behavior](#) (2026-04-23 02:51)

(UPDATE) MANILA, Philippines — The Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) has been busy these past few days as two foreigners were apprehended separately for unruly behavior. NAIA Terminal 3 security arrested a foreigner on Thursday for striking an officer who responded to a call for help from a food stall where the man bought food and refused to pay for it. The confrontation turned violent when the foreigner repeatedly struck the officer, resulting in injuries. He was later subdued by other responding airport security and immediately brought to NAIA Police Station 3 for investigation, documentation, and proper disposition. Two days before this incident, a 27-year-old American was detained by police at NAIA Terminal 1 after the Taipei-bound passenger drew attention "due to disorderly and scandalous actions," prompting intervention from NAIA Police Station 1. The incident occurred at the NAIA departure lobby on April 21, 2026, causing alarm among other travelers. "Responding officers took the individual into custody, informed him of the nature of his offense, and apprised him of his constitutional rights in a language (English) known to him," the Avsegroup said. Police added that the suspect was now in the custody of NAIA Police Station 1 and would undergo inquest proceedings for violation of Article 155 of the Revised Penal Code also known as "Alarms and Scandals." Unruly behavior at Philippine airports is strictly regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), with enforcement actions often handled by the Philippine National Police Aviation Security Group. While official figures for 2026 are not yet finalized, a series of recent arrests highlight a trend of unruly passenger behavior at NAIA. In late January, a 40-year-old American male was arrested at Terminal 3 after causing a scene on a domestic flight from Cebu. Two months later, on March 21, authorities apprehended a 63-year-old man for similar disruptions reported by his fellow travelers.

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- [DOJ files additional criminal charges vs foreign illegal recruiter](#) (2026-04-23 02:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Justice (DOJ) has recommended the filing of additional criminal charges for large-scale illegal recruitment and estafa against London-based Italian entrepreneur Adel En Nouri and several others in connection with an alleged recruitment scam. In a 10-page resolution, the DOJ Office of the Prosecutor in Tanauan City granted a motion for reconsideration filed by complainants Maria Anne Castro and Brian De Chavez, effectively reinstating Adel En Nouri and Mohammed En Nouri as respondents in the case. The complainants initially moved to withdraw the case against the two respondents, prompting their exclusion. However, they later sought their re-inclusion, arguing that they had not fully understood the legal consequences of their withdrawal and only grasped its implications after consulting legal counsel. In a March order, the DOJ directed Adel En Nouri and Mohammed En Nouri to submit their comment on the motion for reconsideration, but they failed to comply. This led the prosecution to reassess the evidence and ultimately include them anew in the criminal complaint. Based on the complaint, the respondents presented themselves as representatives of Tamber International Placement Agency, which records from the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) show is not licensed to recruit workers for overseas employment. It added that Adel En Nouri and Mohammed En Nouri allegedly posed as employers, which directly induced the complainants to engage in the recruitment arrangement. The DOJ also

found probable cause to charge all respondents with estafa, after the complainants reportedly paid P80,000 each, or a total of P160,000, based on what were later determined to be false representations. The case is separate from criminal proceedings filed against Adel En Nouri and others. On March 4, the Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Bacoor City issued an arrest warrant against him and several co-accused for qualified human trafficking under Republic Act 9208, as amended by Republic Act 10364, a non-bailable offense. A second arrest warrant was later issued on April 10 by the same court for serious illegal detention and large-scale illegal recruitment charges, both also non-bailable offenses. The complainants have sought assistance from the Philippine National Police (PNP) in pursuing the issuance of an Interpol red notice against En Nouri, which requests global law enforcement agencies to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition or legal proceedings.

- [Sara says travel plans 'changed' after late issuance of travel authority](#) (2026-04-23 02:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte said that her travel plans have "changed" after the Office of the President (OP) issued a travel authority for her on Wednesday night. Executive Secretary Ralph Recto confirmed that the OP issued a travel authority for Duterte from April 23 to May 15, covering several countries including The Netherlands, South Korea, and Germany. In a statement, Duterte thanked the OP but said that her plans "have since changed due to uncertainty whether I will be permitted to depart." She added that a new request would be issued soon and urged the OP to ensure that the "necessary documents be processed and issued promptly, allowing sufficient time for travel preparations rather than only a few hours before the intended departure." She also said that ensuring "the confidentiality and proper handling of sensitive documents would greatly contribute to maintaining effective security arrangements," after an online news released the first travel request.

- [SC intervention sought over 'expanded' House impeach proceedings](#) (2026-04-23 01:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Petitioners who have filed a case before the Supreme Court challenging aspects of the impeachment process against Vice President Sara Duterte raised concerns over the hearing at the House of Representatives on April 22, 2026, saying the proceedings went beyond the original impeachment complaints. In a statement, the petitioners, led by lawyer Israelito Torreon, said what transpired during the justice committee hearing "confirmed" their position before the Supreme Court that the committee had considered materials not originally attached to the impeachment complaints, including post-filing affidavits, Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALNs), Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC)-related documents, and corporate and tax records of entities not cited in the complaints. They described this as a "continuing post-filing expansion" of the case, arguing that impeachment proceedings should remain limited to the allegations and supporting documents as originally filed. The petitioners raised particular concern over the use of SALNs which, they said, were not part of the impeachment complaints and covered periods when Duterte was not yet vice president. They also questioned the presentation of AMLC-related materials covering transactions over several years, including periods outside her current term. According to the

group, impeachment should be confined to acts or omissions committed during the current term of an impeachable official and should not be used to examine previous public positions or unrelated periods. They further criticized the alleged failure to provide the AMLC-related report to the respondent prior to the hearing, saying this deprived her of the opportunity to properly examine and respond. The petitioners also took issue with the public discussion of AMLC-related findings during the hearing, stressing that such reports were not proof of wrongdoing but only investigative leads that required proper validation and a clear financial trail. “An AMLC report is not a conviction,” the statement read, adding that references to large sums and broad timelines without substantiated links risked turning the proceedings into what they described as “theater.” They likewise objected to the presentation of corporate records, including General Information Sheets and tax-related documents of entities they said were not mentioned in any verified impeachment complaint, arguing that the committee was acting beyond its mandate by considering materials not originally pleaded. The group also raised concerns over the testimony of former senator Antonio Trillanes IV, who reportedly submitted an affidavit dated April 21, 2026. They said the affidavit and its contents, including allegations of alleged financial links involving former president Rodrigo Duterte and Vice President Duterte, were not part of the impeachment complaints or their attachments. The petitioners argued that introducing such material during the hearing amounted to a “post-filing evidentiary expansion” and deprived the respondent of proper notice and opportunity to respond. They also questioned the inclusion of allegations linking businessman Sammy Uy, describing parts of the narrative as “inherently implausible” and unsupported by clear factual basis. The statement further warned against what it called attempts to draw associations involving members of the Duterte family without properly pleaded allegations or supporting evidence, saying such approaches risked turning the proceedings into reputational attacks rather than constitutional accountability. The petitioners maintained that impeachment proceedings must be limited to the ultimate facts and supporting materials contained in the complaints, and that introducing new affidavits, documents, or theories during hearings violates constitutional due process requirements. Citing these developments, they reiterated their call for the Supreme Court to issue injunctive relief to restrain what they described as the continued expansion of the proceedings beyond the impeachment complaints. They said the Court’s intervention was necessary to ensure adherence to constitutional limits, due process, and fairness in impeachment proceedings.

- [NLEX enforces rerouting, road closures in Quezon City for Northlink works](#) (2026-04-23 00:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorists in Bagbag, Quezon City will have to slow down or take alternate routes from April 22 to April 30 as the North Luzon Expressway enforces traffic restrictions for its Northlink construction works. NLEX Corp. said Class 1 vehicles would be allowed under a stop-and-go scheme until 9:59 p.m. on April 30, while Class 2 and Class 3 vehicles were advised to use alternate routes. From 10 p.m. on April 30 until 5 a.m. on May 4, the affected road section will be fully closed. The advisory covers the Katipunan Kaliwa Street-Lukaria Street stretch and is part of traffic management for the construction of the

NLEX-C5 Northlink Segment 8.2 Section 1A. For motorists from Novaliches heading to Quirino Highway via Gen. Luis Street, all vehicle classes may pass through Gen. Luis Street, turn left to Katipunan Avenue, then left at Berkeley Street toward P. Dela Cruz before proceeding to Quirino Highway. For Class 1 and Class 2 vehicles from Novaliches going to Quirino Highway via Gen. Luis Street, NLEX said they may also turn from Gen. Luis Street to Katipunan Avenue, then right to King Christopher Street toward Quirino Highway. Motorists coming from NLEX and heading to Novaliches were advised to take the Mindanao Avenue exit, turn right onto Mindanao Avenue, make a U-turn after the Tullahan Bridge, then continue along Mindanao Avenue and turn right to Gen. Luis Street toward Novaliches Proper. NLEX said the temporary traffic scheme was meant to give way to the Northlink project.

- [Fewer tropical cyclones forecast up to Oct but most likely to develop into typhoons, super typhoons — Pagasa](#) (2026-04-23 00:26)

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said fewer tropical cyclones would likely occur until October this year but many of them would be typhoons and even super typhoons. Pagasa chief Nathaniel Servando cited the weather agency's monitoring and analysis that showed nine to 17 tropical cyclones may enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility from May until October in 2026. "There would only be fewer number of tropical cyclones based on our forecast especially during the latter of the year but they may develop into typhoons and even super typhoons," Servando told The Manila Times. The El Niño phenomenon - characterized by cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) over the Philippine Sea and warmer-than-average SSTs in the Central and Eastern Equatorial Pacific – will start weak from June to August but could reach moderate to strong levels between September and November, the Pagasa administrator said. "Strong to very strong El Niño is not being ruled out by October until January next year," he added. In the meantime, weather specialist Leanne Loreto said most parts of the archipelago would continue to experience clear but hot and humid weather in the next three days. She said three weather systems – ridge of high pressure area (HPA), easterlies and localized thunderstorms – would prevail, bringing hotter temperatures but isolated downpours in some areas during late afternoon and at night. In particular, the ridge or extension of HPA – opposite of low pressure area – has been extending over the eastern sections of Northern and Central Luzon while easterly winds would likely occur over Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The rest of Luzon will be experiencing partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms owing to the effect of the localized thunderstorms, the Pagasa forecaster said.

- [ICC rejects Duterte jurisdiction appeal](#) (2026-04-22 16:10)

INTERNATIONAL Criminal Court (ICC) judges on Wednesday threw out a challenge against the court's jurisdiction by former president Rodrigo Duterte, removing another obstacle to his trial for crimes against humanity over his bloody war on drugs. The 81-year-old faces three counts of crimes against humanity at the international court based in The Hague over murders

allegedly committed as part of his crackdown on drug users and pushers. The allegations relate to his time as mayor of Davao City between 2013 and 2016, and then as president until March 2019, when the Philippines, upon his orders, withdrew from the ICC. Duterte's defense had argued the court had no jurisdiction over alleged crimes in the Philippines because the country is no longer subject to the Rome Statute, the ICC's founding text. The prosecution countered that the alleged crimes occurred while the Philippines was still a member of the ICC and so judges can rule on Duterte's case. In an initial decision in October, the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber sided with the prosecution, ruling that the investigation into Duterte began before the Philippines' withdrawal. The appeals court threw out the defense team's challenge of that decision and said it failed to demonstrate any error of law in the Pre-Trial Chamber's decision. The court "has rejected all four grounds of appeal," said Presiding Judge Luz del Carmen Ibáñez Carranza. "Having rejected the entire appeal, the appeal chamber considers that the defense request for the immediate and unconditional release of Mr. Duterte is moot," she added. In a separate procedure, judges are weighing whether to confirm the charges against Duterte, the final step before a trial, which would be the first against a former head of state from Asia. That decision is expected to be released by April 28 or earlier. At hearings in February, the prosecution alleged that Duterte was responsible for thousands of deaths during his war on drugs. His defense said there was no "smoking gun" directly linking Duterte's fiery rhetoric and threats against drug users and actual murders. In any case, Duterte is unlikely to appear in court. The court granted his request not to appear for the hearings in February, with his defense saying he was not mentally fit. The only time he has been seen since his arrest and transfer to The Hague was at an initial appearance via videolink, at which he came across as confused and exhausted. He did not appear at Thursday's reading of the decision. Accountability Groups calling for accountability for the victims of the drug war welcomed the ICC ruling. In a statement sent to The Manila Times on Wednesday, a spokesman for the group Duterte Panagutin (Make Duterte Accountable), Joel Vega, said they expected the ruling. "Although we anticipate this ruling, we welcome this definitive development since the Duterte defense lawyers have exploited all opportunities to derail or block a full trial," Vega said. "We now expect the confirmation of charges soon. All these developments are to be expected given the strong evidence that will be presented in court," he added. Vega said his group, which held a protest against Duterte outside the ICC, was heckled by supporters of the former president. He added that Dutch residents in the area were complaining about how the Duterte supporters were obstructing bike lane traffic and posed a danger to pedestrians. The activist, known also for petitioning Dutch authorities to reject the asylum bid of former Duterte spokesman Harry Roque, said Filipinos should also help families of drug war victims. "Looking beyond the ICC, the Filipino people should also exert efforts to support the families of EJK (extrajudicial killing) victims. They are still facing intimidation and political hatred coming from the Duterte camp," Vega said. "Even the ICC judges are not spared from the vicious attacks made online and in person by the DDS crowd. We see this happening today when they heckled our group while we were gathering at the ICC grounds," he added. The Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (Pahra) also welcomed the developments. "By dismissing the final challenge to its authority, the court has cleared the path for a full trial. The ruling reaffirms that

withdrawing from the Rome Statute does not grant immunity for crimes committed during the period of membership,” the group said in a statement. “This decision is a clear warning to Duterte and his accomplices that the era of abusing power is over. They are now under a court where justice is upheld, unlike how they did it to the Filipino people,” Pahra Secretary-General Edgar Cabalitan said. “No technicality will ever erase the blood on their hands. This victory belongs to the orphans and widows who refused to be silenced, proving that the reach of justice is longer than the reach of any tyrant,” Cabalitan added. Tindig Pilipinas co-convenor Kiko Aquino Dee said he has confidence in the process of the ICC. “Eyes now should fall on the Pre-Trial Chamber’s decision on whether there are substantial grounds for the trial to continue, which is also expected within the month,” he said. On the other hand, Sen. Imee Marcos, a Duterte supporter, expressed disappointment over the ICC decision. In a statement on Wednesday, Marcos said, “This determination disregards the Philippines’ sovereign withdrawal from the Rome Statute.” It also undermined “the fundamental principle that domestic institutions must be given primacy where they are able and willing to act,” she said. Meanwhile, PUBLiCUS Asia Inc. said its Pahayag survey showed a majority of Filipino voters favor requiring Philippine courts to review arrest warrants issued by the ICC before they are enforced in the country. The poll found that 60 percent of respondents support a proposed Senate resolution mandating local judicial review of ICC-issued warrants, indicating a preference for domestic due process. Twenty-five percent opposed the measure, while 15 percent said they were unaware of the issue. WITH AFP AND BERNADETTE TAMAYO Support was strongest in North-Central Luzon at 67 percent and in the Visayas at 64 percent. By age group, those ages 40 to 49 posted the highest approval at 71 percent. The proposal also received majority backing across political alignments, with 63 percent support recorded among pro-administration, anti-administration and anti-opposition respondents. By generation, Millennials led with 63 percent support, followed by Generation X at 61 percent. A smaller majority, 54 percent, said the Philippines should rejoin the ICC. Some 28 percent opposed reentry into the tribunal and 18 percent said they lacked sufficient knowledge to decide. Support for rejoining the ICC was highest in the National Capital Region and South Luzon, both at 62 percent. Younger voters drove the pro-ICC sentiment, with 60 percent of respondents ages 18 to 24, and 63 percent of those ages 25 to 29 expressing support. Among generational groups, Generation Z recorded 62 percent approval. Across political groupings, support for reentry was strongest among pro-administration respondents at 73 percent, followed by anti-opposition voters at 60 percent. The survey, conducted from March 21 to 24, covered 1,509 registered voters using purposive sampling from the PureSpectrum research panel and carried a margin of error of ± 3 percent. Pahayag is the corporate social responsibility initiative of PUBLiCUS Asia Inc., with Vox Opinion Research serving as its commissioned research arm.

- [Court orders Palace to comment on petition seeking drug test for Marcos](#) (2026-04-22 16:09)

THE Supreme Court has required Malacañang to comment on a petition seeking to compel President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to undergo physical and mental examinations, including a hair

follicle drug test, and to disclose the results to the public. Without giving due course to the petition, the Court ordered respondents President Marcos and Executive Secretary Ralph Recto to submit their comment within a non-extendable period of 10 days from receipt of notice. The petition for mandamus, filed on April 15, was lodged by former House speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, retired general Virgilio Garcia, Juan Raña and Raymundo Junia, all acting as registered voters and taxpayers. It also sought to compel the president to undergo medical evaluation and to direct the publication of his medical report, including findings on his physical and mental fitness to discharge the duties of the presidency. The petitioners anchored their arguments on Article VII, Section 12 of the 1987 Constitution, which requires public disclosure of the president's health in cases of serious illness, and Article III, Section 7 on the right of the public to information on matters of public concern. They argued that the president's health condition was a matter of "paramount public concern," citing the declaration of a state of national emergency on March 24, due to surging petroleum prices linked to the conflict in Iran. The petition cited alleged observations during public appearances, including "slurring speech, incoherent statements and apparent general weakness in physical demeanor," as well as unverified reports of possible hospitalization. It also referred to a November 2025 statement attributed to the president's sister, Sen. Imee Marcos, alleging a "long-standing addiction to illegal drugs," which the petitioners said warranted further investigation. The filing acknowledged the president's recent public appearance where he performed brief physical exercises at Malacañang, but the petitioners argued it was insufficient, claiming he appeared "flustered and out of breath." The group contended that the constitutional provision on presidential health disclosure is self-executing and enforceable without legislation, arguing that the president has a ministerial duty to respond to public concerns over his fitness. Citing jurisprudence, the petitioners claimed all requirements for mandamus were present, including a clear legal right, a corresponding ministerial duty and lack of an adequate legal remedy. They also justified bypassing lower courts, arguing that the case involved "transcendental importance" and national security concerns given the president's role in government operations and policy direction.

- [P6B in bank transactions not in VP Sara's SALN](#) (2026-04-22 16:08)

THE Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) on Wednesday said they discovered more than P6 billion in combined bank transactions in the last 20 years for Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, none of which were reflected in her statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN). The transactions were documented in covered transaction reports and suspicious transaction reports from 2006 to 2026, which have all been transmitted to the House Committee on Justice, said AMLC Executive Director Ronel Buenaventura, during the panel's hearing on impeachment complaints against the vice president. Covered transactions are transactions in cash or other equivalent monetary instrument involving a total amount in excess of P500,000 within one banking day. Suspicious transactions, on the other hand, are those, regardless of the amounts involved, where there is no underlying legal or trade obligation, purpose or economic justification; the client is not properly identified; the amount

involved is not commensurate with the business or financial capacity of the client; is perceived that the client's transaction is structured to avoid being the subject of reporting requirements; any circumstance relating to the transaction which is observed to deviate from the profile of the client or the client's past transactions; or transactions that are in any way related to an unlawful activity or offense. "Yes, there are suspicious transactions and covered transactions in our system, database or record," Buenaventura told the committee. Buenaventura said the council has identified 313 covered transactions and 17 suspicious transactions in Duterte's accounts, and 317 covered transactions and 16 suspicious transactions in those of her husband. The transactions totaled P6.77 billion, broken down into P3.77 billion linked to Duterte's accounts and P2.99 billion to Carpio's. It also identified P791.1 million in transactions that could not be determined based on available records. Buenaventura said the records showed an inflow of P1.83 billion into Duterte's accounts and P2.59 billion into Carpio's, equivalent to P4.43 billion in total deposits. On the outflow side, he said that P1.21 billion was withdrawn from Duterte's accounts and P343.32 million from Carpio's accounts. Buenaventura said his agency found a marked increase in the historical trend of Duterte's bank transactions, which surged from P540,000 in 2005, to P208.15 million in 2007. That was the year she was first elected vice mayor of Davao City, while her father, the former president, was mayor. The bulk of the transactions involved credit memos amounting to P1.41 billion, debit memos at P1.03 billion and fund transfers totaling P521.86 million, followed by time deposit preterminations of P218.74 million and miscellaneous transactions of P209.29 million. Other transactions identified included time deposit placements and payments amounting to P109.15 million each, withdrawals totaling P62.79 million and check deposits worth P48.33 million. Panel member and Manila Rep. Joel Chua said the bank transactions were not reflected in the vice president's SALNs. Bicol Saro Partylist Rep. Terry Ridon also noted that there was a "significant gap" in her financial activity and her declared personal assets after reviewing the yearly transaction figures alongside Duterte's net worth in her SALNs. In earlier testimony, the Office of the Ombudsman confirmed that Duterte declared no cash on hand or bank deposits for six consecutive years from 2019 to 2024, even as her net worth rose more than 10 times to P88.4 million in 2024 from only P7 million in 2007. Akbayan Rep. Jose Manuel Diokno said Duterte should explain the discrepancy between the AMLC report and her SALNs. "For me, it is a smoking gun in at least insofar as probable cause is concerned," Diokno told reporters. ACT Teachers Partylist Rep. Antonio Tinio, meanwhile, said these figures from the AMLC should be "reconciled with the vice president's SALNs and with lawful sources of income. The public deserves clear explanations, supported by documents — not vague assurances." Meanwhile, in his affidavit, former senator Antonio Trillanes IV alleged that the Duterte family received P188 million from alleged drug lord Samuel Uy. In her opening remarks, House Justice Committee chairman and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said her panel is the "proper forum" for Vice President Duterte to answer the allegations against her as she did not show up again in her impeachment hearing on Wednesday. In her opening statement, Luistro railed against Duterte's statement that criticized the committee's examination on her academic records revealed by Ramil Madriaga instead of discussing her confidential funds and transactions. However, Luistro said that among the hundreds of pieces of evidence presented

during the hearings, only one was targeted. “The truth is, we are being ghosted and gaslighted. The most important question is where is the money, but the answer that we received was about college grades. And the worst part? This explanation was not being made here, but everywhere else,” Luistro said in Filipino, referring to Duterte’s reaction to testimony that she did not do well in school. Luistro said her committee will evaluate everything, including the testimony of Duterte’s alleged bagman, Ramil Madriaga, documents from the Commission on Audit, National Bureau of Investigation findings and certifications from the Philippine Statistics Authority. “Everything that needs to be faced should be scrutinized and investigated, and those persons who should face questions should take their oath and explain before the committee, because this is the proper forum,” Luistro said. “If there is anything to clarify, the best — and the only — place to do that is here, before this committee, under oath and on record,” she added. She said that their investigation has entered the part where the numbers have to be studied, compared and analyzed. “And numbers, unlike people, do not have motives. Numbers do not lie,” Luistro said. RED MENDOZA

- [Sandiganbayan set to rule on travel ban on Romualdez](#) (2026-04-22 16:07)

THE Sandiganbayan has considered a petition from the Office of the Ombudsman to prevent former speaker Martin Romualdez from leaving the country, and the anti-graft court’s Seventh Division has submitted it for resolution. The Ombudsman’s application for the issuance of a precautionary hold departure order was raffled off Tuesday to the Seventh Division, which heard the case on Wednesday. While there is no case filed in the Sandiganbayan against Romualdez, the congressional representative of Leyte’s first district, the Ombudsman based its application on a complaint-affidavit filed by its Special Panel of Investigators before its Preliminary Investigation, Administrative Adjudication and Monitoring Office against Romualdez and others for plunder. The Ombudsman said the complaints involved “the alleged kickback scheme tied to flood control projects, purportedly masterminded by the respondent, with the total amount of such kickbacks” reaching P56 billion. Mentioned in the application were former lawmaker Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co’s statements in video recordings as well as Orly Guteza’s testimony. Romualdez, who has asked the House to authorize his travel to Singapore for medical reasons, has denied all charges against him. “I have never authorized, instructed or allowed anyone to engage in any conduct that would betray the people or taint my name,” he said. He also reiterated that he never received any kickbacks in any infrastructure project. Romualdez, who is still in the country, said he has been cooperative. “I personally appeared before the proper authorities. I voluntarily submitted my affidavit to the ICI (Independent Commission for Infrastructure). I provided the information and documents asked of me. I did not hide. I did not run. I did not evade scrutiny. I faced it head-on, within the proper channel, because I know there is no evidence that proves I committed plunder, conspiracy to commit plunder or any similar offense, he said, referring to the Independent Commission for Infrastructure that had recommended further investigation of the former speaker’s role. But Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the Senate gave Romualdez the opportunity to refute allegations linking him to the “mangling” of the 2025 budget, but he did not do it. The senator, chairman of the Senate Blue

Ribbon Committee (BRC), said Romualdez had been invited on Nov. 14, 2025 and Jan. 19, 2026 to attend the investigation on the flood control budget scandal. “The Blue Ribbon Committee gave the former speaker at least two chances through official invitations to testify under oath and public scrutiny to what may be his strong argument against allegations of masterminding the ‘mangling beyond recognition’ of the 2025 national budget during the bicameral conference, which he now claims to have been made by only two people — then SP (Senate President) [Francis] Chiz Escudero and ex cong[ressman] and House Appropriations Chairman Zaldy Co,” Lacson wrote on X. The BRC sent the invitations to Romualdez through the office of Speaker Faustino Dy III, in keeping with inter-parliamentary courtesy but Romualdez failed to attend. On Tuesday, Romualdez issued a video message denying involvement in the 2025 budget deliberations. He attributed the budget decisions to Escudero and Co. Romualdez also said that he was not part of the bicameral conference committee or the “small committee” that made changes to the 2025 General Appropriations Bill after it was approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives. The opposition-led August Twenty-One Movement (ATOM) on Wednesday called on Romualdez to name more names if he does not want to “go alone.” In a statement, the group, known for its involvement in the 1986 People Power Revolution, said the Filipino people are done being played. “This is not politics anymore; it is a racket. A system of powerful people protecting each other while the rest of us pay for it, literally and otherwise. Enough with the shows and excuses. We’re fed up,” ATOM said. “Officials on both sides are running the same tired playbook: deny everything, hide behind procedure, weaponize technicalities, hire better if not more lawyers, release carefully worded statements and wait for the public to get tired,” they added. “Meanwhile, billions disappeared into ‘projects’ no one can verify, confidential funds escape audit and communities drown while the people responsible go on television looking offended that anyone would dare ask a question.” The group said Romualdez’s statement is “less like a principled stand and more like a threat dressed up as a warning.” “You promised sworn statements and supporting documents, so deliver them, all of them, unredacted, right now, not in the next press conference. If you truly will not go alone, then name the people who stand with you. Show the approvals, the signatures, the insertions, the decision points, the text messages, the chain of command,” they said. “And accept that accountability doesn’t conveniently stop at your district or your allies — it follows the money wherever it goes, no matter how far it reaches or who needs to be charged. If you meant what you said, then stand by it. If not, then you’re just another politician buying time,” the opposition group added.

- [Tulfo, Poe lead Magic 12 in survey](#) (2026-04-22 16:06)

SEN. Raffy Tulfo and former senator Grace Poe remained on top of the Magic 12 in Tangere’s April 2026 senatorial preference survey. Results of the nationwide poll, conducted from April 1 to 3 among 1,500 respondents, showed Tulfo leading with 44.8 percent, followed by Poe with 40.1 percent and Sen. Loren Legarda with 39.3 percent. The three maintained a clear advantage over other contenders, reflecting continued voter preference for experienced national figures. Despite holding on to the top spot, Tulfo’s rating declined from 49.8 percent in

January, while Poe's dropped from 43.5 percent, indicating that voter preferences are becoming more fragmented as more names gain traction ahead of the 2028 midterm elections. Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso ranked fourth with 38.2 percent, while Davao City Mayor Sebastian "Baste" Duterte and Davao City First District Rep. Paolo Duterte placed fifth and sixth with 37.9 percent and 36.9 percent, respectively, signaling strong support for local executives and the continued influence of Davao-based candidates. The Duterte brothers' numbers remained largely steady compared to January, suggesting a stable support base. Meanwhile, Education Secretary Sonny Angara and Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian sustained their earlier ratings at 29.2 percent and 24.8 percent, respectively, pointing to consistent public backing for administration figures. The survey also pointed to a tight contest for the final spots in the winning circle. Broadcaster Ben Tulfo holds 12th place with 24.1 percent but faces close competition from Akbayan Party-list Rep. Chel Diokno (22.3 percent), actor Dingdong Dantes (21.7 percent) and Benhur Abalos (21.3 percent). Tangere Chief Executive Officer Martin Peñaflor said the results reflect an increasingly fluid electoral landscape, with voters beginning to weigh performance and consistency alongside name recall. The noncommissioned survey used a stratified random sampling method and had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.15 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. Respondents were distributed across major regions, including the National Capital Region, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

- [Opposition urges Robredo to run in '28](#) (2026-04-22 16:05)

MEMBERS of the opposition have renewed their call for former vice president and now Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo to reconsider her decision not to run in the 2028 presidential elections. Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Robredo's running mate in 2022, said while the opposition respects her decision, it disagrees with it, noting there is still time to change her mind. "Given her rising poll numbers, I believe that Leni is in the best position to build the broadest and strongest unity not just amongst the ranks of the Liberal Party and our allies but to include all other groups and personalities outside our allied forces who are also looking to participate in the 2028 Presidential elections," Pangilinan said on Facebook on Tuesday. "With her at the helm going into 2028 and given her current poll numbers that are much higher now than in the run-up to the 2022 Presidential elections, a formidable coalition, far broader and more inclusive than the one we forged in 2022, can be cobbled together and lead us to victory in 2028," he added. The former Liberal Party (LP) chairman said should Robredo refuse to run, it could create a leadership vacuum that cannot be adequately filled by other contenders. This, he said, could lead to disunity and splintering of the opposition and its potential allies. "The net effect will be the fielding of various political parties and groups of their respective Presidential bets, further weakening our chances and delivering victory to our adversaries," Pangilinan said. In a statement in Filipino, the LP echoed Pangilinan's statement. "Although this brings us great sadness, we respect Mayor Leni Robredo's most recent statement regarding the upcoming 2028 elections. Nevertheless, as we continue to follow her achievements in Naga, we sincerely pray that the day will come when she hears the call of our growing number of fellow Filipinos:

that she would once again lead the campaign for honest and effective governance,” it read. “In the face of global crises and widespread revelations of anomalies in our government, many Filipinos are now deeply yearning for leadership that can truly respond to their needs. Now more than ever, we need leadership that serves the people, rather than rulers who act like kings and squander the nation’s wealth. The upcoming election will not only determine the lives and livelihoods of Filipinos; its outcome will also shape the future path that the Philippines will take,” it added. The LP noted that Robredo is enjoying support way beyond her party. “Many young people who are only now becoming politically aware have expressed admiration for her. Numerous personalities and institutions have shown willingness to contribute should she decide to run for president. And the respect and recognition she receives from our partners and allies in the international community are undeniable,” it said. Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima, who chairs the Liberal Party, said the opposition respects Robredo’s wisdom. Tindig Pilipinas co-convenor Kiko Aquino Dee said that should Robredo decide not to run, the opposition has a lot of substitutes with strong showing in last year’s midterm elections. “Because of our strong showing in 2025, the opposition has plenty of strong contenders for 2028 if Mayor Leni’s decision is final. But I also wouldn’t rule out people like Sen. Kiko [Pangilinan] being able to convince her to reconsider,” Dee told The Manila Times on Wednesday. In a radio interview on Tuesday, Robredo ruled out running for a higher position in the 2028 elections, noting she intends to run for another term as Naga City mayor. “I am very sure about myself that I’ll no longer run for any national post,” Robredo said in Bicolano.

- [CFO improves support for migrants in Eastern European countries](#) (2026-04-22 16:04)

THE Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) expanded its migrant support programs in Eastern Europe amid the reported increase in Filipinos marrying nationals of Romania, Bulgaria, and Moldova. Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority and the Department of Foreign Affairs showed that thousands of Filipinos depart annually as marriage migrants. Europe indicated a “growing share of these unions,” the CFO said in a statement on Wednesday. CFO Secretary Dante Ang II recently met Philippine Embassy officials in Bucharest to discuss cooperation and address migrant concerns in Romania, Bulgaria, and Moldova. Philippine Ambassador to Romania Noel Servigon and Consul Iris Caranzo reported a steady increase in Filipino spouses residing in these three countries. They also discussed trafficking and complaints from Filipino student interns in Bulgaria who entered the country under “misclassified” visa categories. The CFO said Ang is committed to enhancing interagency coordination to address the issues raised by the embassy and ensure stronger protection mechanisms for Filipinos in the region. CFO said marriage migration “remains a significant pathway for permanent relocation, particularly among Filipino women.” This is one of the reasons why the CFO needed to strengthen pre-departure orientation and post-arrival support systems. The CFO, mandated under Batas Pambansa 79 to provide guidance to Filipinos leaving the country under family reunification or marriage visas, plays a critical role in processing and registering marriage migrants. Through its pre-departure orientation seminar and guidance and counseling program, the CFO said it

“equips migrants with essential information on cultural adaptation, legal rights, and protection mechanisms abroad.” The CFO works closely with the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking to combat human trafficking through stricter counseling protocols, red-flagging of suspicious cases, and coordination with foreign posts. The embassy shared a directory of Filipino organizations in its jurisdiction to support the CFO’s Linkapil Program, which channels donations from overseas Filipinos to development projects in the Philippines.

- [Go blasts improper use of funds](#) (2026-04-22 16:03)

SEN. Bong Go on Wednesday challenged the government’s economic managers to justify what he described as inconsistent budget priorities. Go’s action comes as the Supreme Court continues oral arguments on the constitutionality of unprogrammed appropriations. The high court, in hearings held on April 21, examined the legality of unprogrammed funds included in the 2024 to 2026 national budgets. The proceedings follow a landmark December ruling that declared unconstitutional the transfer of P60 billion from the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth), reigniting debate over how public funds are allocated and reallocated. Go said the ongoing legal debate highlights the government’s ability to maneuver funds when needed, but he questioned its reluctance to mobilize resources for fuel relief amid rising oil prices. “While lawyers in the Supreme Court are exchanging legal arguments about unprogrammed funds, our drivers and commuters on the road have a simple question: If you found a way to sweep away the billions in PhilHealth funds before, why is it that now, when it comes to fuel relief, the answer always seems to be no funds?” he said in Filipino. The senator argued that if the government can justify the transfer of so-called “excess funds” into unprogrammed appropriations for various projects, similar mechanisms should be used to cushion Filipinos from the impact of the global oil crisis. However, he emphasized that funds belonging to PhilHealth should not be tapped again, stressing the need to protect resources intended for health care.

- [NHMFC declares housing payment moratorium](#) (2026-04-22 16:02)

THE National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC) announced a three-month moratorium on housing loan payments to help mitigate the impact of the Middle East war. Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling made the announcement on Wednesday following a meeting with NHMFC officials led by its president, Renato Tobias. Over 50,000 borrowers will benefit from the moratorium. “In response to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s call for a whole-of-government approach amid the ongoing crisis in the Middle East that is affecting many nations, including our country, we are implementing shelter-related financial relief programs, including that from NHMFC,” Aliling said. NHMFC is one of DHSUD’s attached key shelter agencies. Under the moratorium program, all eligible borrowers will automatically be covered for three months from May 1 to July 31, 2026, without the need to file an application. The relief measure allows borrowers to temporarily suspend their monthly amortization payments without incurring penalties or additional interest. Loan terms will be extended accordingly based on the duration of the

moratorium, according to the NHMFC chief. Aliling, who chairs Pag-IBIG Fund's board of trustees, said that it has also approved a special benefits package for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who were repatriated due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. OFW members may apply to withdraw up to 100 percent of their Pag-IBIG Regular Savings, including their employee share, employer share, and dividends earned, even before its 20-year maturity. They can also withdraw up to 100 percent of their Modified Pag-IBIG II, or MP2 Savings, including returns earned, even before its five-year maturity or avail of a three-month moratorium on Pag-IBIG Housing Loan payments, free from interest and penalties, with the loan term extended by three months, the housing czar said. Records showed that Pag-IBIG Fund has close to 900,000 registered OFW members in the Middle East as of February this year.

- [OWWA, GCash team up for OFW digital payment access](#) (2026-04-22 16:02)

MOBILE payment platform GCash and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) teamed up to enable overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to pay their membership dues via the app's "Bills Pay" feature. In a statement, GCash said that the partnership came amid the war in the Middle East. Active OWWA membership provides essential OFW support, including emergency repatriation services and reintegration, as well as social benefits like health care, legal assistance, and livelihood programs. OWWA Administrator PY Caunan and GCash Vice President and Head of the Public Sector Cleo Santos signed a memorandum of agreement, formalizing their partnership. "Digitizing the OWWA membership renewal via GCash is a vital component of how our agency is continuously modernizing for the benefit of our countrymen working abroad. ... We're glad to have allies in the private sector to help us continue extending the safety of home and the protections of the government to our migrant workers," Caunan said. OWWA membership payments have been made available through the GCash app since April 16, with transaction fees waived for three months until July 16. "Beyond membership payments, OFWs can also use GCash to send remittances, pay bills in the Philippines, and access savings, credit, insurance, and investment products, helping them manage their finances and stay connected to their families," the statement read. Those who wish to pay their OWWA membership should open their GCash app, tap Bills, select Government, choose the OWWA icon, enter their personal details and reference number, and proceed with the payment. "Through this partnership with OWWA, we have better opportunities to serve OFWs with a range of safe, convenient, and real-time services, from gateways to government programs that ensure continued well-being, to our comprehensive digital financial ecosystem that empowers through true inclusion," Santos said. According to the mobile app's statement, OWWA membership integration into GCash is "the first significant step in a long-term shared commitment to strengthening support systems for OFWs." "GCash looks forward to leveraging digital solutions to complement government services and to ensure that Filipinos remain protected, connected, and supported wherever they are," the app's statement read. ARIC JOHN SY CUA

- [DSWD's Pag-Abot program assists 105 street families](#) (2026-04-22 16:02)

THE Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has extended transitory shelter assistance to 105 beneficiaries under its Pag-Abot Program, targeting families and individuals in street situations (FISS). The initiative aims to help beneficiaries transition from living on the streets to securing safe and decent temporary housing. The program was institutionalized in 2024 through Executive Order 52, strengthening the government's response to homelessness. According to the DSWD, transitory shelter assistance provides temporary but secure housing while beneficiaries work toward long-term stability. Beyond housing, the agency also delivered psychosocial support and community-based interventions to ensure holistic recovery. Beneficiaries were likewise given livelihood assistance, including startup capital and materials for small businesses such as food carts and sari-sari stores. "Providing a safe roof for our beneficiaries is just the very first step, because we also want to ensure they have a sustainable source of income to support their daily needs," Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao said. "Even if we give them shelter, without a source of daily income, there is a chance they may return to the streets, which is why we also provide livelihood assistance," she added. The DSWD said it continues to monitor beneficiaries to ensure that the interventions lead to long-term economic stability. "We in the DSWD are deeply committed to pulling these families out of poverty and giving them a genuine chance to rebuild their lives in a secure environment, and we hope this becomes a pathway for their recovery," Dumlao said. MOISES CRUZ

- [QC to host 'All aBOARD Expo 2026'](#) (2026-04-22 16:02)

IN partnership with the Gaming Library, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte announced on Wednesday that the local government will again host the "All aBOARD Expo," which is expected to bring gamers, publishers, partners, and international guests. Set from May 28 to 31, 2026, at the city's M.I.C.E. Center inside the City Hall Complex, the region's largest expo would have its registration open for six pass types, Belmonte said. She said VIP (Very Important Person) passes would be priced from P1,000 to P5,500 with exciting perks, such as collectible items, exclusive freebies, and board games valued at up to P4,000. Tickets for non-city residents would be P150, while "QCitizens" with a valid QC identification card or proof of residency, and children aged 12 and below may enter for free. The expo's highlights include international personalities, exclusive board game content launches, and Asia Championship of Unmatched and Grand Archive Regionals, and major tournaments like Cascadia and Harmonies Catan. The expo would also feature learning sessions, workshops and community activities as well as expanded partnerships, prize pools and publisher showcases, it said. Over 200 exclusive board games would also be released, including local versions of international bestsellers. Belmonte said that the launch was part of the city's drive to promote culture, creativity and inclusive entertainment. "Through partnerships such as this, Quezon City continues to be a hub of creativity and global culture. The All aBoard Expo proves that our city can bring together different communities and industries in celebration of learning and shared experiences," she said. City Administrator Michael Alimurung said All aBOARD has become more than a gaming convention but a tradition of togetherness. "Residents and visitors alike are already excited for 2026 because they know it will bring new ways to learn, connect and celebrate community," he

said.CEO Hans Kenner Fernandez of Gaming Library — the country’ s premier board game retailer, publisher, and community hub — noted that last year’ s event was a record-breaking feat. “This year, we aim to break barriers. All aBoard Expo 2026 is much-awaited because it will bring in more international creators, bigger tournaments, and new gaming experiences that Southeast Asia has never seen before,” Fernandez said. “It’ s not just a convention, it’ s the start of a tradition that gamers from all walks of life look forward to every year,” he pointed out.All aBoard Expo 2026 is made possible through the support of the city’ s tourism department, highlighting the local government’ s commitment to cultural innovation, local tourism, and strengthening community ties, the top officials said. Arlie Calalo

- [Immigration Bureau probes Subic Bay resort 'takeover'](#) (2026-04-22 16:01)

BUREAU of Immigration (BI) spokesman Dana Sandoval on Wednesday confirmed the veracity of reports that a group of foreigners tried to take over a private resort facility inside the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.Sandoval said Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado ordered a comprehensive investigation and verification of the identities, immigration records, and on-ground activities of those involved.Included in the investigation is Timothy Desmond, an American, who was reportedly among those who tried to access the property without proper authority.The incident happened last April 8. “We will not allow foreign nationals to exploit their presence in the country to interfere in domestic affairs or disrupt public order,” Sandoval quoted Viado as saying.The BI chief also directed concerned units to work in close coordination with the National Police Commission, Philippine National Police, and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority to piece together the full sequence of events, determine accountability, and assess potential security implications.Authorities are digging deeper into the group’ s visa status, travel history, and purpose of stay, with Viado ordering a parallel review to determine whether there are grounds to place the individuals under the immigration watchlist or blacklist.The BI assured the public that it is moving swiftly to safeguard national interest, enforce immigration laws, and ensure that no foreign individual or group undermines public order or sovereignty within Philippine territory.

- [P98M subsidy released to taxi operators, drivers](#) (2026-04-22 16:01)

THE Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said more than P98 million in fuel subsidies has been distributed to taxi operators and drivers to cushion the impact of the Middle East conflict on fuel prices.LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said the agency is accelerating aid rollout to other public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers. “Our coordination with transport service entities, including taxi operators, remains continuous. We are closely monitoring the distribution to allow real-time intervention in case of glitches and other concerns,” Mendoza said.The LTFRB said the bulk of the funds has been distributed through its central office in Quezon City, with additional disbursements recorded in the Davao Region, Central Visayas, and Western Visayas.Mendoza said regional directors, particularly in highly urbanized areas, have been directed to coordinate directly with transport service entities to speed up the distribution process. “The funds are available, and our goal is to release them as

quickly as possible so all beneficiaries can receive assistance at the soonest time,” he said. The agency said it is due to implement another round of payouts on Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, at the LTFRB and Land Transportation Office central offices in Quezon City. Mendoza said that due to logistical challenges, the agency is intensifying coordination with stakeholders to ensure faster delivery of assistance. He encouraged beneficiaries experiencing difficulties in claiming their subsidies to reach out through LTFRB hotlines and official social media channels.

Franco Jose Baroña

- [Sarmiento takes oath as presidential peace adviser](#) (2026-04-22 15:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Interior secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento on Wednesday took his oath as the head of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Opapru). Sarmiento was sworn in by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in a ceremony in Malacañang. He replaced retired military general Carlito Galvez Jr., who announced his departure from Opapru after eight years last Tuesday. The Opapru leads the government's peace efforts, handling negotiations with insurgent groups and overseeing programs on reconciliation, reintegration, and development in conflict-affected areas, particularly in Mindanao.

- [Magdalo wants to back Risa for president](#) (2026-04-22 14:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Magdalo group wanted to support senator Risa Hontiveros for president. The group said in Filipino and English in a media interview on Wednesday that "as of now, the one we want to push for president is Senator Risa Hontiveros." They added that she possessed the qualifications "and she really stands up and fights."

- [Court issues precautionary HDO vs. Romualdez](#) (2026-04-22 14:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Seventh Division issued a precautionary Hold Departure Order (HDO) against former speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez. The Office of the Ombudsman had filed the Verified Ex Parte Application for the Issuance of a Precautionary Hold Departure Order before the Sandiganbayan and it was raffled off on, Tuesday to the said court division. On Wednesday, the court heard the application which was later submitted for resolution. There is no case filed in the Sandiganbayan against Romualdez who is the congressional representative of Leyte's first district. "This Application is anchored on the Complaint-Affidavit" dated Apr. 20, 2026 filed by the Ombudsman's Special Panel of Investigators, as nominal complainant, before the Ombudsman's Preliminary Investigation, Administrative Adjudication and Monitoring Office against, among others, Romualdez for, among others, alleged plunder. The Ombudsman said the complaints involved "the alleged kickback scheme tied to flood control projects, purportedly masterminded by the respondent, with the total amount of such kickbacks reaching approximately PhP56B." Mentioned in the application were former lawmaker Elizaldy Co's statements in video recordings as well as Orly Guteza's testimony. Romualdez has said, "I have never authorized, instructed, or allowed anyone to engage in any conduct that would betray the people or taint my name". He has reiterated that

he never received any alleged kickback in any infrastructure project.

- [Imee Marcos rejects ICC jurisdiction over former president Rodrigo Duterte](#) (2026-04-22 14:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Imee Marcos expressed disappointed with the decision of the International Criminal Court (ICC) asserting jurisdiction over the case of former president Rodrigo Duterte. In a statement on Wednesday, Marcos said, "This determination disregards the Philippines' sovereign withdrawal from the Rome Statute." "It also undermined the " fundamental principle that domestic institutions must be given primacy where they are able and willing to act," she said. "At its core, this development raises serious concerns about the inviolate respect for national sovereignty and the proper limits of international jurisdiction," said Marcos, a Duterte ally. "Justice must be pursued in a manner consistent with our Constitution, our laws, and the integrity of our own judicial processes," she added.

- [No winners in Grand Lotto 6/55, Mega Lotto 6/45 draws for April 22](#) (2026-04-22 14:10)

There were no winners in the Grand Lotto 6/55 and Mega Lotto 6/45 draws on Wednesday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The winning combination for the Grand Lotto 6/55 was 30-43-51-44-46-32, with a jackpot prize of P62,292,600.08. There were also no winners in the Mega Lotto 6/45 draw, which had the winning combination 10-37-11-43-18-15 and a jackpot prize of P37,882,594.88

- [JV Ejercito: Dismissal of ethics complaint vs Dela Rosa for continued absence depends on panel members](#) (2026-04-22 14:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The ethics complaint against Sen. Ronald Dela Rosa for his continued absence in the Senate may be dismissed if he gives up his salary and allowances, Sen. JV Ejercito said on Wednesday. A civil society group led by former Finance undersecretary Cielo Magno filed a complaint against Dela Rosa for his failure to perform his duties since November 2025. Ejercito, Senate Committee on Ethics and Privileges chairman, on Tuesday appealed to Dela Rosa to give up his salary and allowances, citing the "no work, no pay" rule imposed on Filipino workers. But the senator said the decision to dismiss the complaint against Dela Rosa still depends on the panel members. The panel is composed of Sen. Francis Pangilinan (vice chairman) and members Senators Erwin Tulfo, Bong Go, Rodante Marcoleta and Imee Marcos, and Risa Hontiveros. "I'm just a facilitator. It would be the [committee] members who must decide [on the matter] because that is the basis of the complaint," Ejercito said in a chance interview. "It might be a basis for the dismissal [of the ethics case against him] because if he will not accept his salary and allowances there is no more basis for the complaint," he added. Dela Rosa has shunned the public and ceased going to the Senate since November 2025 after the reported issuance of a warrant of arrest by the International Criminal Court against him. Dela Rosa had been identified as co-conspirator of former president Rodrigo Duterte, now detained at The Hague, Netherlands to face crimes against humanity in relation to his bloody war on drugs.

- [7 cadets, 2 police officers face criminal raps over PNPA hazing](#) (2026-04-22 13:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Seven cadets and two police officers are facing charges for violation of Republic Act 11053 or the Anti-hazing law in connection with the April 3 hazing incident within the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA), the PNP said on Thursday. The accused cadets include five third class cadets and two second class cadets including a police major and a police senior master sergeant. The PNP identified the following cadets and police officers as: Cadet 3rd Class Harold Locop Heje, Cadet 3rd Class Lance Elroy Guinitaran Gayramon, Cadet 3rd Class Mhicco Legarda Escalante, Cadet 3rd Class Renz Matthew Abuhan Cutab, Cadet 3rd Class Renald Perfecto Brunio, Cadet 2nd Class James Baldazan Bandao, Cadet 2nd Class Christopher Fernandez Dayag, Tactical Officer of the Day Police Major Mark Anthony T. Cailing, Tactical Police Non-Commission Officer Police Senior Master Sergeant Silverio M. Dolorfino Jr. Maranan said the case has now been filed before the Imus Provincial Prosecutor's Office. Administratively, he is set to sign the recommendation of the Tactics group of terminating the cadetship of the seven cadets and dismissing them from the program. According to Maranan, the seven cadets were directly involved in the hazing activity whereas the two police officers were charged because of command responsibility. "When it [hazing] happens to the training institution, there is also a responsibility of the direct supervisors who are on duty, that they are in charge of supervising personally and directly to the cadets or to the trainees," Maranan told reporters in a press briefing at the PNPA. Investigation is still ongoing in terms of the administrative lapses of the two police officers but initial probe suggests "there was no one in the area who supposedly should be supervising. They were absent," Maranan said.

- [Groups welcome ICC ruling](#) (2026-04-22 13:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Filipino groups calling for accountability over the victims of the drug war of former president Rodrigo Duterte welcomed the ruling of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Appeals Chamber rejecting all four appeals filed by the defense team. In a statement sent to The Manila Times on Wednesday, Duterte Panagutin spokesman Joel Vega said the group had anticipated the ruling. "Although we expected this outcome, we welcome this definitive development since Duterte's defense lawyers have already exhausted all avenues to derail or block a full trial," Vega said. "We now expect the confirmation of charges soon. These developments are consistent with the strength of the evidence that will be presented in court," he added. Vega also said their group was heckled by Duterte supporters. "Our group was heckled by Duterte supporters who gathered even though their permit was not yet in effect for another hour. We are documenting these incidents and will consider filing appropriate complaints against the DDS to put a stop to their disruptive activities near the detention center. Dutch residents have already complained that these gatherings obstruct bike lanes and pose a danger to pedestrians," he said. "The Dutch police ordered the DDS supporters to leave and return only at their designated time," Vega added. The activist—also known for petitioning Dutch authorities to reject the asylum bid of former Duterte spokesman Harry Roque—urged Filipinos to support families of drug war victims. "Beyond the ICC proceedings, the Filipino people must continue to support the families of extrajudicial killing (EJK) victims. They still face

intimidation and political hostility from the Duterte camp,” Vega said. “Even ICC judges have not been spared from vicious attacks online and in person by DDS supporters. We witnessed this firsthand when they heckled our group at the ICC grounds,” he added. The Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (Pahra) also welcomed the development. “By dismissing the final challenge to its authority, the Court has cleared the path for a full trial. The ruling reaffirms that withdrawing from the Rome Statute does not grant immunity for crimes committed during the period of membership,” the group said. “This decision sends a clear message to Duterte and his accomplices that the era of abusing power is over. They are now subject to a court where justice is upheld—unlike what many Filipinos experienced under their rule,” said Pahra Secretary-General Edgar Cabalitan. “No technicality will erase the blood on their hands. This victory belongs to the orphans and widows who refused to be silenced, proving that justice can outlast any tyrant,” Cabalitan added. Meanwhile, Tindig Pilipinas co-convenor Kiko Aquino Dee expressed confidence in the ICC process. “Attention should now turn to the pre-trial chamber’s decision on whether there are substantial grounds for the trial to proceed, which is expected within the month,” he told The Manila Times in a Messenger chat.

- [2 injured in another hazing incident at Philippine National Police Academy](#) (2026-04-22 13:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Barely a month after the hazing at the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) where over 20 senior cadets were injured, two more were victimized in another incident where fraternity members subjected their neophytes to physical abuse. In a press conference on Wednesday, BGen. Redrico Maranan, PNPA acting director, said the incident was discovered on April 19, 2026 following a regular body check. This time, the two cadets sustained bruises on their feet after allegedly being struck by two upperclassmen. “Nasabi ng dalawang cadet na it was due to a stick used by their two upperclassmen,” Maranan told reporters. (The two cadets said [their bruises] were due to a stick used by their two upperclassmen). Maranan said the two cadets involved were now under police custody at the Silang Municipal Station.

- [AFP names Air Force general as new vice chief of staff](#) (2026-04-22 12:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has appointed Lt. Gen. Rommel Roldan of the Philippine Air Force as its new vice chief of staff during a joint ceremony, which also marked the promotion of senior officers. Vice Adm. Alan Javier and BGen. Phillipp Alvarez Jr. likewise donned their new ranks during the ceremony on April 20, 2026, presided over by Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr., AFP chief of staff. Prior to his appointment, Roldan served as AFP deputy chief of staff where he played a key role in advancing the military’s strategic and operational initiatives. Roldan was then appointed acting vice chief of staff, the second-highest ranking post in the military, last March 11. Javier is set to continue serving as chief naval staff of the Philippine Navy while Alvarez remains commander of the AFP Counter-Intelligence Group. “The event highlighted the AFP’s enduring tradition of recognizing merit, dedication,

and leadership among its officers. These milestones reflect the institution's continuous effort to strengthen its leadership foundation as it advances its vision of building a Strong AFP for a Strong Philippines," the AFP said in a statement.

- [Govt allows Sara to travel to Europe, South Korea](#) (2026-04-22 12:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang has authorized Vice President Sara Duterte to travel to at least five countries, Executive Secretary Ralph Recto confirmed Wednesday. In a text message, Recto said that Duterte would go to The Netherlands, South Korea, Belgium, Germany, and the United Kingdom from April 23 to May 15. "Yes, she requested for travel authority to visit those countries from April 23 to May 15," Recto said. Based on Duterte's request, her 22-day foreign travel will be made "while on leave of absence, at no cost to the government." The vice president's departure from the country comes while the House of Representatives Committee on Justice is in the middle of hearing the impeachment complaints filed against her.

- [Pagasa raises El Niño Alert](#) (2026-04-22 10:49)

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) raised the El Niño Alert on Wednesday, saying it has a strong chance of developing in the third quarter of 2026. Pagasa Administrator Nathaniel Servando told a press conference that the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-Neutral currently prevails over the Tropical Pacific. "However, most climate models combined with expert judgements suggest 79 percent chance of El Niño emerging in June-July-August 2026 season and is likely to persist until early 2027," the Pagasa head told reporters. "With this development, Pagasa's ENSO Alert and Warning System is now raised to El Niño Alert," Servando said. Characterized by cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) over the Philippine Sea and warmer-than-average SSTs in the Central and Eastern Equatorial Pacific (CEEP), El Niño is a warm phase of ENSO, according to the national weather bureau. Ana Solis, Pagasa's Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section head, said during the same press briefing that when conditions were favorable for the development of El Niño, with a forecast probability of 70 percent or more within the next two to three months, an alert is issued. "During an El Niño event, there is an increased possibility of drier-than-usual conditions, which can lead to negative impacts such as droughts and dry spells in some parts of the country," Solis warned. However, Solis said above-normal rainfall conditions may also be experienced over the western section of the country during the southwest monsoon ('habagat') season which may occur during the third quarter of the year. Marcelino Villafuerte II, deputy administrator for research and development, said the strong impact of the phenomenon would be felt during the first quarter of 2027. Although, Pagasa did not rule it out, Villafuerte said there was still a slim possibility of 'very strong El Niño' or super El Niño as what others called it but climate models would only suggest that it could be a moderate to strong phenomenon.

- [SC orders Malacañang to comment on petition seeking Marcos medical, drug tests](#) (2026-04-22 10:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has directed Malacañang to comment on a petition seeking to compel President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to undergo physical and mental examinations, including a hair follicle drug test, and to disclose the results to the public. Without giving due course to the petition, the Court ordered President Marcos and Executive Secretary Ralph Recto to submit their comment within 10 days from receipt of notice. The petition for mandamus, filed on April 15, 2026 by former speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, retired Gen. Virgilio Garcia, Juan Raña, and Raymundo Junia, asked the High Court to require the President to undergo medical and drug testing and publish the findings on his fitness for office. The petitioners cited constitutional provisions on public disclosure of the President's health and the right to information, arguing that Marcos' physical and mental condition is a matter of public concern, especially amid the state of national emergency declared on March 24, 2026 due to rising fuel prices linked to the Iran conflict. They also pointed to alleged public observations of the President's condition, unverified reports of hospitalization, and past claims regarding possible drug use, while acknowledging but questioning his recent public display of physical activity in Malacañang. The group argued that the Constitution makes health disclosure a ministerial duty and asked the High Court to compel the President to undergo medical evaluation and release a complete clinical report confirming his fitness to govern.

- [ICC Appeals Chamber upholds ruling on jurisdiction over Duterte case, dismisses release bid](#) (2026-04-22 09:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has dismissed all four grounds of appeal raised by former president Rodrigo Duterte's defense, effectively upholding the tribunal's ruling on its jurisdiction over the case despite the Philippines' withdrawal from the Rome Statute. With the unanimous rejection of the defense's arguments, the five-judge panel confirmed that the Pre-Trial Chamber did not err in law when it found that ICC proceedings may continue in relation to alleged crimes committed while the Philippines was still a State Party to the treaty. One judge issued a partial dissent on an earlier ground of appeal, but the majority position prevailed on all key issues raised by the defense. As a result of the full dismissal of the appeal, the court also declared moot the defense request for Duterte's immediate and unconditional release. The ruling effectively leaves intact the Pre-Trial Chamber's interpretation of Article 127 of the Rome Statute, which governs the legal effects of a state's withdrawal from the ICC, including whether ongoing proceedings may continue after withdrawal takes effect. In its judgment, the Appeals Chamber rejected the defense argument that the Statute's object and purpose did not allow for investigations to proceed post-withdrawal. It found no error in the lower chamber's reasoning that such interpretation is consistent with the treaty framework designed to balance state sovereignty with accountability for serious crimes. The judges also dismissed claims that the Pre-Trial Chamber improperly relied on policy considerations or political context in its interpretation of the law, saying the analysis remained grounded in treaty interpretation principles under international law. The ICC has been investigating Duterte's anti-drug campaign, which is alleged to have resulted in thousands of killings between 2011 and 2019, spanning his tenure as

mayor of Davao City and later as president. With the Appeals Chamber's decision, the case is now set to proceed within the ICC process following the confirmation that jurisdictional challenges have been conclusively rejected at the appellate level.

- [ICC Appeals Chamber rejects Duterte defense claim on interpretation of withdrawal rule under Rome Statute](#) (2026-04-22 09:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The International Criminal Court (ICC) Appeals Chamber has rejected a key argument raised by former president Rodrigo Duterte's defense, ruling that there was no legal error in the interpretation of provisions governing a state's withdrawal from the Rome Statute. In its judgment, the five-judge panel dismissed the defense's first ground of appeal, which claimed that ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I erred in treating Article 127(2) of the Rome Statute as a special rule overriding Articles 12(2) and 13(c) in cases involving a State Party's withdrawal. The Appeals Chamber said the defense argument focused heavily on the abstract application of the legal principle of *lex specialis*, but stressed that the central issue was whether the lower chamber committed an error in interpreting the statute. "The key issue in this appeal is not how the principle is classified or applied in theory, but whether the Pre-Trial Chamber made a legal error," the chamber said in a summary of its ruling. Judges declined to rule on the broader theoretical arguments raised by the defense, saying these did not affect the outcome of the case. Instead, the Appeals Chamber found that the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute — particularly those governing jurisdiction and withdrawal — must be read together to determine the applicable legal framework. It upheld the Pre-Trial Chamber's interpretation that Article 12(2), which requires a state to be a party to the statute at the time the court exercises jurisdiction, must be considered alongside Article 127, which sets out when a withdrawal takes effect and its legal consequences. "In the view of the Appeals Chamber, the provisions ... read together with Article 127(2), settle the legal regime applicable to situations of a State Party withdrawal," the judges said. The chamber concluded that there was no error in the earlier ruling and unanimously rejected the defense's first ground of appeal.

- [Schools shut in Swedish town after 'threat': officials](#) (2026-04-22 08:46)

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN — Authorities ordered 16 public schools to shut in the central Swedish town of Borlänge on Wednesday after receiving a threat of violence, officials said. Private schools also kept their doors closed after being told of the threat. "The decision is a precautionary measure due to a potential threat of violence against school activities," the Borlänge municipality said in a statement. It listed 16 municipal pre-schools, elementary and secondary schools that were to remain shut for the day. A number of private schools decided independently to close. Police said in a statement they had received tips about "threats directed at schools in Borlänge." "The police have opened a preliminary investigation into serious unlawful threats against a group. No one has been detained, and it is too early to say whether the threat has any substance or not," police said. Borlänge, a town of about 45,000 people, is some 200 kilometres (125 miles) north of Stockholm. Police were to hold a press conference at 11:00 am (0900 GMT). Attacks on schools are relatively rare in Sweden. In February 2025, a

35-year-old gunman killed 10 people at an adult education centre in Orebro -- Sweden's worst mass shooting -- which police said was motivated by the killer's wish to end his life because of financial and psychological woes. In March 2022, an 18-year-old student stabbed two teachers to death at a secondary school in the southern city of Malmo. And in October 2015, three people were killed in a racially motivated attack at a school in the western town of Trollhattan by a sword-wielding assailant who was killed by police.

- [More students from public schools, indigenous communities qualify in UP College entrance exam](#) (2026-04-22 08:30)

MANILA, Philippines – The University of the Philippines (UP)-Diliman on Wednesday announced that out of 147, 437 applicants, some 18, 350 students qualified for admission through the UP College Admission Test (UPCAT) for academic year 2026-2027. UP President Angelo Jimenez also noted that the percentage of qualifiers from public schools has climbed up to 57.1 percent from last year's 55 percent, which he described to be a continuing trend of more qualifiers from the public schools since 2023. Jimenez told a press conference that the successful examinees, including both degree program qualifiers and those on the waitlist, have received notices from the UP Office of Admissions. "They comprise 12.44 percent of the total number of applicants for the coming academic year," he stressed. The premier state university said that UPCAT 2026, which was administered August 2025 in 117 testing centers nationwide, posted a higher number of applicants and qualifiers as compared with last year's 17,996 successful examinees out of 135,236 applicants. Citing the higher number of UPCAT takers this year, Jimenez said it only showed that "more families continue to look to UP as a place where their children's potential can grow." While UP Diliman continues to receive the largest share of qualifiers at 32.4 percent, the top university head said that more than 6,701 or 36.52 percent of this year's qualifiers received admission notices to campuses outside UPD, UP Los Baños, and UP Manila. "This marks an increase from last year's 34.8 percent or over 6,200 students, which reflects continuing efforts to strengthen the entire UP system and to encourage students to consider the full range of academic opportunities across UP's constituent universities," Jimenez said. This year's results also saw more qualifiers coming from more regions and provinces, he pointed out. Qualifiers from indigenous communities, which comprise 439 or 2.4 percent of the total number of qualifiers, also increased by 16 percent from last year. Moreover, UP Diliman said the Cordillera Administrative Region had 78 qualifiers while the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao had 59. "These trends suggest that the steps we have taken to expand and democratize access to quality UP education are beginning to make an impact in meaningful ways," Jimenez said. He reiterated that the share of qualifiers from public schools increased from 55 percent last year to 57.1 percent this year. Three years ago, more qualifiers came from private schools, 56 percent, than from public schools, 44 percent, the university president said. "UP is inching closer to its preferred intake ratio of 60:40 in favor of public schools," he said.

- [AMLC reveals P6B in transactions by Sara, husband](#) (2026-04-22 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Anti-Money Laundering Council said it discovered around P6 billion in covered transaction reports (CTR) and suspicious transaction reports (STR) from both Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband and lawyer Manases Carpio. AMLC Executive Director Ronel Buenaventura told the justice committee at the House of Representatives on Wednesday that the CTRs and STRs and financial intelligence reports of the couple covered 2006 to 2026. Buenaventura said that Duterte's accounts had a total of 371 large transactions and 30 suspicious transactions from Oct. 13, 2006 to Jan. 28, 2026 with amounts reaching as high as around P55 million. Buenaventura testified at the resumption of the hearing on Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment case

- [Sandiganbayan to rule on Ombudsman's application for hold departure order vs Romualdez](#) (2026-04-22 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman is waiting for the Sandiganbayan's ruling on its application for a precautionary Hold Departure Order against former speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez. The petition for a Verified Ex Parte Application for the Issuance of a Precautionary Hold Departure Order was raffled off on Tuesday, April 21, to the Sandiganbayan's seventh division. On Wednesday, the court heard the application which was later submitted for resolution. No case has been filed before the Sandiganbayan against Romualdez, representative of Leyte's first district. The application for HDO was based on the complaint-affidavit dated April 20, 2026 filed by the Ombudsman's Special Panel of Investigators, as nominal complainant, before the Ombudsman's Preliminary Investigation, Administrative Adjudication and Monitoring Office against Romualdez for alleged plunder. The Ombudsman said the complaints involved "the alleged kickback scheme tied to flood control projects, purportedly masterminded by the respondent, with the total amount of such kickbacks reaching approximately P56 billion." Mentioned in the application were former lawmaker Elizaldy Co's statements in video recordings as well as Orly Guteza's testimony. Romualdez has denied involvement in anomalous flood control projects. "I have never authorized, instructed, or allowed anyone to engage in any conduct that would betray the people or taint my name," he said, reiterating that he never received any kickback in any infrastructure project. On Tuesday, Romualdez said he would defend himself from allegations of wrongdoing in connection with the flood control mess.

- [AirAsia PH shares summer luggage tips, group seating promo](#) (2026-04-22 05:52)

MANILA, Philippines — AirAsia Philippines issued travel reminders for the summer peak season, highlighting baggage policies and seating arrangements for passengers traveling in groups. The airline advised travelers to manage additional luggage, electronics, and seating preferences in advance to ensure smoother airport operations during the high-traffic period. "To avoid higher last-minute charges, guests are advised to pre-book baggage and add-ons at least two hours before departure via the AirAsia MOVE app or the official website," AirAsia said. The airline allows checked baggage ranging from 20 kilograms to 60 kilograms, with no limit on the number of bags, provided the total weight remains within the purchased allowance. For safety,

no single checked bag may exceed 32 kilograms. For carry-ons, passengers are entitled to two items within the standard seven-kilogram allowance (one cabin bag and one personal item). Those needing extra space may opt for "Xtra Carry-On," which offers up to 14 kilograms for as low as P360 when pre-booked. Fragile items such as glassware and electronics are accepted but must be properly packed, as they are carried at the owner's risk. "For many Filipinos, travel is best shared with family and barkada. With AirAsia's 'Seat Together' option, guests can enjoy up to 50 percent savings compared to booking seats individually," AirAsia said. Passengers in a single booking can select side-by-side seats for a more convenient and connected journey. To book, passengers can go to "Add-ons," select "Pick-a-Seat," toggle "Seat Together" on, and confirm their selection before proceeding to payment.

- [Revilla defense challenges testimony on P92.8M Pandi project, cites double hearsay](#) (2026-04-22 05:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense team of former senator Ramon Revilla Jr. questioned prosecution evidence linking him to the P92.8 million Pandi flood control project, arguing that the claim is based on “multiple layers of hearsay.” At the center of the dispute is the testimony of Department of Public Works and Highways Planning Service chief engineer Peter Paul Cortez, who told the Sandiganbayan’s Third Division that he was informed the late DPWH undersecretary Catalina Cabral directed the inclusion of the project in the 2025 budget amendments and tagged Revilla as its proponent. Revilla’s lawyers said Cortez’s statement was not based on personal knowledge but on information relayed by unidentified sources, making it “more than double hearsay” and therefore unreliable as evidence. They also stressed that the alleged directive could no longer be verified, as Cabral is dead. During the hearing, Cortez confirmed that the supposed instruction from Cabral was not in writing and was not supported by any memorandum or document. Cortez testified that the Pandi, Bulacan flood control project was not part of the original list submitted by DPWH regional offices but was later inserted through an “errata,” or correction sheet, transmitted to the House Committee on Appropriations. While the errata identified Revilla as the project proponent, Cortez acknowledged there was no signature from the former senator and no separate communication showing his endorsement or request for the project. He reiterated that DPWH Programming Division records did not list Revilla as the originator of the proposal, nor did the office receive any formal funding request from him. Cortez explained that the division’s function is limited to encoding and processing project entries for evaluation and does not include verifying the identities of listed proponents. He admitted he had no direct dealings with Revilla or his representatives regarding the project. The witness also confirmed the absence of a transmittal sheet or acknowledgment receipt tracing how the project moved from the Office of the Undersecretary to the Programming Division, leaving gaps in the documentary trail. The defense also cited a September 9, 2024 errata letter signed by Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan, saying it served as the operative document for the project’s inclusion in the national budget and identified DPWH leadership—not any legislator—as proponent. In earlier hearings, Revilla’s legal team pointed to what it described as weak documentary evidence and the

absence of direct testimony linking the former senator to the conceptualization or funding of the project.

- [Marcos declares 9 local holidays](#) (2026-04-22 05:39)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. declared special non-working days in various provinces across the country to commemorate their founding anniversaries and local festivities, Malacañang announced Wednesday. Under Proclamation 1215, Marcos declared May 2, Saturday, a special non-working day in the Municipality of Bauan in Batangas for the celebration of the Sublian Festival. The festival is known for its cultural and religious significance, honoring the Holy Cross and Sto. Niño through traditional dance and rituals. The President also issued Proclamation 1216 declaring May 4, Monday, a special non-working day in the Municipality of Taytay in Palawan for the Pasinggatan Festival, which showcases the town's rich history and heritage. Proclamation 1217 declared May 8, Friday, a special non-working day in the municipality of Camiling, Tarlac, to celebrate its annual town fiesta, a longstanding tradition marked by religious activities and community festivities. Under Proclamation 1218, Marcos declared April 21, Tuesday, a special non-working day in Calamba City, Laguna, in celebration of its 25th Cityhood Anniversary. April 30, Thursday, will also be a special non-working day in the Municipality of San Francisco, Quezon Province for its founding anniversary under Proclamation 1219. Marcos also declared April 30, Thursday, a special non-working day in the Municipality of Calatagan, Batangas, through Proclamation 1220, to celebrate its Cultural Day, an event highlighting the town's heritage and local traditions. Furthermore, the President issued Proclamation 1221 declaring May 15, Friday, a special non-working day in the Municipality of Calauan in Laguna for the annual Calauan Pinya Festival, which honors the town's pineapple industry. He also declared the same date a special non-working day in Lucban, Quezon, under Proclamation 1222 for the celebration of the Pahiyas Festival, one of the country's most colorful and well-known harvest festivals. Lastly, Proclamation 1223 designated May 22, Friday, a special non-working day in Gingoog City, Province of Misamis Oriental, for the celebration of the Lubi-Lubi Festival, which showcases the city's agricultural heritage, particularly the coconut, through street dancing and festivities.

- [Majority backs PH court review of ICC arrest warrants — survey](#) (2026-04-22 04:55)

MANILA, Philippines — A majority of Filipino voters favor requiring Philippine courts to review arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) before they are enforced in the country, according to a survey released on Wednesday. The poll found that 60 percent of respondents supported a proposed Senate resolution mandating local judicial review of ICC-issued warrants, indicating a preference for domestic due process. Twenty-five percent opposed the measure, while 15 percent said they were unaware of the issue. Support was strongest in North-Central Luzon at 67 percent and in the Visayas at 64 percent. By age group, those aged 40 to 49 posted the highest approval at 71 percent. The proposal also received majority backing across political alignments, with 63 percent support recorded among pro-administration, anti-administration, and anti-opposition respondents. By generation,

Millennials led with 63 percent support, followed by Generation X at 61 percent. In contrast, public opinion on whether the Philippines should rejoin the ICC was more divided. The survey showed that 54 percent supported reentry into the tribunal, while 28 percent opposed it and 18 percent said they lacked sufficient knowledge to decide. Support for rejoining the ICC was highest in the National Capital Region and South Luzon, both at 62 percent. Younger voters drove the pro-ICC sentiment, with 60 percent of respondents aged 18 to 24 and 63 percent of those aged 25 to 29 expressing support. Among generational groups, Generation Z recorded 62 percent approval. Across political groupings, support for reentry was strongest among pro-administration respondents at 73 percent, followed by anti-opposition voters at 60 percent. The findings indicate a dual public stance: strong backing for asserting Philippine judicial authority over international legal processes, alongside moderate openness to renewed engagement with the ICC. The survey, conducted from March 21 to 24, 2026, covered 1,509 registered voters using purposive sampling from the PureSpectrum research panel and carried a margin of error of ± 3 percent. Pahayag is the corporate social responsibility initiative of PUBLiCUS Asia Inc., with Vox Opinion Research serving as its commissioned research arm.

- [3-month payment moratorium set for over 50K Pag-IBIG housing beneficiaries](#)
(2026-04-22 04:48)

MANILA, Philippines – Over 50,000 beneficiaries under the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) stand to enjoy the three-month moratorium it set on housing payments to help mitigate the impact of the Middle East war. Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling made the announcement on Wednesday following his meeting with NHMFC officials led by its president, Renato Tobias. “In response to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s call for a whole-of-government approach amid the ongoing crisis in the Middle East that is affecting many including our country, we are now implementing shelter-related financial relief programs, including that from NHMFC,” Aliling said. NHMFC is one of DHSUD’s attached key shelter agencies. Under the NHMFC moratorium program, all eligible borrowers nationwide will automatically be covered for a three-month period from May 1 to July 31, 2026, without the need to file an application. The DHSUD reiterated that over 50,000 member-beneficiaries could avail of the moratorium. The relief measure allows borrowers to temporarily suspend their monthly amortization payments without incurring penalties or additional interest. Loan terms will be correspondingly extended based on the duration of the moratorium, according to the NHMFC chief. Complementing this initiative, Aliling, who heads Pag-IBIG Fund’s board of trustees, said that it has also approved a special benefits package for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who were repatriated due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Under the benefits package, qualified OFW members may apply to withdraw up to 100 percent of their Pag-IBIG Regular Savings, including their employee share, employer share, and dividends earned, even before its 20-year maturity. They can also withdraw up to 100 percent of their Modified Pag-IBIG II or MP2 Savings, inclusive of returns earned, even before its five-year maturity or avail of a three-month moratorium on Pag-IBIG Housing Loan payments, free from interest and penalties, with the loan term extended by three

months, the housing czar said. Records showed that Pag-IBIG Fund has close to 900,000 registered OFW members in the Middle East as of February this year. The DHSUD chief stressed that the combined interventions from NHMFC and Pag-IBIG Fund form part of a broader strategy to safeguard Filipino families from the economic pressures brought about by the energy crisis, while also supporting vulnerable sectors such as repatriated OFWs.

- [3-month payment moratorium set for over 50K NHMFC housing beneficiaries](#) (2026-04-22 04:48)

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- [Tulfo, Poe lead Tangere April 2026 senatorial survey as race for ‘Magic 12’ tightens](#) (2026-04-22 03:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Raffy Tulfo and former senator Grace Poe remained the top choices of voters in Tangere’s April 2026 senatorial preference survey, even as competition for the

final slots in the so-called “Magic 12” intensified. Results of the nationwide poll, conducted from April 1 to 3 among 1,500 respondents, showed Tulfo leading with 44.8 percent, followed by Poe with 40.1 percent and Sen. Loren Legarda with 39.3 percent. The three maintained a clear advantage over other contenders, reflecting continued voter preference for experienced national figures. Despite holding on to the top spot, Tulfo’s rating declined from 49.8 percent in January, while Poe’s dropped from 43.5 percent, indicating that voter preferences are becoming more fragmented as more names gain traction ahead of the 2028 midterm elections. Manila Mayor Isko Moreno ranked fourth with 38.2 percent, while Davao City Mayor Sebastian “Baste” Duterte and Davao City First District Rep. Paolo Duterte placed fifth and sixth with 37.9 percent and 36.9 percent, respectively, signaling strong support for local executives and the continued influence of Davao-based candidates. The Duterte brothers’ numbers remained largely steady compared to January, suggesting a stable support base. Meanwhile, Education Secretary Sonny Angara and social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian maintained their ratings at 29.2 percent and 24.8 percent, respectively, pointing to consistent public backing for administration figures. The survey also pointed to a tight contest for the final spots in the winning circle. Broadcaster Ben Tulfo currently held 12th place with 24.1 percent but faced close competition from Akbayan Party-list Rep. Chel Diokno (22.3 percent), actor Dingdong Dantes (21.7 percent), and Benhur Abalos (21.3 percent). Tangere Chief Executive Officer Martin Peñaflor said the results reflected an increasingly fluid electoral landscape, with voters beginning to weigh performance and consistency alongside name recall. The non-commissioned survey used a stratified random sampling method and had a margin of error of ± 2.15 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. Respondents were distributed across major regions, including the National Capital Region, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

• [Justice panel 'proper forum' for Sara to answer charges, says lawmaker](#) (2026-04-22 03:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro reiterated that her panel was the “proper forum” for Vice President Sara Duterte to answer the allegations against her as she did not show up in her impeachment hearing on Wednesday. In her opening statement, the chairman of the House justice committee railed against Duterte’s statement that criticized the examination on her academic records as revealed by Ramil Madriaga instead of discussing her confidential funds and transactions. “I completed my studies on my own terms. I placed a higher premium on living a well-rounded life rather than pursuing academic excellence. I never asked any professor for special accommodation for my grades because the bare minimum was easy enough to meet. I was never the subject of any complaint for rudeness or violence against other students at SSC-R College of Law,” Duterte said. SSC-R is San Sebastian College-Recoletos. However, Luistro said that among the hundreds of pieces of evidence presented during the hearings, only one was targeted. “Sa totoo lang, na-ghost na nga tayo, tila gina-gaslight pa tayo. Ang mas mahalagang tanong ay kung nasaan ang pera, ngunit ang sagot sa atin ay tungkol sa grado sa kolehiyo (In fact, we are being ghosted and gaslighted. The most important question is where is the money, but the answer that we received is about college grades). And the worst part? This explanation is not being made here, but everywhere else,”

Luistro said. She reiterated that her committee would evaluate everything, from Madriaga's testimony, documents from the Commission on Audit, National Bureau of Investigation findings, and certifications from the Philippine Statistics Authority. "Lahat ng ito ay kailangang iharap dito, suriin dito, at timbangin dito. Pero dapat dito. Humarap ang kailangang humarap, manumpa at magpaliwanag. Dito sa Komiteng ito. (Everything that needs to be faced should be scrutinized and investigated, and those persons who should face questions should take their oath and explain before the committee) Because this is the proper forum," Luistro said. "If there is anything to clarify, the best—and the only—place to do that is here, before this Committee, under oath, and on record," she added. The committee has resumed the impeachment hearings of Duterte to focus on her alleged unexplained wealth, which is covered in one of the articles of impeachment against her.

- [Opposition calls for Robredo to run in 2028](#) (2026-04-22 01:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Members of the opposition are urging former vice president and Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo to reconsider her decision not to seek a national post in 2028. Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Robredo's running mate in 2022, said while the opposition respected, but disagreed with her decision, there was still time to change her mind. "Given her rising poll numbers, I believe that Leni is in the best position to build the broadest and strongest unity not just amongst the ranks of the Liberal Party and our allies but to include all other groups and personalities outside our allied forces who are also looking to participating in the 2028 Presidential elections," he wrote in a Facebook post late on Tuesday. "With her at the helm going into 2028 and given her current poll numbers that are much higher now than in the run up to the 2022 presidential elections, a formidable coalition, far broader and more inclusive than the one we forged in 2022, can be cobbled together and lead us to victory in 2028," Pangilinan added. Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima, who is currently Liberal Party chairman, said the party respected Robredo's wisdom. "We fully understand what VP/Mayor Leni wants to accomplish for Naga and our fellow Bicolanos... but like many of us, including myself, she's still the most winnable among the possible opposition candidates," she said in a Facebook and X post late on Tuesday. Tindig Pilipinas co-convenor Kiko Aquino Dee also agrees with Pangilinan and De Lima, citing the opposition's strong showing in last year's midterm elections. "Because of our strong showing in 2025, the opposition has plenty of strong contenders for 2028 if Mayor Leni's decision is final. But I also wouldn't rule out people like Sen. Kiko [Pangilinan] being able to convince her to reconsider," Dee told The Manila Times in a Messenger chat on Wednesday. In a radio interview on Tuesday, Robredo ruled out running for a national post in the 2028, instead choosing to run for reelection as mayor of Naga City.

- [Sara's 'unexplained wealth' faces scrutiny as House panel resumes impeach hearing](#) (2026-04-22 01:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives is set to resume the hearings on the impeachment case against Vice President Sara Duterte today, Wednesday, to focus on her alleged unexplained wealth, which is covered in one of the charges. For this hearing, the justice

committee has summoned former senator Antonio Trillanes IV, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla, and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Eli Remolona Jr., who sits as the chairman of the Anti-Money Laundering Council, as well as officials from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Securities and Exchange Commission. The hearing hopes to determine whether Duterte and her husband and lawyer Manases Carpio had accumulated unexplained wealth based on Duterte's statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth. Several lawmakers have pressed Duterte to attend the hearings to explain her side, but the vice president has opted not to attend as she stressed that impeachment was not one of her priorities right now. Her defense team and several of her legal allies have a pending motion at the Supreme Court that stops the proceedings.

- [Hot, humid weather to prevail over most of PH](#) (2026-04-21 23:27)

MANILA, Philippines – Hot, humid winds passing through the Pacific Ocean, or the easterlies, would bring hot and humid weather in most parts of the archipelago within 24 hours, the national weather agency said on Wednesday. In particular, the easterly winds would affect the Visayas, Mindanao, and Southern Luzon, weather specialist Chenel Dominguez of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. She said the same weather system, however, would bring partly cloudy skies with isolated downpours or thunderstorms over Metro Manila, CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon), and MIMAROPA (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan). In its 5 a.m. advisory, the state-run weather bureau said the rest of Luzon would likely have a similar weather pattern, but due to localized thunderstorms. It added that it has not monitored any low-pressure area forming inside or outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility in the coming days. A heat index of 38 degrees Celsius is possible over Metro Manila on Wednesday, and the highest could be recorded and felt over Aparri, Cagayan, at 42 degrees Celsius, which falls under the danger category, according to Pagasa.

- [ICC to rule on key Duterte challenge today](#) (2026-04-21 16:21)

THE International Criminal Court (ICC) is poised to issue a key ruling on whether it has jurisdiction over the case of former president Rodrigo Duterte, marking a critical juncture in proceedings related to his bloody war on drugs. The ICC Appeals Chamber is scheduled to release its decision on April 22 (5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Manila time), following challenges from Duterte's legal team, which argued that the court no longer has authority after the Philippines withdrew from the Rome Statute in 2019. A ruling affirming jurisdiction would allow the case to proceed further into the pre-trial phase, including a determination on whether to confirm charges of crimes against humanity filed by ICC prosecutors. Prosecutors have accused Duterte of playing a central role in thousands of killings linked to the government's war on drugs, describing him as "pivotal" in the alleged campaign. The charges focus on murder as a crime against humanity, covering selected incidents that prosecutors say reflect a broader pattern of violence. Human rights groups have long claimed that the total number of deaths tied to the anti-drug campaign could reach into

the tens of thousands, although only a portion of these cases form part of the ICC complaint. The case remains in the pre-trial stage, where judges are assessing whether sufficient evidence exists to move forward to a full trial. Confirmation of charges hearings were held earlier this year, with Duterte opting not to attend key proceedings in The Hague. His legal team cited health concerns in requesting his absence, though ICC judges have previously ruled that he is mentally fit to stand trial. Duterte remains under ICC custody after judges denied motions for interim release, citing concerns including possible flight risk and interference with proceedings. What comes next Following the Appeals Chamber ruling, the court is expected to decide whether to confirm the charges against Duterte, a decision that is expected to be issued by April 28 or earlier. If confirmed, the case would advance to a full trial — potentially one of the most high-profile international prosecutions involving a former Southeast Asian leader. The ICC maintains that it retains jurisdiction over alleged crimes committed while the Philippines was still a member of the Rome Statute, a position strongly contested by Duterte's camp. Duterte was arrested in March 2025 under an ICC warrant and transferred to The Hague, where he has since faced legal proceedings related to his administration's anti-drug operations.

- [Balikatan troops rescue 6 after truck falls into ravine](#) (2026-04-21 16:20)

TROOPS from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the United States Marine Corps participating in this year's Balikatan military exercise showed their real-world emergency response capability by rescuing six injured civilians after a cement-loaded truck lost control and plunged into a ravine. Four of the injured civilians were immediately extricated from the truck and transported to a nearby hospital. The two others, trapped and assessed with life-threatening injuries, were later rescued and airlifted by a US HH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to a higher-level medical facility for advanced treatment. US Marine Corps personnel in the area witnessed the incident and rendered initial assistance, while the troops from the 17th Infantry Battalion under Joint Task Force "Tala" reinforced rescue efforts and coordinated with the Philippine National Police for investigation. All individuals involved were confirmed to be Filipino civilians, with no military personnel affected. A report from Camp Melchor F. Dela Cruz noted that the joint response demonstrated interoperability and readiness beyond training scenarios. "This incident highlights the continued commitment of Balikatan forces to respond rapidly and effectively to emergencies, demonstrating strong interoperability and readiness in saving lives and assisting communities in times of need," the report said. Exercise Balikatan (shoulder to shoulder) pulls over 17,000 participants from the Philippines, United States, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and France, and is observed by 18 countries. It opened on April 20 and is set to conclude on May 8. Meanwhile, the AFP dismissed China's warning that the Philippines and its defense partners are "playing with fire" for participating in the joint military drills. As Exercise Balikatan 41-2026 opened on Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun warned participating countries, particularly the Philippines, the United States and Japan, that "binding themselves together in the name of security will only be akin to playing with fire." "We have to understand that the actions of the government of the Republic of the Philippines are one of a sovereign state. Meaning to say, We are allowed to engage any

like-minded country, like-minded state in furtherance of our national interest,” Rear Admiral Roy Vincent Trinidad, AFP spokesman for the WPS, told reporters on Tuesday. Trinidad emphasized that the exercises are part of the AFP’s modernization, making its military more capable, which are all “part of a sovereign nation’s actions to prepare her armed component,” Trinidad said. On the other hand, the constant war rhetoric, rapid military build-up, and illegal presence and aggressive actions of the Chinese Communist Party have been the reasons for instability in the region, Trinidad said.

- [Witness: Cabral ordered inclusion of Pandi ghost project](#) (2026-04-21 16:19)

(UPDATE) PROSECUTION witness Peter Paul Cortez told the Sandiganbayan Third Division on Tuesday that the alleged ghost project in Pandi, Bulacan, was included in a budget errata upon the instruction of the late Public Works undersecretary Catalina Cabral. Cortez, the division chief of the programming division of the Department of Public Works and Highways’ planning service, testified at the hearing on the bail petitions filed by former senator Bong Revilla and by most of his co-accused in the malversation through falsification case filed in connection with the alleged ghost project. Cortez testified that the project was not in the National Expenditure Program for 2025 submitted by the executive to the House of Representatives and that it was included in an errata. “We inputted it per” instruction of Cabral,” he told the court in Filipino and English, in response to a question from Associate Justice Karl Miranda, the chairman of the court’s Third Division. Revilla’s camp has said that he had no hand in the project in Pandi, whether it was a ghost project or not. The other accused in the case are Brice Hernandez, Juanito Mendoza, Arjay Domasig, Emelita Juat, Christina Mae Pineda, and Jaypee Mendoza. The accused, except Jaypee Mendoza, sought bail. The case was filed by the Office of the Ombudsman in January 2026. Revilla refused to enter a plea during his arraignment in February, but the court entered a not guilty plea for him. Juanito Mendoza, Hernandez, Jaypee Mendoza, Domasig, Juat, and Pineda pleaded not guilty to the charge. Cabral died in December 2025 under mysterious circumstances. Her body was found at the bottom of a ravine along Kennon Road in Tuba, Benguet.

- [US, Iran ready for war as truce nears end](#) (2026-04-21 16:18)

TEHRAN — The United States and Iran both warned they were ready for war as the clock ticked down on a ceasefire on Tuesday, with uncertainty over whether talks that President Donald Trump had announced would resume in Pakistan. The White House said Vice President JD Vance was ready to fly back to Islamabad, which was preparing for a second round of talks on ending the war that has engulfed the Middle East and shaken global markets. However, Tehran’s government declined to confirm that it would participate and accused the United States of violating the truce through its blockade of Iranian ports and seizure of a ship. “By imposing a blockade and violating the ceasefire, Trump wants to turn this negotiating table into a surrender table or justify renewed hostilities, as he sees fit,” said Iran’s powerful parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who headed the delegations to talks in the Pakistani capital two weeks ago. “We do not accept negotiations under the shadow of threats, and in the last two

weeks we have been preparing to show new cards on the battlefield,” he wrote on X.Iran’s Revolutionary Guards warned of targeting any vessel attempting to pass through the Strait of Hormuz without permission.Trump has similarly accused Tehran of violating the truce by harassing vessels in the key strait, the transit passage for about a fifth of the world’s oil that Iran had all but shut in retaliation for the war launched by the United States and Israel on Feb. 28.The channel sees around 120 daily transits in peacetime, according to Lloyd’s List, a shipping industry intelligence site.The site reported on Tuesday that more than 20 Iranian “shadow vessels” had transited past the US blockade.Trump insisted in one of a series of posts on his Truth Social platform that the blockade was “absolutely destroying” Iran and said it will not end “until there is a ‘DEAL’ ,” in which the United States is pressing for Iranian concessions on its contested nuclear program.Trump told PBS News that Iran was “supposed to be there” at the talks in Pakistan. “We agreed to be there,” he said, warning that if the ceasefire expired, “then lots of bombs start going off.” He separately told Bloomberg News it was “highly unlikely” he would extend the two-week truce.Based on its start time, the truce theoretically expires overnight on Tuesday, Tehran time, although Trump said in his comments to Bloomberg the end was a day later, on Wednesday evening Washington time.Oil prices fell on Tuesday while most stocks rose on lingering hopes for a deal to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.Despite some normality returning to Tehran during the ceasefire, city residents who spoke to Paris-based AFP journalists said the situation was far from ideal. “Let’s see what happens by Tuesday,” one 30-year-old doctor said on condition of anonymity.Saghar, 39, said there was little hope for Iranians squeezed by the government and the war’s impact, adding that the “economy is horrible.” New Israel-Lebanon talksA separate ceasefire agreed between Israel and Lebanon was announced on Friday and included Hezbollah, whose rocket fire in support of Iran drew Lebanon into the war.Israel and Lebanon, which have no diplomatic relations, will hold a second round of talks in Washington on Thursday, a State Department official told AFP.Sporadic violence continued, and Israel’s military warned civilians against returning to dozens of villages in southern Lebanon, claiming Hezbollah’s activities were violating the truce.The UN Security Council condemned on Monday the killing of a French peacekeeper in Lebanon, whose death Paris blamed on Hezbollah.The Frenchman was killed, and three others were wounded when their unit was ambushed on Saturday as it headed to a UN Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) outpost cut off from the fighting between Hezbollah and Israel.Hezbollah lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah told AFP that his group would work to break the “Yellow Line” that Israel has established in the south, even as he said it wanted “the ceasefire to continue.” Israeli attacks on Lebanon have killed at least 2,387 people since the start of the war, a Lebanese government body said in its latest toll.Another major issue in the US-Iran negotiations has been Tehran’s stockpile of enriched uranium.Trump, who previously said Iran had agreed to hand over the uranium, said late on Monday that doing so would be “long” and “difficult” after US strikes on Tehran’s nuclear sites last year. “Operation Midnight Hammer was a complete and total obliteration of the Nuclear Dust sites in Iran,” Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. “Therefore, digging it out will be a long and difficult process.” Trump uses the term “nuclear dust” to refer to Iran’s stock of enriched uranium, which the United States accuses Iran of hoarding in order to

make an atomic bomb.Iran’ s foreign ministry said earlier that the stockpile was “not going to be transferred anywhere” and that the option was “never raised” in talks with US negotiators.

- [Senate prepares for possible Sara Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-04-21 16:17)

(UPDATE) SENATE President Vicente Sotto III said he will act “forthwith” if the House of Representatives transmits to the Senate the impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte.The senator said he has been reviewing the rules of court and the Senate rules on impeachment so that he would be ready for any eventuality.The Senate serves as the impeachment court to try and decide on any complaint to unseat the president and vice president and other impeachable officers. “I will act on it with dispatch. Definitely forthwith. I know what the meaning of forthwith is,” Sotto said in a press briefing. “As soon as the Senate receives it, I will inform the Senate and refer it to the Committee on Rules,” he said. “We have to convene as an impeachment court. So, technically, we may convene by May 4. That’ s just two weeks away. So, we may be able to do that,” Sotto said.The Senate chief recently hosted a dinner with some fellow senators to discuss the impeachment proceedings against Duterte before the House’ s Committee on Justice.He implored fellow senator-judges “to be impartial in and out of the court,” as some of them are allied with Duterte. “In the discharge of duties, a judge shall not only be impartial but must also appear to be impartial.” Sotto said he also advised fellow senators to brush up on the rules of court, which cover the official set of procedural rules that govern how Duterte’ s case would be filed, heard and decided. “We can’ t be fumbling, because there may be issues the presiding officer will raise to the body, or objections from members that we should know how to properly address,” Sotto said. “We are simply preparing just in case. Since the possibility is already there, it is part of the Senate’ s responsibility. We are empowered to do so, and the relevant offices within the Senate are likewise authorized to prepare,” he said. “We are merely getting ready to ensure we are not caught off guard or forced into a rush should the House of Representatives transmit the Articles of Impeachment. If no such articles are sent, then that is well and good, and we will return our focus to legislation,” Sotto said.Another petitionMeanwhile, petitioners challenging the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte returned to the Supreme Court, questioning what they described as “deeply irregular” developments during an April 14 hearing conducted by the House of Representatives.The petitioners — led by lawyers Israelito Torreon, Resci Rizada-Nolasco, and Jimmy Bondoc — argued that the House Committee on Justice anchored its proceedings on testimony and a supplemental affidavit from Ramil Madriaga that were not part of the original impeachment complaints.They said only Madriaga’ s earlier affidavit dated Nov. 29, 2025, had been included in the complaints when these were filed and referred.The petitioners said the supplemental affidavit introduced new accusations, expanded factual claims, and additional narratives that went beyond the original submissions, yet lawmakers allegedly treated these as if they had long been part of the official record.They contended that this constituted more than a clarification of existing allegations, describing it instead as an improper expansion of the factual basis of the proceedings. This,

they said, violated principles of notice, fairness, due process and orderly pleading. The petitioners also questioned the committee's approval of a subpoena for former senator Antonio Trillanes IV. They argued that the subpoena was based solely on a footnote in one of the complaints referencing a 2016 news article about Trillanes' public statements on alleged Duterte bank accounts. The filing stressed that the cited article was neither a sworn statement nor competent evidence of the allegations it contained. In addition, the petition challenged a motion directing the Anti-Money Laundering Council to produce reports and documents on alleged covered and suspicious transactions involving Duterte and her husband, Manases Carpio, spanning nearly two decades. The petitioners argued that the directive lacked a clear anchor in specific allegations of ultimate fact regarding supposed unexplained wealth. They said the move effectively sought to obtain evidence outside the "four corners" of the complaint, characterizing it as a sweeping attempt to search for incriminating material. They further maintained that the committee could not bypass safeguards under the Anti-Money Laundering Act and bank secrecy laws through a legislative directive alone. Taken together, the petitioners said the developments during the April 14 hearing showed that the proceedings had moved away from a threshold determination of the sufficiency of the impeachment complaints. Instead, they alleged, the process had turned into a "fishing expedition" aimed at generating new material and accusations to support what they described as a constitutionally deficient case. Another survey Meanwhile, the latest Pahayag survey showed Filipino voters remain sharply divided over the impeachment of Duterte. The nationwide poll found that 51 percent of respondents support impeachment complaints against Vice President Duterte, while 33 percent oppose them and 16 percent are unaware of the issue. In contrast, 48 percent of voters opposed dismissing impeachment complaints against President Marcos, compared with 29 percent who supported dismissal and 23 percent who were unaware. The findings were at odds with the Tugon ng Masa survey, released by OCTA Research in mid-April that found 69 percent of Filipinos saying the vice president should face an impeachment trial.

- [Romualdez's Singapore trip gets House nod](#) (2026-04-21 16:16)

(UPDATE) THE House of Representatives has allowed former speaker Martin Romualdez to travel to Singapore for medical reasons. "As requested, travel clearance is hereby granted to Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Representative, 1st District, Leyte, in connection with his personal trip to Singapore from April 20 to May 4, 2026," a travel clearance dated April 20, 2026, from House Secretary General Cheloy Velicaria-Garafil stated. "This clearance is issued predicated upon the Honorable Representative's commitment to return to the Philippines forthwith following his medical procedure. It is understood that the Representative shall maintain accessibility for any urgent official functions or legal proceedings during his absence," it said. As of about 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, Romualdez was still in the Philippines. In a letter addressed to Speaker Faustino Dy III through Garafil, Romualdez asked for a travel clearance to Singapore from April 20 to May 4, 2026. "I have also written the Department of Justice of my intention to travel, in view of an Immigration Lookout Bulletin Order (ILBO) issued last Oct. 8, 2025," Romualdez said. "I give my unequivocal assurance that I will return to the Philippines

immediately upon completion of my medical engagement and remain accessible for any urgent legislative matters during this period,” he said. In a press briefing on Tuesday, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said that “because we have a bulletin, a lookout order with Immigration [...], we did not respond favorably to the request that he be allowed to leave.” Romualdez’ s lawyer, Ade Fajardo, said in a statement later Tuesday that the immigration lookout bulletin order does not bar travel “but simply requires prior coordination with authorities.” “In fact, Rep. Romualdez sought travel authority in all good faith — and this authority has been granted,” Fajardo said. “This underscores his full compliance with the law and negates any insinuation of flight risk.” Also in the briefing, Remulla said his office endorsed a complaint to the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and that his office was waiting for the AMLC to seek a freeze order on Romualdez. Fajardo said the AMLC “must file a formal application before the Court of Appeals, supported by evidence, before any freeze order may be issued.” “As of this time, we have received no official notice of any such application or order. Any statement suggesting that a freeze order is imminent remains speculative,” he said. Fajardo said that Romualdez “has consistently respected legal processes and will continue to do so.”

- [GSIS releases loan amortization refunds](#) (2026-04-21 16:15)

MORE than half a million government workers and pensioners have received loan amortization refunds under the Government Service Insurance System’ s (GSIS) Balik Ginhawa program. A total of P7.3 billion has been credited to member accounts as of April 20. Data from the GSIS showed that 598,420 applications have been received since the program’ s rollout. Of these, 525,447 applicants — nearly nine out of 10 — have been confirmed eligible and processed for payouts. GSIS said it has instructed its partner banks to credit a total of P7.5 billion to qualified members. The remaining balance is currently being processed and is expected to be deposited within the next few working days. GSIS President and General Manager Jose Arnulfo Veloso said the initiative forms part of the agency’ s support for the national government’ s broader relief efforts. The Balik Ginhawa program is aligned with the administration’ s Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food, and Transport, a whole-of-government response designed to cushion the impact of rising living costs on Filipino workers and their families. Under the program, GSIS grants a lump-sum refund equivalent to up to three months of eligible loan amortizations, covering payments made for December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026. While regular loan deductions continue, the loan term is extended accordingly, with no additional interest or penalties imposed. To qualify, members must have no arrears at the time of application, ensuring that their loan payments are up to date. Eligibility status and refundable amounts are displayed through the GSIS Touch mobile application before submission. Applicants who do not meet the criteria are notified through the platform. Approved refunds are credited within three working days, according to GSIS. The program remains voluntary, with applications open exclusively through the GSIS Touch app until Oct. 31, 2026.

- [Go honored at Asian Torch Excellence Awards](#) (2026-04-21 16:14)

SEN. Bong Go was inducted into the Public Service Hall of Fame during the 5th Annual Asian Torch Excellence Awards on April 18 at the Great Eastern Hotel in Quezon City. The event was organized by Realtalk Philippines. Leo Gamel Orendia, founder, president and CEO of Realtalk, chairs the Asian Torch Excellence Awards Council. The annual event recognizes individuals for leadership and contributions to their communities. Go, who was unable to attend the ceremony, commended the award-giving body for sustaining initiatives that highlight service-oriented leadership. “We would also like to thank the award-giving body for its efforts in organizing this event and for continuing to recognize individuals who make a difference through their work and service,” he said in a statement. “This event is a celebration not only of individual achievements but also of the shared commitment to serve and make a difference in the lives of others,” Go added.

- [DHSUD approves deferment period for developers](#) (2026-04-21 16:13)

THE Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) said it is giving developers 36 months to comply with the Balanced Housing Development Program (BHDP). This comes after the Commission on Audit (COA) flagged the DHSUD’s computation of incentivized balanced housing compliance. The DHSUD was urged by the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders’ Associations (Creba) to recalibrate the BHDP to make it more responsive to the needs of the homeless poor, without crippling the primary providers of housing. DHSUD Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling granted the request of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association and the Organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines concerning compliances to BHDP, particularly on the mode of compliance and its timeframe. Aliling added six more months for housing projects with 30 or more months of approved duration to satisfy BHDP requirements as prescribed by Republic Act 7279, or the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992, as amended by RA 10884. COA earlier this year flagged DHSUD’s computation of incentivized balanced housing compliance, noting that provisions under the department order were inconsistent with existing laws, particularly those that effectively reduced developers’ required participation in the program. According to DHSUD, private developers, including Creba members, are required under the BHDP program to develop socialized housing equivalent to 15 percent of their subdivision project cost or 5 percent of the condominium cost. “With our open-door policy, the DHSUD has always been ready to communicate and hold dialogues with all the stakeholders with one goal of providing shelters, especially for the poor Filipinos,” Aliling said. He said the long deferment period would benefit DHSUD’s partner-developers in continuously providing safe and affordable housing units under the national government’s expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa mga Pilipino (4PH) program. “During the maximum 36-month deferment period, developers can decide whether to opt for the incentivized compliance or direct participation in socialized housing under BHDP as prescribed by law,” Aliling said. Creba President Noel Cariño told The Manila Times that the government must institute major reforms to ensure more effective delivery of socialized housing to underprivileged Filipinos. He said private developers remain committed to abiding by government policies, especially on BHDP, which imposes a social

housing production quota on them. “While we affirm our long-standing position that the social housing quota is constitutionally infirm, nonetheless, for as long as it remains in our statutes, we are committed to abide,” Cariño said. “We urge judiciousness in promulgating its implementing rules — to ensure those infirmities are not exacerbated, the social objectives are not warped, and businesses are insulated from oppressive requirements, arbitrariness and extortive or corrupt influences,” he added. Cariño said the COA finding showed that “over the years, there has been failure to monitor, account for and report on the billions of pesos contributed by the developers for BHDP compliance purposes.”

- [Marcos names Sarmiento as peace adviser](#) (2026-04-21 16:12)

(UPDATE) FORMER Local Government secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento has been appointed as the Presidential Adviser for Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, bringing his long record in local governance and legislative reform to the government’s peace-building efforts, Malacañang said Tuesday. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said Sarmiento would replace Carlito Galvez Jr., who has stepped down “after years of dedicated service to the country’s peace agenda.” “Secretary Sarmiento’s appointment marks a natural progression of the country’s peace work. With security and normalization milestones largely in place, the process now enters a phase that calls for civilian leadership — centered on reconciliation, local governance and socioeconomic reintegration,” Castro said during a press conference. “This is especially vital in the Bangsamoro as it moves toward its first parliamentary elections and the full realization of the Comprehensive Agreement, and Secretary Sarmiento’s background in local government and public administration equips him well for the task,” she added. Castro reaffirmed the administration’s commitment to a just and lasting peace, and called on all peace partners, stakeholders and communities “to stand with Secretary Sarmiento as he takes up this vital work.” Sarmiento’s entry into the peace portfolio comes with a background that combines executive leadership and legislative experience, including direct involvement in crafting measures that laid the groundwork for what would eventually become the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). A former member of the House of Representatives representing the first district of Samar from 2010 to 2015, Sarmiento served during a critical period when Congress deliberated on the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law. He was the principal author of House Bill 4994, which sought to establish a new autonomous political entity in Muslim Mindanao, replacing the previous regional framework. The measure, while not enacted in its original form, became part of the legislative progression which had set the framework for subsequent versions of the proposed legislation that ultimately contributed to the passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law and the establishment of BARMM — widely regarded as a milestone in the country’s peace process. Sarmiento also authored and co-authored several major national laws, including Republic Act (RA) 10630, which strengthened the juvenile justice system, and RA 10364, which expanded the country’s anti-trafficking framework. He was also an original author of RA 11232, or the Revised Corporation Code, and RA 11392, which institutionalized national performing arts companies. Sarmiento served as secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) from September 2015

to June 2016, where he oversaw key national bodies involved in peace and security, including serving as chairman of the National Peace and Order Council and vice chairman for disaster preparedness of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. As DILG chief, he sat in multiple interagency bodies such as the Justice Sector Coordinating Council and the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, providing him exposure to cross-sectoral coordination — an essential component in advancing peace and reconciliation efforts. House Assistant Majority Leader and Lanao del Sur 1st District Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong welcomed the appointment of Sarmiento. In a statement, Adiong said he is confident that Sarmiento will bring “fresh energy and effective leadership to the crucial task of advancing lasting peace in Mindanao and across the Philippines.” He noted Sarmiento’s “extensive experience in public service, local governance, and his proven commitment to inclusive development and community empowerment.” “I look forward to working closely with him and the entire Opapru (Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity) team to strengthen the gains of the peace process, promote reconciliation and foster unity among our diverse communities. Together, we can build on the foundations already laid and ensure that every Filipino, especially those in conflict-affected areas, benefits from genuine and sustainable peace,” Adiong, a member of the House Committee on Muslim Affairs, added. Meanwhile, Castro said the president extended his gratitude to Galvez for his steadfast leadership of Opapru, particularly in advancing the implementation of signed peace agreements and sustaining the gains of the Bangsamoro transition. “His contributions — first as a soldier, and later as a peace negotiator and adviser — reflect a lifetime of service to the Republic, and the nation owes him a profound debt,” she said. Galvez announced his retirement from public office, citing personal and family obligations as the primary reason. “This decision is borne of a personal necessity to attend to the health of my wife, and to devote myself to my family — a commitment that is, perhaps, long overdue,” he said. Galvez expressed gratitude to Marcos for extending his tenure, allowing him the continuity “to see our shared peace initiatives through to this chapter.” Galvez described Sarmiento as a “champion of good governance and a man of peace.”

- [Ombudsman to subpoena Zaldy Co upon return to PH](#) (2026-04-21 16:11)

THE Office of the Ombudsman plans to subpoena former lawmaker Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co when he comes under jurisdiction. “Yes. There are still ongoing investigations.... If he is already under our jurisdiction, we will subpoena him to come over to explain matters under investigation, still under investigation with this Office,” Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said in a press briefing on Tuesday. Co was denied entry from the Czech Republic last week at the German border. In a video message, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. later said Co was in Czech custody. Marcos expressed resolve to bring Co back to the Philippines, saying, “he will answer to the Filipino people.” In Nov. 2025, the Office of the Ombudsman filed a malversation through falsification case against Co and other individuals before the Sandiganbayan in connection with a road dike construction project in Oriental Mindoro. “Remember, he’s still a fugitive from justice technically until he comes back to our jurisdiction... and fugitives from

justice have... no right to defend themselves... when there are cases against them unless they submit to the jurisdiction of the court,” Remulla said. On Apr. 7, the prosecution presented its last witness in the malversation through falsification case filed against Co and others. The trial involved nine of the accused: Gerald Pacanan, Gene Ryan Altea, Ruben Santos Jr., Juliet Calvo, Dennis Abagon, Dominic Serrano, Montrexis Tamayo, Lerma Cayco and Felisardo Casuno. Careful with Zaldy Co The Philippine government is being cautious over the case of Co, citing diplomatic relations with the Czech Republic, Malacañang said on Tuesday. In a press briefing, Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro noted that pertinent agencies are being careful in issuing statements or releasing details and visuals regarding the “intervention” the Czech authorities did on Co last week. “Because there is another country involved, the government is careful in making any announcements. Let’s just let our government work,” Castro said in Filipino. The Palace official likewise said they are deferring to Justice Secretary Fredrick Vida to address other matters concerning Co, particularly the process of his return to the country. Vida previously said he was ready to fly to the Czech Republic within the week to have a face-to-face meeting with local authorities to “flesh out” the legal requirements for the former Ako Bicol Party-list representative’s deportation. Meanwhile, Castro reacted to an earlier statement of Sen. JV Ejercito that ensuring Co would remain unscathed is a big challenge amid efforts to repatriate him and have him face the graft and malversation charges filed against him over the questionable P289.5-million flood control project in Oriental Mindoro. Ejercito’s claim, Castro asserted, is unfounded. “We have to determine it first. Where are these supposed death threats coming from? Has anything been presented?” she said. “So, I think we should start there first because there’s no basis. Are there really death threats?” she added. The administration, she stressed, remains committed to ensuring the safety and security not just of Co but of every Filipino. “All Filipinos should be able to return safely to the Philippines,” she said. WITH A REPORT FROM KRISTINA MARALIT

- [Firm pushes kidney disease awareness](#) (2026-04-21 16:10)

A GLOBAL pharmaceutical company launched an initiative to increase kidney health awareness through early detection at the community level. In a statement on Tuesday, Boehringer Ingelheim said its “Iwas Dialysis, Ligtas Kidneys: Get CheCKD Habang Maaga Pa!” (“Avoid dialysis, safer kidneys: Get checked while it’s still early”) campaign, which kicked off in Quezon City, ensures that screening and awareness on kidney health remain accessible to all. “By partnering with barangay health centers and equipping community health workers, we help bring essential kidney health services closer to families who may otherwise have limited access. Early detection can make a real difference in people’s lives, and we are proud to support these efforts,” said Dr. Bin Wang, general manager of Boehringer Ingelheim Philippines Inc. Boehringer Ingelheim noted that 13 million Filipinos, or 11.2 percent of the population, are living with chronic kidney disease (CKD). Aside from this, 1 out of 3 patients has kidney disease in the late stages, driving up dialysis costs. This highlights the need for early detection mechanisms. The program sought to empower barangay health workers (BHWs). Over 200 health care providers — including doctors and BHWs from 20 barangay — have been

trained to conduct initial health assessments, communicate effectively with patients, and assist in administering the urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio test. To date, the initiative has benefited over 1,500 Filipinos, who have received free kidney health screenings. Those with abnormal results are referred to health care facilities for further evaluation and care. The initiative is part of its global Sustainable Development for Generations commitment, which seeks to improve health outcomes for 50 million people in underserved communities worldwide. A city-wide rollout in Antipolo City followed the campaign's launch in Quezon City.

- [No toll, port fees for farmers, traders](#) (2026-04-21 16:09)

MALACAÑANG on Tuesday called on national agencies and local governments to help truckers of farm produce take advantage of lower toll and port fees to fast-track the movement of food products. Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said this was in line with the directives of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to cushion the impact of high oil prices on food products. The government started implementing on April 20 a monthlong toll holiday for food trucks. They were also exempted from truck bans and delivery fees to ease logistics costs and help temper food prices. "This begins with the speedy accreditation of farmers and traders who are qualified for the toll fee waiver," Recto said in a statement. "Unnecessary and unreasonable stopping and inspection of food trucks by police and LGU (local government unit) checkpoints should also stop because it delays travel and wastes fuel," he added. Recto said that reducing delivery time was critical, especially during the peak harvest season when produce was highly perishable. He said "toll and port fees holiday" formed part of a broader government response to mitigate the impact of rising oil prices on food costs, including fuel subsidies for farmers and fisherfolk, and direct procurement of produce by the Department of Agriculture (DA). Under the DA's Food Lane Program, 1,162 accredited trucks can transport up to 7 million kilos of food daily to major markets. "The DA's goal is to encourage the 3,100 truckers previously registered to get their easy-to-renew accreditation," Recto said. The Philippine Ports Authority also reduced roll-on, roll-off terminal fees for agricultural cargo vehicles to P1, down from as much as P516, while the Maritime Industry Authority cut regulatory fees by up to 75 percent to support interisland transport. Recto said these interventions aimed to reduce logistics costs, which added an estimated P5 to P7 per kilo to food prices.

- [DPWH opens access road to fight landfill fire](#) (2026-04-21 16:08)

THE Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has shifted into high gear in its battle to fully extinguish the fire in the Navotas Sanitary Landfill, which has been smoldering for more than 10 days and continues to pose serious health and environmental risks. Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon said the situation remains critical, with thick, toxic smoke continuing to billow from the landfill and drift across Metro Manila and nearby provinces, including Bulacan and Bataan. According to Dizon, the prolonged fire, fueled by layers of compacted waste, has created deep underground hotspots that are difficult to reach and extinguish, prolonging the crisis and worsening air quality. To support firefighting operations, the DPWH has deployed a large fleet of heavy equipment, including dredgers, bulldozers, dump trucks and backhoes,

working alongside personnel from the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). The coordinated effort, the DPWH chief explained, focuses on smothering both surface flames and deep-seated underground hotspots by layering soil and sludge over burning waste, effectively cutting off oxygen and halting combustion. “The strategy is straightforward but labor-intensive. Crews are continuously dumping soil and sludge over exposed flames and subsurface burning pockets to cut off oxygen, cool down heat zones, and prevent flare-ups,” added Dizon. What dramatically changed the pace of operations, Dizon pointed out, was the completion of a new access road linking the mainland directly to the landfill. He said that previously, equipment and materials had to be ferried in by barge, delaying response time. With uninterrupted land access, truckloads of soil and additional machinery can move in nonstop, enabling sustained, round-the-clock suppression efforts. Navotas Mayor John Rey Tiangco said operations are now focused on sealing off the fire at its source. “We are persistently covering the hotspots buried beneath the waste to suppress combustion and prevent reignition,” he said, adding that progress is being made but conditions remain challenging. Air quality in Navotas City has reached an “orange” classification, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 138, considered unhealthy for sensitive groups. Authorities warned that prolonged exposure to the smoke can aggravate respiratory conditions, especially among children, the elderly, and those with preexisting illnesses.

28-hectare fire The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) reported that over 28.58 hectares of the Navotas sanitary landfill have been burned by the fire that began on April 10, an area slightly larger than the Quezon Memorial Circle. The image of the destruction has since been submitted to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) to help prioritize areas that need swift response. The landfill, which has continued to burn, poses various health risks, particularly to vulnerable sectors such as children, senior citizens and individuals with existing respiratory illnesses. Infectious disease specialist Dr. Rontgene Solante told The Manila Times that exposure to the fire can lead to long-term complications such as chemical pneumonia, as fine particulate matter may be inhaled. Chemical pneumonia is caused by inhaling toxic substances, such as smog caused by fire. Solante said that inhaling the small particulate matter (PM), particularly the PM 2.5, may lead to serious respiratory issues. “The smog ... is an irritant to our airway. So, if you inhale that, especially the most vulnerable among those are those who are asthmatic and those who have COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) because their airway is already very sensitive,” Solante said. Solante emphasized the importance of wearing masks as air pollution persists. To prevent that, we need to advise wearing a face mask. Aside from wearing masks, Solante further advised the elderly to stay hydrated, noting that dehydration may exacerbate their COPD and asthma. As the Navotas fire continues to degrade air quality within its surrounding areas, Solante advised individuals experiencing difficulty breathing to seek medical attention immediately, as this may indicate chemical pneumonia. with a report from Allen Limos

- [LTFRB suspends bus firm fleet after crash](#) (2026-04-21 16:07)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has suspended for 30 days the operations of nine buses owned by Delmonte Motor Works Inc. following a fatal road crash

in Pagbilao, Quezon that left two passengers dead and 31 others injured. In a statement issued Tuesday, LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said a show cause order had been served on the bus operator in connection with the incident, which occurred along the national road in Barangay Silangang Malicboy. “We will be giving them the opportunity to explain their side as part of due process. But they are mandated to explain why their certificate of public convenience should not be suspended or revoked,” Mendoza said. The LTFRB said the crash may have violated regulations on ensuring passenger safety in public land transportation. Aside from the bus directly involved in the accident, eight other units operated by the firm were also suspended pending the outcome of the investigation. The agency directed the company to submit maintenance records of its fleet, noting that roadworthiness tests would be conducted on all its buses. The driver involved in the crash was ordered to undergo drug testing and attend a seminar on public safety. The LTFRB set the first hearing on the case for May 7. Failure to comply with the SCO may result in a P5,000 fine, the agency said.

- [UN AGENCY urges help for thousands of stranded sailors](#) (2026-04-21 16:06)

Singapore — The head of the UN maritime agency appealed on Tuesday for help for thousands of seafarers stranded due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, as the Middle East war paralyses the vital shipping route. Around 20,000 seafarers and 2,000 ships have been stranded after shipping was disrupted in the strategic strait following US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28 that triggered the war, according to the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Around one-fifth of the world’s crude and liquefied natural gas normally passes through the strait. IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez told a maritime conference in Singapore on Tuesday that stranded sailors were suffering from stress and fatigue. “We need to know everything that they’re going through,” he said. Dominguez urged shipping companies to provide remote support to the sailors on areas like mental health. He said some countries have established round-the-clock helplines for the seafarers, while others have been providing them with food. But more could be done on a personal level, such as proactively reaching out to sailors to listen to them so they feel less isolated. Shipping remained curtailed in the strait as the United States and Iran both warned they were ready for war, while the clock ticked down on a ceasefire set to expire Wednesday.

- [LTFRB sets hearing on P10 PUJ fare hike](#) (2026-04-21 16:05)

(UPDATE) THE Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has scheduled a public hearing on a petition filed by transport group Piston seeking a P10 increase in the minimum fare for public utility jeepney (PUJ), its chairman said Tuesday. LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said the petition would undergo formal review, with commuter groups and other stakeholders invited to submit their positions as part of the regulatory process. “I have already ordered that it be set for a hearing. We will also allow commuter groups and other sectors to comment,” Mendoza said in an interview, noting the urgency of the request. The current minimum jeepney fare stands at P13. If approved, the proposed increase would bring it to P23. Mendoza said fare adjustments are typically guided by fuel price movements, citing a

long-standing rule of thumb of a P1 fare increase for every P10 rise in fuel prices. Under this benchmark, a P10 hike would correspond to an estimated P100 increase in fuel costs. However, he noted that while fuel prices had previously surged to levels that could justify such an adjustment, recent declines could affect the basis of the petition. The LTFRB chief said the board would weigh the petition against commuter affordability and broader economic conditions. “We will study that, and most important of all is the balance and affordability for our commuters. Can they afford the additional P10 if we grant it?” he said. Mendoza also recalled that the board had issued a decision on an earlier fare-hike petition more than two years ago. But its implementation was deferred due to concerns over its impact on the public. He said the timeline for resolving the new petition would depend on the level of opposition. If uncontested, a decision could be reached within two to three months, subject to requirements such as publication notices, consultation with the Office of the Solicitor General, and coordination with economic and labor agencies. “It depends on the opposition. If there is none, the process will be faster,” he said. Mendoza warned that any fare increase could have wider economic implications, noting that jeepney fares tend to have a significant inflationary effect due to their widespread use. Scant price rollback Transport group Manibela on Tuesday said that the inadequate diesel price rollback and a government fuel aid system that continues to burden drivers forced them to call for a three-day strike. The group said the rollback did not match cuts in world prices, and the costs at the pump have remained unjustly high. Manibela Chairman Mar Valbuena said transport workers expected a much bigger rollback, with fuel prices still hovering at around P94 to P100 per liter. “We expected that the rollback now should not be lower than P75 already, but why is it only P25?” Valbuena said. He said oil firms were quick to raise prices when global oil prices surged, but slow to cut them when the market moved down. Valbuena also hit the government’s subsidy distribution, saying the process had dragged on for weeks and forced drivers to comply with changing requirements repeatedly. He said the system was making drivers suffer to access public aid funded by taxpayers’ money. “It is not just or fair. The aid distribution system is being used for politics,” he said. Valbuena said many drivers in Metro Manila had been lining up for two to three weeks, only to be told to return with additional documents or corrections in their records. He said the changing requirements showed how inefficient and burdensome the process had become for transport workers already struggling with high fuel costs. “It is the taxpayers’ money. Why make it hard for us?” he said. Valbuena said transport groups were continuing the protest because they would not accept what they viewed as a misleading rollback and a broken subsidy system. WITH A REPORT FROM JAMES DANIEL DANIO

- [HPG seizes P8.9M petroleum products](#) (2026-04-21 16:04)

AT least P8.9 million worth of petroleum was seized and six persons were arrested in an operation in Caloocan City, the Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) said on Tuesday. In a press briefing held at Camp Crame, PNP-HPG spokesman Lt. Nadame Malang said the six suspects were arrested on April 16 for alleged violation of Presidential Decree 1865 in relation to Batas Pambansa Bilang 33, which penalizes the illegal handling and distribution of

petroleum products. Nadame said the suspects were caught transferring methanol into large plastic containers with gasoline and diesel. “Operatives saw the six suspects transferring the methanol from the tanker to the plastic containers, which is not allowed since we have authorized depots for transferring these kinds of liquids,” Malang told reporters. Authorities said the practice increases fuel volume and maximizes profit. “Their purpose is to increase their supply of petroleum products. If they add 3,000 liters of methanol to 1,000 liters of diesel, they’d have a 4,000-liter diesel mixture,” he added. Police seized around 10,000 liters of methanol, 8,000 liters of unleaded gasoline, 1,000 liters of premium gasoline and 1,000 liters of diesel during the operation.

- [2nd tranche of aid for Malabueños released](#) (2026-04-21 16:03)

THE Malabon City government has released the second tranche of financial assistance under the 2026 Malabon Ahon Blue Card (MABC) program, benefiting 93,727 households and providing relief to Malabueños amid prevailing economic challenges. “The city government decided to release the regular financial aid to the qualified residents at a time when many of my constituents are experiencing hardship due to the unabated fuel costs that affect the prices of some commodities and other basic needs,” Mayor Jeannie Sandoval said. Sandoval told The Manila Times that the release of the MABC cash aid also coincided with the “Tambobong Festival 2026,” the monthlong celebration of Malabon’s 25th Cityhood Anniversary and 427th Founding Anniversary from April 21 to May 21. “It reminds the residents of the spirit of ‘bayanihan’ (community cooperation), which reflects the Malabueños’ enduring unity and willingness to uplift one another, especially in times of need,” according to the city’s first female chief executive. City administrator Alexander Rosete said the sustained rollout of the program reflects the Sandoval administration’s commitment to efficient and inclusive service delivery. He said that the MABC launched in 2022, has become one of the city government’s top-priority programs, providing financial assistance in multiple tranches every year, along with other benefits such as hospitalization and burial support. Blue cardholders may claim their P500 cash assistance at any BancNet-powered ATMs (automated teller machines) or USSC branches starting April 21, 8 a.m. to May 21, 11:59 p.m., according to the local government. Qualified households will receive a message from USSC once the cash assistance is available. They may also check the list of beneficiaries through the link posted on the Malabon Ahon Blue Card Facebook page, it added. Aside from financial aid, the city government has expanded MABC features, including burial and hospitalization assistance, which provided P5,000 aid to over 2,000 households for medical and burial expenses; and the Eskwela Savings Project, and MABC for Working Students, which support over 4,000 students in their educational needs. Also, Rosete said the “MABC para sa Kababaihan” provides livelihood opportunities for single mothers. He said the mayor is currently coordinating with various restaurants, fast-food chains, drugstores and other partner establishments to extend possible discounts to residents using their blue cards for purchases of goods and services. “This initiative aims to further assist residents amid the rising prices of oil and other commodities,” said Rosete as he explained that the blue card program has been designed to provide recurring, year-round aid to its

constituents instead of giving them a one-time grant.

- [Pasig tests recycled-plastic houses as temporary shelters](#) (2026-04-21 16:02)

PASIG City is testing a transition housing unit made from recycled plastic as a temporary shelter option for families who may be displaced during community upgrading works. Mayor Vico Sotto said Monday that the modular unit may help the city temporarily house residents while infrastructure projects are being carried out in their original communities. He said the sample unit, designed by Evergreen Labs, can be completed in two weeks and is durable despite being made from recycled plastic. Sotto said Pasig has already awarded thousands of lots to Pasigueño families, but acknowledged that some areas in the city still need physical upgrades. He said the modular setup could become a useful temporary housing model as the city improves older communities. Foreign officials from Sweden, Denmark and Norway, along with the Nordic Council of Ministers, were present during the presentation of the sample housing unit. The project could give Pasig a faster-build relocation option as it works on community improvement and housing-related upgrades.

- [Fears over threats to Zaldy Co's safety unfounded](#) (2026-04-21 14:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday tagged as unfounded claims that the safety of former congressman Zaldy Co, once he returns to the country, is at risk. Co, one of those implicated in the massive corruption scandal tied to the government's flood control projects, is currently detained in the Czech Republic for committing immigration violations last week. "We have to determine it first. Where are these supposed death threats coming from? Has anything been presented?" Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire said in Filipino in a Palace briefing. "So, I think we should start there first because there's no basis. Are there really death threats?" she added. The official was reacting to an earlier statement made by Senator JV Ejercito that making sure Co would remain unscathed is a big challenge amid efforts to repatriate him and have him face the graft and malversation charges filed against him over the questionable P289.5 million flood control project in Oriental Mindoro. Castro maintained that the administration remains committed to ensuring the safety and security not just of Co but of every Filipino. "All Filipinos should be able to return safely to the Philippines," she said.

- [No winners in Ultra Lotto 6/58, Super Lotto 6/49, Lotto 6/42 draws for April 21](#) (2026-04-21 14:26)

There were no winners in the Ultra Lotto 6/58, Super Lotto 6/49, and Lotto 6/42 draws on Tuesday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The winning combination for the Ultra Lotto 6/58 was 58-34-43-05-40-03, with a jackpot prize of P75,000,000. No winners were also recorded in the Super Lotto 6/49 draw, which had the combination 45-10-36-43-13-19 and a jackpot prize of P25,000,000. Meanwhile, the Lotto 6/42 draw yielded the combination 22-04-33-11-09-15, with a jackpot prize of P17,860,503.83.

- [Marcos wants sustained interventions amid oil crisis](#) (2026-04-21 14:08)

MANILA, Philippines – President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. wants sustained interventions meant to cushion the public from the effects of the lingering oil crisis triggered by hostilities in the Middle East. Marcos' order came during the fourth meeting of the Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food, and Transport (UPLIFT) Committee held in Malacañang on Tuesday where he directed agencies to identify additional measures to help shield citizens from the hit of the effects of the war, particularly volatile global oil supply and prices. In a Palace briefing, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro noted the president's stern directive for "active and responsive" initiatives to ease the burden of the public. "Aside from the programs and aid that have already been initiated, the president aims to identify other possible measures to ease the daily lives of Filipinos despite the challenges we face together," the official said in Filipino. She likewise reported that more than 24,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) have received assistance, while over 4,000 OFWs and 1,300 dependents have been repatriated safely from the Middle East. Castro likewise noted that the country now has an average oil supply of 52 days following the delivery of 471,000 barrels of oil. This would ensure that work and services would go unhampered. Stable electricity supply was also part of the discussion. "To ensure that our electricity supply is stable, the construction of 22 renewable energy projects with an equivalent capacity of 1,471 megawatts is currently being accelerated while 86.89 percent of the 665 government agencies are compliant with the government's energy saving measures. About 2,933 agencies and entities also follow flexible work arrangements to save on gasoline and electricity," Castro said. "The government continues to ensure that we have enough supplies to keep work and services running," she added.

- [Manibela slams aid system, 'wrong' fuel rollback on strike' s first day](#) (2026-04-21 13:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Manibela on Tuesday said it launched the first day of its three-day transport strike over what it called an insufficient fuel price rollback and a government fuel aid system that continues to burden drivers. Protesting in Philcoa, Quezon City, the group said the rollback did not match the decline in world oil prices and that pump prices remained unjustly high. Manibela Chairman Mar Valbuena said transport workers expected a much bigger rollback, with fuel prices still hovering at around P94 to P100 per liter. "We expected that the rollback now should not be lower than P75 already, but why is it only P25?" Valbuena said. He said oil firms were quick to raise prices when global oil prices surged but slow to cut them when the market moved down. Valbuena also hit the government's subsidy distribution, saying the process had dragged on for weeks and forced drivers to repeatedly comply with changing requirements. He said the system was making drivers suffer just to access public aid funded by taxpayers. "It is not just or fair, the aid distribution system is being used for politics" he said. Valbuena said many drivers in Metro Manila had been lining up for two to three weeks, only to be told to return with additional documents or corrections in their records. He said the changing requirements showed how inefficient and burdensome the process had become for transport workers already struggling with high fuel costs. "It is the taxpayers' money. Why make it hard for us?" he said. Valbuena said transport groups were continuing the protest

because they would not accept what they viewed as a misleading rollback and a broken subsidy system.

- [Stark challenges for returnees in war-ravaged Sudan: UN](#) (2026-04-21 13:15)

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND — The United Nations said Tuesday that nearly four million people had voluntarily returned to their places of origin in Sudan despite the ongoing civil war, warning they face stark challenges. Now in its fourth year, the war between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has killed tens of thousands. At its height, the war displaced over 12 million inside the country and sent over four million people fleeing into neighbouring countries as refugees, according to the UN's International Organization for Migration. But with the war having moved on from Khartoum since the military retook it last year, many of those displaced by the fighting have begun returning home to the capital and other areas where they believe security has improved. Between November 2024 and last month, 3.99 million people returned to their places of origin, especially Khartoum and the agricultural state of Al-Jazirah, southeast of the capital, IOM said. "Many are returning because they believe security has improved. Others return because life in displacement has become unbearable," IOM's deputy director for management and reform Sung Ah Lee told reporters in Geneva. "People want to rebuild. They want to return to their land, their homes, and their livelihoods," she said, speaking from Al-Jazirah. But she said "the reality many encounter upon arrival is stark... it is often the beginning of another struggle for survival". In Khartoum, she pointed out that many were returning to areas where homes and critical infrastructure, including water and electricity, had been heavily damaged. And yet, she said, more than two million additional people are expected to return to Khartoum this year alone. In Al Jazirah, one of Sudan's most important agricultural regions, farmers were meanwhile returning to fields where irrigation systems and equipment had been damaged, threatening food production and livelihoods. Lee said IOM had been able to reach four million people in Sudan with humanitarian aid since 2023. But she said "the scale of needs remains immense", pointing to the nearly nine million people who remained displaced. IOM is seeking \$170 million for its 2026 Sudan crisis response plan, but the agency said that plan remained "underfunded" by 97.2 million.

- [Counting a billion people: Inside India's mega census drive](#) (2026-04-21 12:48)

NEW DELHI, INDIA — Sukhwinder Kaur battles the scorching sun as she trudges door-to-door in New Delhi as part of India's colossal exercise to count more than one billion citizens. Kaur is among three million census enumerators fanning out across cities and villages in an exercise that will help shape policy for the country's estimated 1.4 billion people for years to come. Billed as the world's largest population count, the census is being held in two phases at a cost of \$1.25 billion, according to the government. Last week, the heat became overwhelming for Kaur, a government school teacher. "I went back home, but returned again in the evening," said Kaur, who will be paid 25,000 rupees (\$270) for the assignment, like other census enumerators. Feebly knocking on a door in the servants' quarters of an upscale housing society, Kaur, 38, tried to explain the purpose of her visit to an elderly resident. "Because we have been handling children,

we have, in a way, learned how to deal with all kinds of people," she said. "Some speak politely, some behave strangely but we know how to handle them." In the first phase, census takers ask 33 questions related to water, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel and internet. The second phase next year will focus on economic status as well as the more contentious question of caste -- the millennia-old social hierarchy that is deeply entwined with Indian politics and welfare entitlements. As in the past, census results will be released in phases starting late next year.

- [Apple's Tim Cook to step down as CEO after 15-year run](#) (2026-04-21 12:34)

SAN FRANCISCO, UNITED STATES — Apple's Tim Cook will step down as the California tech giant's chief executive this year, handing the top job to a company veteran as it navigates a technology landscape being upended by AI. The 65-year-old Cook, who ran Apple for 15 years after taking the reins from its visionary co-founder Steve Jobs, will be succeeded by John Ternus, a senior vice president of hardware engineering. The announcement on Monday answered long-simmering questions about who would replace Cook, who said he will step down in September to become the board's executive chairman. "It has been the greatest privilege of my life to be the CEO of Apple and to have been trusted to lead such an extraordinary company," Cook said in a statement. Early Tuesday, the outgoing chief executive received a tribute of sorts from Donald Trump, a self-professed "big fan" of Cook, as the tech leader built a pragmatic relationship with the US president. "I was very impressed with myself to have the head of Apple calling to 'kiss my ass,'" Trump said. Last year, Cook gifted Trump a gold and glass sculpture during a meeting in the Oval Office and announced an additional \$100 billion investment in American manufacturing, and in October Apple agreed to remove an app that could track US immigration agents. "Tim Cook had an AMAZING career, almost incomparable," Trump added.

- [China flexes energy leverage as the PH, US start annual war games](#) (2026-04-21 10:50)

BEIJING — China on Tuesday implied energy assistance for the Philippines could be tied to Manila holding military drills with the US and other allies, as its top newspaper showed Beijing's readiness to leverage its reserves in diplomatic disputes. In an editorial headlined "The Philippines should create conditions for deepening cooperation," the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily accused the Philippines of hypocrisy for seeking the emergency supplies days before hosting annual drills involving more than 17,000 troops on a remote Philippine island near Taiwan. China has the world's largest strategic oil inventories. "These blatantly contradictory words and deeds expose the opportunistic nature of Philippine politicians," the commentary said, published under the pen name "Zhong Sheng," meaning "Voice of China," and commonly used to convey top officials' views on foreign policy. "How can (the Philippines) justify acting with complete disregard for the interests of its neighbors and yet expect them to come to its aid in a critical moment?," the commentary continued, calling on Manila to "create the right conditions" for improved two-way ties. Tying energy relief to diplomatic disputes suggests Beijing could start to use supply assistance as leverage against nations that have displeased it, analysts say, as it has with critical minerals exports to Japan. Relations between China and the Philippines have deteriorated over the two countries' competing claims in the

South China Sea, particularly over Second Thomas Shoal where Manila grounded a warship in 1999 and conducts regular supply missions to sailors stationed on board. The shoal lies within the Philippines' 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone and about 1,300 km (808 miles) off mainland China. China — the world's second-largest fertilizer exporter and a major fuel supplier in Asia — has reduced exports of refined fuels to neighboring countries, following reports in March that it had ordered a ban on fuel exports to prioritize its domestic supply. "I saw hints of an implied quid pro quo but not a direct conditionality of energy aid for political pre-conditions. What I saw more was the critique of the Philippines being ungrateful," said Eric Olander, co-founder of the China-Global South Project. "It wants to rely on China for economic 'emergency relief' while also stirring up trouble." Chinese officials last month offered Taiwan what they described as energy stability in exchange for accepting Beijing's rule. China's comparative energy advantage People's Daily highlighted China's decision to honor fertilizer contracts with the Philippines despite the March export ban and pointed to Manila's parallel interest in starting talks on oil and gas supplies. But it went on to list a series of grievances, including the war games. Running until May 8, the exercises known as "Balikatan" or "shoulder-to-shoulder", also include Australia, Canada, France and New Zealand. Maritime strike drills will take place on the island of Itbayat, the northernmost point of the Philippines about 155 km from democratically governed Taiwan, which China views as its own territory. Counter landing live fire drills will take place in Zambales province on the South China Sea, about 230 km from the hotly contested Scarborough Shoal, which China controls. Ruby Osman, a senior policy adviser at the Tony Blair Institute, said the energy shocks had vindicated China's early 2000s strategy of stockpiling and reinforced its ability to resist US pressure, encouraging Beijing to act more confidently in situations involving its geopolitical rival. But China's comparative energy advantage should not be confused with the overall health of the country's energy security, she warned. "China is still burning through strategic reserves they'd rather not have to, with limited say in the length and scale of the disruption." Chinese President Xi Jinping publicly called for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz for the first time during a Monday call with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, underlining the unease within the \$19 trillion economy over the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, as export-led growth relies on open sea lanes.

- [Sotto to act 'forthwith' if the impeachment complaint vs Sara reaches Senate](#) (2026-04-21 10:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Vicente Sotto III said he would act "forthwith" if ever the House of Representatives (HOR) would elevate to the Senate the impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte. The senator said he has been reviewing the rules of court and the Senate rules on impeachment so that he would be ready for any eventuality. The Senate serves as the impeachment court to try and decide on any complaint to unseat the president and vice president and other impeachable officers of the land. The Constitution states that "trial by the Senate shall forthwith proceed" once an impeachment case is elevated to the upper house. "I will act on it with dispatch. Definitely forthwith. I know what the meaning of forthwith

is," Sotto said in a press briefing. "As soon as the Senate receives it, I will inform the Senate and refer it to the Committee on Rules," he said. The Senate adjourned session on March 21 for the holy week break and would resume on May 4. "We have to convene as an impeachment court. So, technically, we may convene by May 4. That's just two weeks away. So, we may be able to do that," Sotto said. The Senate chief recently hosted a dinner with some fellow senators to discuss the ongoing impeachment proceedings against Duterte before the HOR Committee on Justice. "But then again, as presiding officer, I made sure that I will review the rules of court. I am being helped by a number of lawyers and at the very least two justices that are giving me a very good perspective of what to expect," Sotto said. "Because there are issues that the presiding officer may throw to the body or there may be an objection from any of the members that we should be able to know how to address these objections," he added. Sotto also implored fellow senator-judges "to be impartial in and out of the court" as some of them are allied with Duterte. "In the discharge of duties, a judge shall not only be impartial but must also appear to be impartial," Sotto said.

- [JV Ejercito appeals to Dela Rosa to give up salary, allowances over continued absence](#)
(2026-04-21 10:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. JV Ejercito on Tuesday appealed to fellow Sen. Ronald Dela Rosa to give up his salary and allowances amid his continued absence in the Senate. Dela Rosa has been absent from the Senate since Nov. 2025 after a warrant was issued for his arrest by the International Criminal Court (ICC) over his alleged involvement in the drug killings under the administration of former president Rodrigo Duterte who appointed him as Philippine National Police (PNP) chief. Dela Rosa had been identified as co-conspirator of Duterte, now detained at The Hague, Netherlands for crimes against humanity. A civil society group led by former Finance undersecretary Cielo Magno filed a complaint against Dela Rosa for his continued absence from official duties for more than three months. Ejercito pointed out that ordinary Filipinos face the "no work, no pay" rule. Public servants should be covered by such regulation even more, he said. "Public service is a public trust, we are all accountable to the people we serve," Ejercito said in a statement. "As stated before, even by Senate President [Vicente] Sotto, the Senate has yet to establish rules that can compel [Dela Rosa's] attendance," he said in Filipino. "Any formal action will take time, as it must go through amendments and proper deliberation," said Ejercito, chairman of the Senate Committee on Ethics and Privileges. In the 58 roll calls made under the first regular session of the 20th Congress, four senators achieved perfect attendance while Dela Rosa recorded 31 absences. Ejercito said the Ethics committee could now conduct hearings on the complaints against some fellow senators after panel members approved the rules governing its operation. He said the committee could now discharge its functions, including the evaluation of complaints and conduct of hearings, as the panel's rules are set for publication which will allow the panel to proceed with its work.

- [Simple ways to make meetings work better for employees on the autism spectrum](#)
(2026-04-21 10:00)

NEW YORK — Before Megan Pilatzke was diagnosed with autism, she wondered why she always felt drained when she got home from work. All day long, she'd labored to understand when to speak up or stay silent in meetings. She replayed conversations in her head, worrying she'd misunderstood or said the wrong thing. Noisy environments distressed her. She watched her peers receive promotions when she didn't. "I would come home burnt-out, anxious," Pilatzke said of her days working as an insurance claim specialist. "That just kept going, week after week, day after day." Her communication difficulties, sensitivity to noise and other problems at work began to make sense following her diagnosis, she said. Pilatzke, 36, now spends her days teaching employers how to make workplaces more accommodating for people on the autism spectrum. She works as an inclusion specialist at Specialisterne Canada, a nonprofit that helps organizations to better support employee neurodiversity. She also reframed the way she thinks about traits often associated with autism, viewing her ability to focus intensely and provide honest, direct feedback as strengths. Below are some ways to make meetings and other work rituals more accessible for autistic people, according to several adults with autism and neurodiversity experts. It begins with understanding Autism spectrum disorder is a developmental disorder that affects about 1 in 45 adults in the US, according to Autism Speaks, a nonprofit organization that supports autistic people and their families by funding research, providing resources and doing advocacy work. It presents in a variety of ways but can create challenges with social skills, speech and nonverbal communication. Some common characteristics include repetitive behaviors and sensitivity to noise. "Start by learning about different communication styles and being open-minded," Subodh Garg, who appeared in the first season of the Netflix reality TV show "Love on the Spectrum," said. "Inclusion begins with giving people a chance and making space for diverse ways of thinking and working. Employers can start with small intentional steps." Garg works part-time at a Southern California deli, where he handles invoices and restocks pastries. He also is studying to earn a bachelor's degree and is a "champion of change" advocate at Autism Speaks. Employers may have preconceived ideas about what autism means, when "the reality is, it is a massive spectrum," said Rita Ramakrishnan, who is autistic and founded a consulting company that provides leadership coaching for neurodivergent executives. "There's a community of people with much higher support needs, and then there are folks who are twice exceptional or otherwise extraordinarily high functioning. Their support needs are not as high, and their production capabilities are different. But they're all valid autistic experiences." Organizations should consult autistic employees when crafting policies that are designed to make workplaces more inclusive, Ramakrishnan said. "No one's expecting you to be an expert in this, but we are expecting a level of curiosity, not judgment, and we would love the ability to have a conversation around our needs," she said. "It doesn't mean you have to accommodate all of them or redesign for all of them, but at least listening is the first step." Making meetings more accessible Face-to-face communication can be difficult for some people with autism, so having the ability to participate in meetings online or through writing can be helpful, experts said. "Changing the expectations for social engagement during a meeting is really important," Ramakrishnan said. "In a neurotypical normative situation, things like eye contact are highly prized. I trust someone who makes eye contact with me. But for an autistic person, that is a

scary thing.” Making camera use optional during virtual meetings is a useful accommodation since said people with autism often feel pressure to “mask” their natural behaviors by mimicking the facial expressions of neurotypical colleagues, Pilatzke said. “Things like that can actually cause a lot of anxiety for individuals that are neurodivergent,” she said. “So having that pressure removed can be helpful.” Some people with autism find it’s easier to focus during virtual or in-person meetings when they’re doodling or walking around, said Natalie Longmire, a professor of organizational behavior at Tulane University’s Freeman School of Business. Managers can make it explicit that those behaviors are accepted, she said. Employees also can seek and normalize these types of accommodations by saying something like, “Hey if I get up and walk around, I’m doing that so I can be more engaged in what you’re saying,” Longmire suggested. Share agendas in advance Keith Wargo, president & CEO of Autism Speaks, said his organization sends out meeting agendas in advance and sometimes shares additional details. “That kind of clarity is really helpful,... even sometimes sort of saying, ‘This is going to be a 45-minute meeting and we’re breaking it down into five parts,’ ” Wargo said. “We may deviate from that a little bit, but having that kind of structure is good practice.” Allowing written input before and after meetings — and not prioritizing only what is spoken out loud during the allotted time — enables organizations to honor and take advantage of autistic individuals’ contributions, Ramakrishnan said. “Be explicit about, for each agenda item, is this a discussion? Is this a brainstorm? Are we making a decision here?” Ramakrishnan added. “That gives an autistic person the chance to prepare what they need to.” “These are the folks that are going to come up with the ideas that nobody else thinks about,” she added. Enable various modes of communication Have multiple lanes available to participate in meetings, such as chat windows for attendees to type their contributions, said Abigayle Jayroe, senior vice president for strategic operations at NEXT for Autism. “There may be people who just don’t feel comfortable speaking,” Jayroe said. Turning on captions can help people who prefer to process information by reading, she added. Normalizing the use of noise-canceling headphones and written communication can help, experts say. To reduce feelings of sensory overwhelm, an autistic participant could try saying, “I might ask a question over chat instead of raising my hand because it’s easier for me,” Longmire said. Garg, who was diagnosed with autism when he was 3 years old, said he was non-verbal early on but learned over time how to communicate and connect with other people. “One of the biggest challenges has been interviews because they focus a lot on social skills instead of the actual work,” he said. “Sometimes people misunderstand my communication style or underestimate what I can do. Even small things like clear instructions or written feedback really help me do my best.” Encouraging naysayers An issue some autistic people encounter at work or in social situations is having their tendency to speak in a forthright way misinterpreted as callousness, Ramakrishnan said. Colleagues can be explicit about whether it’s OK to be direct or whether they need to soften the language, she said. In Pilatzke’s view, many autistic people possess a strong sense of right and wrong, and feel a need to speak up when they perceive injustices. “I describe myself as a blunt person. I’m very honest. I’m going to say what I think,” she added. Organizations can benefit from staffers’ frankness by building a culture where everyone isn’t expected to agree. Have a designated naysayer or devil’s advocate in brainstorming meetings, Jayroe suggested. “The

best ideas are built off of poking holes in what everyone agrees on. So it lays the groundwork longer term for a company to have their employees feel comfortable raising red flags or building on ideas," she said.

- [Witness says Bulacan project included in 2025 budget errata on orders of late Public Works official](#) (2026-04-21 09:20)

MANILA, Philippines — A prosecution witness told the Sandiganbayan Third Division on Tuesday that the alleged ghost project in Pandi, Bulacan was included in a budget errata on orders of the late Public Works undersecretary Catalina Cabral. Peter Paul Cortez, the division chief of the programming division of the Department of Public Works and Highways' planning service, said the project was not in the National Expenditure Program for 2025 submitted by the Executive to the House of Representatives but was included in an errata. "We inputted it per instruction of [former undersecretary] Cabral," Cortez told the court in Filipino and English, in response to a question from Associate Justice Karl Miranda who is the chairman of the court's third division. Cortez testified at the hearing on the bail petitions by former senator Ramon Revilla Jr. and by the other accused in the malversation case linked to the ghost project. Revilla's camp has said that he had no hand in the project in Pandi. Cabral died last December. Her body was found at the bottom of a ravine along Kennon Road in Tuba, Benguet.

- [Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket is grounded after launching satellite into the wrong orbit](#) (2026-04-21 09:03)

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida — Jeff Bezos' rocket company, Blue Origin, blamed a bad engine Monday for a failed weekend launch that left a satellite in the wrong orbit, dooming it. Launches of the huge New Glenn rocket are grounded until Blue Origin and the Federal Aviation Administration complete their investigation. The rocket blasted off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station on Sunday. The recycled first-stage booster performed well, landing on an ocean barge several minutes into the flight. But the upper stage was unable to put the satellite into a high enough orbit to begin operations. Preliminary data indicate that one of the upper stage engines failed to produce enough thrust, Blue Origin CEO Dave Limp said. The satellite was supposed to join AST SpaceMobile's orbiting network of satellites designed to provide direct space-to-smart phone service. The rocket's upper stage and satellite reentered the atmosphere Monday, according to the U.S. Space Force. No additional detail was available. It was only the third flight for New Glenn, Blue Origin's hulking rocket for delivering spacecraft to orbit. NASA is counting on New Glenn to launch Blue Moon lunar landers for the Artemis moon program. SpaceX's Starship is also in the running to land astronauts on the moon as early as 2028. Towering more than 320 feet (98 meters), the rocket is named for John Glenn, the first American to orbit Earth in 1962.

- [Over 28 hectares of Navotas landfill burned — PhilSA](#) (2026-04-21 08:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) reported that over 28.58 hectares of the Navotas sanitary landfill have been burned due to the ongoing fire. According to its

satellite image released Tuesday, PhilSA said as of April 16, the estimated burned area from fire—which reportedly started on April 10—has reached about 28.58 hectares, or roughly the size of an area slightly larger than the Quezon Memorial Circle. They added that the image has since been submitted to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) to help prioritize areas for response.

- [DBM releases P46.22B for 1,743 infra projects nationwide, says Palace](#) (2026-04-21 08:42)

MANILA, Philippines — In line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to prioritize infrastructure development, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has released P46.22 billion to fund 1,743 public works projects nationwide, Malacañang said Tuesday. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said the funds were released to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for the infrastructure projects that would improve road connectivity and mobility in the different regions of the country. The release of these funds aimed to ensure the continuous implementation of the infrastructure projects, and that no project would be delayed, Castro said during a press conference. She said the initiative was also part of the administration's efforts to accelerate infrastructure development and spur economic growth. Among the major projects is the Davao City Bypass Construction Project which has an approved allocation of more than P288 million for fiscal year 2026, Castro said.

- [House allows former Speaker Romualdez to travel to Singapore](#) (2026-04-21 08:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives authorized its former speaker Martin Romualdez to travel to Singapore for a check-up even after the Office of the Ombudsman rejected his request. "As requested, travel clearance is hereby granted to the Honorable Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Representative, 1st District, Leyte, in connection with his personal trip to Singapore from 20 April to 04 May 2026," said House Secretary General Cheloy Velicaria-Garafil. "This clearance is issued predicated upon the Honorable Representative's commitment to return to the Philippines forthwith following his medical procedure. It is understood that the Representative shall maintain accessibility for any urgent official functions or legal proceedings during his absence," Garafil said. In a press briefing on Tuesday, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said that "because we have a bulletin, a lookout order with Immigration [...], we did not respond favorably to the request that he be allowed to leave." Romualdez's lawyer, Ade Fajardo, said in a statement on Tuesday that the immigration lookout bulletin order did not bar travel "but simply requires prior coordination with authorities." "In fact, Rep. Romualdez sought travel authority in all good faith—and this authority has been granted," Fajardo said. "This underscores his full compliance with the law and negates any insinuation of flight risk." In the briefing, Remulla said his office endorsed a complaint to the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and that his office was waiting for the AMLC to seek a freeze order on Romualdez. Fajardo said the AMLC "must file a formal application before the Court of Appeals, supported by evidence, before any freeze order may be issued." "As of this time, we have received no official notice of any such application or order. Any statement suggesting that a freeze order is imminent remains speculative", he said.

- [Japan overhauls decades-old weapons export rules](#) (2026-04-21 08:32)

TOKYO, Japan — Japan will ease decades-old arms export curbs, the government said Tuesday, in a major policy shift that paves the way for the sale of lethal weapons overseas as Tokyo ramps up its defence ambitions. The new rules end Japan's self-imposed curb on sales of lethal arms as Tokyo seeks to enter the international arms market, hoping to bolster national defence as well as boost economic growth. The move, which provoked an angry reaction from China, comes as anxiety increases over Beijing's escalating military activity in the region, as well as persistent security threats from North Korea and Russia. "These decisions have been made at a time when changes in the security environment surrounding our country are occurring at an accelerating pace, and they serve to ensure Japan's security while contributing even more to peace and stability in the region and the international community," the government's top spokesman Minoru Kihara told a news conference. "Today, no nation can safeguard its own peace and security by itself alone." China was "seriously concerned" by the changes and would "firmly resist Japan's reckless new-style militarisation", foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told a news briefing. Exports had previously been limited to equipment classified under five categories: search and rescue, transportation, warning, surveillance and minesweeping. However, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi posted on X that "with this amendment, transfers of all defence equipment will in principle become possible". Proponents of the policy shift argue the change should further integrate Tokyo in the international defence supply chain, deepening defence, diplomatic and economic ties with partner nations as regional instability grows. But the decision has caused unease among some members of the Japanese public, with critics accusing Takaichi of eroding the proud history of the nation's staunch pacifism. "As a Hiroshima native, I grew up being taught the importance of peace, and I believe that the horror and devastation of the atomic bomb remain relevant today," 56-year-old Junichi Kikuta told AFP, explaining that he was against the move. "I still hope Japan, as the only country ever hit by a nuclear weapon, will continue to uphold its stance of relinquishing weapons and opposing wars." The policy change has been approved by the Cabinet and the National Security Council, Kihara said. Heigo Sato, an expert on defence issues and arms control at Takushoku University, said Japan must use this time of peace to ensure combat readiness by establishing "a system that ensures the smooth exchange of weapons and ammunition" between allies. He told AFP that exports require routine maintenance, providing defence contractors with steady business while also strengthening ties with buyer nations. By making the arms trade a two-way exchange, Japan might improve the chances of receiving help from allies in the event of an unexpected, prolonged conflict, he said. 'Turning point' The new rules are part of an incremental easing of the blanket export ban on weapons that was first introduced in 1976. Takaichi said export "recipients will be limited to countries that pledge to use the equipment in a manner consistent with the United Nations Charter". However, the Japanese public appears uneasy about the prospect of exporting lethal arms. A March survey by national broadcaster NHK showed that 53 percent of participants opposed the step, while only 32 percent supported it. Peace activists have staged rallies across the nation over concerns that Takaichi's hawkish world views and open support for US President Donald Trump could drag Japan into conflicts. Some appeared to

be protesting against the easing of arms export rules. Veteran activist Koji Sugihara warned that the change was "a historic turning point", arguing that Japan's pacifist reputation has historically aided its diplomatic and business relations. "People do not want Japanese-made products to be used to kill people in foreign countries," Sugihara told AFP. Japan previously exported bullets and military supplies to boost its economy, particularly during the Korean War in the 1950s, but adopted a conditional weapons export ban in 1967 before a total bar came in a decade later. Tokyo has made exceptions to the rules in recent decades, especially when joining international weapons development projects, before it opened the door to exports in 2014 in the five non-lethal military product categories. Five Japanese firms -- Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, NEC, Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Mitsubishi Electric and Fujitsu are among the world's top 100 arms companies, according to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

• [US and Iran warn they are ready for war as talks in limbo](#) (2026-04-21 08:05)

TEHRAN, Iran — The United States and Iran both warned they were ready for war as the clock ticked down on a ceasefire on Tuesday, with uncertainty over whether talks that President Donald Trump had announced would resume in Pakistan. The White House said Vice President JD Vance was ready to fly back to Islamabad, which was preparing for a second round of talks on ending the war that has engulfed the Middle East and shaken global markets. However, Tehran's government declined to confirm that it would participate and accused the United States of violating the truce through its blockade of Iranian ports and seizure of a ship. "By imposing a blockade and violating the ceasefire, Trump wants to turn this negotiating table into a surrender table or justify renewed hostilities, as he sees fit," said Iran's powerful parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who headed the delegations to talks in the Pakistani capital two weeks ago. "We do not accept negotiations under the shadow of threats, and in the last two weeks we have been preparing to show new cards on the battlefield," he wrote on X. Iran's Revolutionary Guards warned of targeting any vessel attempting to pass through the Strait of Hormuz without permission. Trump has similarly accused Tehran of violating the truce by harassing vessels in the key strait, the transit passage for about a fifth of the world's oil that Iran had all but shut in retaliation for the war launched by the United States and Israel on February 28. The channel sees around 120 daily transits in peacetime, according to Lloyd's List, a shipping industry intelligence site. The site reported on Tuesday that more than 20 Iranian "shadow vessels" had transited past the US blockade. Trump insisted in one of a series of posts on his Truth Social platform that the blockade was "absolutely destroying" Iran and said it will not end "until there is a 'DEAL'," in which the United States is pressing for Iranian concessions on its contested nuclear programme. "Agreed to attend talks Trump told PBS News that Iran was" supposed to be there" at the talks in Pakistan. "We agreed to be there," he said, warning that if the ceasefire expired "then lots of bombs start going off". He separately told Bloomberg News it was "highly unlikely" he would extend the two-week truce. Based on its start time, the truce theoretically expires overnight on Tuesday, Tehran time, although Trump said in his comments to Bloomberg the end was a day later, on Wednesday evening Washington time. Oil prices fell on

Tuesday while most stocks rose on lingering hopes for a deal to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Despite some normality returning to Tehran during the ceasefire, city residents who spoke to Paris-based AFP journalists said the situation was far from ideal. "Let's see what happens by Tuesday," one 30-year-old doctor said on condition of anonymity. Saghar, 39, said there was little hope for Iranians squeezed by the government and the war's impact, adding that the "economy is horrible".

New Israel-Lebanon talks A separate ceasefire agreed between Israel and Lebanon was announced on Friday and included Hezbollah, whose rocket fire in support of Iran drew Lebanon into the war. Israel and Lebanon, which have no diplomatic relations, will hold a second round of talks in Washington on Thursday, a State Department official told AFP. Sporadic violence continued and Israel's military warned civilians against returning to dozens of villages in southern Lebanon, claiming Hezbollah's activities were violating the truce. The UN Security Council condemned on Monday the killing of a French peacekeeper in Lebanon, whose death Paris blamed on Hezbollah. The Frenchman was killed and three others wounded when their unit was ambushed on Saturday as it headed to a UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) outpost cut off from the fighting between Hezbollah and Israel. Hezbollah lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah told AFP that his group would work to break the "Yellow Line" that Israel has established in the south, even as he said it wanted "the ceasefire to continue". Israeli attacks on Lebanon have killed at least 2,387 people since the start of the war, a Lebanese government body said in its latest toll. Another major issue in the US-Iran negotiations has been Tehran's stockpile of enriched uranium. Trump, who previously said Iran had agreed to hand over the uranium, said late on Monday that doing so would be "long" and "difficult" after US strikes on Tehran's nuclear sites last year. "Operation Midnight Hammer was a complete and total obliteration of the Nuclear Dust sites in Iran," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "Therefore, digging it out will be a long and difficult process." Trump uses the term "nuclear dust" to refer to Iran's stock of enriched uranium, which the United States accuses Iran of hoarding in order to make an atomic bomb. Iran's foreign ministry said earlier that the stockpile was "not going to be transferred anywhere" and that the option was "never raised" in talks with US negotiators.

- [Marcos names new peace adviser](#) (2026-04-21 04:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Interior secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento has been appointed as the Presidential Adviser for Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, bringing his long record in local governance and legislative reform to the government's peace building efforts, The Manila Times' source said Tuesday. Sarmiento will replace Carlito Galvez Jr., who has stepped down from his post. A former member of the House of Representatives representing the 1st District of Samar from 2010 to 2015, Sarmiento served during a critical period when Congress deliberated on the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law. He was the principal author of House Bill 4994, a key legislative measure that sought to establish a new autonomous political entity in Muslim Mindanao, replacing the previous regional framework. Beyond his role in peace-related legislation, Sarmiento also authored and co-authored several major national laws, including Republic Act (RA) 10630, which strengthened the juvenile justice system, and RA 10364, which

expanded the country's anti-trafficking framework. He was also an original author of RA 11232, or the Revised Corporation Code, and RA 11392, which institutionalized national performing arts companies. Sarmiento also brings to the position his experience as secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) from September 2015 to June 2016, where he oversaw key national bodies involved in peace and security, including serving as chairman of the National Peace and Order Council and vice chairman for disaster preparedness of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. As DILG chief, he likewise sat in multiple inter-agency bodies such as the Justice Sector Coordinating Council and the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, providing him exposure to cross-sectoral coordination - an essential component in advancing peace and reconciliation efforts. Prior to his national roles, Sarmiento built his political career at the local level, serving as mayor of Calbayog City for three terms from 2001 to 2010, and earlier as vice mayor. He also served as secretary general of the League of Cities of the Philippines and chaired the Regional Development Council in Eastern Visayas, underscoring his grounding in grassroots governance.

- [LTFRB sets hearing on petition for P10 jeepney fare hike](#) (2026-04-21 03:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) scheduled a public hearing on a petition filed by transport group Piston seeking a P10 increase in the minimum jeepney fare, its chairman said Tuesday. LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said the petition would undergo formal review, with commuter groups and other stakeholders invited to submit their positions as part of the regulatory process. “I have already ordered that it be set for hearing. We will also give commuter groups and other sectors the opportunity to comment,” Mendoza said in an interview, noting the urgency of the request. The current minimum jeepney fare stands at P13. If approved, the proposed increase would bring it to P23. Mendoza said fare adjustments were typically guided by fuel price movements, citing a long-standing rule of thumb of a P1 fare increase for every P10 rise in fuel prices. Under this benchmark, a P10 hike would correspond to an estimated P100 increase in fuel costs. However, he noted that while fuel prices had previously surged to levels that could justify such an adjustment, recent declines could affect the basis of the petition. The LTFRB chief said the board would weigh the petition against commuter affordability and broader economic conditions. “We will study that, and most important of all is the balance and affordability for our commuters. Can they afford the additional P10 if we grant it?” he said. Mendoza also recalled that the board had issued a decision on a fare hike petition more than two years ago, but its implementation was deferred due to concerns over its impact on the public. He said the timeline for resolving the new petition would depend on the level of opposition. If uncontested, a decision could be reached within two to three months, subject to requirements such as publication notices, consultation with the Office of the Solicitor General, and coordination with economic and labor agencies. “It depends on the opposition. If there is none, the process will be faster,” he said. Mendoza warned that any fare increase could have wider economic implications, noting that jeepney fares tend to have a significant inflationary effect due to their widespread use.

- [DMW assures aid, justice for 2 OFWs killed in Lebanon](#) (2026-04-21 03:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) on Tuesday extended assistance to the families of two overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) killed in Beirut, Lebanon last April 15. In a statement, the DMW said the pair was killed by their employer during a hostage incident in the Lebanese capital. “The victims, both long-time household service workers in the residence, were fatally shot during the incident. The employer has been arrested and is currently under police custody pending formal charges,” the DMW said. DMW Undersecretaries Bernard Olalia and Felicitas Bay will personally visit the victims’ families to convey their condolences to assure them of government support. The DMW said the Migrant Workers Office (MWO) in Beirut, together with the Philippine Embassy in Lebanon, is “coordinating with local authorities to ensure a thorough investigation and the filing of appropriate charges”.

- [Oil jumps on Hormuz tensions, stocks mostly retreat](#) (2026-04-21 02:18)

NEW YORK, United States — US and European stocks reversed Monday as oil prices surged over fears hostilities could resume in the weeks-long Middle East war after Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz following its brief reopening. Investors were on edge approaching the end of the US-Iran ceasefire, with Washington saying it will send a delegation to Pakistan for a new round of talks “soon” and Iran saying it had yet to decide whether to attend. “The market mood is very different at the start of the week compared to Friday,” said Kathleen Brooks, research director at trading group XTB. Crude had plunged Friday after the Islamic republic said it would again allow ships to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas usually passes. But world oil prices bounced on Monday as Iran closed the waterway and said the US blockade and seizure of an Iranian cargo ship breached the two-week ceasefire. “Renewed attacks on commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz increased fears of supply disruptions and raised the risk of a broader escalation in hostilities between the US and Iran,” said Trade Nation analyst David Morrison. “Uncertainty also remains over whether negotiations in Islamabad will proceed after Iran said it would not attend talks while the blockade remains in place,” he added. Wall Street’s main stock indices dipped, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite edging down from record closes. While US investors are wary over what happens next, “they are afraid to step away from the market because we know that if a deal is announced, the market’s going to go up very quickly,” said Jack Ablin of Cresset Capital Management. The losses were sharper in Europe. Frankfurt dropped 1.2 percent, Paris shed 1.1 percent and London gave up 0.6 percent. That came after gains for Tokyo, Hong Kong and Shanghai. “Asian shares rebounded as they were in catch-up mode, having missed the rally seen in the US and Europe on Friday,” said AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould. “European indices presented a truer picture of the market mood, with investor wariness and weariness amid the continuing tensions in the Middle East,” he added before trading began in New York. The blockade of Iranian ports has been a significant sticking point in negotiations between the two countries, with both accusing the other of ceasefire violations. There has so far been only one negotiating session, held in Islamabad on April 11 that ended inconclusively, although groundwork for fresh talks continued afterwards. Chris Weston at Pepperstone said traders

were assessing "whether the ceasefire can be salvaged through this week' s diplomatic talks, with recalibration on the probability of military escalation"."Without a comprehensive agreement on Iran' s nuclear program, the ceasefire remained fragile."Key figures around 2050 GMT West Texas Intermediate: UP 6.9 percent at \$89.61 a barrelBrent North Sea Crude: UP 5.6 percent at \$95.48 a barrelNew York - Dow Jones: DOWN less than 0.1 percent at 49,442.56 (close)New York - S&P 500: DOWN 0.2 percent at 7,109.14 (close)New York - Nasdaq Composite: DOWN 0.3 percent at 24,404.39 (close)London - FTSE 100: DOWN 0.6 percent at 10,609.08 (close)Paris - CAC 40: DOWN 1.1 percent at 8,331.05 (close)Frankfurt - DAX: DOWN 1.2 percent at 24,417.80 (close)Tokyo - Nikkei 225: UP 0.6 percent at 58,824.89 (close)Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index: UP 0.8 percent at 26,361.07 (close)Shanghai - Composite: UP 0.7 percent at 4,082.13 (close)Euro/dollar: UP at \$1.1786 from \$1.1765 on FridayPound/dollar: UP at \$1.3535 from \$1.3516Dollar/yen: UP at 158.88 yen from 158.64 yenEuro/pound: UP at 87.07 pence from 87.04 pence

- [Pasig tests recycled-plastic housing for community upgrades](#) (2026-04-21 01:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Pasig City is testing a transition housing unit made from recycled plastic as a temporary shelter option for families who may be displaced during community upgrading works.Mayor Vico Sotto said Monday evening that the modular unit may help residents temporarily while infrastructure projects were being carried out in their original communities.He said the sample unit, designed by Evergreen Labs, could be completed in two weeks and was durable despite being made from recycled plastic.The city chief said Pasig has awarded thousands of lots to Pasigueño families, but acknowledged that some areas in the city still needed to be physically upgraded.He said the modular setup could become a useful temporary housing model as the city improved older communities.Foreign officials from Sweden, Denmark and Norway, along with the Nordic Council of Ministers, were present during the presentation of the sample housing unit.The project gives Pasig a possible faster-build relocation option as it works on community improvement and housing-related upgrades.