



PHILIPPINES SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: June 15, 2026 - June 22, 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

- [OVP: Over 271,000 Filipinos received aid under assistance programs](#) (2026-06-22 05:04)

The Office of the Vice President (OVP) highlighted over the weekend its assistance, livelihood, education, and disaster response programs, saying more than 271,000 individuals received aid through its initiatives over the past year.

- [DOJ, GCash sign MOA allowing digital wallet access for refugees](#) (2026-06-22 05:01)

The Department of Justice (DOJ) and mobile wallet provider GCash on Monday signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) that will allow recognized refugees in the Philippines to access digital wallet services.

- [COA records officer testifies in P41-B DOH fund transfer graft trial](#) (2026-06-22 04:21)

A Commission on Audit (COA) official on Monday took the witness stand in the graft trial of former Health Secretary Francisco Duque III and former Procurement Service-Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM) chief Lloyd Christopher Lao before the Sandiganbayan.

- [Trial lawyer Jay Tolosa named House prosecution legal spox for VP Sara Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-06-22 04:13)

Jay Tolosa, a trial lawyer, has been named as the new legal spokesperson of the House prosecution panel for the impeachment case of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [DPWH execs allowed to sign infra contracts anew despite ICI reco](#) (2026-06-22 03:38)

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has restored the authority of its officials to approve and sign various infrastructure-related financial transactions under a new department order, despite an earlier recommendation to reduce approval powers as part of anti-corruption reforms.

- [Luistro: Prosecution, defense laid out 'roadmap' for Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-22 03:30)

Lead House prosecutor and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro on Monday expressed confidence that both the prosecution and defense had laid down the roadmap for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte after the pre-trial conference, the terms of which will be formalized in a pre-trial order expected on June 25.

- [Luistro dismisses reports Sara Duterte defense team 'outshone' House prosecutors](#) (2026-06-22 03:06)

Lead impeachment prosecutor and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro on Monday brushed off claims that the House prosecution panel was “outshone” by Vice President Sara Duterte’s defense team during the opening day of the pre-trial conference in her impeachment case.

- [LTO summons driver of gov't vehicle that did not stop at red traffic light](#) (2026-06-21 20:54)

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has summoned the driver of a government vehicle that did not stop at a red traffic light.

- [CWC: Social media engagement should not come at expense of children's rights](#) (2026-06-21 15:56)

The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) on Sunday reminded Filipinos that the welfare, dignity, and best interests of children should be the priority above media exposure, content creation, and public discussion.

- [Sara Duterte visits earthquake victims in Davao Occidental, Sarangani](#) (2026-06-21 15:04)

Vice President Sara Duterte on Sunday visited victims of the magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Davao Occidental and Sarangani.

- [Sara Duterte: 'Fatherhood also defined by dedication to Filipino people'](#) (2026-06-21 14:14)

Vice President Sara Duterte penned her Father’s Day greetings to Filipinos on Sunday, stressing that fatherhood can be defined by one’s dedication to the people.

- [PCSO: No jackpot winners for June 21, 2026 major lotto draws](#) (2026-06-21 13:58)

No one won the jackpot prizes in the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Sunday, June 21, 2026.

- [Bato dela Rosa's son sends Father's Day greetings](#) (2026-06-21 09:17)

The only son of embattled Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, Rock, extended his Father's Day greetings on Sunday.

- [VP Sara Duterte impeachment pre-trial expected to end Monday or Tuesday](#) (2026-06-21 06:48)

The pre-trial conference for Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial is expected to end on Monday (June 22) or Tuesday (June 23), House prosecutor Chel Diokno of Akbayan Party-list said Sunday.

- [PH monitors minerals, Chinese influx amid Bajo de Masinloc structure concerns](#) (2026-06-21 02:59)

Philippine authorities are monitoring mineral resources in the country as well as the influx of foreign nationals from China, following the alleged construction by China at Bajo de Masinloc in the West Philippine Sea.

- [Bongbong remembers dad Ferdinand Sr., his lessons on Father's Day 2026](#) (2026-06-21 01:49)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Sunday, Father's Day, remembered his father, former president Ferdinand Marcos Sr., and the lessons he taught him.

- [First Lady Liza delivers Father's Day tribute to Marcos via executive order form](#) (2026-06-21 01:08)

First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos on Sunday elevated her Father's Day greeting to President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. through an “Official Presidential Father's Day Executive Order.”

- [Chinese warships shadow PH Navy vessel on WPS patrol](#) (2026-06-20 19:55)

Four Chinese warships confronted a Philippine Navy vessel en route to Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal) on Saturday, in a rare maritime standoff witnessed and documented by members of the media.

- [24 Filipinos freed in Russian detention to return home June 21](#) (2026-06-20 14:38)

Twenty-four Filipinos who were released from detention in Russia are en route to the Philippines and are expected to arrive on Sunday, June 21, the Presidential Communications

Office (PCO) said on Saturday.

- [PH surpasses key marine conservation targets, renews pledges at global conference](#) (2026-06-20 10:12)

The Philippines surpassed several of its key marine conservation targets ahead of schedule and unveiled a new agenda for the country's waters during the recently concluded 11th Our Ocean Conference (OOC11) in Mombasa, Kenya.

- [DSWD sets aside P4-B standby fund, stockpile as TS Mekkhala nears PAR](#) (2026-06-20 09:36)

DSWD sets aside P4-B standby fund, stockpile as TS Mekkhala nears PH

- [4 more Discaya luxury cars to be auctioned on June 29](#) (2026-06-20 08:47)

More Discaya luxury cars to be auctioned on June 29

- [Lacson: Alan Peter Cayetano nearing a meltdown amid 'lapdog' remark](#) (2026-06-20 07:14)

Lacson slams Cayetano's 'lapdog' remark

- [Dengue cases in PH from Jan. to May 2026 down by 56% from last year --DOH](#) (2026-06-20 06:19)

The Department of Health said the number of dengue cases in the country from January to May 2026 decreased by 56% compared to the same period last year.

- [US gov't: PH immigration agents captured one of FBI's most wanted fraudsters](#) (2026-06-20 02:42)

After his arrest in the Philippines, the US Department of Justice announced Saturday (Manila time) the capture of one of the most wanted fraudsters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

- [ICC sets rules for Rodrigo Duterte trial proceedings](#) (2026-06-19 19:51)

Judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Trial Chamber III on Friday issued directions governing the conduct of trial proceedings in the crimes against humanity case against former President Rodrigo Duterte.

- [Marcos returns to Manila, touts renewed ties with Russia](#) (2026-06-19 14:51)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. arrived in Manila on Friday following a three-day visit to Russia for the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit, highlighting renewed ties and stronger cooperation between the two countries.

- [No winners of major lotto draws on Friday, June 19, 2026](#) (2026-06-19 14:27)

There were no winners of either of the major lotto jackpots offered on Friday, June 19, 2026, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) announced.

- [Ex-bodyguards of Zaldy Co still willing to testify before Senate Blue Ribbon panel](#) (2026-06-19 13:22)

The 18 former bodyguards of former lawmaker Zaldy Co, who claimed to have delivered cash to various personalities, are still willing to attend the hearing of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, following the recent leadership change at the chamber.

- [Alan Peter Cayetano calls Tito Sotto, Raffy Tulfo 'Malacañang lapdogs' amid Senate feud](#) (2026-06-19 13:14)

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Friday aired fresh accusations against some members of the new Senate majority, calling them "tuta" or "lapdogs" of Malacañang.

- [SWS: Marcos admin net satisfaction rating drops to record-low -13 in March 2026](#) (2026-06-19 13:13)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. administration's net satisfaction rating fell to a record-low "poor" -13 in March 2026, according to the latest survey conducted by Social Weather Stations (SWS).

- ['Exciting moments,' but no surprises in VP Sara pre-trial brief --Senate exec](#) (2026-06-19 11:37)

Senate Secretary Renato Bantug Jr. on Friday denied there were tensions during the first day of the pre-trial conference on the impeachment case against Vice President SarSenate Secretary Renato Bantug Jr. on Friday denied there were tensions during the first day of the pre-trial conference on the impeachment case against Vice President Sara Duterte.a Duterte.

- [DILG's Remulla cites inconsistencies in statements of Ateneo players, coaches](#) (2026-06-19 11:03)

Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Friday said investigators have noted inconsistencies in the statements given by players and coaching staff of the Ateneo Men's Basketball Team in connection with the ongoing investigation into the death of its two athletes.

- [Marcos: No doubt in Chiz Escudero's ability to run VP Sara's impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-19 10:34)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has allayed concerns regarding the plan to elect Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero as presiding officer in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [ICC sets second status conference in Duterte crimes against humanity case](#) (2026-06-19 10:25)

The ICC Trial Chamber III has set the second status conference in Rodrigo Duterte's crimes against humanity case for June 23 to discuss key trial preparations.

- [Too early to judge Chiz Escudero's role in VP Sara impeachment trial, says Luistro](#) (2026-06-19 10:16)

House lead prosecutor and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro appealed to the public to give Senator Francis Escudero a fair chance to prove his mettle once he assumes his role as presiding officer of the Senate impeachment court.

- [Diokno bill seeks 90-day paternity leave to support child development](#) (2026-06-19 09:48)

House Assistant Minority Leader Chel Diokno of the Akbayan party-list has proposed increasing paternity leave from seven days to 90 days following a live childbirth, emphasizing that raising a child is a shared responsibility between both parents.

- [Religious, civil society groups call for march vs. corruption, political dynasties on June 28, 2026](#) (2026-06-19 09:21)

Religious and civil society leaders on Friday called on Filipinos to join the “White Ribbon Movement” march on June 28, 2026 at the EDSA People Power Monument to push for electoral reforms and greater accountability in government.

- [Ombudsman pressed to file flood control charges against Villanueva](#) (2026-06-19 09:08)

Various groups have urged the Office of the Ombudsman to make good on its promise to file criminal cases against Senator Joel Villanueva over his alleged involvement in a flood control project, saying his transfer to the majority bloc should not be a free pass from prosecution.

- [Ralph Recto: P60-B fund transfer didn't affect PhilHealth operations](#) (2026-06-19 09:07)

Executive Secretary Ralph Recto on Friday maintained that he is not liable over the P60 billion PhilHealth fund transfer to the National Treasury during his tenure as Finance chief, saying such transfer did not affect the state insurer's operations.

- [SC requests documents from Congress to explain Bicam changes in budget](#) (2026-06-19 08:18)

The Supreme Court (SC) has directed the House of Representatives and the Senate to submit supporting documents to explain the changes introduced by the bicameral conference committee in the 2024 national budget.

- [OTS files criminal raps vs. personnel who allegedly stole from foreign passenger](#) (2026-06-19 08:11)

The Office for Transportation Security (OTS) on Friday filed criminal complaints against its Security Screening Officers (SSOs) who allegedly committed theft against a foreign passenger while in the performance of their official duties.

- [Marcos open to possible visa-free deal with Russia](#) (2026-06-19 07:14)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has expressed inclination to discussing with the Russian government the possibility of making Filipinos travel through Russia visa-free.

- [How will a detained senator affect impeachment? Ex-Justice, NUPL weigh in](#) (2026-06-19 06:54)

How will a detained senator affect impeachment? Ex-Justice, NUPL weigh in

- [Mindanao earthquake death toll drops to 76 in latest NDRRMC figures](#) (2026-06-19 05:16)

Mindanao earthquake death toll drops to 76 in latest NDRRMC figures

- [PCO: Marcos doing 'very good' in dual role during ASEAN-Russia Summit](#) (2026-06-19 04:56)

Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Acting Secretary Dave Gomez expressed belief that President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has been doing a good job performing two responsibilities during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-Russia Commemorative Summit in Kazan.

- [BOC files 2nd batch of complaints vs. 5 balikbayan box cargo firms](#) (2026-06-19 04:21)

Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno on Friday filed a complaint with the Department of Justice (DOJ) against five cargo forwarding firms over alleged fraudulent balikbayan box operations.

- [Marcos eyes Benhur Abalos' active role in gov't](#) (2026-06-19 04:02)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. admitted that he wants former Interior secretary Benhur Abalos Jr. to “play a more active part” in his administration.

- [Sandiganbayan warns Cusi, co-accused over delays as Malampaya case rescheduled anew](#) (2026-06-19 02:30)

Sandiganbayan's warns Cusi, co-accused over delays as Malampaya case rescheduled anew

- [Marcos hopeful Senate 'back to normal' under Gatchalian's leadership](#) (2026-06-19 00:13)

Marcos hopeful Senate 'back to normal' under Gatchalian's leadership

- [Marcos: PH will continue search for non-traditional sources of petroleum products](#) (2026-06-18 22:10)

President Bongbong Marcos today said the Philippines will continue to look for "non-traditional" sources of petroleum products even as the United States and Iran sign a deal to end their conflict.

- [Marcos says PH promoter of peace, amid concerns over Russia trade backlash](#) (2026-06-18 21:52)

President Bongbong Marcos today admitted concern over possible backlash over the country and ASEAN's desire to increase trade with Russia as it may be seen by other countries as possibly funding the war against Ukraine.

- [Pulong Duterte replies to comments by DILG's Remulla on his ICC claims](#) (2026-06-18 18:37)

Davao City lawmaker Paolo “Pulong” Duterte issued a statement and challenging Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla to a drug test after questioning his claim that the International Criminal Court (ICC) have issued warrants of arrest against Senator Christopher “Bong” Go and two former police officers.

- [ASEAN, Russia adopt Kazan Declaration 2026 for next phase of cooperation](#) (2026-06-18 17:22)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Russia have agreed to deepen cooperation and dialogue in several areas through the Kazan Declaration 2026, a roadmap for the next phase of their relations.

- [EXPLAINER: What could happen if not all senator-judges are present in the impeachment trial?](#) (2026-06-18 16:01)

To convict an impeached official, a vote of two-thirds or 16 senator-judges is needed, according to Mark Salazar's “Explainer” report. But in the current 20th Congress, one senator is reportedly in hiding. Another is in jail facing graft charges. What could happen if not all senator-judges are present in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte?

- [ASEAN, Russia hopeful that US-Iran deal will stabilize Middle East situation](#) (2026-06-18 14:29)

Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Russia on Thursday welcomed the signing of a memorandum of understanding of the United States and Iran to end hostilities in the Middle East.

- [No winners of major lotto draws on June 18 - PCSO](#) (2026-06-18 14:11)

There were no winners of the major lotto jackpots drawn on Thursday, June 18, 2026, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

- [AI, ICT training courses offered to Filipinos through TESDA, partners](#) (2026-06-18 14:05)

The public can now access free online courses in digital skills, entrepreneurship, and artificial intelligence (AI) through the HP LIFE Program via the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in partnership with UNESCO-UNEVOC.

- [Nat'l contingency plan for 'The Big One' in Metro Manila, nearby areas launched](#) (2026-06-18 12:12)

The Office of the Civil Defense (OCD), in partnership with stakeholder government agencies, launched Thursday a consolidated contingency plan to respond to a powerful earthquake--including what is referred to as "The Big One"--should it strike Metro Manila and adjacent areas.

- [Perjury, falsification of public documents complaints filed vs Gibo Teodoro](#) (2026-06-18 11:36)

Complaints for perjury and falsification of public documents were filed against Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. before the Pasay Prosecutors Office on Thursday.

- [Ombudsman Remulla reports P461-million net worth](#) (2026-06-18 11:29)

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla reported a net worth of P461.1 million as of April 30, 2026 in his joint Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) with his wife, Ma. Josefina.

- [Jonvic Remulla on Pulong Duterte's ICC warrant claim: 'Baka sabog nung sinabi niya'](#) (2026-06-18 11:14)

Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Thursday dismissed claims made by Davao City 1st District Representative Paolo Duterte that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has already issued an arrest warrant against Senator Christopher “Bong” Go. Speaking to reporters at Camp Crame, Remulla said government authorities have not received any information or document indicating that such a warrant has been issued, adding the congressman must have been high when he made the remarks regarding the ICC warrant.

- [House prosecutors: Sara Duterte's evidence list lacks legit confi fund recipients, income sources](#) (2026-06-18 10:15)

The list of witnesses and evidence submitted by Vice President Sara Duterte to the Senate impeachment court did not show anything to prove Duterte's sources of income or if there are legitimate recipients of confidential funds, the House prosecution team said.

- [Marcos urges ASEAN, Russia to boost maritime security, counterterrorism](#) (2026-06-18 09:35)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos on Thursday said that the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Russia should explore ways to fortify practical cooperation on maritime security and counterterrorism in response to growing geopolitical challenges.

- [Disagreements but no tension during pre-trial meeting, says Sara Duterte's lawyer](#) (2026-06-18 09:22)

There were disagreements during the pre-trial conference of the impeachment case against Vice President Sara Duterte but there were no tensions during the meeting, Duterte's legal team said on Thursday.

- [Boy Scouts seeks stronger swimming, water survival training for youth](#) (2026-06-18 09:21)

The Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) is looking to strengthen swimming and water survival training for its members as part of efforts to improve youth preparedness and safety.

- [Bong Go denies violating laws amid alleged ICC arrest warrant](#) (2026-06-18 08:42)

Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go on Thursday maintained he did not violate any laws as he addressed the alleged arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against him.

- [Senators yet to discuss possible election of presiding officer for Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-18 08:20)

Senators have yet to discuss the possible election of a presiding officer for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said Thursday.

- [Filipino children deserve safe cyberspace, not social media ban -- CWC](#) (2026-06-18 07:38)

A safe cyberspace should be provided to Filipino children instead of totally banning them from social media, the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) said Thursday.

- [P700-M in public funds wasted under Alan Peter Cayetano leadership, says Ping Lacson](#) (2026-06-18 07:33)

Around P700 million in public funds were allegedly wasted less than a month into the senate presidency of Senator Alan Peter Cayetano, according to Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

- [No official communication of ICC warrant vs. Bong Go -- DOJ spox](#) (2026-06-18 07:07)

Similar to other agencies, the Department of Justice (DOJ) on Thursday said it has not received

any official communication from the International Criminal Court (ICC) about an alleged arrest warrant against Senator Christopher “Bong” Go.

- ['Senateflix' over: Gatchalian says Senate now back to work](#) (2026-06-18 06:23)

Newly elected Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said Thursday the "Senateflix" storyline that played out in the upper chamber has ended, with senators now starting to resume legislative work.

- [Jinggoy Estrada's suspension includes role as impeachment senator-judge, Gatchalian says](#) (2026-06-18 06:22)

Jinggoy's suspension includes role as impeachment senator-judge, Gatchalian says

- [CHED approves medicine programs in 5 state universities](#) (2026-06-18 06:09)

CHED approves medicine programs in 5 state universities

- [OCTA: 81% of Pinoys skeptical, yet to judge fairness of Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-18 05:23)

A large majority of Filipino adults are either skeptical or withholding judgment on the impartiality of the upcoming impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, the latest survey by OCTA Research showed.

- [Group appeals Ombudsman's decision clearing Recto over PhilHealth fund transfer](#) (2026-06-18 04:53)

Group appeals Ombudsman's decision clearing Recto over PhilHealth fund transfer

- [Activist groups call for release of political prisoners on Pride Month 2026](#) (2026-06-18 04:08)

As the country celebrates Pride Month, LGBTQIA+ organization Bahaghari and human rights group Karaptan held a protest rally Thursday in front of the Department of Justice in Manila City to call for the release of political prisoners.

- [Ombudsman: Anti-corruption fight should not end with investigation](#) (2026-06-18 03:14)

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Thursday said the fight against corruption must go beyond investigation and prosecution, saying accountability should come with systemic reforms.

- [Pre-trial conference for Sara Duterte impeachment trial starts](#) (2026-06-18 03:03)

The pre-trial conference for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte formally commenced on Thursday, June 18.

- [NBI: No official communication on alleged ICC warrant vs. Bong Go](#) (2026-06-18 01:46)

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Melvin Matibag said Thursday they have not received any official communication regarding an alleged International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant against Senator Christopher “Bong” Go and two former police officers.

- [UP stays on top as PH universities slip in QS World University Rankings 2027](#) (2026-06-17 23:30)

The University of the Philippines (UP) continued to lead Philippine universities in the QS World University Rankings 2027 even as all five local institutions fell in the global standings released on Thursday.

- [ICC not a political weapon, case was filed by a Filipino in 2017, says Usec. Castro](#) (2026-06-17 19:36)

Palace Press Officer Undersecretary Claire Castro said the International Criminal Court (ICC) is not being used as a political weapon, noting that it was a Filipino citizen who filed the case against the alleged abuses committed by the Duterte administration on its war on drugs almost ten years ago.

- [Marcos, Putin discuss boosting trade ties at bilateral meeting in Russia](#) (2026-06-17 18:17)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday discussed the possibility of enhanced trade relations between the Philippines and Russia during their bilateral meeting in Kazan, Russia.

- [Marcos invites Vladimir Putin to Manila for 21st East Asia Summit](#) (2026-06-17 18:00)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has invited Russian President Vladimir Putin to visit Manila during the 21st East Asia Summit, one of the meetings in the Philippines" hosting of the ASEAN Summits this year.

- [Marcos meets Putin in Kazan; leaders discuss food security, energy cooperation](#) (2026-06-17 15:57)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and Russian President Vladimir Putin had a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN-Russia Summit in Kazan.

- [PCSO: No winners of major lotto jackpot draws on June 17, 2026](#) (2026-06-17 14:35)

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said there were no winners of the major lotto jackpot draws on Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

- [Pulong Duterte claims ICC warrants vs. Go, others already issued; DILG, PNP deny](#) (2026-06-17 14:34)

Davao City lawmaker Paolo “Pulong” Duterte on Wednesday alleged that arrest warrants from the International Criminal Court (ICC) have been issued against Senator Christopher “Bong” Go and two former police officers.

- [Marcos to meet with Putin at ASEAN-Russia Summit](#) (2026-06-17 14:33)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. arrived in Russia on Tuesday morning for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-Russia Summit, where he is also expected to hold a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

- [House OKs Marcos' priority measures](#) (2026-06-17 14:19)

The House of Representatives on Wednesday approved several measures identified by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as priorities as Congress convened a special session.

- [PH eyes Russia for small nuclear reactor study](#) (2026-06-17 14:07)

The Philippines is studying tapping Russia in its study on the possible use of small nuclear modular reactors to power the country's energy needs.

- [Filipinos spend nearly equal time on TikTok, Facebook, report shows](#) (2026-06-17 11:54)

Filipinos are spending nearly as much time on TikTok as they do on Facebook, underscoring the short-video platform's growing influence in one of the world's most active social media markets.

- [PH mobile connections exceeded population by 20M in 2025 - report](#) (2026-06-17 11:33)

The Philippines had about 20 million more cellular mobile connections than its actual

population in October 2025, highlighting Filipinos' continued reliance on multiple mobile subscriptions despite the country's mandatory SIM registration policy.

- [PH social media identities up 9M, hit 95.8M -- report](#) (2026-06-17 11:30)

Social media user identities in the Philippines grew by 9 million in just a year, reaching 95.8 million as of October 2025, according to the Digital 2026 Philippines report by DataReportal.

- [Sherwin Gatchalian urges senators: Let's start anew](#) (2026-06-17 11:18)

Newly elected Sherwin Gatchalian on Wednesday called on his colleagues to begin again, work together, and reclaim the Senate's sense of purpose after weeks of deadlock.

- [Sandiganbayan denies flood control accused's bid for justices' inhibition](#) (2026-06-17 11:16)

The Sandiganbayan's Sixth Division has denied the bid of a former regional director of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) tagged in the flood control mess for the recusal of the anti-graft court's justices in the P289 million malversation case against him.

- [DOST-FNRI: 1 in 5 pregnant women in PH nutritionally at risk](#) (2026-06-17 11:02)

About one in every five pregnant Filipino women was found to be nutritionally at risk in 2025, a condition that could increase the likelihood of pregnancy complications, according to a survey by the Department of Science and Technology-Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI).

- [DOJ returns complaint vs Robin Padilla to CIDG; requests more documents](#) (2026-06-17 10:44)

The Department of Justice (DOJ) returned the complaint filed by the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) for obstruction of justice against Senator Robin Padilla, Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida said Wednesday.

- [Sandro Marcos: Bicam panel can still amend House's anti-political dynasty bill](#) (2026-06-17 10:34)

The anti-political dynasty bill that was recently approved by the House of Representatives on final reading is not yet set in stone as revisions can still be made during the deliberations of the bicameral conference committee, House Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte 1st District Rep. Sandro Marcos said on Wednesday.

- [CA confirms ad interim appointments of 5 AFP officers, 85 DFA execs in special session](#) (2026-06-17 10:15)

The Commission on Appointments (CA) on Wednesday confirmed the appointment of five Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) officers and 85 Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) officials after Congress convened a special session.

- [DOJ probes possible 'plan' to help Bato dela Rosa escape Senate](#) (2026-06-17 09:59)

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is looking into whether the events at the Senate were planned to help Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa escape, from placing him under protective custody up to the May 13 shooting incident.

- [Obesity among Filipino adults, youth rises in 2025 --DOST-FNRI survey](#) (2026-06-17 09:37)

Based on the 2025 Updating of the Nutritional Status of Filipino Children and Other Population Groups (2025 Updating Survey), obesity is significantly more prevalent among females (50.1%), urban residents (48.3%), and individuals from wealthy households (57.8%).

- [DICT urges Congress to pass digital safety law to protect Filipinos online](#) (2026-06-17 09:24)

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) on Wednesday pushed for legislation that would provide a safer digital space for Filipinos.

- [Tarriela: Chinese vessel dismantles platform in Bajo de Masinloc; another ship spotted](#) (2026-06-17 09:21)

The National Task Force on the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) on Wednesday reported the removal of a floating platform and the departure of a Chinese research vessel from Bajo de Masinloc following consecutive maritime patrol flights this week.

- [Jinggoy Estrada to pursue legal remedies amid 90-day suspension](#) (2026-06-17 09:16)

Detained Senator Jinggoy Estrada said he is open to availing all legal remedies following the Sandiganbayan's issuance of a 90-day preventive suspension order against him.

- [Teachers who serve as ARAL tutors to receive overload pay, service credits](#) (2026-06-17 09:15)

Public school teachers who will serve as tutors under the Academic Recovery and Accessible

Learning (ARAL) Program may receive teaching overload pay or vacation service credits, the Department of Education (DepEd) said Wednesday as it moved to expand support for educators participating in the initiative.

- [Chiz Escudero eyed as Senate impeachment court presiding officer](#) (2026-06-17 05:56)

Senator Panfilo Lacson on Wednesday said that members of the Senate majority bloc have initially agreed to elect Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero as the presiding officer of the Senate impeachment court that will try the case of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [Sandro Marcos: 'Level-headed' SP Sherwin Gatchalian is what Senate needs](#) (2026-06-17 05:22)

House Majority Leader Sandro Marcos of Ilocos Norte on Wednesday congratulated Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, saying the Senate leader's level-headedness is what the upper chamber needs.

- [Erwin Tulfo: Cayetano bloc SC petition moot after Sherwin Gatchalian election](#) (2026-06-17 04:45)

Senator Erwin Tulfo on Wednesday said the petition filed by the bloc of Senator Alan Peter Cayetano before the Supreme Court (SC) may have become moot and academic following the election of Senator Sherwin Gatchalian as Senate President earlier in the day.

- [Malacañang congratulates newly elected Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian](#) (2026-06-17 04:41)

Malacañang on Wednesday extended congratulations to Senator Sherwin Gatchalian for being elected as the new Senate President, breaking weeks of leadership deadlock and paving the way for the consideration of priority measures during the special session.

- [Imee Marcos says she's 'okay' with Senate leadership change](#) (2026-06-17 04:35)

Senator Imee Marcos on Wednesday said she was okay with the latest shakeup in the upper chamber following the election of Senator Sherwin Gatchalian as Senate president.

- [Kiko Pangilinan, Ping Lacson named as Blue Ribbon panel vice-chairpersons](#) (2026-06-17 04:22)

Senators Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan and Panfilo “Ping” Lacson on Wednesday were elected as the new vice chairpersons of the powerful Senate Committee on Accountability of Public

Officers and Investigations, popularly known as the Blue Ribbon Committee.

- [PAGCOR orders gaming firms to display 24/7 helpline ads](#) (2026-06-17 04:14)

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) on Wednesday said it has ordered all gaming operators and related stakeholders to replace existing responsible gaming advertisements with materials promoting its newly launched 24/7 National Problem Gambling Helpline (NPGH).

- [68 dead, 33 missing after M7.8 Mindanao earthquake -- OCD](#) (2026-06-17 03:52)

The death toll from the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Sarangani on June 8 has risen to 68, while more than 1.4 million people have been affected across Mindanao, according to the latest government data released by the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) as of 6 a.m. on June 17.

- [Joel Villanueva says joining new Senate majority was 'for work'](#) (2026-06-17 03:22)

Senator Joel Villanueva said his decision to join the new majority bloc in the Senate was motivated by a desire to focus on legislative work, a move that effectively sealed the leadership change in the chamber.

- [Tito Sotto elected as Senate President Pro Tempore](#) (2026-06-17 02:10)

Senator Vicente “Tito” Sotto III was elected as the new Senate President Pro Tempore during Wednesday's special session.

- [PNP urges calm as Congress holds special session; over 300 cops deployed](#) (2026-06-17 01:49)

The Philippine National Police on Wednesday urged political supporters to remain calm and respect the rule of law as authorities brace for possible protest actions during the special session of Congress.

- [Sherwin Gatchalian elected Senate president](#) (2026-06-17 01:25)

Senator Sherwin Gatchalian on Wednesday was formally elected as the new Senate president, settling the two-week leadership row with Senator Alan Peter Cayetano.

- [Senate holds special session](#) (2026-06-17 01:22)

The Senate on Wednesday morning convened a special session in accordance with the directive

of President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. to act on priority measures.

- [Comelec Chairman Garcia on 18 ex-bodyguards' allegation: Big lie](#) (2026-06-17 01:00)

Commission on Elections Chairman George Garcia on Wednesday said the allegation of 18 ex-bodyguards of Zaldy Co that he received money from the former lawmaker is a big lie.

- [Alan Peter Cayetano concedes as Senate president](#) (2026-06-17 00:02)

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday morning accepted that he will no longer be Senate president after Senator Joel Villanueva will join the new majority, giving the latter the numbers to elect a new leader for the Upper Chamber.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Congress convenes special session \(June 17, 2026\)](#) (2026-06-16 23:18)

The Senate and the House of Representatives are set to convene on Wednesday, June 17, after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. issued Proclamation No. 1318. Here are the latest news and updates.

- [DILG pushes wider use of LISTO Manual to boost earthquake readiness](#) (2026-06-16 19:43)

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has urged local government units (LGUs) to maximize the use of the Operation LISTO Manual on Disaster Preparedness for Earthquakes following the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Mindanao.

- [Marcos departs for ASEAN-Russia summit in Kazan](#) (2026-06-16 16:53)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday night left Manila for Kazan, Russia to participate in the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit, where he is also expected to discuss food and energy security and other issues during his bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

- [No jackpot winners in June 16, 2026 major lotto draws, 6/58 prize now at P128M](#) (2026-06-16 14:50)

No one bagged the jackpot prizes in the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Tuesday, June 16, 2026.

- [Lawyer of Ateneo basketball coach dismisses hazing, homicide in deaths of Rene Baterbonia, Divine Adili](#) (2026-06-16 14:20)

The lawyer of one of the coaches of the Ateneo Blue Eagles men's basketball team on Tuesday denied that there was hazing or homicide involved in the deaths of two student-athletes during a team building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora.

- [VP Sara Duterte lists Trillanes, Madriaga as impeachment witnesses](#) (2026-06-16 14:08)

Vice President Sara Duterte has listed her accusers, former senator Antonio Trillanes IV and Ramil Madriaga, as witnesses for her upcoming impeachment trial.

- [Sharon Cuneta cries 'liars' after photo shown in presser of Zaldy Co's 'ex-bodyguards'](#) (2026-06-16 13:57)

Megastar Sharon Cuneta branded as liars those who presented at a press conference of Zaldy Co's alleged former bodyguards a photograph of her and her husband, Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, supposedly with employees of the former congressman linked to the flood control scam.

- [After Marcos' call for special session, Palace says it's now up to senators to follow through](#) (2026-06-16 13:46)

After President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s earlier call for Congress to convene a special session on Wednesday, June 17, Malacañang said it is now up to the senators to follow through amid the ongoing leadership row in the Senate.

- [Arnold Clavio calls cash delivery allegations 'lies'](#) (2026-06-16 13:23)

Journalist Arnold Clavio has denied allegations that he received a paper bag of money sent on the orders of former congressman Zaldy Co.

- [Ex-bodyguards of Zaldy Co link more personalities to alleged cash deliveries](#) (2026-06-16 13:02)

Former bodyguards of ex-congressman Zaldy Co on Tuesday linked more individuals to their alleged delivery of cash, claiming that they delivered money to Commission on Elections (COMELEC) chairperson George Garcia, Senator Francis Escudero, as well as to some media personalities.

- [DOST: LGUs, schools should provide information on earthquake-resilient housing designs](#) (2026-06-16 12:05)

Local government units should provide residents with information on designing earthquake-resilient houses while schools may promote awareness among students, Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Renato Solidum said Tuesday.

- [Philippines, US Marines begin KAMANDAG drills to enhance cooperation](#) (2026-06-16 11:40)

The Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) and the United States Marine Corps (USMC) commenced on Monday, June 15, the 10th Kaagapay ng mga Mandirigma Mula Sa Dagat (KAMANDAG) Exercise, which seeks to boost interoperability of Manila and Washington and other allied countries.

- [Alleged bagman of Zaldy Co claims 4 suitcases were delivered to Chiz Escudero](#) (2026-06-16 10:17)

An alleged former bagman of ex-Representative Zaldy Co claimed Tuesday that he was part of a team that delivered suitcases purportedly containing cash to Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero in New Manila in 2024.

- [Mike Defensor: Alan Peter Cayetano facing threats for joining 'Blue Ribbon' probe](#) (2026-06-16 09:39)

Former congressman Mike Defensor said Tuesday Senator Alan Peter Cayetano has been facing threats and pressure for participating in a press conference attended by 18 alleged former bodyguards of businessman Zaldy Co.

- [Senate should settle leadership issues in special session, says law expert](#) (2026-06-16 09:32)

A constitutional law expert on Tuesday said the senators should be able to address the leadership row during the special session on Wednesday, June 17.

- [Senate to hold security coordination conference ahead of VP Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-16 09:03)

The Senate's Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms (OSAA) will convene a security coordinating conference later in the day, June 16 in preparation for the impeachment trial against Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [Sandiganbayan suspends Jinggoy Estrada as senator for 90 days due to graft case](#) (2026-06-16 08:47)

The Sandiganbayan Second Division has imposed a 90-day preventive suspension order against Senator Jinggoy Estrada due to a pending graft charge against him over his alleged involvement in the flood control scandal.

- [Ridon: Sara Duterte, Mans Carpio's firearms not listed in SALN](#) (2026-06-16 08:46)

Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband, Manases Carpio, owned at least 50 firearms based on government records, House prosecutor and Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon said Tuesday.

- [Sherwin Gatchalian, Erwin Tulfo mull legal action vs Mike Defensor](#) (2026-06-16 08:03)

Senators Sherwin Gatchalian and Erwin Tulfo are mulling legal action against former lawmaker Mike Defensor for claiming that the Blue Ribbon committee will be resuming its probe into the flood control controversy.

- [Trust in news among Filipinos drop in 2026 -- Reuters report](#) (2026-06-16 07:30)

Trust in news in the Philippines dropped significantly by 10 percentage points (pp) in 2026, making it the country with the biggest decline out of 48 markets, the latest Reuters Digital News Report showed.

- [Marcos says PH open to Visiting Forces Agreement with Germany](#) (2026-06-16 07:27)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Tuesday said the Philippines is willing to enter into a Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) with Germany.

- [GSIS STEM program to support members' children with P15K subsidy](#) (2026-06-16 06:47)

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) on Tuesday announced it will launch this month a subsidy program for the children of its members pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) courses.

- [Cayetano bloc urges SC to declare June 3 Senate session null and void](#) (2026-06-16 06:10)

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano and eight other senators on Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to declare as null and void the June 3 session, which elected Senator Sherwin Gatchalian as Senate President Pro-Tempore.

- [Marcos on US-Iran deal: 'Any step towards peace is a good step'](#) (2026-06-16 06:08)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Tuesday expressed hope that the deal between the US and Iran seeking to end their war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz will come to fruition, resulting in lasting peace and economies eventually returning to a normal state.

- [Marcos on addressing corruption: There's no way to do it painlessly](#) (2026-06-16 05:29)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Tuesday said his administration is very serious about addressing corruption in the country, but admitted that there is no easy or painless way to do so.

- [Ombudsman: 209 flood control complaints under fact-finding investigation](#) (2026-06-16 05:03)

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said Tuesday that 209 complaints involving flood control projects are under fact-finding investigation for the first six months of 2026, doubling its record of 124 complaints investigated last year.

- [Luistro: Most witnesses will be on alleged misuse of confidential funds of Sara Duterte](#) (2026-06-16 04:29)

The House prosecution panel will have the most number of witnesses concerning the alleged misuse of P612.5 million of confidential funds in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, House lead prosecutor and Batangas Second District Representative Gerville Luistro said Tuesday.

- [26 Chinese vessels spotted in West Philippine Sea from June 9-15, 2026 --PH Navy](#) (2026-06-16 03:52)

A total of 26 Chinese vessels were monitored in the West Philippine Sea from June 9 to 15, 2026, the Philippine Navy said Tuesday.

- [Venue withdraws from hosting Cayetano bloc-led flood control hearing](#) (2026-06-16 03:34)

The hearing on the flood control controversy to be led by the Cayetano bloc has yet to start Tuesday morning after the management of the venue set to host it announced that the gathering will no longer proceed as scheduled.

- [Marcos hosts German President Steinmeier in Malacañang](#) (2026-06-16 02:39)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Tuesday welcomed German President

Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Malacañang Palace amid the latter's state visit to the Philippines.

- [Indigenous Taiwanese reconnect lost maritime route to Philippines by canoe](#) (2026-06-16 02:28)

ORCHID ISLAND, Taiwan -- A group of indigenous Taiwanese left on Monday to paddle to the Philippines on a hand-built wooden canoe across the Bashi Channel, reviving a maritime route dormant for hundreds of years and re-establishing a lost cultural connection.

- [Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill 2026 to be held on June 18 --OCD](#) (2026-06-16 00:41)

The Office of Civil Defense said the 2nd Quarter National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2026.

- [PAGCOR sends 10k food pails for Mindanao earthquake victims](#) (2026-06-15 20:00)

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) has sent around 10,500 food packs to areas badly affected by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that hit Mindanao last week as part of its relief operations for those reeling from the disaster.

- [NBI, CICC sign agreement vs. online illegal activities](#) (2026-06-15 17:18)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) on Monday signed a memorandum agreement (MOA) against online illegal activities.

- [EXPLAINER: Who is Atty. Jesus Falcis and why was he suspended by the Supreme Court?](#) (2026-06-15 17:09)

The Supreme Court has issued its decision to suspend Atty. Jesus Falcis from practicing law for one year on Monday. But who is Falcis and why was he suspended by the Supreme Court?

- [EXPLAINER: What is a special session of Congress?](#) (2026-06-15 16:47)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday urged Congress to convene a special session on June 17, 2026 to act on priority legislative measures and appointments. What is a special session of Congress?

- [The humble beginnings of Rene Baterbonia as he reached for his basketball dream](#) (2026-06-15 15:37)

Many regret the untimely passing of Rene Baterbonia after he drowned during a training activity of the Ateneo Blue Eagles team in Aurora. In a recent episode of "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho," learn where Rene began to hone his skills in basketball.

- [Ateneo forms independent panel to probe Baterbonia, Adili deaths](#) (2026-06-15 15:34)

“Ateneo de Manila is not evading accountability. For full clarity, transparency, and justice, our board of trustees formed an independent fact-finding body,” Fr. Roberto Yap said.

- [PCSO: No jackpot winners in June 15, 2026 major lotto draws](#) (2026-06-15 14:54)

No one won the jackpot prizes in the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Monday night, June 15, 2026.

- [Sherwin Gatchalian: Senate only recognizes Erwin Tulfo's Blue Ribbon Committee](#) (2026-06-15 14:17)

Acting Senate President and Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin Gatchalian on Monday said the Senate will not recognize any hearing or investigation conducted outside of the duly constituted Senate Blue Ribbon Committee chaired by Senator Erwin Tulfo.

- [PCG urges diplomatic protest vs China over WPS marine research activity](#) (2026-06-15 14:06)

The Philippine government is exploring the possibility of filing a second arbitration case against China amid Beijing's continuous activities within the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), a maritime law expert said.

- [PhilHealth extends implant assistance to Mindanao earthquake victims](#) (2026-06-15 13:50)

Areas in Mindanao under a State of Calamity were granted provisional contracting for selected orthopedic implants and other special privileges, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) announced Saturday.

- [NBI identifies hackers behind major government website breach](#) (2026-06-15 13:37)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has identified the persons behind the hacking of several government websites, Director Melvin Matibag said Monday.

- [House panel, VP Duterte's camp submit pre-trial briefs ahead of July 6 trial](#) (2026-06-15 13:25)

The House prosecution panel and Vice President Sara Duterte's legal team have both submitted their respective pre-trial briefs on Monday, June 15 ahead of the pre-trial conference on June 18.

- [VP Sara Duterte, husband report P98.6-million net worth in 2025](#) (2026-06-15 13:09)

The net worth of Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband Mans Carpio reached more than P98 million in 2025, an 11.46% increase from their 2024 net worth according to their SALN.

- [CIDG to subpoena Ateneo president, Smart officials over Rene Baterbonia, Divine Adili deaths](#) (2026-06-15 11:57)

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said the president of Ateneo de Manila University and officials of Smart Communications will be subpoenaed over the fatal drowning of student-athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili.

- [NBI summons Baldwin, Ateneo team in probe of Baterbonia and Adili deaths](#) (2026-06-15 11:22)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has issued a subpoena to Tab Baldwin, the head coach of the Ateneo de Manila University men's basketball team, NBI Director Melvin Matibag said Monday. “Tomorrow, we subpoenaed Coach Tab Baldwin and the players of Ateneo and some of the officials of Ateneo,” he said in a press briefing.

- [PH Navy issues radio challenges vs Chinese warship inside EEZ](#) (2026-06-15 08:48)

A Philippine Navy guided missile frigate issued four radio challenges to a Chinese warship inside the country's Exclusive Economic Zone during a maritime patrol in the West Philippine Sea.

- [Marcos, Putin seen to tackle energy, food security in Russia bilateral talks](#) (2026-06-15 08:22)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. and Russian President Vladimir Putin are expected to discuss energy security and food security during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-Russia Summit in Kazan this week.

- [Pangilinan seeks swift passage of anti-ticket scalping law](#) (2026-06-15 07:47)

Senator Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan on Monday called for the immediate passage of a measure

that seeks to prohibit the resale of concert tickets at inflated prices, a practice commonly known as ticket scalping.

- [Erwin Tulfo says no Blue Ribbon committee hearing on June 16](#) (2026-06-15 07:31)

Senator Erwin Tulfo said Monday that there will be no Blue Ribbon committee hearing on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 contrary to the announcement made by former lawmaker Mike Defensor.

- [House panel to list over 30 witnesses in pre-trial brief](#) (2026-06-15 07:31)

House lead impeachment prosecutor Representative Gerville Luistro on Monday said prosecutors will include more than 30 witnesses in the pre-trial brief they will submit today for Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment case.

- [House prosecutors eye use of Filipino, translations for Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-15 07:11)

House lead impeachment prosecutor Representative Gerville Luistro on Monday said they will formally submit the possibility of using Filipino during the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [DepEd eases lesson planning for public school teachers](#) (2026-06-15 06:39)

The Department of Education (DepEd) has introduced a simplified lesson planning framework aimed at reducing the paperwork burden on public school teachers and allowing them to focus more on classroom instruction.

- [SC suspends lawyer Jesus Falcis for 1 year over 'vulgar' words in 2018 Twitter post](#) (2026-06-15 05:12)

The Supreme Court (SC) has suspended lawyer Jesus Falcis from the practice of law for one year for using vulgar language in a social media post in 2018.

- [Kin of Empeño, Cadapan ask SC to disclose Palparan's whereabouts](#) (2026-06-15 04:42)

The families of abducted University of the Philippines (UP) students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan on Monday asked the Supreme Court (SC) to compel the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) to disclose the whereabouts of retired Army general Jovito Palparan amid reports that he had been transferred to Baguio City.

- [Marcos wishes Trump 'continued success' on his 80th birthday](#) (2026-06-15 04:21)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Monday extended birthday greetings to United States (US) President Donald Trump, wishing him continued success this year.

- [Marcos calls Congress for special session on June 17, 2026](#) (2026-06-15 04:14)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Monday urged the Congress to convene in a special session amid its sine die adjournment to act on priority legislation.

- [PH has 'big chances' if 2nd West Philippine Sea arbitration case filed --Jardeleza](#) (2026-06-15 03:47)

Retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Francis Jardeleza on Monday expressed optimism for the Philippines should the government file a new arbitration case against China over the continued presence of Chinese assets in the West Philippine Sea.

- [Luistro urges study of Avelino ruling for VP Sara impeachment trial voting](#) (2026-06-15 03:38)

House lead prosecutor Representative Gerville Luistro on Monday urged a study on whether the Supreme Court's (SC) ruling in Avelino v. Cuenco, which recognized a reduced quorum under certain circumstances, may be applied to voting in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [Tab Baldwin, others no-show as PNP-CIDG probes Baterbonia, Adili deaths](#) (2026-06-15 03:19)

Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group director Major General Robert Alexander Morico II, and lawyers believed to be representing the top management of the Ateneo de Manila University Men's basketball team arrived at the CIDG office Monday morning.

- [Bato dela Rosa camp surrenders 20 firearms to PNP](#) (2026-06-15 00:58)

The camp of Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa surrendered to the Philippine National Police 20 firearms registered in his name.

Source: PhilStar Global

- [Media security task force slams attack on Roxas City broadcaster](#) (2026-06-22 04:34)

Radio broadcaster Jay Lavapiez survived after gunmen allegedly opened fire on his vehicle.

- [3 dead, 5 hurt from school shooting in Tacloban](#) (2026-06-22 04:31)

Three people were killed and five wounded in a shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City on Monday, June 22, police said.

- ['Francisco' rapidly intensifies; Signal No. 1 over northernmost areas up](#) (2026-06-22 04:01)

(Updated) Signal No. 1 remains over Batanes and parts of Cagayan, while small seacraft are warned not to sail in rough seas.

- [Cop shot dead inside mosque](#) (2026-06-21 16:00)

A gunman shot dead an off-duty policeman who was praying inside a mosque in Barangay Uyaan Proper in Madamba, Lanao del Sur on Saturday.

- [Dating apps linked to rising HIV cases in Baguio](#) (2026-06-21 16:00)

Online dating applications have been identified as a key factor behind the growing number of human immunodeficiency virus cases in this city, with health officials warning that digital platforms are making it easier for young people to engage in risky sexual behavior.

- [PNP boosts school security after Cavite stabbing incidents](#) (2026-06-21 16:00)

The Philippine National Police has ordered heightened security measures in and around schools in Cavite, as the PNP expresses concern over two separate stabbing incidents involving students in the province this month.

- [VP Sara visits quake-hit Davao Occidental towns](#) (2026-06-21 16:00)

Vice President Sara Duterte celebrated Father's Day yesterday by visiting families hit by the powerful earthquake in the towns of Sarangani and Jose Abad Santos in Davao Occidental.

- [Police to secure June 28 EDSA protest](#) (2026-06-21 16:00)

The Philippine National Police will ensure the safety of protesters during the "White Ribbon Movement" rally on June 28 at the EDSA People Power Monument in Quezon City.

- [Woman gets life for drug import](#) (2026-06-21 16:00)

A Pasay court has sentenced a woman to life in prison for importing more than 1.4 kilos of the party drug Ecstasy, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency reported yesterday.

- [DA orders destruction of P86.7 million Chinese onions](#) (2026-06-21 16:00)

The Department of Agriculture has directed the destruction of an onion shipment from China worth P86.7 million, after laboratory tests found the imports in an advanced state of decay.

- [More Metro Manila vaccination hubs set](#) (2026-06-21 16:00)

Private health clinics are putting up more vaccination hubs in commercial areas in Metro Manila.

- [P30 million transport park to rise in Marikina](#) (2026-06-21 16:00)

Bicycle enthusiasts will soon have more spaces in Marikina as the city government has started the construction of a transport park.

- [PNP hunts scam hub brains, financiers](#) (2026-06-21 16:00)

The Philippine National Police has ordered a follow-up operation to identify and arrest the financiers and masterminds behind a suspected underground scam hub found in Muntinlupa City.

- [Space agency maps quake-triggered landslides in Mindanao](#) (2026-06-21 07:27)

The Philippine Space Agency said satellite images detected about 138 hectares of possible landslide areas.

- [Kidlat Tahimik renounces National Artist title over CHED curriculum plan](#) (2026-06-21 07:02)

A National Artist's protest over the future of general education

- [Off-duty cop shot dead while praying in Lanao del Sur mosque](#) (2026-06-21 07:02)

Authorities said the gunman fled after shooting Chief Master Sgt. Alioden Sarangani.

- ['Francisco' may become typhoon today, enhance habagat](#) (2026-06-21 01:30)

The severe tropical storm may bring heavy rains to parts of Luzon and Visayas.

- ['Francisco' intensifies into typhoon, may enhance monsoon rains](#) (2026-06-21 01:30)

(Updated) PAGASA says no wind signal is up for now, but the typhoon may enhance habagat starting Monday.

- [9 PDEA drug-sniffing dogs up for adoption](#) (2026-06-20 16:00)

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency has retired nine of its drug-sniffing dogs and is looking for families willing to adopt the canines.

- [Elevation in 8 major Luzon dams receding](#) (2026-06-20 16:00)

Even as the rainy season has started, water levels in eight key dams in Luzon continue to recede, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

- [Magnitude 7.8 quake lifted coastlines in 35 areas – Phivolcs](#) (2026-06-20 16:00)

The magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Mindanao on June 8 has caused shorelines in 35 areas to rise, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

- [Debris warning out as China launches rocket](#) (2026-06-20 16:00)

Fishermen and sailors in Northern Luzon have been advised to watch out for debris from a rocket that will be launched by China before noon today.

- [Family of 3 killed in Batangas knife attack](#) (2026-06-20 16:00)

Three members of a family including a toddler were killed while another minor was wounded after they were stabbed multiple times allegedly by the partner of their relative in Talisay, Batangas on Friday night.

- [Another school stabbing reported in Cavite](#) (2026-06-20 16:00)

Another incident of stabbing was reported in a school in Cavite on Friday, leaving a senior high school student wounded, according to authorities.

- [BI arrests, deports US fraud suspect](#) (2026-06-20 16:00)

The Bureau of Immigration has arrested and deported a 60-year-old American tagged as a high-priority target by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, the US Department of Justice announced yesterday.

- [BOC donates forfeited goods to quake victims](#) (2026-06-20 16:00)

Bureau of Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno has directed the immediate donation of forfeited goods to support Filipinos affected by the recent magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Mindanao.

- [38 Pinoys on virus-hit cruise ship return home](#) (2026-06-20 16:00)

Thirty-eight Filipino crewmembers of MV Hondius, which was hit by an outbreak of Andes hantavirus during voyage, returned to the country on Friday after completing a 42-day quarantine in the Netherlands.

- [Navy units seize P93.8-million cigarettes in Sulu operations](#) (2026-06-20 09:29)

Navy teams seized P93.8 million worth of imported cigarettes in two separate seaborne anti-smuggling operations in the territorial waters of Sulu province in Southern Mindanao on Thursday, June 18.

- [BARMM lawmakers' pro-poor efforts benefit non-Muslims](#) (2026-06-20 09:10)

Three Muslim members of the Bangsamoro parliament separately embarked on humanitarian projects that benefited non-Muslims, supporting multisectoral efforts meant to boost interfaith solidarity among constituents in culturally pluralistic communities.

- [78 OFW applicants rescued in Makati](#) (2026-06-19 16:00)

The Department of Migrant Workers rescued 78 overseas Filipino worker (OFW) applicants from an unregistered accommodation facility in Makati on Thursday, the DMW said.

- [San Juan limits Wattah! Wattah! revelry anew](#) (2026-06-19 16:00)

The San Juan city government will again limit water-dousing activities during the annual Wattah! Wattah! Festival on June 24 to a designated area along Pinaglabanan Street.

- [Veloso supporters rally for clemency](#) (2026-06-19 16:00)

Family members and supporters of Mary Jane Veloso staged a protest outside the Correctional Institution for Women (CIW) in Mandaluyong yesterday, calling for her release, as she testified for the first time against her alleged recruiters.

- [Belmonte leads unveiling of facility honoring slain cop](#) (2026-06-19 16:00)

A new facility was unveiled at the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) headquarters at Camp Karingal on Thursday in honor of a policeman who was killed in a shootout with an alleged robber last year.

- [BOC sues 5 more cargo forwarders](#) (2026-06-19 16:00)

For abandoning 3,176 balikbayan boxes and failing to deliver these to the recipients, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) has sued five more cargo forwarding companies.

- [105 days: Diokno files PAPA Leave Bill](#) (2026-06-19 16:00)

Fathers in the Philippines could be entitled to up to 105 days of paid paternity leave under a new measure filed in the House of Representatives that seeks to place paternal benefits on par with existing maternity leave laws.

- [P6.2 million illegal cigarettes seized in Zamboanga](#) (2026-06-19 16:00)

Suspected smuggled cigarettes valued at P6.2 million were seized at a police checkpoint in Kalawit, Zamboanga del Norte yesterday morning.

- [Another body found in abandoned vehicle](#) (2026-06-19 16:00)

A dead man was found inside an abandoned vehicle in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija on Wednesday.

- [Schools in quake-hit areas allowed to resume classes](#) (2026-06-19 16:00)

Classes in some areas affected by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Mindanao on June 8 have been allowed to resume, according to the Department of Education.

- [9 LT0 traffic enforcers nabbed for extortion](#) (2026-06-19 16:00)

Nine traffic enforcers of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) were arrested for allegedly extorting truck drivers in Buenavista, Agusan del Norte on Thursday.

- [Army destroys surrendered guns in support of Mindanao peace efforts](#) (2026-06-19 10:14)

Officials led on Friday, June 19, the symbolic destruction in an Army camp of military-type firearms, voluntarily surrendered by owners, to highlight the gains of a continuing multi-sector regional disarmament program complementing Malacañang's Mindanao peace process, launched two years ago.

- [Large-scale shabu dealer entrapped inside Pagadian City mall](#) (2026-06-19 10:06)

Anti-narcotics agents had finally arrested and seized P4 million worth of shabu from an elusive trafficker, transacting with buyers inside shopping malls, in an operation in Barangay San Pedro in Pagadian City on Thursday, June 18.

- [2 government workers nabbed in Iloilo, Cagayan stings](#) (2026-06-18 16:00)

Two government employees were arrested in separate anti-narcotics operations in Iloilo and Cagayan on Wednesday.

- [Fungi production vs sugarcane pest attack hastened](#) (2026-06-18 16:00)

The mass production of a natural fungus against the red-striped soft scale insect has been sped up to help stop RSSI infestation on sugarcane plantations in the Visayas, according to the Department of Agriculture.

- [2 found dead in car parked along TPLEX](#) (2026-06-18 16:00)

Two people were found dead inside a car parked at a gasoline station along the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway in Victoria, Tarlac on Wednesday afternoon.

- [Rules for selection of BARMM indigenous representatives out](#) (2026-06-18 16:00)

The Commission on Elections has issued implementing rules governing the selection of non-Muslim Indigenous Peoples (NMIP) representatives to the Bangsamoro Parliament.

- [Investigation sought into Gibo' s alleged dual citizenship](#) (2026-06-18 16:00)

A complaint was filed yesterday before the Pasay City prosecutor' s office, seeking an investigation into Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro' s citizenship.

- [PNP joins earthquake drill to boost preparedness](#) (2026-06-18 16:00)

Emphasizing the importance of disaster preparedness in times of calamities, personnel of the Philippine National Police joined the second quarter National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill yesterday.

- [Mental hospital records 280 typhoid cases](#) (2026-06-18 16:00)

Nearly 300 typhoid cases have been recorded at the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH) in Mandaluyong, according to the Department of Health.

- [Fire hits 30-story condominium](#) (2026-06-18 16:00)

Hundreds of residents of a condominium in Quezon City were evacuated yesterday following a fire.

- [DA uncovers rice mislabeling practices](#) (2026-06-18 16:00)

A Bureau of Plant Industry monitoring exercise has uncovered potential mislabeling practices in rice sold in urban markets, according to the Department of Agriculture.

- [June 24 declared a holiday in Manila](#) (2026-06-18 16:00)

President Marcos has declared June 24 a special non-working holiday in Manila to mark the capital city's 455th founding anniversary.

- [Collapsed building owner, contractor fined over P11 million](#) (2026-06-17 16:00)

The owner and the contractor of a building that collapsed in Angeles, Pampanga have been ordered to pay more than P11 million in labor deficiencies as well as occupational safety and health fines.

- [Remains of misidentified OFW arrive in Dipolog](#) (2026-06-17 16:00)

The remains of an overseas Filipino worker who died in Lebanon finally arrived in her hometown in Dipolog City on Tuesday, weeks after an apparent mix-up of repatriated bodies triggered anguish among relatives.

- [Transport firm's 24 buses grounded over Baguio road crash](#) (2026-06-17 16:00)

Twenty-four buses of the North Genesis Bus Line Inc. have been suspended for 30 days in connection with a vehicular accident in Baguio City that killed a bus conductor and injured six others.

- [DepEd vows speedy release of ARAL funds](#) (2026-06-17 16:00)

Measures are being undertaken to ensure that funds for the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning program will go directly to teachers and educators serving as ARAL tutors nationwide, according to the Department of Education.

- [6 die as truck falls off Pangasinan cliff](#) (2026-06-17 16:00)

Six people died while several others were injured when a dump truck hit a pick-up truck before falling into a ravine in a mountainous area in this town on Tuesday night.

- [Maynilad repairs damaged pipe in Manila](#) (2026-06-17 16:00)

Several barangays in Sampaloc, Manila have endured a 30-hour water service interruption after a pipe burst on Tuesday.

- [Marcos Jr.: Probe PhilHealth benefit denial claim](#) (2026-06-17 16:00)

President Marcos has ordered an investigation into the claims of a widow that her husband was denied benefits from the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

- [Free rides offered after MRT-3 glitch](#) (2026-06-17 16:00)

The Department of Transportation offered free rides to commuters after a train glitch disrupted the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 operation yesterday.

- [Dizon slams PGH project linked to Zaldy](#) (2026-06-17 16:00)

Public Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon yesterday criticized the slow progress of a construction project at the Philippine General Hospital in Manila.

- [Parcels yield P3.4 million shabu in Pasay](#) (2026-06-17 16:00)

Over half a kilo of shabu with a street value of P3.43 million was intercepted from a man during an interdiction operation at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Central Mail Exchange Center in Pasay on Tuesday.

- [Cop, cohort arrested in Koronadal operation](#) (2026-06-17 10:44)

Anti-narcotics agents arrested a policewoman and her male accomplice in an entrapment operation in Koronadal City in South Cotabato province on Tuesday afternoon, June 16.

- [Parties assure support for Comelec's BARMM polls security efforts](#) (2026-06-17 10:38)

Officials of Bangsamoro regional political parties assured on Wednesday, June 17, of their willingness to swear over the Quran to abide by the electoral laws meant to ensure peaceful and honest September 14 parliamentary polls in the autonomous region.

- [P77-million smuggled cigarettes seized in Lanao del Sur](#) (2026-06-17 10:07)

Policemen, backed by soldiers and local executives, seized P77 million worth of smuggled cigarettes in an anti-smuggling operation in Barangay Liyangan in Picong, Lanao del Sur on Sunday, June 14.

- [Owners, contractor of collapsed Angeles building face P11 million in fines, liabilities](#) (2026-06-17 07:04)

DOLE ordered the owner and contractor of the collapsed building to pay P11 million in fines and liabilities.

- [House measure eyes P9 billion refund to Meralco consumers within one year](#) (2026-06-17 05:00)

A resolution has been filed in Congress urging the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to expedite the refund of approximately P9 billion in overcollections proposed by the Manila Electric Company (Meralco).

- [1 dead, 6 injured in Baguio road crash](#) (2026-06-16 16:00)

A bus conductor died while six others were injured when their vehicle crashed into a six-wheeler truck parked along Marcos Highway in this city before dawn yesterday.

- [Search for missing hiker intensifies](#) (2026-06-16 16:00)

Police and rescue teams have intensified the search for a 31-year-old hiker who has been reported missing on Mt. Kalatungan in Pangantukan, Bukidnon.

- [State of emergency mulled over sugarcane pest attack](#) (2026-06-16 16:00)

The provincial government of Negros Occidental is considering the declaration of a state of emergency if the infestation of red-striped soft scale insect on sugarcane farms worsens.

- [Illegal petroleum products seized in Mindoro](#) (2026-06-16 16:00)

A man was arrested for allegedly transporting illegal petroleum products valued at P426,000 in Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro on Monday.

- [Comelec ready to deploy ACMs for BARMM elections](#) (2026-06-16 16:00)

This early, the Commission on Elections is ready to deploy automated counting machines or ACMs that will be used for the first parliamentary election in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

- [Mindanao quake fatalities now 68](#) (2026-06-16 16:00)

The death toll in the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Sarangani last week has reached 68 with at least 33 people still missing.

- [Metal debris found on Batangas beach](#) (2026-06-16 16:00)

A large piece of metal with foreign markings has been found along the coast of Lian, Batangas, according to the Philippine Coast Guard.

- [Pinoy sailor fined P10,000 for bomb joke](#) (2026-06-16 16:00)

A Filipino seafarer will pay a fine of P10,000 for making a bomb joke on May 26 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2.

- [‘Returned court notices confirm Palparan transfer’](#) (2026-06-16 16:00)

Lawyers for the families of missing activists Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño are asking the Bureau of Corrections to explain why court notices addressed to convicted Army general Jovito Palparan were refused and returned to sender by personnel of the New Bilibid Prison.

- [FL: Nitori to open more stores in Philippines](#) (2026-06-16 16:00)

Japan's largest home furnishing company Nitori is opening more stores in the Philippines, according to First Lady Liza Marcos.

- [Lawmakers seek probe, tougher safety rules after Angeles building collapse](#) (2026-06-16 09:43)

Lawmakers demand justice for the victims, adding that the government must ensure that incidents like the Angeles City building collapse will not happen again.

- [Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for June 16-22](#) (2026-06-15 23:45)

The DOE said fuel prices could return to pre-war levels only after six to 12 months.

- [Visayas grid alerts may persist until August – NGCP](#) (2026-06-15 16:00)

The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines expects electricity supply in the Visayas to remain tight until August, as major power plants continue to be offline.

- [COA: Naga City disaster response programs misaligned, inconsistent](#) (2026-06-15 16:00)

A majority of the 45 programs under the six-year local disaster risk reduction and management plan of Naga City in Camarines Sur “did not support” the LDRRM's purpose, the Commission on Audit reported.

- [2 dead, 3 wounded in Leyte ambush](#) (2026-06-15 16:00)

Two people died and three others were wounded after armed men fired at a vehicle traversing an uphill section of Barangay Salvacion in Albura, Leyte yesterday, the Leyte Police Provincial Office confirmed.

- [Rat swimming in soup? Magalong orders probe](#) (2026-06-15 16:00)

Mayor Benjamin Magalong ordered an investigation after a video showing a rat in a customer's bowl of “sinigang” in a buffet restaurant here went viral online.

- [DENR seeks explanation from Baste](#) (2026-06-15 16:00)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is seeking an explanation from Davao City Mayor Sebastian ” Baste” Duterte over the dumping of mixed waste at the DENR Davao region office in Lanang.

- [Injured sea turtle rescued in Baseco](#) (2026-06-15 16:00)

An injured Olive Ridley sea turtle was rescued on Baseco beach in Manila yesterday, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

- [NAPOLCOM employee axed over gun-toting incident](#) (2026-06-15 16:00)

The National Police Commission has relieved a Napolcom employee after he was arrested for allegedly threatening a TNVS driver with a gun following a traffic altercation in Quezon City.

- [DepEd streamlines lesson plan guidelines](#) (2026-06-15 16:00)

The Department of Education has introduced a simplified and flexible lesson planning framework allowing teachers to focus less on paperwork.

- [PNP hunts ‘guerrilla-style’ scam hubs](#) (2026-06-15 16:00)

The Philippine National Police is tracking down scam hubs, which have reportedly shifted to “guerrilla-style” operations after the government shut down Philippine offshore gaming operators or POGOs.

- [SC suspends lawyer for cursing](#) (2026-06-15 16:00)

The Supreme Court has suspended for one year lawyer Jesus Nicardo Falcis III over his use of profanities on social media, stemming from complaints filed against his brother by Kris Aquino.

- [Magalong orders crackdown on food establishments after rat seen swimming in soup](#) (2026-06-15 10:52)

Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong ordered stricter inspections and sanctions against food establishments following a viral video showing a rat allegedly found in a customer’s bowl of sinigang at a buffet restaurant in the city.

- [Ex-rebels help in relief operations for Mindanao quake victims](#) (2026-06-15 10:36)

Former members of two southern terror groups and New People’s Army guerillas are involved in military humanitarian missions in areas devastated by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake on June 8, working alongside soldiers from units that facilitated their return to the fold of the law.

- [Magnitude 6.2 offshore quake felt in Davao Oriental, parts of Mindanao](#) (2026-06-15 09:57)

(Updated) A magnitude 6.6 earthquake struck off Governor Generoso, Davao Oriental.

- [Pre-war rates likely: Diesel, kerosene prices seen down on June 16](#) (2026-06-15 09:29)

The Department of Energy said diesel and kerosene prices are expected to drop on Tuesday, June 16.

- [Cops seize 1 kilo of shabu in Marawi City operation](#) (2026-06-15 09:15)

Policemen seized a kilo of shabu worth P6.8 million from five traffickers who were entrapped in Barangay Basak Malulut in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur province on Sunday, June 14.

- [Bato dela Rosa surrenders 20 firearms in Davao](#) (2026-06-15 06:21)

The firearms were surrendered weeks after Dela Rosa's licenses were revoked.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer

- [DepEd mobilizes aid, condemns deadly Tacloban City school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 13:39)

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of Education (DepEd) condemned the shooting incident at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, calling it a “high-alert situation” as authorities move to secure the campus and provide urgent support to affected individuals. Authorities said three people were killed and five others were wounded in the school on

- [Imus, Cavite hits dangerous 45.6°C on Monday despite rains](#) (2026-06-22 13:35)

UCENA CITY — Residents of Imus City in Cavite were advised to take precautions against extreme heat on Monday after the city recorded a heat index of 45.6 degrees Celsius despite prevailing rainy weather conditions. READ: Signal No. 1 in 3 areas as Typhoon Francisco intensifies In a public advisory posted on Facebook, the Imus

- [Tacloban City school shooting suspects may have been bullied](#) (2026-06-22 13:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Police Regional Office Eastern Visayas (PRO 8) said the suspects behind the deadly shooting incident at a Tacloban City school were reportedly victims of bullying. The shooting occurred at around 9 a.m. on Monday inside the school premises in Barangay San Jose. Both suspects, who are Grade 9 students, have since

- [Food packs readied in Cagayan Valley ahead of Typhoon Francisco](#) (2026-06-22 13:22)

TUGUEGARAO CITY — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Cagayan Valley has prepositioned 114,000 family food packs across local government units in preparation for the possible impact of Typhoon Francisco, which prompted the raising of Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 1 over Batanes and parts of Cagayan on Monday. Mylene Attaban, chief

- [Both suspects in Tacloban City school shooting arrested — police](#) (2026-06-22 13:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Both suspects behind the shooting incident at a Tacloban City school on Monday have been arrested, the Police Regional Office Eastern Visayas (PRO 8) said. “As to the first culprit, our suspect here, right after the incident, we caught him in the school,” PRO 8 director Brig. Gen. Jason Capoy told reporters

- [Luistro: Sara Duterte’ s impeachment trial could run past September](#) (2026-06-22 12:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said on Monday that Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment trial may extend beyond September, as a spokesman for the House prosecution team noted the rival camps have filed competing trial schedules. In a media briefing, Luistro said her earlier estimate that the trial could wrap by September no

- [Repeat drug offender falls in Iligan buy-bust](#) (2026-06-22 12:30)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Anti-drug enforcers in Northern Mindanao arrested an alleged repeat drug peddler, seizing an estimated P680,000 worth of shabu during a joint buy-bust operation late Saturday night in Barangay Sta. Filomena, Iligan City. Operatives led by the Regional Police Drug Enforcement Unit-10 (RPDEU-10), backed by local and mobile police forces, arrested

- [Smuggled cigarettes seized in Cauayan City checkpoint](#) (2026-06-22 12:14)

CAUAYAN CITY, Isabela — Police intercepted smuggled cigarettes worth P146,000 at a checkpoint in Barangay Tagaran on Saturday, June 20, authorities said. Personnel of the Cauayan City Police Station stopped a tricycle carrying the contraband, which was allegedly en route to the San Mariano public market. READ: P4.5M in smuggled cigarettes seized in Cagayan Valley

- [Schooled by defense panel? Luistro says it's fake, won't allow it](#) (2026-06-22 12:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro has disputed reports and rumors that she was “eaten alive” by the defense panel during the pre-trial conference for Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment proceedings, saying that she would not allow such a thing to happen. Luistro, in a press briefing on Monday at the Senate urged the public

- [Gov't boosting climate-resilient farming amid El Niño threat – Marcos](#) (2026-06-22 11:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The government is stepping up climate-resilient initiatives for farmers as the country braces for the impact of El Niño, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said on Monday. Marcos made the remarks during the inauguration of the Mabini-Cayacay Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP) in Barangay Abaca, Mabini, Bohol. READ: El Niño may cut

- [No party dominated Duterte impeachment pre-trial conference – Bantug](#) (2026-06-22 11:55)

MANILA, Philippines— Senate Secretary Renato Bantug disputed anew circulating reports that one party had dominated the other during the June 18 pre-trial conference for the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte. “That’s not true,” Bantug, who serves as clerk of court in the impeachment trial of Duterte, told reporters on Monday before the resumption of

- [Typhoon Francisco rapidly intensifies over Philippine Sea](#) (2026-06-22 11:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Francisco(international name: Mekkhala) rapidly intensified while moving west-northwest over the Philippine Sea, the state weather bureau said Monday morning. Based on its 11 a.m. bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Francisco was last spotted 620 kilometers east of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, moving west-northwestward at 15 kilometers

- [3 dead, 5 wounded in shooting inside school in Tacloban City](#) (2026-06-22 11:42)

TACLOBAN CITY —Three people were killed, and five others were wounded in a shooting incident at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City on Monday morning, with one of the

two alleged suspects now in police custody, authorities said. The shooting occurred at around 9a.m. inside the school premises in Barangay San Jose.

- [DepEd, PNP alarmed by 2 school stabbing incidents in Cavite](#) (2026-06-22 11:34)

LUCENA CITY – The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) have expressed concern over two separate stabbing incidents involving students in Cavite that occurred during the first week of classes. The Schools Division Office of Cavite City (SDOCC) said in a statement last June 20 that it is closely coordinating with

- [New addition to impeachment prosecution team will also be spokesperson](#) (2026-06-22 11:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawyer Benjamin Tolosa Jr. will be the new addition to the prosecution team for Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment trial, and he will also serve as the panel’ s legal spokesperson, according to Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro. Luistro, in a press briefing on Monday on the sidelines of the pretrial conference at the Senate,

- [PH plastic waste laws exist, but gaps still drive leakage](#) (2026-06-22 11:24)

Part three Part one: Low consumption, high leakage: The Philippines’ plastic paradox Part two: From bin to ocean: How plastic waste escapes Philippine systems MANILA, Philippines — Plastic waste in the Philippines moves through a long chain of systems before it reaches rivers, coastlines, dumpsites or landfills. What begins as packaging in stores passes through

- [COA officer submits new docs for Pharmally case trial](#) (2026-06-22 11:21)

MANILA, Philippines — A Commission on Audit (COA) officer on Monday submitted a new set of documents to the Sandiganbayan 1st Division in the graft trial related to the Pharmally case. READ: Finally, a Pharmally trial COA records officer Eljun Jumamil took the witness stand to submit documents that state prosecutors identified as new evidence against former Department

- [Tab Baldwin set to appear before NBI on Tuesday](#) (2026-06-22 11:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Resigned Ateneo De Manila University men’ s basketball team head coach Tab Baldwin is scheduled to appear before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Tuesday after he failed last week to comply with a subpoena issued to him. Baldwin’ s expected appearance is amid the NBI’ s ongoing investigation into the death due to

- [PTFoMS condemns shooting of Capiz broadcaster](#) (2026-06-22 10:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS) condemned the reported shooting of broadcaster Jay Lavapiez by unidentified motorcycle-riding suspects in Roxas City, Capiz, on Monday. Lavapiez was driving along a national highway in Barangay Cagay at around 5 a.m. on his way to the radio station when he was attacked. Lavapiez survived

- [PNP: Obstruction raps vs Padilla unaffected by returned complaint](#) (2026-06-22 10:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The obstruction of justice case lodged by the Philippine National Police against Sen. Robin Padilla will not be affected even after the Department of Justice (DOJ) sent back the complaint due to technicalities, the PNP said on Monday. “As I understand, this is within the working mechanism of DC (Department Circular) 20,

- [Koronadal cop cleared criminally in drug case, faces dismissal](#) (2026-06-22 10:43)

COTABATO CITY — A female police officer who was caught during a buy-bust operation conducted by authorities in Barangay San Isidro, Koronadal City, last week has been cleared of criminal charges, but still faces administrative proceedings that could lead to her dismissal from the police service, authorities said. Lt Col. Harold Cornel, chief of the

- [Surprise witnesses allowed in Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-22 10:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The presentation of surprise witnesses is still possible during the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, despite the prosecution and defense teams having previously submitted lists of witnesses. This was according to Senate Secretary Renato Bantug, who serves as clerk of court in the impeachment trial of the vice president. “Both parties

- [Senate security gearing up for Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-22 10:29)

MANILA, Philippines – The Senate security unit is assessing and preparing appropriate arrangements for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Ret. PMGen. Alfred Sotto-Corpus said on Monday. Corpus was asked about the possible security arrangements during the impeachment trial itself, even as the Senate continues to be on “heightened alert” while

- [Visayas sugar farm insect infestation prompts emergency meeting](#) (2026-06-22 10:05)

BACOLOD CITY—A massive insect infestation threatening thousands of hectares of sugarcane plantations in the Visayas has prompted an emergency meeting between sugar producers and Negros Occidental officials on Tuesday, June 23. United Sugar Producers Federation (UNIFED) President Manuel Lamata said the federation will meet with Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson, members of the Sangguniang

- [PNP: No warrant received yet to arrest Sen. Marcoleta](#) (2026-06-22 09:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday said it has not yet received any warrant to arrest Sen. Rodante Marcoleta. READ: Marcoleta: Even arrest, imprisonment won't stop me “As of now, the Philippine National Police has not received any official communication regarding said warrant,” PNP public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co

- [Thousands turn out for rally on good governance in Cotabato City](#) (2026-06-22 09:33)

COTABATO CITY – Thousands turned out for a rally seeking good governance here on Monday morning, prompting the local government to cancel classes in all levels in public and private

schools. The participants marched and gathered at the grounds of the Bangsamoro Government Center here, the seat of government of the five-province, three-city Bangsamoro Autonomous

- [PNP on alert for Typhoon Francisco](#) (2026-06-22 09:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is on alert for the possible effects of Typhoon Francisco (international name: Mekkhala) as it approaches the country. “Police units on the ground observe disaster response protocol, and coordination with local authorities is included for a unified and quick action for the safety of the people,” PNP

- [Day 2 of Sara Duterte impeachment pretrial begins](#) (2026-06-22 09:22)

MANILA, Philippines – The pretrial conference for Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment case entered its second day of discussions on Monday morning. The House of Representatives prosecution panel and Duterte’s defense team are expected to continue marking evidence, while the stipulation process will also be resolved. Of the four articles of impeachment discussed, only the

- [Turtle eggs seized in Zamboanga City market, vendor nabbed](#) (2026-06-22 08:55)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Maritime police operatives arrested a 44-year-old suspect for selling turtle eggs at the Zamboanga City Public Market Sunday morning. Police Captain Leah May Alameda, Zamboanga City Maritime Police Station (ZCMARPSTA) chief, said her team responded to a report from a concerned citizen regarding the illicit trade in Magay Zone

- [Signal No. 1 in 3 areas as Typhoon Francisco intensifies](#) (2026-06-22 06:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) no. 1 has been raised over three areas in Northern Luzon as Typhoon Francisco further intensified on Monday morning, according to the state weather bureau. In its 5 a.m. bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Francisco, which was last spotted some 715

- [Recto: PhilHealth benefits must be commensurate with premiums](#) (2026-06-22 05:45)

Paying members of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) should receive benefits commensurate with their monthly contributions, according to Executive Secretary Ralph Recto. He raised the proposal following the death of a 47-year-old father from Manila, who had been diligently paying his monthly premiums for more than two decades, but was denied of availing any

- [Lawmakers: Filipinos await Sara Duterte reply to charges](#) (2026-06-22 05:35)

Many Filipinos are waiting to hear Vice President Sara Duterte directly address the impeachment charges against her as her Senate trial approaches, House prosecutors said on Sunday, arguing that the proceedings would provide her the opportunity to answer accusations

she has so far largely avoided confronting. Akbayan Rep. Chel Diokno said the impeachment trial would

- [Pagasa: Francisco intensifies into typhoon](#) (2026-06-22 05:05)

Severe Tropical Storm “Francisco” (international name: Mekkhala) intensified into a typhoon on Sunday afternoon, said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). According to Pagasa, Francisco turned into a typhoon around 2 p.m. while being monitored within the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR). READ: Francisco now a typhoon — Pagasa It was last

- [Cops’ arrests spark heightened PNP internal cleansing](#) (2026-06-22 04:50)

Two police officers were arrested in Metro Manila and Mindanao over rape and domestic abuse charges, prompting the Philippine National Police to intensify its internal cleansing drive. One of the arrested officers, a police master sergeant assigned to the Presidential Security and Protection Group, was apprehended in Quezon City on June 20. READ: PNP intensifies

- [PNP hunts down Muntinlupa scam suspects](#) (2026-06-22 04:45)

The Philippine National Police ordered a follow-up operation to locate and arrest alleged masterminds and financiers behind an underground scam hub in Muntinlupa City. The investigation stemmed from the June 15 arrest of an alleged Philippine offshore gaming operators (Pogo) operator in Muntinlupa City, which subsequently led to the discovery of the suspected scam facility.

- [Iqbal: MILF stands by peace process despite pact delays](#) (2026-06-22 04:40)

COTABATO CITY – Despite delays in the implementation of the Bangsamoro peace process, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) will not return to armed conflict with the government, a senior official said. Mohagher Iqbal, chairperson of the MILF Peace Implementing Panel, made the assurance while raising serious concerns over issues that continue to hamper the

- [Schools in Bulacan town seek elevated classrooms due to tidal floods](#) (2026-06-22 04:35)

HAGONOY, BULACAN – As tidal flooding continues to disrupt classes and inundate campuses, school officials here are calling for elevated school buildings to keep students learning despite rising waters. The 4.9- to 5.2-foot (ft) high tides that struck Hagonoy during the second week of classes for School Year 2026-2027 forced many schools to suspend in-person

- [In Bohol, P3.5-billion Loboc River project under scrutiny](#) (2026-06-22 04:30)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Philippines — A P3.5-billion river protection project along the iconic Loboc River in Loboc town, Bohol, is now under scrutiny by provincial lawmakers following concerns that the massive flood control project could adversely affect the environment and one of Bohol’s most important tourism assets. Members of the Provincial Board’s Committees on Environment and

- [No jackpot winners in Ultra Lotto, SuperLotto draws on Jun. 21](#) (2026-06-21 21:42)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpot prizes for Ultra Lotto 6/58 and SuperLotto 6/49 during the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draws on Sunday, June 21. According to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, no ticket holder matched all six numbers of the Ultra Lotto 6/58 winning combination, 15-05-45-11-17-39, for the estimated jackpot prize of ₱128

- [3 hurt as fire hits Lipa City restaurant due to LPG leak](#) (2026-06-21 19:57)

LUCENA CITY, Batangas – Three people were injured when a fire broke out at a restaurant in Lipa City, Batangas, shortly after midnight on Saturday, June 20, police said. In a belated report released on Sunday, the Police Regional Office 4A said the blaze struck Darwin’ s Lomi House in Barangay Talisay at around 12 a.m.,

- [Lawyer warns vs pretrial talks on votes needed to convict VP Duterte](#) (2026-06-21 19:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Premature discussions on the voting threshold required to convict Vice President Sara Duterte in her impeachment trial during the pretrial stage could unnecessarily delay the proceedings, election lawyer Romulo Macalintal warned in a statement on Tuesday. Macalintal made the pronouncement as alleged proposals of lowering the minimum number of votes needed to

- [Diokno: Filipinos eager for Duterte’ s response to impeachment case](#) (2026-06-21 19:13)

MANILA, Philippines – Many Filipinos are eager to hear Vice President Sara Duterte address the allegations against her in her impeachment case, public prosecutor and Akbayan Rep. Chel Diokno said on Sunday, as her trial draws near. He said Duterte’ s impeachment trial gives her a pivotal platform to rebut the accusations of corruption and constitutional

- [PNP readies full security for June 28 White Ribbon Movement rally](#) (2026-06-21 17:52)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine National Police (PNP) will deploy full security measures for the June 28 “White Ribbon Movement” rally at the Edsa People Power Monument, as authorities prepare for a large turnout. The nationwide rally, organized by religious and civil society groups, is led by the Inter-Religious Leaders Council for National Transformation. It calls for

- [Recto pushes for more PhilHealth benefits for paying members](#) (2026-06-21 17:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Paying members of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) should receive benefits commensurate with their monthly contributions, according to Executive Secretary Ralph Recto. He raised the proposal following the death of a 47-year-old father from Manila, who had been diligently paying his monthly premiums for more than two decades but was denied

- [Francisco now a typhoon — Pagasa](#) (2026-06-21 16:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Francisco (international name: Mekkhala) intensified into a typhoon on Sunday afternoon, the state weather bureau said. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), Francisco became a typhoon around 2 p.m. while being monitored within the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR). Its last recorded location was 820 kilometers (km)

- [PDEA: 10,540 drug personalities avail of gov' t rehab program in May](#) (2026-06-21 16:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said a total of 10,540 drug personalities have availed of the government's rehabilitation and reformation program, of whom 2,798 graduates were able to secure employment or livelihood opportunities as of May. The PDEA said the Balay Silangan Reformation Program has successfully transformed the lives of these

- [PNP intensifies internal cleansing after arrest of 2 active-duty cops](#) (2026-06-21 16:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. has ordered a stricter crackdown against erring personnel following the arrests of two active-duty cops facing rape and domestic violence charges in Metro Manila and Mindanao. "Let these simultaneous arrests serve as a stern warning that our badge and our uniform will

- [P4.5M 'hot meat' seized in Pampanga](#) (2026-06-21 15:45)

MABALACAT CITY, Pampanga — Authorities have confiscated an estimated P4.5 million worth of frozen meat products from a trading establishment in Bacolor town, Pampanga. The operation was conducted at an establishment in Barangay Calibutbut, where authorities arrested the owner and production manager for alleged violations of the Food Safety Act of 2013 and the Meat

- [Brahminy Kite rescued in South Cotabato](#) (2026-06-21 15:21)

COTABATO CITY — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources–Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-CENRO) in Banga, South Cotabato, confirmed Sunday the rescue of a juvenile Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*). Maria Elvira Lumayag, OIC regional executive director of DENR-12, said personnel from DENR-CENRO Banga received the Brahminy Kite from officials of Barangay San Vicente on

- [PCG: P13.4M illegal cigarettes seized in Misamis Oriental](#) (2026-06-21 14:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has seized P13.4 million worth of smuggled cigarettes in Misamis Oriental. According to the PCG, the figure reflected 336 boxes of illicit cigarettes confiscated during an anti-smuggling operation in Barangay Mambayaan, Balingasag, Misamis Oriental, on June 12, 2026. Two vehicles used for smuggling were also seized by

- [Lanao del Norte town turns 77, hosts fun run for interreligious harmony](#) (2026-06-21 13:56)

MATUNGAO, Lanao del Norte — Matungao town in Lanao del Norte celebrated its 77th Charter Day on Saturday, June 20, marking it with a fun run that highlights interreligious harmony between Muslims and Christians in the area. Local government unit (LGU) workers, youth, members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police,

- [PNP orders manhunt for Muntinlupa scam hub masterminds, financiers](#) (2026-06-21 13:47)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine National Police (PNP) ordered a follow-up operation to locate and arrest the masterminds and financiers behind an underground scam hub in Muntinlupa City. The investigation stemmed from the June 15 arrest of an alleged manager of a Philippine Offshore Gaming Operator (Pogo) in Muntinlupa City, which led to the discovery of the

- [Cavite school shifts to online classes after student stabbing incident](#) (2026-06-21 13:46)

LUCENA CITY — A private school in General Trias City, Cavite, where seven students were wounded in a recent stabbing incident, has temporarily shifted to online learning next week as it implements additional security measures. In an advisory posted on its Facebook page on Sunday, June 21, Bethel Academy of Gen. Trias Cavite Inc. announced

- [DA orders structural check of GenSan fish port after M7.8 earthquake](#) (2026-06-21 12:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has ordered a comprehensive structural assessment of the General Santos Fish Port Complex (GSFPC) after several sections of the facility were shuttered following the magnitude 7.8 earthquake on June 8. According to the DA statement on Sunday, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. issued the directive following

- [Nearly P14-M ‘shabu’ seized in Iloilo town](#) (2026-06-21 12:53)

ILOILO CITY — Authorities seized at least 2,055 grams of suspected “shabu” (crystal meth) valued at nearly P14 million and arrested three high-value individuals (HVIs) during a major buy-bust operation in Oton, Iloilo early Sunday morning, June 21. The operation, spearheaded by the Police Regional Office 6 (PRO-6) and supporting intelligence units, took place at

- [Severe Tropical Storm Francisco nears typhoon category – Pagasa](#) (2026-06-21 12:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Francisco (international name: Mekkhala) is nearing typhoon category, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Sunday. In its 11 a.m. bulletin, Pagasa reported that Francisco was packing maximum sustained winds of 110 kilometers per hour, and gusts of up to 135 kph. The cyclone was

- [Anti-nuclear groups oppose Bataan nuke plant revival](#) (2026-06-21 12:08)

BALANGA CITY, Bataan, Philippines — Anti-nuclear advocates at the No Nukes Asia Forum (NNAF) held here on Friday (June 19) said several Asian countries continued to reject proposals to rehabilitate and operate the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) in Morong town. The Nuclear Free Bataan Movement hosted the NNAF 2026 at a restaurant in

- [Marcos honors late dad’ s life lessons on Father’ s Day](#) (2026-06-21 11:41)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Sunday, Father’ s Day, reminisced about his father, the late former President Ferdinand Marcos Sr., and the lessons he taught him. “Remembering my father today. No matter how much time passes, there are some lessons a son never outgrows,” Marcos wrote on Facebook. “My father taught me the value

- [Cop shot dead while praying in mosque in Lanao del Sur](#) (2026-06-21 11:28)

COTABATO CITY, Philippines — A police officer was shot dead by a still unidentified gunman while he was praying in a mosque in Barangay Uyaan Proper, Madamba, Lanao del Sur, at around 7:42 p.m. on Saturday. Brig. Gen. Christopher Abecia, chief of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region Police Regional Office, identified the victim as Chief Master

- [Minor in custody after missing girl found dead in Tarlac](#) (2026-06-21 10:45)

TARLAC CITY — A minor person of interest has been placed under custody following the discovery of the body of a missing six-year-old girl in a farm area in Victoria, Tarlac province on Friday evening, June 19, at the boundary of Barangay San Agustin and Barangay San Nicolas. The Grade 2 pupil was reported missing

- [First lady, sons issue ‘EO’ for Marcos to relax on Father’ s Day](#) (2026-06-21 10:37)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. may be the head of the nation, but not in his home, especially on Father’ s Day. First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos and their three sons, Sandro, Simon and Vinny greeted Marcos by issuing an “executive order” (EO) for him to stop working at least for this special day. “By virtue

- [Samar bridge upgrade completed ahead of schedule](#) (2026-06-21 09:54)

TACLOBAN CITY — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in Eastern Visayas has completed the first phase of strengthening works on the Calbiga Bridge in Calbiga town, Samar two months ahead of schedule, allowing heavier vehicles to resume crossing the vital transport link under a revised traffic scheme. The DPWH regional office announced

- [Rainy Sunday due to habagat, trough of STS Francisco](#) (2026-06-21 07:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The trough of Severe Tropical Storm Francisco (international name: Mekkhala) and the southwest monsoon, or “habagat,” will bring rains to the southern portion of the country on Sunday, the state weather bureau said. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), as of 3 a.m. Francisco was last spotted 1,350 kilometers east

- [Drilon warns vs ‘second envelope’ crisis in VP trial](#) (2026-06-21 05:42)

Former Senate President Franklin Drilon warned that attempts to conceal evidence in the upcoming impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte could lead to public backlash and create political instability in the country. In a statement on Friday, Drilon said the “greatest risk” facing the country today is the possible failure of the impeachment process

- [Hospital must compensate seniors, but P7-M fine cut to P70,000](#) (2026-06-21 05:40)

The Court of Appeals (CA) has ordered Baguio City-based Notre Dame De Chartres Hospital to compensate nearly a million pesos in excess payments to its senior patients who were denied the mandatory discounts in hospital bills almost a decade ago. The appellate court, in a decision by its Special 11th Division on June 18, affirmed

- [Bill vs dynasties: Can Senate sharpen dull House version?](#) (2026-06-21 05:38)

(Last of two parts) President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has made curbing political dynasties a priority legislation for his administration—even as he sits on top of one of the most influential in the country, built over the two-decade rule of his late father and namesake. He is framing this push as a pillar of his governance

- [DOJ exec: Foreign divorce doesn’ t end PH marriage](#) (2026-06-21 05:36)

Filipino citizens who obtain divorce outside the country remain legally married in the Philippines and are not relieved of their responsibilities and obligations to their spouses and children. Justice Undersecretary Ian Norman Dato said divorce, for people who remain citizens of the country, “can never be recognized in the Philippines” even if it is valid

- [Most Central Mindanao public schools resume classes after June 8 quake](#) (2026-06-21 05:34)

Most public schools in Central Mindanao were cleared to resume classes as government agencies pressed repair and rehabilitation efforts after the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Mindanao on June 8, the Department of Education said on Friday. In a statement, DepEd said schools in Cotabato, Kidapawan, Koronadal, Tacurong, and Sultan Kudarat shifted to the “Hayo”

- [Gov’ t picks Robredo for special projects](#) (2026-06-21 05:32)

Even as Congress scrambles to complete its tasks during its ongoing special session, Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Vince Dizon has been going around the country to check on infrastructure projects derailed by political wrangling in the legislature. With the onset of the typhoon season, the DPWH building agenda will include the rehabilitation of

- [DICT links Mindanao to fiber backbone](#) (2026-06-21 05:30)

Improved connectivity is now available to hundreds of key government offices in Mindanao as part of the Mindanao Integrated Government Network (MIGN) under the Marcos administration's National Fiber Backbone Project (NFBP). In a statement on Friday, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) announced the official launch of Phase 1 of the MIGN, with

- [Bulacan tourism bounces back on nature, festivals](#) (2026-06-21 05:17)

CITY OF MALOLOS – For travelers seeking a quick escape from the city, Bulacan's rivers, mountains, resorts and colorful festivals have become an increasingly attractive draw. Despite a temporary slowdown in tourism caused by rising fuel prices and tensions in the Middle East, the province has seen visitor numbers rebound as tourists flock to its

- [This week's milestones: June 21 to June 27](#) (2026-06-21 05:15)

June 22, 1963 Socorro was created as a distinct and independent municipality in the province of Oriental Mindoro through the approval of Republic Act No. 3609. It was officially inaugurated on July 27, 1963. Prior to becoming an independent municipality, Socorro was known as Barangay Catiningan and was part of the municipality of Pola. Its

- [P6.2-M smuggled cigarettes seized in Zamboanga del Norte checkpoint](#) (2026-06-21 00:48)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Authorities arrested a 36-year-old truck driver after seizing more than P6.2 million worth of smuggled cigarettes during a random checkpoint in Barangay Gatas, Kalawit, Zamboanga del Norte early Friday, June 19. Lt. Col. Edwin Verzon, commander of the Zamboanga del Norte 2nd Provincial Mobile Force Company (ZNP-MFC), said his

- [Mindoro prov' l gov' t sends aid to Puerto Galera town amid water shortage](#) (2026-06-20 23:54)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro is offering urgent financial assistance to the municipality of Puerto Galera, which has declared a state of calamity due to severe water shortage affecting several barangays. According to the Provincial Information Office – Oriental Mindoro, the support package is formalized under Resolution No. 3,

- [DA sets over P600-M rural infra projects in E. Visayas](#) (2026-06-20 23:48)

TACLOBAN CITY — Three major rural infrastructure projects worth a combined P666.07 million have secured regional approval under the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Eastern Visayas and are now set for evaluation at the national level. The projects, endorsed by the Regional Project Advisory Board (RPAB) of PRDP

- [Search continues for missing hiker in Bukidnon](#) (2026-06-20 23:33)

PANGANTUCAN, Bukidnon — Search and rescue operations continue for a 31-year-old hiker who went missing on Mt. Kalatungan, the country's fifth-highest peak, a week after he was last seen on June 12. Lt. Eder Oliveros, deputy chief of the Pangantucan Municipal Police Station, said a total of 129 volunteers, soldiers, disaster response personnel, environment office

- [MWSS welcomes global recognition of Manila Water's Upper Wawa Dam](#) (2026-06-20 22:59)

MANILA, Philippines – The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) welcomed the recognition of Manila Water Company's Upper Wawa Dam as Water Project of the Year at this year's Global Water Awards, with the honor formally conferred to MWSS Administrator Leonor C. Cleofas, CESO IV during the sidelines of the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW)

- [Negros solon urges creation of dedicated body to solve pest infestation](#) (2026-06-20 22:52)

BACOLOD CITY – A Negros Occidental lawmaker is pushing for a “state of calamity” assessment and the immediate formation of a provincial task force to combat a rapidly spreading infestation of the red-striped soft scale Insect (RSSI), which has more than doubled its reach to over 4,800 hectares in less than a week. “We would

- [7 arrested, P5.5-M illegal cooking oil seized in Bukidnon](#) (2026-06-20 22:44)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Authorities arrested seven individuals and seized an estimated P5.5 million worth of allegedly adulterated, unlabeled, and unregistered cooking oil during simultaneous enforcement operations in Valencia City on June 18. Operatives from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), in coordination with personnel from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), conducted raids

- [Navy, police seize P99-M smuggled cigarettes in Sulu operations](#) (2026-06-20 22:38)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – The Western Mindanao Naval Command (WMNC) intercepted two vessels carrying undocumented foreign-brand cigarettes worth nearly P94 million during separate maritime interdiction operations in Sulu on Thursday, June 18, while police forces confiscated an additional P5 million worth of contraband in Jolo two days earlier. Naval Task Force 61, with

- [Taal Volcano shows increased sulfur dioxide emission](#) (2026-06-20 22:35)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Taal Volcano in Batangas province continued to show increased sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions, although volcanic activity remained generally low, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Saturday, June 20. In its daily monitoring bulletin, Phivolcs reported that Taal Volcano's Main Crater emitted 692 metric tons of sulfur

- [PDEA destroys P132.5-M worth of drugs seized in Eastern Visayas](#) (2026-06-20 22:25)

TACLOBAN CITY — More than P132.5 million worth of illegal drugs and expired medicines confiscated in anti-drug operations across Eastern Visayas were destroyed by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Regional Office 8 (PDEA-8) on Thursday, June 18, underscoring the government's continuing efforts to prevent the re-circulation of seized contraband and strengthen the integrity of drug-related

- [Western Visayas farmers gear up for market competitiveness](#) (2026-06-20 22:20)

ILOILO CITY — To strengthen market readiness and boost the local root crop industry, farmers and producers from across Western Visayas gathered here for a two-day product and market profiling training for ube and taro that concluded on Friday, June 19. Spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture–Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (DA-AMAD), the initiative aimed

- [Sarangani gov extends suspension of onsite classes until June 30](#) (2026-06-20 22:16)

KORONADAL CITY, South Cotabato – The discovery of a dead goat buried beneath a debris of rocks and soil in Barangay Congan of Glan town, Sarangani led rescuers on Thursday to the remains of a farmer who had been missing since the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Mindanao on June 8. Fire Chief Inspector Ezekiel

- [PDEA agents dismantle drug den, arrest five in Sulu ops](#) (2026-06-20 22:11)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Authorities dismantled a drug den and arrested five suspects in a buy-bust operation on Friday afternoon, June 19, in Sitio Koongan, Barangay Tubig Putih, Luuk, Sulu. According to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), its Sulu Provincial Office, along with other law enforcement units in the area, arrested alias

- [Army, UNDP destroy firearms recovered in Maguindanao provinces](#) (2026-06-20 22:03)

COTABATO CITY — Military officials and representatives of an international organization destroyed small arms and light weapons inside an Army camp in Maguindanao del Norte on Friday, June 19. Held at Camp Siongco, the ceremonial destruction was carried out by the 6th ID Headquarters through the cutting of selected firearms from 685 voluntarily surrendered Small

- [No jackpot winners in Grand Lotto 6/55, Lotto 6/42 draws on June 20](#) (2026-06-20 21:50)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpot prizes for Grand Lotto 6/55 and Lotto 6/42 during the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draws held Saturday, June 20, 2026. According to the PCSO, the winning combination for Grand Lotto 6/55 was 24-10-55-36-04-41, with the jackpot prize reaching ₱45 million. No ticket matched all six numbers. For Lotto

- [PCG warns of possible China rocket debris in areas of Cagayan, Ilocos](#) (2026-06-20 21:46)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN — As China is set to launch another Long March 7A rocket on Tuesday, June 23, the Philippine Coast Guard District North Eastern Luzon (CGDNELZN) on Saturday issued temporary maritime restrictions for safety of seafarers and travelers. “Small

craft operators and fishermen are advised to avoid the designated drop zones, maintain a

- [Legarda behind 5 of 7 laws passed by 20th Congress](#) (2026-06-20 20:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Loren Legarda has played a key role in five of the seven laws enacted so far in the 20th Congress, highlighting her legislative work in education, fiscal policy, governance, and veterans' welfare. As vice chairperson of the Senate Committee on Finance and a former finance committee chair, Legarda helped shape the

- [P2.6M contraband cigarettes seized in Maguindanao del Norte, Cotabato](#) (2026-06-20 19:38)

COTABATO CITY — Police authorities separately seized a total of more than P2.6 million worth of smuggled cigarettes in Maguindanao del Norte and Cotabato on Friday, June 19. Lt. Col. Ramel Hojilla, director of the Cotabato Provincial Police Office, said alert police officers manning a checkpoint in Barangay Kawayanon, Makilala, Cotabato intercepted at about 2

- [Senate on track for July 6 start of Sara Duterte's impeachment trial – Bantug](#) (2026-06-20 17:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate is on target in its preparations for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte on July 6, according to Senate Secretary Renato Bantug. Bantug, who will serve as clerk of court during the proceedings, said the pre-trial conference is expected to conclude on Monday. On the other hand, the

- [Would the EU take Britain back?](#) (2026-06-20 16:11)

BRUSSELS — Is it Brejoin, Bretturn — or perhaps Bre-entry? A decade after the Brexit referendum, the UK is experiencing a form of “divorce regret,” with surveys showing most Britons now believe leaving the European Union was a mistake. Cue a raft of colorful terms to describe a possible fairytale reunion — and a more

- [Body of Ateneo basketball player Divine Adili to be flown back to Nigeria](#) (2026-06-20 15:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University is getting ready to repatriate the remains of Ateneo Blue Eagles basketball player Divine Adili to Nigeria, the school said Saturday. “As part of the University's continuing commitment to Divine Adili and his family, preparations are underway for the repatriation of Divine's remains to Nigeria, where he will

- [Dizon tells Robredo infrastructure projects in Naga City will be finished](#) (2026-06-20 15:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Public Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon has committed to the completion and continuity of several infrastructure projects in Naga City, Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo said on Saturday. Dizon met with Robredo on Saturday in Naga City as the secretary inspected Maharlika Highway and other several projects. Robredo noted that these

- [3 family members slain in Talisay, Batangas](#) (2026-06-20 15:04)

LUCENA CITY — Three members of the a family, including a two-year-old boy, were killed while a minor was wounded after they were allegedly repeatedly stabbed by a man in Talisay, Batangas, on Friday night, June 19, police said. In a report released Saturday afternoon, the Talisay Municipal Police Station did not identify the victims,

- [Solon: Duterte’ s possible absence in impeachment trial can be a strategy](#) (2026-06-20 15:02)

MANILA, Philippines — As the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte is set to begin in July, House Deputy Speaker Paolo Ortega V on Saturday stressed the importance of Duterte’ s attendance in the proceedings. He noted that her possible absence constitutes a “strategy” for the defense team. Ortega made these remarks during the Saturday

- [Cuba launches major free-market reforms](#) (2026-06-20 14:57)

HAVANA — Observers on Friday called Cuba’ s new free-market reforms the most sweeping overhaul of the island’ s communist economy since the Cuban Revolution, as the grandson of former President Raúl Castro said in an interview that Cuba must seek to move its economy forward. The 176 measures aim to further decentralize Cuba’ s state-run economy, which

- [DepEd OKs class resumption in most of Mindanao quake-hit public schools](#) (2026-06-20 14:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Most public schools in Region 12 (Soccsksargen) have been cleared to resume classes following the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck off Maasim, Sarangani in Mindanao on June 8, the Department of Education (DepEd) said on Friday. In a statement, DepEd said schools in Cotabato, Kidapawan, Koronadal, Tacurong and Sultan Kudarat shifted to

- [Road closures in Manila for UP Marathon, Pride Run on June 21](#) (2026-06-20 13:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Several roads in Manila will be closed on June 21, Sunday, for the University of the Philippines Marathon and Pride Run, the Manila Public Information Office (PIO) said on Saturday. READ: Pride Month: Marcos vows equality, inclusion for LGBTQIA+ Filipinos According to the Manila PIO, road closures will be implemented in the

- [Quezon parish church taps solar power](#) (2026-06-20 13:36)

LUCENA CITY – A Catholic parish church in Pagbilao, Quezon has expanded its use of renewable energy, with its rectory now partly powered by a 25-kilowatt solar energy system aimed at reducing electricity costs and promoting environmental stewardship. In a Facebook post on Friday, June 19, the St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish Church announced the

- [Over 13,000 Eastern Visayas farmers, fisherfolk get P30M cash aid](#) (2026-06-20 13:09)

TACLOBAN CITY — More than 13,000 farmers and fisherfolk in Eastern Visayas have received over P30 million in financial assistance from the national government to help cushion the

impact of rising fuel and production costs affecting the agriculture and fisheries sectors, the Department of Agriculture (DA)- 8 reported. The assistance was distributed from June 8

- [DENR team discovers rare vine in Cagayan forest](#) (2026-06-20 12:53)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan — A rare and endemic plant species known as JC’ s vine, a striking wild climber also called purple jade vine or dragon’ s spine, was discovered during a recent two-week habitat monitoring activity at Mt. Hamut in Peñablanca, Cagayan. The JC’ s vine () is a critically endangered woody liana distinguished by dense

- [Pia Cayetano to DOE: Reflect falling global oil prices at local pumps](#) (2026-06-20 12:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Pia Cayetano on Saturday called on the Department of Energy (DOE) to ensure that any decline in global oil prices resulting from the recent US-Iran agreement is promptly reflected in local pump prices. “I am urging the Department of Energy to monitor this development closely and ensure that any decrease in

- [Endangered flying fox nursing behavior documented in Cotabato](#) (2026-06-20 12:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Environment officials have documented a rare instance of nursing behavior between an endangered large flying fox mother and her pup during a wildlife monitoring activity in Cotabato earlier this month. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-12 Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of Matalam recorded the behavior during semestral

- [Tropical storm outside PAR slightly intensifies on Saturday morning](#) (2026-06-20 12:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Tropical storm Mekkhala (international name) intensified slightly as it approached the eastern part of Southeastern Luzon but was still outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Saturday morning, the state weather bureau said. In its 11 a.m. bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Mekkhala was last

- [Typhoon-hit La Union farmers get insurance claims](#) (2026-06-20 12:03)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — Forty-five farmers from San Juan, La Union who were affected by Typhoon Uwan last year received insurance payouts from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC). The distribution of checks on Thursday (June 18) was led by Mayor Mariquita Ortega, together with personnel from the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) and representatives from the

- [Visayas power grid remains under yellow alert on Saturday](#) (2026-06-20 11:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Visayas grid remains under “yellow alert” status on Saturday due to high demand forecast and unavailability of Visayas’ large coal plants, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) announced. READ: NGCP: Mindanao earthquake

damages power lines In an advisory issued at 9 a.m. on Saturday, the NGCP said the alert

- [Pangasinan seeks DENR permit for reclaimed Capitol lands](#) (2026-06-20 11:25)

Pangasinan Provincial Capitol in Lingayen (Photo by Willie O. Lomibao) LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — The provincial government is applying for a Gratuitous Special Use Permit (GSUP) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to secure portions of reclaimed land behind the Provincial Capitol. Two resolutions have been filed authorizing Governor Ramon Guico III to

- [Mimaropa, Kalayaan Islands seen facing dry conditions by November](#) (2026-06-20 10:56)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The Department of Science and Technology–Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST-Pagasa) has warned that five provinces in Mimaropa and the Kalayaan Island Group are among 47 areas nationwide likely to experience dry conditions by November 2026. In its seasonal climate outlook posted on social media, Pagasa identified Oriental

- [DPWH chief warns public vs individuals posing as personnel](#) (2026-06-20 09:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon has warned the public against individuals posing as personnel of the DPWH amid the rise in cases of false representation of the agency authorized for access to projects and funds. This warning came after the DPWH on Friday said that an individual went

- [Oriental Mindoro town courts on holiday for June 22 founding anniversary](#) (2026-06-20 09:41)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — All courts in the municipality of Socorro, Oriental Mindoro, will suspend operations on June 22 in observance of the town's founding anniversary, according to an advisory from the Supreme Court. The suspension covers regular court work and proceedings for the day, allowing local courts to participate in the municipality's commemorative

- [Antipolo bishop honors Filipino social workers](#) (2026-06-20 09:32)

LUCENA CITY — Bishop Ruperto Cruz Santos of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Antipolo paid tribute to Filipino social workers, recognizing their dedication to serving society's most vulnerable sectors. In his reflection for the observance of Filipino Social Workers' Day on Friday, June 19, Santos highlighted the vital role social workers play in uplifting those

- [LTO urges motorists: Renew licenses, vehicle registration before July 31](#) (2026-06-20 08:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has advised motorists to renew their licenses before July 31, 2026 to avoid any penalties. According to the LTO, the extension of the validity of driver's license, conductor's license, student driver's permit, and registration of vehicles will end on July 31, 2026 as stated under the Memorandum

- [Human-animal bond seen as path to healing, well-being](#) (2026-06-20 08:29)

MANILA, Philippines — When loneliness and isolation “seem as widespread as ever,” the bonds between humans and animals serve as a reminder that “healing often begins with connection.” This was pointed out during the Second Philippine Human-Animal Bond Conference (PHABCON), which gathered health care professionals, researchers, students, veterinarians and advocates on May 30. Held at

- [Cyclone outside PAR now tropical storm; rains seen in parts of PH](#) (2026-06-20 07:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The tropical cyclone outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) has developed into a tropical storm, with its trough bringing rains over portions of Visayas and Mindanao on Saturday, the state weather bureau said. In the 5 a.m. forecast of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), weather specialist Veronica

- [Gatchalian says Alan Cayetano yet to greet him after Senate revamp](#) (2026-06-20 05:52)

Not even a simple “Like” on Facebook? Senate President Sherwin “Win” Gatchalian on Friday said the colleague he recently replaced in the chamber’s top position, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, had yet to congratulate him personally following the leadership change earlier this week. READ: No personal congratulatory gesture yet from Cayetano, says Gatchalian According to Gatchalian,

- [The House anti-dynasty bill: Approved, but not applauded](#) (2026-06-20 05:50)

(First of two parts) After decades of gridlock that stymied previous Congresses, the House of Representatives has finally passed an antipolitical dynasty bill on third reading—seemingly fulfilling a long-delayed constitutional aspiration. Yet, implementing the proposed law as drafted will tell a different story. READ: Anti-dynasty version passed is what got biggest support — Sandro Marcos

- [NFA to auction 741,570 bags of local rice](#) (2026-06-20 05:48)

The National Food Authority (NFA) is selling P1.19 billion worth of aging rice buffer stocks to free up warehouse space and increase its cash flow. In its notice of auction, the grains agency said it is offering 741,570 bags of local milled rice that have been stored for more than six months. READ: NFA to

- [Study: Trust in news declines amid high social media use](#) (2026-06-20 05:46)

Trust in news has declined in the country as social media continues to be the dominant source of information for Filipinos, a study by the Reuters Institute found. According to this year’s Digital News Report released on Tuesday, overall trust in news fell by 10 percent, from 38 percent in 2025 to 28 percent in

- [DND: Raps vs Gibo Teodoro a fishing expedition](#) (2026-06-20 05:42)

The Department of National Defense (DND) has dismissed the criminal complaint recently filed against Defense Secretary Gilberto “Gibo” Teodoro Jr., saying the charges were unverified and lacked competent evidence. DND assistant secretary and lawyer Erik Dy said in a statement that the charges of perjury, falsification and violations of the Philippine Passport Act against Teodoro

- [Coach Tab appears at Crame for drowning probe](#) (2026-06-20 05:34)

Tab Baldwin, the resigned head coach of the Ateneo de Manila University men’s basketball team, appeared before the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on Friday in response to the second subpoena it issued to him in connection with the investigation into the drowning of two student-athletes during an off-campus training in Dipaculao, Aurora, on

- [Gatchalian: Flood probe to continue if there are new testimonies](#) (2026-06-20 05:32)

The Senate blue ribbon committee’s inquiry into alleged irregularities in flood control projects may continue if new pieces of evidence emerge and additional witnesses come forward, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said on Friday. “It can still proceed if new evidence and new witnesses emerge because, if we recall, the report submitted by Senator [Ping] Lacson

- [Groups oppose Escudero return as Sara Duterte trial presiding officer](#) (2026-06-20 05:30)

As senators get back on track following a short-lived but tumultuous Senate leadership, a broad coalition of activist groups and concerned individuals warned on Friday that designating Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero as the presiding officer of the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte could “melt” the credibility of the chamber’s new majority. Escudero is

- [Benguet farmers reel from carrot imports](#) (2026-06-20 05:08)

BAGUIO CITY—Vegetable farmers and traders in Benguet are once again grappling with plunging carrot prices after truckloads of locally grown produce bound for markets in Metro Manila and Quezon province were returned unsold, amid what growers described as a fresh influx of imported carrots. The League of Associations at the La Trinidad Vegetable Trading Area

- [Caticlan seeks halt to LGU control over tourism spot](#) (2026-06-20 05:06)

ILOILO CITY—The village council of Caticlan, the gateway barangay to world-famous Boracay Island, has formally opposed the continued management and collection of tourism fees at Aron Magic Island, a popular cliff-diving destination frequented by local and international tourists, in a move that could have implications for tour operators and the island-hopping industry in Aklan. During

- [DENR orders permanent closure of old Davao landfill](#) (2026-06-20 05:04)

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in the Davao Region, on Friday ordered the permanent closure of the old sanitary landfill in Barangay New Carmen here, as a new garbage

disposal site has become available to handle the city's estimated 750 tons of waste per day.

- [Quake-hit Davao Occidental shuts tourism sites](#) (2026-06-20 05:02)

DAVAO CITY—The provincial government of Davao Occidental has suspended tourism activities across the earthquake-stricken province starting Wednesday and until further notice. Gov. Franklin Bautista tasked the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO), along with concerned national and local agencies, to conduct assessments to determine whether conditions are safe for the resumption of tourism

- [8 suspects, over P800,000 in meth netted in 24-hr sweep in Iloilo City](#) (2026-06-20 03:16)

ILOILO CITY – A 24-hour sweep by the Iloilo City Police Office (ICPO) resulted in the arrest of eight individuals and the seizure of suspected shabu valued at over P 800,000, underscoring the city's ongoing crackdown on illegal drugs. From 6 a.m. on June 17 to 6 a.m. on June 18, ICPO units conducted seven

- [P4-M smuggled cigarettes seized in Dapitan City](#) (2026-06-20 03:11)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Police arrested a 41-year-old man in Barangay Potungan, Dapitan City, early Friday morning, June 19, and confiscated some 70 master cases of illicit cigarettes. The suspect, a resident of Barangay Turno, Dipolog City, was nabbed in an intelligence-driven operation conducted by the Zamboanga del Norte Police Intelligence Unit, with

- [9 LTO 'kotong' enforcers nabbed in Agusan del Norte](#) (2026-06-20 03:08)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur – Allegations of repeat “kotong” activities by Land Transportation Office (LTO) field enforcement units have resurfaced after nine personnel of the LTO Caraga Regional Law Enforcement Section were arrested in an entrapment operation in Buenavista, Agusan del Norte—following a similar incident reported in Trento, Agusan del Sur last year. The

- [PDEA seizes P4.4-M shabu; arrests 3 suspects in Cavite, Batangas](#) (2026-06-20 02:51)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) arrested three suspected bigtime drug traffickers and seized more than P4.4 million worth of shabu (crystal meth) in separate anti-drug operations in Cavite and Batangas provinces on June 17 and June 18. In a report released on Friday, PDEA Region 4A said their operatives from

- [Solon files bill setting regulations for off-campus activities](#) (2026-06-20 02:47)

BALANGA CITY, Bataan – Pusong Pinoy partylist Rep. Jett Nisay has filed a proposed measure that mandates stringent regulation and safety standards for off-campus events. In House Bill 9892 or the “Local Off-Campus Activities Safety Act,” there would be mandatory risk assessment and medical screening of students who are joining off-campus activities, and strict parental

- [15 former terrorists yield to Army in Maguindanao del Sur](#) (2026-06-20 00:21)

COTABATO CITY – Some 15 members of a local terrorist group in Maguindanao del Sur surrendered, along with their weapons, to the Army’s 90th Infantry Battalion in Datu Saudi Ampatuan town on Friday morning, June 19. Lt. Col. Loqui O. Marco, 90th Infantry Battalion commander, presented the returnees to Brig. Gen. Edgar Catu, commander of

- [8 hurt as car crashes into rice field in Isabela](#) (2026-06-20 00:06)

CITY OF CAUAYAN, Isabela – Eight people were wounded, including four children, when a wayward car rammed a concrete barrier, turned upside down and ended up at a rice field along Alicia-Angadanan bypass road in Alicia, Isabela on Friday, June 19. The incident happened just before 8 a.m., the Isabela police said. READ: 4 family

- [Cops recover getaway vehicle used in Bukidnon robbery](#) (2026-06-19 23:51)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Police have recovered an abandoned pickup truck believed to be the getaway vehicle used in a recent robbery in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon. In a statement on Friday, June 19, the Police Regional Office-10 (PRO-10) said operatives conducting hot pursuit operations discovered a black Ford Ranger Wildtrak left near the Alae-Tagloan

- [CIDG: Wanted Pogo staff falls; leads to discovery of Muntinlupa scam hub](#) (2026-06-19 23:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) on Friday said its operatives arrested an alleged Philippine offshore gaming operator (Pogo) employee, leading to the discovery of a supposed scam hub in Muntinlupa City. The arrest was made early morning last Monday at the suspect’s home in Ayala Alabang Village, according

- [Ateneo drowning probe: CIDG mum on Baldwin appearance for now](#) (2026-06-19 23:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) declined to comment for now on former Ateneo de Manila University men’s basketball team head coach Tab Baldwin’s appearance in the investigation into the fatal drownings of players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. Baldwin had appeared with a team of lawyers before the

- [Army issues apology for ‘unintended’ killing of civilian in Bukidnon ops](#) (2026-06-19 23:35)

MALAYBALAY CITY, Bukidnon — The Army’s 88th Infantry Battalion (88IB) has issued a public apology to the family of a civilian woman who was mistakenly shot and killed by soldiers in a remote village here on June 15. In an interview over a local radio station, Lt. Col. Arnold Bautista, commanding officer of the 88IB,

- [Farmer nabbed for possession of illegal drugs, guns, ammo in Cotabato](#) (2026-06-19 23:21)

Cotabato City – A 59-year-old man was arrested after authorities seized from him suspected illegal drugs, firearms, ammunition, and a fragmentation grenade during the implementation of a search warrant in Barangay Tigbawan, Pigcawayan town, Cotabato on Thursday, June 18. Major Maxim Peralta, Pigcawayan police chief, identified the suspect as Redentor Necessario, 46, a farmer and

- [No jackpot winners in Ultra Lotto, Mega Lotto draws on June 19](#) (2026-06-19 21:54)

MANILA, Philippines — No bettor won the jackpot prizes for Ultra Lotto 6/58 and Mega Lotto 6/45 during the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draws held Friday, June 19. According to PCSO, the Ultra Lotto 6/58 winning combination was 43-53-08-45-20-11, with a jackpot prize of about ₱128 million. No ticket matched all six numbers. The

- [DSWD: Guaranteed letters now accepted in drugstore branches across PH](#) (2026-06-19 21:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Guaranteed letters issued by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) are now accepted to select Generika Drugstore branches across the country, according to the agency. A guarantee letter is issued to qualified beneficiaries to ensure payment to accredited providers for services needed, such as medical or burial expenses. READ: 82

- [La Union cites bird flu risk in disposal of over 20,000 seized eggs](#) (2026-06-19 21:34)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — After a video showing thousands of eggs being dumped at the San Fernando City landfill went viral and drew criticism on social media, the La Union Provincial Veterinary Office defended the disposal, saying it was carried out in accordance with existing regulations. More than 20,000 eggs were confiscated from a dealer at

- [Luistro: Conviction threshold to be tackled after pre-trial, may ask SC](#) (2026-06-19 20:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The prosecution team will discuss issues involving the threshold needed to convict Vice President Sara Duterte once the pre-trial conference is over, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said on Friday. Luistro was asked in an online interview whether the threshold issue — or proposals to lower the minimum number of votes needed to convict

- [Alan Cayetano accuses Teodoro Herbosa of politicizing DOH funds](#) (2026-06-19 20:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate minority leader Alan Peter Cayetano on Friday accused Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa of politicizing funds, noting that he was stripped off his capacity to refer patients to hospitals. Cayetano made this accusation during his fellowship lunch, saying that his “job” is to reveal the problem in the country’s healthcare system. He

- [Art conservation: How this UP professor is preserving pieces of the past | INQStories](#) (2026-06-19 19:43)

As art conservation remains a relatively uncommon field, art conservator and fine arts professor June “Beng” Dalisay has devoted her life to raising awareness of the discipline and training the next generation to help keep our heritage alive.

- [Ateneo coach’ s camp maintains Aurora drowning tragedy an ‘accident’](#) (2026-06-19 19:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University men’ s basketball team coach Reynaldo Jacinto maintained that the fatal drownings of players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili in Aurora were an “accident,” his lawyer said. Jacinto had appeared before the Philippine National Police–Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP–CIDG) in Camp Crame on Friday as part of the

- [Angara fast-tracks rollout of LCS in disaster-prone areas](#) (2026-06-19 19:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Education Secretary Sonny Angara has stepped on the Department of Education’ s (DepEd) classroom delivery drive with the completion of five disaster-resilient Learning Continuity Spaces (LCS) in Quezon, Bulacan, Davao del Norte, Davao de Oro and Bohol. This strategic deployment offers a rapid, cost-efficient solution to address classroom backlogs in schools facing the

- [Easterlies to drench parts of Luzon, Visayas as TD hovers outside PAR](#) (2026-06-19 18:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The tropical depression outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) is still not directly affecting the country, while easterlies are forecast to bring rains over parts of Luzon and Visayas, the state weather bureau said on Friday. In the 5 p.m. forecast of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration, weather

- [Group: Escudero as impeach trial lead may impact Senate credibility](#) (2026-06-19 18:35)

MANILA, Philippines — As the Senate got back on track after weeks of being tangled in chaos, a broad coalition of civil society groups, mass organizations, and concerned individuals has warned that designating Sen. Francis Escudero as the presiding officer of the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte could have a further impact on

- [Marcos back in Manila from ‘very productive’ Russia visit](#) (2026-06-19 18:30)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is back in Manila on Friday following what he described as a “very productive” two-day working visit to Kazan, Russia. He and the Philippine delegation landed at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City at 4:02 p.m. READ: INQToday: 24 Filipinos detained in Russia coming home – Marcos During the

- [Recto says P60-B fund transfer didn’ t affect PhilHealth operations](#) (2026-06-19 18:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Executive Secretary Ralph Recto on Friday maintained that the transfer of P60 billion in Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) funds to the National Treasury did not affect the state insurer’ s operations. This comes after a group led by Atty.

Rodel A. Taton, Dr. Cynthia C. Ng, and several other medical and legal professionals

- [Lead prosecutor says Duterte trial on July 6 confirmed](#) (2026-06-19 18:00)

MANILA, Philippines — What was certain following the first day of the pre-trial conference on Thursday was that all parties agreed to start the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte on July 6, lead House prosecutor Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said. Luistro, in an online interview with reporters covering the House of Representatives, said that

- [Senate OKs Loren Legarda bill declaring Waling waling as national orchid](#) (2026-06-19 17:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate has approved on third and final reading Senate Bill No. 2092 under Committee Report No. 58, declaring Waling-waling as national orchid, principally authored and sponsored by Sen. Loren Legarda, in a special session held on June 17, 2026. Legarda said the passage is a landmark in the country's effort to

- [San Juan City launches Right To Care Card](#) (2026-06-19 17:19)

MANILA, Philippines — San Juan Mayor Francisco Javier M. Zamora spearheaded the launching of the San Juan Right To Care Card on June 17, 2026, as part of the celebration of San Juan City's 19th Cityhood Anniversary. The Right To Care Card is the city's implementation of its Healthcare Proxy Ordinance, which allows qualified individuals

- [Groups to hold anti-corruption rally on June 28](#) (2026-06-19 16:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Several religious groups and civil society organizations are set to hold another anti-corruption rally dubbed as the “White Ribbon March” at the Edsa People Power Monument on June 28 to reiterate earlier calls of accountability and reforms within the government. In a press conference on Friday, Bishop Efraim Tendero said the upcoming

- [Remulla says ‘endemic’ corruption made illicit tobacco trade possible](#) (2026-06-19 16:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior secretary Jonvic Remulla has attributed the P141-billion government revenue loss from illegal tobacco trade to the “endemic” corruption in the country, emphasizing that enforcement efforts should target the operators, and not the small ones. Remulla made this statement during the Third International Tobacco Summit organized by the Department of Agriculture (DA)

- [Luistro: Stipulations, witnesses in VP trial submitted for resolution](#) (2026-06-19 16:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The stipulations and witnesses presented by the prosecution for Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial have been submitted and will soon be up for resolution, while marking of the evidence has not been finished, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said on Friday. In an online interview with reporters covering the House, Luistro — lead public

- [Marcos hopes Gatchalian’ s election ends Senate gridlock](#) (2026-06-19 15:23)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. expressed hope that the election of Senate President Win Gatchalian would finally end the legislative gridlock that has hindered the passage of priority measures. Gatchalian was elected Senate president during the chamber’ s special session on Wednesday. READ: Gatchalian is new Senate president “That is exactly what we have been all

- [Youth groups question delay in Joel Villanueva case amid Senate shake-up](#) (2026-06-19 15:07)

[Updated June 19, 2026, 5:02 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — Youth groups on Friday questioned the Office of the Ombudsman’ s alleged failure to file charges against Sen. Joel Villanueva despite earlier pronouncements that the case against him was “already ripe” for filing. Members of Samahan ng Progresibong Kabataan (Spark), Kilusan para sa Kalusugan, Kabuhayan, Kalikasan, at

- [Marcos backs Escudero’ s return to preside over VP impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-19 14:45)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday raised no concerns with the possible return of Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero as presiding officer of the impeachment court that will try the case against Vice President Sara Duterte. Escudero is criticized for his handling of the first impeachment proceedings in 2025 for allegedly stalling the trial

- [P1.02M ‘shabu’ seized from tricycle driver in Tuguegarao City](#) (2026-06-19 14:43)

TUGUEGARAO CITY – Police anti-drug operatives seized an estimated P1.02 million worth of suspected “shabu” (crystal meth), weighing about 150 grams, from a tricycle driver during a raid inside an alleged drug den in the city’ s poblacion area on Friday. Police Lt. Col. Garry Matagay, Tuguegarao City police chief, said the 37-year-old female tricycle driver,

- [Hontiveros: Alan Cayetano claim vs Senate majority ‘lacking in fairness’](#) (2026-06-19 14:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros on Friday dismissed Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano’ s accusation that the new Senate majority was supposedly covering up the alleged flood control scandal, saying such remarks were “lacking in fairness.” In a media interview in Cebu City, Hontiveros said members of the Senate’ s new majority had in fact initiated and

- [Ateneo drowning probe needs another week to finish, says DILG chief](#) (2026-06-19 14:33)

MANILA, Philippines —Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Friday said the investigation into the drowning of Ateneo de Manila University basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili will need another week to be completed. “We are piecing together the testimonies of what makes sense and what doesn’ t,” Remulla told reporters in an interview in Camp Crame.

- [Diokno, Akbayan bloc seek probe of Mindanao quake, disaster readiness](#) (2026-06-19 14:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawmakers from the Akbayan bloc in the House of Representatives have called for a congressional inquiry on the Mindanao earthquake’ s impact and the government’ s response, along with the country’ s overall disaster preparedness. In a statement on Friday, Akbayan party-list Rep. Chel Diokno said that he, along Akbayan party-list Reps. Percival Cendaña and

- [Taytay, Rizal heat index hits alarming 49.41°C](#) (2026-06-19 14:28)

LUCENA CITY – The local government of Taytay, Rizal, has urged residents to take necessary precautions after the town recorded a dangerous heat index of 49.41 degrees Celsius on Friday. In an advisory posted on its Facebook page, the Taytay Public Information Office (PIO) said the municipality’ s heat index, or “real-feel” temperature, reached 49.41°C as

- [BOC files raps vs 5 cargo firms over abandoned balikbayan boxes](#) (2026-06-19 14:12)

MANILA, Philippines —The Bureau of Customs (BOC) on Friday filed another round of criminal charges, this time against five cargo companies, over thousands of balikbayan boxes just gathering dust in various ports in the country. Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno on Friday said the BOC lodged complaints before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against Ikthus Trading

- [Master Buboy: 4-year-old taekwondo prodigy clinches his 3rd gold](#) (2026-06-19 14:11)

Mention the typical routine of a modern Filipino toddler, and most people will paint a very specific picture of them glued to their phone screens while playing Roblox and Minecraft. In the case of four-year-old Jarris Kyxz S. Carrasco from General Trias, Cavite, he trades screen time for gold medals. Locally known as “Master Buboy,”

- [Marcos wants Abalos back in gov’ t, rules out Cabinet revamp](#) (2026-06-19 14:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Addressing rumors of another Cabinet revamp, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said he wants former Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos to play a more active role in government but clarified that this would not come at the expense of any current Cabinet official. The statement comes amid speculation about the possible exit of current Interior

- [PNP finalizing security preps for Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-19 14:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Friday said it was finalizing its security measures for the Senate impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. The House prosecution panel and Duterte’ s defense team held their first pretrial conference at the Senate last Thursday, as the July 6 start of the trial approached. “The

- [CIDG subpoenas Ateneo president for June 25 drowning probe – Remulla](#) (2026-06-19 13:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police – Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP–CIDG) has subpoenaed Ateneo de Manila University president Fr. Roberto Yap, according to Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla. This is in connection with the police’ s investigation into the fatal drownings of Ateneo men’ s basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. (There are graduation

- [Too early to say if Baldwin liable for Ateneo cagers’ death – Remulla](#) (2026-06-19 13:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Investigators have yet to establish whether or not Ateneo de Manila University men’ s basketball head coach Tab Baldwin can be held liable for the death due to drowning of two of his players earlier this month, Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. Baldwin on Friday morning showed up at the Philippine National Police –

- [Ateneo probe: Players, coaches give ‘inconsistent’ accounts](#) (2026-06-19 13:12)

MANILA, Philippines — “Inconsistencies” emerged between the accounts of the Ateneo de Manila University men’ s basketball players and their coaching staff regarding the fatal drowning of student-athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. Former Ateneo men’ s basketball head coach Tab Baldwin and several other university athletics officials attended the Philippine National Police’ s (PNP) investigation in Camp

- [Sara Duterte’ s pre-trial brief shows ‘above the law’ mindset – Adiong](#) (2026-06-19 13:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte’ s pre-trial brief for the impeachment proceedings supposedly reveals a mindset that she is beyond the reach of the law, as Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong noted that her inability to properly respond to the allegations reeks of disrespect. In a press briefing, Adiong said that the lack

- [Senate output, not operating costs, is the real issue – Lacson](#) (2026-06-19 13:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson on Friday doubled down on his criticism of former Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano’ s 28-day stint as Senate chief, arguing that the issue was not the Senate’ s operating expenses but the chamber’ s lack of legislative output during the period. In another post on X this Friday, Lacson wrote:

- [Tropical depression outside PAR may become a storm late Friday](#) (2026-06-19 12:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The tropical depression outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) may intensify into a tropical storm on Friday afternoon or evening, the state weather bureau said. In its 11 a.m. bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that the tropical depression was last located 1,850 kilometers east of

- [Diokno seeks to expand paternity leave to 105 days](#) (2026-06-19 12:30)

MANILA – Recognizing the irreplaceable role of fathers in raising children and strengthening families, Akbayan Party-list Rep. Chel Diokno has filed a proposed measure seeking to expand paternity leave benefits for fathers from the current seven days to a total of 105 days. Filed on Wednesday, House Bill No. 9891, or the proposed Paternity and

- [INQToday: 24 Filipinos detained in Russia coming home – Marcos](#) (2026-06-19 12:18)

24 Filipinos detained in Russia coming home – Marcos | INQToday Twenty four Filipinos detained in Russia will be released and repatriated to the Philippines, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. announced on Friday. He made the announcement in a social media post on Friday at the conclusion of his two-day working visit in Kazan, Russia, for

- [Grief and gratitude: Ateneo holds Baccalaureate Mass with black ribbons](#) (2026-06-19 11:59)

Graduating AB Economics student Vinzen Josh Borja leading the Panalangin ng mga Magsisipagtapos during the Baccalaureate Mass wearing his black band (Screengrabbed from Ateneo de Manila University’ s livestream on Youtube) MANILA, Philippines — Graduating Ateneo de Manila University students gathered on Friday in “grief and gratitude” during its Baccalaureate Mass for the Loyola Schools Class

- [Idle cages restocked with bangus fingerlings in Pangasinan town](#) (2026-06-19 11:56)

ANDA, Pangasinan – Fish cage operators in this island town whose cages had remained idle for years are getting a fresh start after receiving bangus (milkfish) fingerlings from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region 1 on Tuesday, June 16. The assistance is part of BFAR’ s program to boost fish production in the

- [Bukidnon trekker remains missing after week-long search](#) (2026-06-19 11:40)

PANGANTUCAN, Bukidnon— A total of 127 volunteers, soldiers, and police officers backed by drones and K9 units have failed to find missing 31-year-old hiker Alkharj Gomez Zamayla, who went missing while climbing Mt. Kalatungan, the country’ s fifth-highest mountain. Barangay Kagawad Emelia Guina said seven search parties led by local guides have failed to find Zamayla in

- [Imus residents urged to harvest rainwater to cut costs](#) (2026-06-19 11:12)

LUCENA CITY – With the onset of the rainy season, the local government of Imus City, Cavite, is encouraging residents to harvest rainwater to reduce household expenses and help protect the environment. In a Facebook post written in Filipino on Thursday, the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) said rainwater collected from rooftops

- [Over 1,400 transport workers in Eastern Visayas get aid](#) (2026-06-19 10:59)

TACLOBAN CITY – As rising fuel prices continue to squeeze the earnings of public transport workers, over 1,400 drivers, conductors, mechanics, and other transport personnel across

Eastern Visayas will receive temporary employment and wage assistance under the TUPAD(Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers) Tuloy Pasada 2026program. The initiative, jointly launched by the Department

- [PNP chief to schools: Students’ safety must come first](#) (2026-06-19 10:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said he hopes schools would place students’ safety first amid the PNP’ s investigation of the drowning of Ateneo de Manila University men’ s basketball team players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. “We owe it to the grieving families of Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili

- [June 24 declared a holiday in Lian, Batangas for Sambuhos Festival](#) (2026-06-19 10:35)

LUCENA CITY – Malacañang has declared June 24 a special non-working day in the town of Lian, Batangas, in observance of the “Sambuhos Festival.” Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, through Proclamation No. 1321 issued on June 16, said the declaration was intended to give residents “full opportunity to participate in the occasion and enjoy the celebration.”

- [Filipinos consuming less news, not switching platforms — analyst](#) (2026-06-19 10:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The latest Digital News Report on the Philippines suggests that many Filipinos are consuming less news overall, a data scientist said. Released by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism this week, the report provided a look at the “profound transformation” of news consumption over the past six years. Between 2020

- [‘Flood control probe may continue if new witnesses, evidence emerge’](#) (2026-06-19 10:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate’ s probe into alleged irregularities in government flood control projects may continue if new evidence and witnesses surface, but stressed that affidavits must first be submitted in advance, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said on Friday. Gatchalian pointed out that since the former blue ribbon committee chairperson Sen. Panfilo Lacson has only

- [Ex-cop, 2 others nabbed in Iloilo City drug bust; P1.36M shabu seized](#) (2026-06-19 10:15)

ILOILO CITY – A 60-year-old former police officer and two other suspects were arrested, and over P1.3 million worth of suspected “shabu” (crystal meth) was seized in a buy-bust operation in Mandurriao District on Tuesday afternoon. Personnel of Iloilo City Police Station 10 (ICPS10), under the leadership of Officer-in-Charge Police Captain Lester Oliveros, conducted the

- [Pagadian City mall buy-bust nets P4-M worth of ‘shabu’](#) (2026-06-19 09:53)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur– Operatives of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Zamboanga del Sur Provincial Office (ZDSPO) arrested a high-value drug suspect, seizing an estimated P4.08 million worth of suspected “shabu” (crystal meth) in a buy-bust operation inside a mall in Barangay San Pedro, Pagadian City, on Thursday morning. The operation,

conducted at

- [PNP orders dismissal proceedings vs cop in alleged applicant extortion](#) (2026-06-19 09:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. ordered dismissal proceedings against a police official from the Police Regional Office – Bicol Region (PRO 5) tagged in an alleged extortion of a police force applicant. “I am deeply infuriated that a high-ranking officer and medical professional would blatantly compromise the

- [No personal congratulatory gesture yet from Cayetano, says Gatchalian](#) (2026-06-19 09:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Friday said his predecessor, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano has yet to personally congratulate him following the recent leadership change in the chamber, stressing that his doors remain open for all. According to Gatchalian, many of his colleagues, even from the minority, had already reached out to him

- [Taal Volcano update: Sulfur emissions up; Alert Level 1 stays](#) (2026-06-19 09:05)

LUCENA CITY – Taal Volcano’s sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions slightly increased even as its seismic activity remained generally quiet, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported on Friday. In its latest 24-hour monitoring report, Phivolcs said Taal emitted 448 tons of sulfur dioxide on Thursday, more than the average daily emission rate of

- [Ateneo drowning probe: Baldwin arrives at CIDG](#) (2026-06-19 08:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Ateneo de Manila University men’s basketball team Tab Baldwin arrived at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City, on Friday. This is in connection with the CIDG’s investigation into the fatal drownings of Ateneo players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili during a training activity along

- [Over 8,300 aftershocks recorded after magnitude 7.8 Mindanao quake](#) (2026-06-19 07:42)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 8,381 aftershocks have been recorded since the magnitude 7.8 offshore earthquake that struck Maasim, Sarangani in Mindanao last June 8, state seismologists said Friday. In an update issued at 5 a.m. on Friday, June 19, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said 2,040 of the aftershocks had

- [Tropical depression east of Visayas may enter PAR by weekend](#) (2026-06-19 07:25)

MANILA, Philippines — A tropical depression east of Visayas may enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) by Saturday night, according to the state weather bureau. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on Friday morning said that the tropical depression was spotted some 2,085 kilometers east of Eastern Visayas. It is packing

- [Trillanes: No ICC warrant vs Bong Go](#) (2026-06-19 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV on Thursday refuted the claim of Davao City Rep. Paolo “Pulong” Duterte that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has already released a warrant of arrest against Sen. Christopher “Bong” Go. “Don’t believe Pulong. No ICC warrant has come out for anyone yet,” said Trillanes, who was the

- [PNP eyes hazing raps in Ateneo players’ drowning](#) (2026-06-19 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. hinted at possible cases for violation of Republic Act No. 11053 or the Anti-Hazing Act in connection with the drowning of Ateneo de Manila men’s basketball team members, Rene Clert Baterbonia, 18, and Divine Adili, 21. In an interview with reporters in Camp

- [P700M for ‘chaos’ : Lacson on Cayetano’s 28 days as Senate president](#) (2026-06-19 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson on Thursday said the Senate spent an estimated P700 million during the 28 days that Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano served as Senate President, describing the period as a costly episode marked by political turmoil and legislative paralysis. In a post on X, Lacson said Cayetano’s brief tenure as

- [Hontiveros, Pia Cayetano in testy exchange over hospital detention law](#) (2026-06-19 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate’s special session on Wednesday saw a heated debate between Senators Pia Cayetano and Risa Hontiveros over amendments to Republic Act No. 9439, or the antihospital detention law, bringing to mind an earlier encounter between the two lawmakers last month. Cayetano, who authored RA 9439, questioned the amendments put forward by

- [VP impeachment: ‘Tension,’ disputes mark pretrial meet](#) (2026-06-19 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution panel and the defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte on Thursday took another step toward the July 6 start of her impeachment trial despite heated arguments during their first pretrial conference to agree on the evidence and witnesses to be presented. Spokespersons for the prosecution team said the

- [2 arrested for selling illegal chainsaws in Mindoro](#) (2026-06-19 05:10)

ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — The owners of a store in Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro selling chainsaws without authorization from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), were arrested on June 9. The DENR commended the National Bureau of Investigation-Mimaropa for the arrest of Matt Jefferson Go and Miriam Go and the seizure of three high-powered

- [Pest ravages sugarcane farms in the Visayas](#) (2026-06-19 05:06)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — Close to 5,000 hectares of sugarcane farms have been ravaged by the red-striped soft-scale insect (RSSI) in the Visayas, the Sugar

Regulatory Administration (SRA) reported on Thursday. The infestation has more than doubled in six days, and has expanded to 244 villages on the islands of Negros, Panay and

- [Bohol wants to preserve its link to ‘ubi kinampay’](#) (2026-06-19 05:04)

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL, Philippines — The Bohol provincial government has applied for geographical indication (GI) protection for “ubi kinampay,” the province’s iconic purple yam variety, in a move aimed at preserving its authenticity, cultural heritage and economic value. Led by Gov. Erico Aristotle Aumentado, the provincial government through the Bohol Economic Development and Investment Promotion

- [Solar power brings water, electricity to quake-hit areas](#) (2026-06-19 05:02)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Residents in several villages in Glan, Sarangani, are enjoying restored water supply service and limited electricity a week after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake rocked Mindanao, thanks to solar power. Remegio Timonio, director of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) in Soccsksargen (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and

- [Elderly pedestrian dead in Rizal road accident](#) (2026-06-19 01:43)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — A 70-year-old woman died after being struck by a passenger jeepney on Wednesday, June 17, in Pililla, Rizal. A report from the Police Regional Office 4A said the victim, identified only as “Nene,” was attempting to cross a road in Barangay Niogan on Wednesday morning when she was hit by

- [Price freeze ordered as Mindoro town declares state of calamity](#) (2026-06-19 01:30)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — Prices of basic necessities in Puerto Galera town, Oriental Mindoro have been automatically frozen following the declaration of a state of calamity due to a prevailing water supply shortage, authorities announced. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-Mimaropa said the price freeze took effect after the Puerto Galera Sangguniang

- [Police major arrested over alleged extortion of PNP applicant in Albay](#) (2026-06-19 01:11)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — A police major assigned to the Regional Medical Unit of the Police Regional Office in Bicol was arrested in an entrapment operation on Thursday for allegedly extorting money from a Philippine National Police (PNP) applicant. Police Lt. Col. Maria Luisa Calubaquib, Bicol police spokesperson, said the 40-year-old officer was caught

- [Our Ocean Conference: Poe champions PH progress and surging biodiversity](#) (2026-06-18 23:16)

MOMBASA, Kenya — Representing the Philippines, Rep. Brian Poe of the FPJ Panday Bayanihan party-list delivered the Philippine Statement at the 11th Our Ocean Conference (OOC11), highlighting the country’s accelerated marine conservation milestones and unveiling five new

national commitments to safeguard ocean ecosystems. Poe opened the address by emphasizing the existential tie between the Filipino

- [Nearly P1-M expired food, goods seized in Quiapo, 5 vendors nabbed](#) (2026-06-18 23:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly P1 million worth of allegedly expired food and other goods were confiscated by the police in Quiapo, Manila, leading to the arrest of five vendors, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said on Thursday. This came through an operation near the corner of Villalobos and Palanca streets in Barangay 386

- [No external injuries seen on 2 bodies found in car along TPLEX](#) (2026-06-18 23:08)

MANILA, Philippines — No apparent external injuries were found on the two bodies found in a car parked at a rest stop along the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX), the Tarlac Provincial Police Office said on Thursday. The two bodies had been discovered on Wednesday at a rest stop along the southbound segment of the TPLEX

- [Legarda marks Rizal's 165th birth anniversary with call for unity](#) (2026-06-18 23:05)

MANILA, Philippines — As the nation commemorates the 165th birth anniversary of Dr. José Rizal on June 19, Senator Loren Legarda reflected on how the national hero's vision continues to guide Filipinos through times of change. The senator emphasized that Rizal's ideals of truth, education, and patriotism remain vital as the country confronts challenges, reminding

- [Pulong Duterte claps back at Remulla over 'high' remark: Get a mirror](#) (2026-06-18 22:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Davao City Rep. Paolo “Pulong” Duterte has fired back at Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla's remark that he was “high” when he claimed that International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest orders are underway, saying that the cabinet official should check his mirror first. Duterte on Thursday, in a statement posted on his Facebook page,

- [No jackpot winners in SuperLotto 6/49, Lotto 6/42 draws on June 18](#) (2026-06-18 21:47)

MANILA, Philippines — No bettor won the jackpot prizes for either SuperLotto 6/49 or Lotto 6/42 during the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draws held Thursday, June 18, 2026. According to PCSO, the winning combination for SuperLotto 6/49 was 27-26-21-06-20-16, with a jackpot prize of approximately ₱33.84 million. No ticket matched all six numbers. For

- [Human settlements dept turns over 300 modular shelter units to Naga City](#) (2026-06-18 21:17)

LEGAZPI CITY — Naga City has begun benefiting from the expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino (4PH) program with the turnover of 300 modular shelter units in Barangay Pacol on Thursday. Naga City Mayor Maria Leonor Robredo thanked the national government for the Bayanihan Village units, which will provide immediate housing assistance to families affected by

- [Complaint filed vs Teodoro over ‘dual citizenship’](#) (2026-06-18 21:15)

MANILA, Philippines — A complaint was filed before the Pasay City Prosecutor’s Office seeking an investigation over issues related to Defense Sec. Gilbert “Gibo” Teodoro Jr.’s alleged dual citizenship. In a 16-page joint complaint-affidavit, petitioners Russel Miraflores, Jerry Hondrado, Antonio Balondo Jr. and Ernie Arimala asked the prosecutor’s office to conduct a preliminary investigation against

- [DPWH opens 57 kilometers of Samar–Eastern Samar highway](#) (2026-06-18 20:56)

TACLOBAN CITY — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has opened 57 kilometers (km) of the 70-km Basey-Maydolong Road, which links the provinces of Samar and Eastern Samar. This significantly reduces travel time between the cities of Tacloban and Borongan. As of May this year, the DPWH-Eastern Visayas (DPWH-8) reported that P1.7 billion of

- [PDP-Laban recognizes Gatchalian as Senate president – Padilla](#) (2026-06-18 20:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Partido Demokratiko ng Pilipinas, also known as the PDP-Laban, recognizes the Senate presidency of Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, the party’s ex-president Sen. Robin Padilla said on Thursday. Gatchalian was elected as Senate president on Wednesday with the vote of 13 members of the chamber. “The party has accepted the proclamation of Senator

- [Group appeals dismissal of raps vs. Recto, others over PhilHealth funds](#) (2026-06-18 20:09)

MANILA, Philippines — A coalition of doctors and lawyers on Thursday urged the Office of the Ombudsman to review its resolution that cleared top government officials over the controversial transfer of P60 billion from the state-run Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) reserve funds to the national treasury. The motion for reconsideration challenges the Ombudsman’s June 2,

- [Drug suspect with M-14 rifle nabbed in Cotabato](#) (2026-06-18 19:43)

COTABATO CITY – Anti-narcotics operatives serving a search warrant arrested a suspect for possession of alleged shabu and a loose high-powered firearm in Kabacan, Cotabato on Wednesday. Charlene Magdurulang, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA-12) regional director, said the operation conducted in Sitio Lumayong, Barangay Kayaga led to the arrest of a 45-year-old man known by

- [House resolution seeking probe into Ateneo cagers’ death filed](#) (2026-06-18 19:41)

MANILA, Philippines — A resolution seeking a congressional inquiry into the deaths of two members of the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) men’s basketball team has been filed by several ranking officials of the House of Representatives. In a statement on Thursday, Deputy Speakers Paolo Ortega V and Jefferson Khonghun, along with Deputy Majority Leader Ernest

- [Cayetano calls Lacson ‘divisive’ , slams P700M estimate](#) (2026-06-18 19:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano on Thursday accused Sen. Panfilo Lacson of being “divisive” and engaging in “intellectual dishonesty” after the latter claimed that the Senate spent P700 million during Cayetano’s 28-day stint as Senate president with only “chaos” as the outcome. “I said, where could that figure have come from?”

- [PNP chief hints at anti-hazing violations in Ateneo students’ drowning](#) (2026-06-18 18:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said possible violations of Republic Act No. 11053, or the Anti-Hazing Act, are being considered in connection with the drowning of two Ateneo de Manila University student-athletes. In an interview with reporters at Camp Crame on Thursday, Nartatez said the Philippine National

- [Duterte’s defense team disputes claims they were unprepared in pre-trial](#) (2026-06-18 18:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte’s defense team on her impeachment trial on Thursday disputed claims that they were not ready during the first day of the pre-trial conference. In an interview with Senate reporters on the sidelines of the closed-door conference, defense spokesperson Michael Poa questioned where such information came from. “To be

- [New DPWH bypass road transforms DepEd’s Last Mile Schools in Bulacan](#) (2026-06-18 18:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The completion of the 67.93-kilometer Doña Remedios Trinidad-Dingalan Bypass Road finally resolved the chronic hurdles that students and teachers have to face to reach so-called Last Mile Schools in Bulacan, according to a statement issued by the Department of Education (DepEd) on Thursday. The bypass road, which was built by the Department

- [Prosecution team confirms heated debates, but pre-trial still a success](#) (2026-06-18 18:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Spokespersons of the prosecution team for Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial have confirmed the heated discussions between the prosecutors and the defense panel, but noted that the pre-trial conference was still a success as both parties were able to move forward. In a press briefing on Thursday, Kabataan party-list Rep. Renee Co

- [Ateneo coaches to face contempt raps if no-show again at CIDG](#) (2026-06-18 18:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Ateneo de Manila University men’s basketball head coach Thomas “Tab” Baldwin and the team’s other coaches may face indirect contempt cases if they fail to appear again before the Philippine National Police–Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP–CIDG). Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla made this warning in an interview with

- [Pests ravage sugarcane plantations in Bukidnon](#) (2026-06-18 18:15)

QUEZON, Bukidnon – The highly-destructive red-striped soft scale insect (RSSI) has infected about 30 hectares of sugarcane plantations in Kitaotao, Bukidnon, with planters warning of a possible widespread devastation if immediate measures are not properly taken. In Negros and Panay Islands, at least 1,788 hectares of sugarcane farms had been infested by RSSI (*Pulvinaria tenuivalvata*)

- [Sara Duterte impeachment pre-trial conference to resume Monday, June 22](#) (2026-06-18 18:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The pre-trial conference for the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte will resume on Monday, June 22, after the parties completed the marking of evidence for only one article of impeachment, leaving three more to be tackled before the trial proper can begin. Lawyer Michael Poa, spokesperson for Duterte’s defense team gave

- [DENR lauds NBI crackdown on illegal chainsaw trade in Oriental Mindoro](#) (2026-06-18 18:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) commended the National Bureau of Investigation in Mimaropa for its successful operation against the illegal sale of chainsaws in Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro. DENR said it was a critical step in protecting the region’s forests and strengthening the country’s climate resilience. “We thank the NBI

- [DILG on Duterte saying ICC arrest order for Go out: He might be ‘high’](#) (2026-06-18 17:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said Davao City Rep. Paulo “Pulong” Duterte “may have been high” on drugs when a purported source had told him that the International Criminal Court (ICC) ordered Sen. Bong Go arrested. “We’re always prepared. But, those kinds of pronouncements are dangerous,” Remulla told reporters in

- [Loan to ease gulf war impact available to Antique Pag-IBIG members](#) (2026-06-18 17:48)

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – Members of the Pag-IBIG Fund in Antique can now avail of an emergency cash loan, designed especially to cushion the impact of the conflict in the Middle East. Antique branch manager Donald Alton Cahilo said on Wednesday the Special Assistance for Financial Emergencies (SAFE) loan offers up to a maximum

- [Nine out of ten Filipino youth spend time online – DICT](#) (2026-06-18 17:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Nine out of 10 young Filipinos navigate online spaces, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) chief said in a digital literacy event in Makati on Thursday. According to DICT Secretary Henry Aguda, “80 percent of the digital platform traffic right now is still through Facebook or through the whole Meta

- [Ejercito backs resolution on funding for Mindanao quake relief](#) (2026-06-18 17:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Senior Deputy Majority Leader JV Ejercito co-sponsored Senate Resolution No. 447 urging the national government to ensure immediate and long-term government support for areas affected by a recent magnitude 7.8 earthquake, particularly in Sarangani, South Cotabato, Davao Occidental, and Davao del Sur. “These lives are not mere numbers. These are lives and futures

- [DILG to submit full report on Ateneo drowning case to DOJ on Tuesday](#) (2026-06-18 17:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of the Interior and Local Government’s (DILG) report into the fatal drownings of Ateneo de Manila University basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili will be turned over to the Department of Justice (DOJ) next Tuesday. In an interview with reporters at Camp Crame on Thursday, DILG Secretary Jonvic Remulla

- [DAR distributes P7.4M farm machinery to agri beneficiaries in Ilocos Norte](#) (2026-06-18 17:32)

SARRAT, Ilocos Norte — The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) on Thursday distributed farm machinery and equipment (FMEs), including farm inputs worth P7.4 million, to 14 agrarian reform beneficiary organizations (ARBOs) and 12 farmers’ associations in Ilocos Norte. During the ceremonial turnover at Barangay 23 San Roque’s covered court, DAR Ilocos Norte chief agrarian reform program

- [Zamboanga City to change zone of protected area into impounding dam](#) (2026-06-18 17:13)

ZAMBOANGA CITY — The city government is rezoning a portion of the Pasonanca Protected Area to pave the way for the construction of a water impounding dam. The project is meant to help ease the recurring water problem in the area during prolonged dry spells. Gerry Pollisco, chief of the Office of the City Environment and

- [Mindanao quake death toll climbs to 78; 1.5 million affected](#) (2026-06-18 17:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The death toll from the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Maasim, Sarangani in Mindanao has climbed to 78 on Thursday, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). Based on NDRRMC’s data as of 6 a.m. on June 18, of the fatalities, 57 were recorded in Region

- [Cayetano claps back on colleagues slamming him over FB live rants](#) (2026-06-18 17:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano on Thursday clapped back against colleagues slamming him for constantly broadcasting on Facebook rather than facing them and the media at the Senate in person. During another Facebook live broadcast, Cayetano questioned why several senators — particularly Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson, Erwin Tulfo and Raffy Tulfo — were

- [Trillanes says no ICC warrant against Bong Go yet](#) (2026-06-18 16:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV on Thursday refuted claims by Davao City Rep. Paolo Duterte that an arrest warrant has already been released by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Sen. Bong Go. To recall, it was Trillanes who first revealed the ICC arrest warrants against former President Rodrigo Duterte, as well

- [Bukidnon resort suspends adventure operations after zipline mishap](#) (2026-06-18 16:27)

KITAOTAO, Bukidnon — A resort in Kitaotao, Bukidnon, has temporarily suspended its amusement and adventure operations to conduct a comprehensive safety review following a zipline accident that injured a 25-year-old Indian tourist on June 14. In a statement on Thursday, the Greek Hills Resort said that it will resume operations on Friday for its resort

- [CHED approves doctor of medicine programs in 5 SUCs](#) (2026-06-18 16:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has approved the applications of five state universities and colleges (SUCs) to operate a Doctor of Medicine program for the incoming school year as part of efforts to address the shortage of health-care professionals in the country. “The Philippines has long struggled with a severe shortage

- [Dole creates office that will provide free legal aid to workers](#) (2026-06-18 16:08)

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) on Thursday announced the creation of a labor attorney’ s office (LAO) that will provide free legal assistance to workers. The department cited the emerging concerns of those who are part of the gig economy and digital labor platforms. Under Department Order No. 258-26 issued by Dole, the

- [9 retired drug detection dogs up for adoption – PDEA](#) (2026-06-18 15:53)

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) is seeking adoptive families for nine retired Narcotic Detection Dogs (NDDs) that have served for years in anti-illegal drug operations across the country. READ: PDEA’ s 13 retired hero dogs get new home in their family-adopters The retired K9s include five Belgian Malinois, three Jack Russell Terriers, and

- [High-value suspect nabbed in Zamboanga City drug sting](#) (2026-06-18 15:52)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – An alleged notorious drug pusher was arrested in a buy-bust operation conducted by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) along Calle Imbornal, Barangay Sta. Catalina, in Zamboanga City on Tuesday night. The PDEA Zamboanga City Office led other law enforcement units during the operation launched at around 8:10 p.m.

- [Iloilo consumers face higher June electricity bills](#) (2026-06-18 15:33)

ILOILO CITY — Consumers of MORE Electric and Power Corporation (MORE Power) will see an increase in their electricity bills this June, driven by skyrocketing generation costs and a crippled power supply in the Visayas grid. The distribution utility announced an overall rate hike of P2.04 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). For residential consumers, the rate will climb to P13.91/kWh

- [High heat index hits 4 areas in Cavite, Quezon, Rizal](#) (2026-06-18 15:00)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon— Despite rainy weather conditions, four localities in Cavite, Quezon, and Rizal recorded high heat index levels on Thursday. In a public advisory posted on Facebook, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) of Atimonan, Quezon, reported a heat index of 43 degrees Celsius at 11:59 a.m., based on data from the

- [COA flags bulk water supply deal in Cagayan de Oro](#) (2026-06-18 14:48)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – The joint venture involving this city’ s water facility for bulk water supply is in hot water yet again after the Commission on Audit (COA) flagged the arrangement for drastically inflating bulk water prices, to the disadvantage of consumers here. In its Special Audit Office Report No. 2026-02, state auditors revealed that

- [Many teens find ‘safe refuge’ on social media – child protection specialist](#) (2026-06-18 14:43)

MANILA, Philippines — While concerns over the harmful effects of social media on children grow, a child protection specialist on Thursday cautioned against the total ban of online platforms among the youth, noting that many teenagers also find support and a sense of belonging in digital spaces. According to Stairway Foundation’ s Child Protection Specialist Ysrael

- [Gatchalian: Gov’ t must ensure reduced oil prices as US-Iran war ends](#) (2026-06-18 14:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin “Win” Gatchalian called on the government on Thursday to ensure that the effects of the agreement signed between the US and Iran would “swiftly” be felt in the country, particularly in lowering petroleum product prices. Gatchalian issued his call after the US and Iran earlier signed a memorandum of

- [AICS bill delay due to technicalities, not ‘anti-epal’ section — solon](#) (2026-06-18 14:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The delay in the ratification of a bill institutionalizing the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) was due to technicalities, not opposition to the so-called “anti-epal” provisions, Davao Oriental Rep. Cheeno Miguel Almario said in a statement on Thursday. Almario heads the House committee on social services, which was responsible for discussing

- [P1.7 million stolen as gunmen ambush bank employees in Bukidnon](#) (2026-06-18 14:21)

MANOLO FORTICH, Bukidnon — Armed robbers carted away about P1.7 million in cash after attacking three employees of a rural bank along a highway in Barangay Damilag here on Wednesday morning, police said. Col. Oliver Sotto Navales, Bukidnon police director, said the employees of South Bank’ s Libona branch were transporting the bank’ s cash collections for

- [Calamba City mayor orders cleanup, dredging as rainy season begins](#) (2026-06-18 13:59)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Calamba City Mayor Roseller Rizal in Laguna province has ordered barangay officials to conduct dredging, desilting, and clearing operations in creeks and other waterways as the rainy season begins. In a memorandum written in Filipino and posted on his official Facebook page, Rizal directed all barangay captains to immediately carry out

- [Heated discussions in Day 1 of pre-trial, but Poa says it's normal](#) (2026-06-18 13:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Amid rumors of heated discussions between the prosecution and defense panel during the pre-trial conference for Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial, defense team member Michael Poa said such things were normal. In an ambush interview on Thursday, during a break in the pre-trial conference held at the Senate, Poa denied claims that

- [NTF-Elcac touts 'historic' Southern Tagalog rejection of Reds' ideals](#) (2026-06-18 13:47)

MANILA, Philippines – A ranking official of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) said that the declaration placing Southern Tagalog (also known as Calabarzon) under “Stable Internal Peace and Security” (SIPS) is a clear sign that the people in the region have rejected the ideals of the communist insurgents. “Peace works.

- [Infra damage from Sarangani quake tops P1.2 billion](#) (2026-06-18 13:31)

MANILA, Philippines – The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) on Wednesday reported that infrastructure damage from the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that rocked Maasim, Sarangani on June 8 has climbed to P1.29 billion. OCD information officer Diego Mariano, in a message to reporters, said that the number of damaged infrastructures now totaled 774. He did not provide

- [Survey: 4 of 5 Filipinos doubt senators' verdict in Sara Duterte trial](#) (2026-06-18 13:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Four out of five Filipinos either do not believe senator-judges will base their decision in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte on evidence and the law, or simply do not know how they will decide, survey results from Octa Research showed. Based on the results of a survey conducted by

- [Escudero as presiding officer in Sara Duterte impeachment trial pending](#) (2026-06-18 13:18)

MANILA, Philippines— Whether or not Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero would serve as presiding officer in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte remains up in the air, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said. “I don't want to preempt the presiding officer discussion. That will still be discussed by the senators,” Gatchalian said in press briefing in

- [5 PH universities slip in QS World rankings; UP still top-performing](#) (2026-06-18 13:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Despite “intensifying global competition,” five universities from the Philippines still made it into the latest QS World University Rankings, but saw themselves drop from their previous standing. The latest edition listed the higher educational institutions in the

Philippines between 401-1400 out of more than 1,500 universities across 106 countries and territories, with

- [Hontiveros, Pia Cayetano clash over anti-hospital detention bill changes](#) (2026-06-18 13:00)

MANILA, Philippines – The special session heated up when Sens. Pia Cayetano and Risa Hontiveros engaged in an intense debate on the amendments to the Anti-Hospital Detention Law. In the afternoon portion of the plenary on Wednesday, Cayetano, who wrote the original law, questioned the amendments put forward by Hontiveros. Under Hontiveros’ provisions, indigent patients

- [PNP flags increase in cases of individuals posing as DPWH execs](#) (2026-06-18 12:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. flagged a reported increase in cases involving individuals allegedly impersonating Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials. In a statement on Thursday, Nartatez said he had ordered the agency to launch a thorough investigation into the purported scheme. “The DPWH has

- [Senate won’ t seek lifting of Estrada’ s suspension, says Gatchalian](#) (2026-06-18 12:16)

MANILA, Philippines – The Senate will not request the lifting of detained Sen. Jinggoy Estrada’ s court-imposed preventive suspension, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said on Thursday. The Sandiganbayan recently ordered a 90-day preventive suspension against Estrada, who faces graft and plunder charges in relation to the flood control scandal. “We cannot file to Sandiganbayan (because)

- [‘Senateflix’ over, focus now on key bills, Duterte trial – Gatchalian](#) (2026-06-18 12:14)

MANILA, Philippines— Senateflix is over. So said Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian as he called on colleagues to buckle down to work and start the preparations for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. “Senateflix is over. It’ s back to work,” Gatchalian said in Filipino in a press conference on Thursday. “So in the next

- [Kieffer Alas shows up at PNP-CIDG HQ amid Ateneo drowning probe](#) (2026-06-18 12:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University men’ s basketball player Kieffer Alas on Thursday showed up at the headquarters of the Philippine National Police–Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP–CIDG) which is probing into the death of his teammates Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. Baterbonia and Adili drowned during a training activity in a beach resort

- [Senate won’ t pursue probe into shooting incident — Gatchalian](#) (2026-06-18 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said on Thursday that under his leadership, the chamber will no longer pursue an independent investigation into the gunfire incident last May 13. Instead, the Senate will leave the probe to other authorities. “Mas

magandang iwan na lang sa DOJ (Department of Justice) ang investigation. (It is better to

- [Female cop, pal arrested in South Cotabato drug bust](#) (2026-06-18 10:59)

COTABATO CITY — Authorities arrested a female police officer and a male companion during a drug buy-bust operation in Koronadal City, the capital of South Cotabato, on Tuesday afternoon. Lt. Col. Harold Cornel, Koronadal City Police Office chief, said the policewoman was on duty when the anti-drug operation was conducted at around 4 p.m. on

- [2 found dead in car along TPLeX identified by kin — Tarlac police](#) (2026-06-18 10:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Family members have positively identified the two individuals who were found dead inside a car along the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLeX), the Tarlac Provincial Police Office (PPO) said on Thursday. The bodies were discovered inside a car parked along the southbound segment of the TPLeX in Barangay San Francisco in Victoria, Tarlac,

- [June 24 a holiday in the City of Manila for 455th founding anniversary](#) (2026-06-18 10:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang has declared June 24, 2026 as a special non-working day in the City of Manila which will mark its 455th founding anniversary. This was announced through Proclamation No. 1320 signed by Executive Secretary Ralph Recto by authority of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on June 16. “Whereas, it is but fitting and

- [DSWD allocates P790M for climate-resilient communities in Quezon](#) (2026-06-18 10:08)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has earmarked P790 million for a program to build climate-resilient communities in 13 municipalities in Quezon province. The funding will support the implementation of the Panahong Pagkilos: Philippine Community Resilience Project (PCRP), a five-year initiative under a new modality of the DSWD’s

- [Sara Duterte impeachment pre-trial conference commences](#) (2026-06-18 09:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte’s defense counsel and the House of Representatives prosecution panel came face-to-face during the pre-trial for the impeachment of the vice president that convened on Thursday. Making up the prosecution are Reps. Gerville Reyes-Luistro, Terry Ridon, Ramon Gutierrez, Ysabel Zamora, Lorenz Defensor, Chel Diokno, Leila De Lima, Keith Flores,

- [Lacson: Cayetano’s chaotic leadership cost the Senate P700-M](#) (2026-06-18 08:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson on Thursday said the Senate spent an estimated P700 million during the 28 days that Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano served as Senate president, with only “chaos” to show for it. According to Lacson, Cayetano’s time was “a waste of taxpayer’s money.” “THE PHILIPPINE SENATE in 28 days under

- [Impeachment Watch: The last stop before Sara Duterte’s trial](#) (2026-06-18 08:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte moved into crucial phase as the impeachment court commenced its pre-trial conference on Thursday, June 18. Whatever happens in today's proceeding, which may appear procedural, will pave the way for the formal trial scheduled on July 6. This is the final major step before

- [LPA outside PAR has even chance to be tropical depression](#) (2026-06-18 07:36)

MANILA, Philippines — A low pressure area (LPA) outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) has an even chance of developing into a tropical depression within the next 24 hours, the state weather bureau said. In its early morning bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the LPA was located around

- [Palace rejects Rep. Duterte remark on ICC as political weapon](#) (2026-06-18 06:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Thursday rejected claims by Davao City Rep. Paolo Duterte that the Marcos administration is weaponizing the International Criminal Court (ICC) against its political opponents. Duterte made the remarks following unconfirmed reports that arrest warrants had already been issued against Sen. Christopher “Bong” Go and two former police officials. “First of all,

- [Sara Duterte impeachment pre-trial convenes Thursday morning](#) (2026-06-18 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines – The pre-trial conference on the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte will begin on Thursday at 9 a.m. at the Senate. During the pre-trial conference, both the House prosecution panel and Duterte's defense counsel will resolve the following matters to ensure a smooth impeachment trial: READ: VP Sara Duterte: Corruption threatens sovereignty,

- [Pagcor orders licensees, operators to promote gambling helpline](#) (2026-06-18 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) on Wednesday has ordered that all existing advertisements advocating “responsible gaming” be replaced with materials promoting its 24/7 National Problem Gambling Helpline (NPGH). Citing a June 9 memorandum issued by its Gaming Licensing and Development Department, Pagcor issued the directive to all licensees, suppliers, gaming

- [Immigration lookout bulletin issued vs Baldwin, 4 others](#) (2026-06-18 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Authorities have issued an immigration lookout bulletin order (Ilbo) against former Blue Eagles head coach Tab Baldwin and four other officials of the college basketball team of Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) amid investigation into the deaths of two rookie players. At a press conference on Wednesday, Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida said

- [Study: 1 in 4 Filipino kids under age 5 stunted](#) (2026-06-18 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Stunting among Filipino children below 5 years old climbed to 25.3 percent last year, affecting one in four children, marking the first increase recorded since 2015, the Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) said on Wednesday. The figure,

up by 1.7 percent hike from 2023, was taken from the 2025 Updating

- [Lacson ‘tired of losing friends’ as blue ribbon panel chair](#) (2026-06-18 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson said on Wednesday that he “intentionally and voluntarily relinquished” the chairmanship of the Senate blue ribbon committee because he was tired of losing old friends and creating new enemies. After acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian was officially elected as head of the chamber by the new 13-member majority with

- [DOJ probe of May 13 shooting shows Senate wasn’t ‘under attack’](#) (2026-06-18 05:42)

MANILA, Philippines — A special panel of Department of Justice (DOJ) prosecutors on Wednesday said that contrary to the claim of former Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, the chamber was “not under attack” on May 13 when Senate security personnel traded warning shots with National Bureau of Investigation agents. This was among the preliminary findings

- [Dole imposes P11M in fines over Angeles building collapse](#) (2026-06-18 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) is imposing a fine of more than P11 million on the owner and contractor of the building that collapsed on May 24 in Angeles City, Pampanga province, and left 30 people dead. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino on Wednesday said an investigation had found building owner

- [Gawad Kalinga founder still in hospital, pleaded not guilty in cases](#) (2026-06-18 05:36)

CITY OF MALOLOS, BULACAN, Philippines — Arrested Gawad Kalinga founder Antonio Meloto remained in a hospital while he pleaded not guilty during his arraignment on Tuesday on two counts of qualified trafficking before a Bulacan court. Meloto made the plea via a virtual hearing as he remained inside a hospital, Maj. Joel Alba, Angat town

- [Inquirer Foundation opens applications for 2026-28 scholarships](#) (2026-06-18 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Inquirer Foundation is now accepting applications for the Inquirer/Aboitiz Scholarship Grant (Batch 2026-2028), a scholarship program designed to help high-achieving but financially challenged students driven to pursue a career in media. The program supports qualified college students through their junior and senior years by providing vital financial assistance, internship, and mentorship

- [Escudero may return as VP impeach trial presiding officer – Lacson](#) (2026-06-18 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero may return as presiding officer of the impeachment court that will try the case of Vice President Sara Duterte in July, following a consensus among members of the majority bloc. “Per our consensus as of this morning, we will elect Sen. Chiz Escudero if we convene again as

- [Senate row ends: Gatchalian takes helm, Cayetano yields](#) (2026-06-18 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The monthlong leadership crisis in the Senate ended on Wednesday after Sen. Sherwin “Win” Gatchalian secured the votes needed to be formally elected Senate President during a special session of Congress. This development significantly undercuts a pending Supreme Court challenge questioning the legitimacy of the chamber’s reorganization and raises the likelihood that

- [Congress seeks P15B in fresh funds for Mindanao rehab](#) (2026-06-18 05:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawmakers on Wednesday sought P15 billion in supplemental budget for this year to defray the cost of rehabilitating areas in Mindanao that are reeling from the impact of the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that rocked several provinces on the island on June 8. The quake continues to generate strong aftershocks, leaving a trail

- [Inquirer, Baguio renew INQskwela partnership](#) (2026-06-18 05:02)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — The city government and the Inquirer Foundation on Wednesday signed their third memorandum of understanding (MOU) to continue implementing the INQskwela program for its third year, as local education officials credited the initiative as one of the contributors to significant improvements in reading proficiency among Baguio’s grade school students. The renewed

- [Iloilo capitol worker nabbed with P7.8M in meth](#) (2026-06-18 01:21)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — A 51-year-old provincial government employee was arrested after yielding over one kilogram of suspected “shabu” worth an estimated P7.8 million during a joint buy-bust operation in Barangay Camambugan of Santa Barbara town, Iloilo, on Wednesday afternoon. The suspect, identified only by his alias “Banny,” is a resident of Barangay Don T.

- [Solons hope Senate leadership row resolution brings back work mode](#) (2026-06-18 00:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Ranking members of the House of Representatives have expressed hope that the resolution of the Senate’s leadership squabble will allow Congress to return to work and also focus on the task of holding Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial. In a statement on Wednesday, Deputy Speaker Paolo Ortega V said he hopes

- [Cavite school saddened by stabbing incident, vows support for victims](#) (2026-06-17 23:54)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — The administration of a private school in General Trias City, Cavite where seven students were injured in a stabbing incident on Tuesday morning, said it was deeply saddened by the incident and remains focused on the recovery and well-being of those affected. In a statement posted on Facebook on Wednesday,

- [PDEA seizes P1.95B worth of illegal drugs in May 2026](#) (2026-06-17 23:54)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 3,702 drug personalities and P1.95 billion worth of illegal drugs were arrested and seized in the month of May 2026, said the Philippine Drug

Enforcement Agency (PDEA) on Wednesday. According to the PDEA in a statement, the figures reflect the 2,941 operations conducted from May 1 to 31 where

- [Increased ash emissions reduce chance of an explosive Kanlaon – Phivolcs](#) (2026-06-17 23:20)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — The continuous ash and gas emissions at Mt. Kanlaon indicate that the volcano is highly active, but they also serve as a “good sign” that its vents are not clogged, a state volcanologist said on Wednesday, June 17. Mari Andylene Quintia, resident volcanologist of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology

- [Legarda: Respect new Senate leadership](#) (2026-06-17 23:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda on Wednesday called on her fellow senators to respect the newly elected Senate leadership, but continued to insist that the June 3 proceedings that removed her as Senate president pro tempore were “unconstitutional.” Legarda issued the statement, saying her stance on the alleged unconstitutionality of the June 3 proceedings

- [Hospital nurse arrested in drug buy-bust in Cagayan](#) (2026-06-17 22:49)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN, Philippines — A 32-year-old registered nurse was arrested after he yielded three sachets of alleged shabu in a buy-bust operation by anti-drug agents and police at 2:54 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency regional office, with police officers, arrested a certain Noel, 32, a registered nurse at the

- [Tarlac police probes 2 found dead in car along TPLeX](#) (2026-06-17 22:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The Tarlac Provincial Police Office on Wednesday said it was investigating an incident in which two people were found dead inside a car stopped along the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLeX). In a statement, the provincial police said the car was found along the southbound segment of TPLeX in Barangay San Francisco in

- [Gatchalian thanks Villanueva, Escudero over their ‘statesmanship’](#) (2026-06-17 22:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Newly elected Senate President Sherwin “Win” Gatchalian on Wednesday recognized the statesmanship shown by senators previously aligned with the current minority bloc, particularly Senators Joel Villanueva and Francis “Chiz” Escudero, for showing up during the special session. Gatchalian sent his praise as the Senate had been in an impasse for weeks, as

- [PCSO: No jackpot winners in June 17 lotto draws](#) (2026-06-17 21:53)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpot prizes in the Grand Lotto 6/55 and MegaLotto 6/45 draws conducted Wednesday, June 17, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). Grand Lotto 6/55 produced the winning combination 55-31-46-37-48-01 for a jackpot worth ₱45 million. No ticket matched all six numbers. MegaLotto 6/45 yielded the winning combination 34-35-09-10-19-32

- [Tesda holds skills Olympics in Western Visayas](#) (2026-06-17 20:12)

ILOILO CITY — The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) 6 (Western Visayas) gathered 33 competitors vying in 14 competencies for the WorldSkills Philippines Western Visayas Regional Skills Olympics 2026. The event is being held in the municipality of Balasan, Iloilo. The three-day showdown of skills kicked off at the Leon Ganzon Polytechnic College on

- [Erwin Tulfo slams House for putting AICS bill on aid for poor on ‘deadlock’](#) (2026-06-17 20:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Erwin Tulfo on Wednesday questioned the refusal of the House of Representatives to agree to the Senate’s amendments on the bill that institutionalizes the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) program. An impassioned Tulfo criticized the House, claiming that the provision – which bars government officials and employees from delivering

- [Solons say Duterte camp still failed to address impeachment issues](#) (2026-06-17 20:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Despite being given several chances to rebut the accusations thrown against her, Vice President Sara Duterte and her camp have failed to address issues brought about by the Articles of Impeachment, two House of Representatives lawmakers said on Wednesday. Prosecution panel spokesperson and Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong said that the

- [Manila Water boosts safety, efficiency, climate resilience of facilities](#) (2026-06-17 19:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Water continues to strengthen and modernize its water supply infrastructure as it advances key facility improvement projects designed to enhance safety, security, service efficiency, and operational reliability across its service areas, especially amid the ongoing impacts of a severe El Niño. As of May 2026, Manila Water has completed three major

- [Oroquieta school remains unused over safety concerns](#) (2026-06-17 19:39)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Over a week after the start of classes in public school, some 100 students are still holding classes in makeshift classrooms in Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental, after their parents and teachers declined to use a new two-story, six-classroom school building due to safety concerns. Teachers and parents of students

- [Aquino, Go call for Senate probe into Ateneo cagers’ deaths](#) (2026-06-17 19:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Senators Bam Aquino and Christopher “Bong” Go on Wednesday called for an investigation into the deaths of Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. In a privilege speech during Wednesday’s session, Aquino said the Senate committee on basic education, which he chairs, should conduct a

hearing and

- [Rep. Marcos on bodyguards: They charge ones who are against them](#) (2026-06-17 19:05)

MANILA, Philippines — House Majority Leader Ferdinand Alexander Marcos has raised doubts on the claims made by the 18 former bodyguards of ex-Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Elizaldy Co, saying that their accusations are only made against those who oppose their side. Marcos, in an ambush interview on Wednesday, was asked about the investigations on the infrastructure

- [Legarda lauds Senate for ratifying enhanced free college law](#) (2026-06-17 19:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda praised the Senate for ratifying on June 17 the bicameral conference committee report on Senate Bill No. 1894 and House Bill No. 8476, which will both enhance the law on free college access for poor students. Senate Bill No. 1894, principally sponsored and authored by Legarda, will enhance the Universal

- [DepEd ensures ARAL funds go directly to teachers serving as tutors](#) (2026-06-17 18:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) is taking steps to ensure that funds from the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program will directly reach teachers and educators serving as tutors nationwide. According to a DepEd statement issued on Wednesday, Education Secretary Sonny Angara stressed that the ARAL Program shows his department's firm commitment

- [DOJ probes officials over Senate shooting, Dela Rosa escape](#) (2026-06-17 18:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Justice (DOJ) is looking into possible charges against public officials as it continues its investigation to determine the link between the May 13 shooting at the Senate and the escape of Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa from protective custody in the early morning of May 14. Justice Secretary Fredderick

- [Health advocates push stronger action vs illicit vapes](#) (2026-06-17 18:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Public health advocates called on lawmakers to pursue balanced and evidence-based vape regulations during a Senate hearing on the Vape Law, warning that excessive restrictions could drive consumers toward illicit markets. The appeal came as the Senate Committee on Health and Demography and the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship, chaired by

- [Borongan rolls out P10M fuel subsidy for transport sector workers](#) (2026-06-17 18:28)

TACLOBAN CITY, Philippines — The city government of Borongan in Eastern Samar held a dry run and initial distribution of fuel subsidy coupons on Wednesday for registered tricycle drivers, operators and pump boat operators. Mayor Jose Ivan Dayan Agda led the rollout, which marks the start of a local ordinance aimed at assisting transport sector workers

- [Police ramp up security for reported ‘huge political rally’ in Cotabato](#) (2026-06-17 18:11)

COTABATO CITY — Police authorities beefed up security at the Bangsamoro Government Center (BGC) here on Wednesday following intelligence reports of an alleged huge rally by supporters of the United Bangsamoro Justice Party (UBJP). The organization is the political party of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The BGC is the seat of power of

- [Dy congratulates Gatchalian, vows continued House-Senate cooperation](#) (2026-06-17 18:09)

MANILA, Philippines — House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III on Wednesday sent his best wishes to Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian after his election as Senate president. Dy also expressed confidence that Congress will continue advancing measures that promote economic growth, strengthen public services, and improve the lives of Filipinos. “The House of Representatives extends its

- [LTFRB suspends 24 buses of North Genesis over Baguio road crash](#) (2026-06-17 17:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Wednesday suspended the bus fleet of an operator after one of its buses figured in a road crash in Baguio City, which killed one person and injured six passengers. In a statement, LTFRB Chair Vigor Mendoza II said the suspension of 24 buses owned

- [Sandro Marcos welcomes ‘level-headed’ Gatchalian as Senate president](#) (2026-06-17 17:46)

MANILA, Philippines — House Majority Leader Ferdinand Alexander “Sandro” A. Marcos of Ilocos Norte on Wednesday welcomed the election of Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian as Senate president, saying it would allow the Senate to move past its leadership dispute and refocus on pending work. “On behalf of the House, we would like to congratulate Senate President

- [Magnitude 4.6 aftershock jolts Sarangani](#) (2026-06-17 17:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Another aftershock of the June 9 magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Mindanao jolted Sarangani on Wednesday afternoon, according to the Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology (Phivolcs). According to Phivolcs, the aftershock was recorded at magnitude 4.6 and occurred at exactly 4:03 p.m. Its epicenter was located 50 kilometers southwest of Balut Island,

- [ACT seeks better security, staffing after Cavite school stabbing](#) (2026-06-17 17:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) Philippines called for stronger school safety measures and increased staffing following a school incident in Cavite, where seven Grade 5 students were stabbed with a kitchen knife. READ: Seven Grade 5 students injured in Cavite school stabbing In a statement on Wednesday, the group said the

- [Alan Cayetano back as Senate minority leader](#) (2026-06-17 17:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano is back as Senate minority leader. This was manifested in the plenary on Wednesday by Cayetano's ally, Sen. Loren Legarda. "On behalf of the minority, may I manifest for the record that Sen. Alan Peter S. Cayetano shall serve as the minority floor leader, likewise the minority members

- [Heritage execs call for preservation of Dumaguete bell tower](#) (2026-06-17 17:01)

DUMAGUETE CITY, Philippines — Government and cultural heritage officials are calling for a collective effort to protect and preserve the newly restored Dumaguete Bell Tower, one of the city's most important historical landmarks. The appeal came during the formal turnover of the bell tower to the Diocese of Dumaguete on Monday night, after nearly two years

- [Duterte camp: House withheld docs, shouldn't be part of evidence](#) (2026-06-17 16:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's camp has accused the House of Representatives justice panel of not providing them key documents during the course of hearings, reiterating that those documents not included in the two original complaints against her should not form part of the prosecution's evidence. In the pre-trial brief submitted by Duterte's lawyers

- [DPWH flags delayed flood control project in PGH](#) (2026-06-17 16:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on Wednesday discovered another delayed flood control project, this time within the premises of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH). DPWH Sec. Vince Dizon himself saw the delayed project during an inspection held at the premier state-owned teaching hospital. READ: DPWH eyes dredging, flood interceptor

- [48 subpoenaed over Ateneo drowning incident](#) (2026-06-17 16:24)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 48 individuals have been subpoenaed so far over the fatal drowning of Ateneo de Manila University basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili, the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) said. In a press briefing in Camp Crame on Wednesday, CIDG director Maj. Gen. Robert Morico II

- [WATCH: Congress holds special session \(part 2\) | July 17, 2026](#) (2026-06-17 16:05)

MANILA, Philippines – Lawmakers resume session as they tackle key national issues that demand urgent legislative action outside the regular calendar. Congress convened in special session on Wednesday morning following President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s call for lawmakers to tackle priority legislation, including the proposed Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) and the anti-political dynasty

- [DOJ: Senate was not under attack](#) (2026-06-17 15:55)

MANILA, Philippines—Justice Secretary Frederick Vida said Wednesday that the Senate Building was not under attack last May 13. He was giving an update on the investigation being conducted by a panel of prosecutors into the Senate events from May 11 to May 13. READ: Cayetano: Senate ‘allegedly under attack’ Vida dismissed claims of an assault

- [Baldwin, Quimpo, 3 others placed on immigration lookout](#) (2026-06-17 15:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Justice Secretary Frederick Vida has issued an Immigration Lookout Bulletin Order (ILBO) against the following individuals: 1. Thomas Anthony “Tab” Baldwin, former head coach of Ateneo men’s basketball team 2. Christopher Quimpo, former team manager 3. Reynaldo Jacinto, Jr., assistant coach 4. Mr. Dean Castaño, assistant coach 5. Mr. Sandro Soriano,

- [Lanao Norte town develops key diving tourism site](#) (2026-06-17 15:32)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — The municipality of Linamon in Lanao del Norte is being eyed as Northern Mindanao’s next diving tourism destination. In a statement on Tuesday, Lanao del Norte Governor Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo said that the development of tourism dive spots in Linamon is being undertaken by the Provincial Tourism Office and the

- [WATCH: Senate majority picks Escudero to preside over Sara Duterte trial](#) (2026-06-17 15:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The new Senate majority, under newly elected Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, chose Sen. Francis Escudero on Wednesday, June 17, as the presiding officer of the coming impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. Sen. Panfilo Lacson says it was not a quid pro quo for Escudero’s joining the majority. The reasons, he

- [3 areas in Quezon, Cavite log ‘extreme caution’ heat index levels](#) (2026-06-17 15:22)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon— Despite the onset of the rainy season, three localities in Quezon and Cavite provinces recorded heat index levels under the “extreme caution” category on Wednesday. In a public advisory posted on Facebook at around 2:20 p.m., the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) of Atimonan, Quezon, reported a heat index of

- [CA confirms 5 generals after half-month delay](#) (2026-06-17 15:20)

MANILA, Philippines – The Committee on Appointments (CA) confirmed on Wednesday the promotion of five generals from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). This comes over two weeks after the confirmation of the five senior military officers was put on hold on June 1 due to the lack of senators elected to the CA.

- [Anti-dynasty version passed is what got biggest support — Sandro Marcos](#) (2026-06-17 15:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The anti-political dynasty bill passed by the House of Representatives may not be the most ideal version, but it was the one that got the most support from

lawmakers, Majority Leader Ferdinand Alexander Marcos said on Wednesday. Marcos, in an ambush interview, was asked about allegations that the anti-political dynasty bill passed by the

- [Cagayan de Oro opens child development, play centers](#) (2026-06-17 15:15)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — The city government, with support from other government agencies, launched its Child Development Centers (CDCs) and Supervised Neighborhood Play (SNP) facilities here on Tuesday. The first CDC and SNP facilities opened in Barangay Macabalan within the compound of its daycare center, while the other is inside the headquarters of the

- [Uncertainty grips Senate majority before Joel Villanueva's transfer](#) (2026-06-17 15:12)

MANILA, Philippines—It was not until late Tuesday night that the Senate majority received confirmation that Sen. Joel Villanueva would join them. “It’s done,” Sen. Panfilo Lacson recalled Sen. JV Ejercito telling them. According to Lacson, it was Ejercito who had been talking to Villanueva, who was part of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano’s group. However, uncertainty

- [CIDG: First responders to be summoned over Ateneo drowning case](#) (2026-06-17 14:38)

[Updated June 17, 2026, 3:59 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — The first responders in the drowning incident of Ateneo de Manila University basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili will also be summoned for the investigation into the incident. The Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) said that on Wednesday. In a press briefing

- [CIDG: Ateneo drowning not an accident, took place 700 meters from resort](#) (2026-06-17 14:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) on Wednesday said their investigation so far indicated that the fatal drowning of two Ateneo de Manila University student-athletes was not an accident. “The incident did not actually happen in front of the resort. It was about 300 to 700 meters away. The

- [Senate OKs reso urging gov't to ensure fund for Mindanao recovery](#) (2026-06-17 14:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate adopted a resolution urging the government to ensure funds for the recovery of Mindanao after the magnitude 7.8 earthquake during its special session on Wednesday. Sen. Joel Villanueva filed on Monday Senate Resolution No. 447, urging the government to “take all necessary measures to ensure the availability of adequate funding

- [Free train rides at MRT-3 on Wednesday, June 17](#) (2026-06-17 14:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3) announced free train rides beginning Wednesday at noon after a technical issue temporarily disrupted operations at several stations. In a social media post, MRT-3 apologized to commuters affected by the provisional service that was implemented from 5:50 a.m. to around 7 a.m. READ: MRT-3

resumes normal operations “In

- [PNP CIDG to Tab Baldwin: Face Ateneo drowning probe](#) (2026-06-17 13:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police–Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP–CIDG) dared former Ateneo de Manila University men’s basketball head coach Tab Baldwin to face the investigation into the fatal drownings of players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. READ: Tab Baldwin, other Ateneo coaches subpoenaed anew by PNP-CIDG “Be man enough to face the

- [WATCH: CA tackles pending appointments](#) (2026-06-17 13:58)

MANILA, Philippines – The Commission on Appointments (CA) convened on Wednesday as Congress opened its special session called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., paving the way to act on pending appointments in the Cabinet, military, and foreign service. The CA meeting comes following a leadership change in the Senate and is expected to take up

- [Fishing restricted around sunken vessel in Badoc, Ilocos Norte](#) (2026-06-17 13:45)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan – The local government of Badoc, Ilocos Norte, advised fisherfolk to still refrain from lure fishing, spearfishing, gillnet fishing, gleaning, and other fishing activities within the reef area surrounding the sunken vessel off Barangay La Virgin Milagrosa. “This restriction remains in effect until the vessel is removed or authorities formally issue clearance to

- [FFF slams DA delay on rice import safeguard duties](#) (2026-06-17 13:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) on Monday, June 15, denounced the “delay” in the resolution of its long-standing petition for safeguard duties on rice imports. Describing the delay as “inordinate,” the FFF said that “for about nine months now, rice producers have been expecting the Department of Agriculture’s (DA) decision on

- [Tab Baldwin, other Ateneo coaches subpoenaed anew by PNP-CIDG](#) (2026-06-17 13:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police–Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP–CIDG) has issued another subpoena to former Ateneo de Manila University men’s basketball team head coach Thomas Anthony “Tab” Baldwin and other members of the coaching staff. “On Thursday and Friday, we’re expecting the coaching staff and others to appear for investigation, particularly Mr.

- [Pagcor orders online gambling ads replaced with helpline information](#) (2026-06-17 13:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) has ordered all online gaming operators and relevant stakeholders to replace their existing responsible gaming advertisements with materials promoting the recently launched 24/7 National Problem Gambling Helpline (NPGH). In a statement on Wednesday, Pagcor directed all licensees, suppliers, gaming system administrators, gaming venue operators, and

- [4 alleged fixers arrested in Laguna LTO entrapment operation](#) (2026-06-17 13:23)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Operatives of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and police arrested four alleged fixers during an entrapment operation in Biñan City, Laguna, on Tuesday. In a report, the LTO-Calabarzon said personnel from its Cabuyao City District Office, in coordination with agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG)-Laguna, apprehended the suspects

- [Boatwright, Ramos naturalization bills approved by Senate on 3rd reading](#) (2026-06-17 13:18)

MANILA, Philippines – The long-awaited naturalization of basketball player Bennie Francois Boatwright III and wrestler Matthew Hames Ramos were approved on third reading at the Senate special session on Wednesday. After being delayed since June 1, House Bills No. 6639 and 6644 which grants citizenship to the athletes were approved in the presence of 13

- [P1.4-M shabu, gun seized; 4 drug suspects nabbed in Batangas, Laguna](#) (2026-06-17 13:12)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Anti-illegal drug operatives seized over P1.4 million worth of suspected shabu (crystal meth), recovered an undocumented firearm, and arrested four alleged drug suspects in separate operations in Batangas and Laguna provinces on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Police Regional Office 4A (PRO-4A) reported that operatives in Batangas City arrested a suspect identified

- [PNP to gun owners: Possessing firearms is a privilege](#) (2026-06-17 13:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Wednesday reminded gun owners that possessing firearms is a privilege. “We urge strict compliance with all requirements on safe storage, documentation, and lawful possession. Transparency in firearm ownership is essential not only for accountability but also for public safety,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr.

- [Sandro Marcos: Backing 1st impeachment vs Duterte spurred by emotions](#) (2026-06-17 13:04)

MANILA, Philippines — House of Representatives Majority Leader Ferdinand Alexander “Sandro” Marcos has admitted that his decision to support the first attempt to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte was spurred by emotions, noting that he acted more of a “son” than a lawmaker. Marcos, during an ambush interview on Wednesday, begged off from answering questions on

- [Senate majority picks Escudero to preside over Sara Duterte trial](#) (2026-06-17 12:59)

MANILA, Philippines— The new majority bloc in the Senate has agreed to designate Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero as presiding officer in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. Escudero’s designation as the presiding officer will be made official when the impeachment court convenes on July 6, Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson said on Wednesday as

- [Minority senators absent during shake-up, some attend CA](#) (2026-06-17 12:43)

MANILA, Philippines — No minority senators were present during the first half of the Senate’ s special session on Wednesday. But some of its members attended the Commission on Appointments (CA) session held during the plenary’ s suspension. Minority Senators Rodante Marcoleta, Imee Marcos, Loren Legarda, and Christopher “Bong” Go entered the session hall with no explanation

- [Owner, contractor of collapsed Pampanga building face P11M in fines](#) (2026-06-17 12:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) on Wednesday announced that it has imposed a P11-million fine on the owner and contractor of the nine-story building in Pampanga that collapsed on May 24. During the Kapihan sa Manila Bay forum, acting Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino said an investigation by Dole has found

- [WATCH: Escudero opts out of blue ribbon committee, says majority](#) (2026-06-17 12:26)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero asked not to be included in the blue ribbon committee chaired by Sen. Erwin Tulfo. At the special session Wednesday morning, Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri said while all members of the majority will be sitting on the blue ribbon committee, Escudero requested not to be included in

- [147 Eastern Visayas LGUs earn 2025 Good Financial Housekeeping seal](#) (2026-06-17 12:26)

TACLOBAN CITY — A total of 147 local government units (LGUs) in Eastern Visayas have been conferred the 2025 Good Financial Housekeeping (GFH) distinction by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), reflecting the region’ s strong commitment to transparency, accountability, and sound financial management. This is an increase of 13 from 134 LGUs

- [High tide, flooding delay repair of damaged bridge in Bohol town](#) (2026-06-17 12:10)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol— Repair works on the damaged approach of Bato Bridge in Barangay Cabawan, Maribojoc town, Bohol, have been further delayed after floodwaters from the Abatan River overflowed due to high tide, rendering the area impassable and hampering ongoing rehabilitation efforts. Photos shared by residents showed floodwaters inundating sections of the roadway leading to

- [First Lady Liza sends off President Marcos ahead of Russia visit](#) (2026-06-17 12:05)

MANILA, Philippines — On one of the few occasions, First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos did not accompany her husband, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., on his working visit to Russia from June 17 to 18. In a Facebook post on Wednesday, the first lady shared photos of herself sending off the president at the Maharlika Hangar at

- [Mindanao earthquake aid: Sandro Marcos slams ‘zero MOOE’ claims](#) (2026-06-17 12:02)

MANILA, Philippines — House of Representatives Majority Leader Ferdinand Alexander Marcos urged journalists to fact-check or verify information related to government’ s relief efforts following the massive earthquake that struck Mindanao last week. The presidential son made the remark following an ambush interview at the Batasang Pambansa complex, when he was asked about reports that General Santos

- [Baterbonia family still awaiting probe results on kin’ s death](#) (2026-06-17 11:53)

TALACOGON, Agusan del Sur — The Baterbonia family is still awaiting the results of the investigation on the drowning incident that killed rising Mindanaoan basketball star Rene Clert, an older brother said. The 18-year-old Ateneo Blue Eagles player died on June 8 during a team-building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora province, in Luzon. READ: Baterbonia returns

- [Palace congratulates new Senate President Gatchalian](#) (2026-06-17 11:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang congratulated Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian on his election as Senate president during the chamber’ s special session on Wednesday. Gatchalian secured enough votes to assume the Senate leadership after Sen. Joel Villanueva joined the 12-member majority bloc. READ: Gatchalian is new Senate president “The Palace congratulates newly elected Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian. It also

- [PNP to bolster visibility near schools after Cavite knife attack](#) (2026-06-17 11:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Wednesday said it will increase its visibility around schools after a Grade 8 student allegedly stabbed seven Grade 5 students in Cavite. “We sympathize with the victims and their families, and we assure the public that the PNP is taking this matter seriously,” PNP chief Gen.

- [Lacson gives up blue ribbon post: Tired of losing friends, creating foes](#) (2026-06-17 11:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Saying he was tired of losing old friends and creating new enemies, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he “intentionally and voluntarily relinquished” the chairmanship of the Senate blue ribbon committee (BRC), which has been investigating the flood control projects scandal. Lacson headed the blue ribbon panel during the time of then-Senate President Vicente “Tito”

- [Habagat leaves 104,000 fisherfolk unable to fish](#) (2026-06-17 10:59)

MANILA, Philippines — More than 100,000 small fisherfolk in Batangas, Cavite and Zambales have been affected by fishing disruptions caused by the southwest monsoon, according to initial monitoring by the fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya). The group said rough seas and strong waves associated with Habagat have forced many small-scale

- [P680,000 worth of shabu seized in Cavite; 2 suspects busted](#) (2026-06-17 10:56)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and policemen arrested on Tuesday two suspected big-time illegal drug traffickers and seized P680,000 worth of shabu (crystal meth) in Bacoor City, Cavite. The PDEA-Region 4A said their agents and operatives from the Cavite Maritime Police Station collared “Jerry,” 55, and “Janice,” 43, in a buy-bust operation

- [WATCH: Gatchalian elected as Senate President](#) (2026-06-17 10:55)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian has been elected Senate President during the special session of Congress on Wednesday, marking a major shift in leadership in the upper chamber amid weeks of political tension./dp

- [79 baby green sea turtles released in Panglao](#) (2026-06-17 10:45)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — A total of 79 baby green sea turtles were successfully released into the sea on Monday night on Alona Beach in Panglao, marking another milestone in Bohol’s ongoing marine conservation efforts. The release was facilitated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources–Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-Cenro) – Tagbilaran,

- [Ortega, Enverga, 3 others named as Commission on Appointments members](#) (2026-06-17 10:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Deputy Speaker and La Union Rep. Paolo Ortega V and Quezon Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga, along with three other lawmakers, have been elected as members of the House of Representatives’ contingent to the Commission on Appointments (CA) after being elected by the majority. During the special session held on Wednesday, House Majority Leader

- [WATCH: Joel Villanueva arrives at Senate plenary](#) (2026-06-17 10:40)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Joel Villanueva arrived at the Senate plenary on Wednesday, drawing attention as lawmakers convene in a special session amid ongoing discussions on priority legislation and the unresolved leadership dispute in the upper chamber. His presence comes at a critical moment, with attendance closely watched as it may influence the balance of

- [Leachon calls for scrapping of Philhealth’s 24-hour confinement](#) (2026-06-17 10:33)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro, Philippines — A health reform advocate and former PhilHealth official has urged the immediate review and abolition of the state insurer’s 24-hour confinement rule, saying it deprives members of benefits when they need them most and erodes public trust in the system. Dr. Anthony “Tony” Leachon, who served as an independent director

- [More Ateneo players appear before PNP-CIDG amid drowning probe](#) (2026-06-17 10:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Another batch of Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU)men’s basketball team players appeared before the Philippine National Police–Criminal Investigation and

Detection Group (PNP–CIDG) on Wednesday amid the investigation on the death of their teammates, Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. Among those seen entering the CIDG shortly after 9:30 a.m. were Jared Bahay, Ian

- [Raffy Tulfo extends hand of reconciliation to Senate minority](#) (2026-06-17 10:30)

MANILA, Philippine — Sen. Raffy Tulfo has extended the Senate majority's hand of reconciliation to minority senators following the election of the new leadership in the chamber, now led by Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian. The new minority bloc led by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano was absent when Gatchalian was elected Senate president by acclamation during the special session

- [House bill seeks P15-B supplemental budget for quake-struck Mindanao](#) (2026-06-17 10:10)

MANILA, Philippines — A bill seeking a P15-billion supplemental budget for quake-hit Mindanao's rehabilitation was filed at the House of Representatives on Monday, as a counterpart to Sen. Francis Pangilinan's bill to address the region's needs. In a statement, Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong said he filed House Bill No. 9887 to "support

- [5 dead, 12 injured as truck plunges into Pangasinan ravine](#) (2026-06-17 09:59)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan – Five workers of a solar farm construction company died Tuesday night while several others were injured when the mini-dump truck they were riding in plunged off a mountain trail into a ravine in Labrador town in Pangasinan. According to Labrador police chief Capt. John Ramos' report, the driver of the dump truck

- [Sotto elected as Senate president pro tempore; committee heads named](#) (2026-06-17 09:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Senate president Vicente "Tito" Sotto III was elected Senate president pro tempore on Wednesday. Sotto was elected during the Senate special session, attended by 13 senators. In the same session, Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian was named the Senate president, vacating his previous position as Senate president pro tempore. Joining Gatchalian and Sotto in

- [Gatchalian is new Senate president](#) (2026-06-17 09:21)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian was elected Senate president during the chamber's special session on Wednesday. Gatchalian garnered enough votes for the leadership after Sen. Joel Villanueva joined the 12 current members of the majority bloc. The new majority consists of Gatchalian, Villanueva, Majority Leader Sen. Migz Zubiri, Senators Vicente "Tito" Sotto III, Panfilo

- [House of Representatives holds special session; Senate runs late](#) (2026-06-17 09:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives convened on Wednesday for a special session called by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., starting at exactly 9:00 a.m. while the

Senate failed to start the session on time. House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III presided over the session, while Majority Leader Ferdinand Alexander Marcos managed the floor. Senators,

- [Congress convenes special session](#) (2026-06-17 09:15)

MANILA, Philippines – Both chambers of Congress convened its special session on Wednesday morning, as ordered by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. On Monday, Marcos called on the Congress to hold a special session to consider several urgent bills including the Anti-Political Dynasty Law, Amendments to the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, and

- [Impeachment votes don’t always haunt senators, history shows](#) (2026-06-17 09:12)

MANILA, Philippines — As political tensions build ahead of Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial, one question continues to surface in public discussions: Will senators who vote one way or another eventually pay a political price? The assumption is familiar in Philippine politics. Many believe voters remember defining moments and eventually punish public officials who

- [Why PH must diversify diets amid El Niño and global shocks](#) (2026-06-17 08:43)

The Philippines’ food security challenge is climatic, geopolitical and governance-related. Super El Niño reduces rice yields, global conflicts drive oil prices upward, and governance failures magnify these vulnerabilities. The old paradigm of cheap imports is untenable. Without governance reform — transparent resource allocation, buffer stock systems and dietary diversification — the Philippines will remain trapped

- [PNP calls for calm as Congress convenes special session](#) (2026-06-17 08:12)

READ: LIVE UPDATES: Congress convenes in special session MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) urged the public not to escalate political tensions amid the Senate leadership squabble as both houses of Congress convene for a special session on Wednesday, June 17. In a statement, PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said the

- [WATCH: House to tackle priority bills on special session](#) (2026-06-17 07:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives is expected to move swiftly on several priority measures as Congress convenes in special session on Wednesday following President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s call for urgent legislative action. House leaders have said they are ready to deliberate on bills aimed at expanding educational assistance, strengthening social protection programs, and

- [WATCH: Will special session end Senate leadership row?](#) (2026-06-17 07:49)

MANILA, Philippines — All eyes are on the Senate on Wednesday as Congress convenes in special session to tackle priority legislation and act on pending appointments, while potentially bringing closure to the leadership dispute that has divided the chamber for weeks. The session

comes amid competing claims to the Senate presidency by Sen. Alan Peter

- [Cloudy Wednesday with rain showers nationwide](#) (2026-06-17 07:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Partly cloudy skies and rain showers will prevail nationwide Wednesday due to easterlies and localized thunderstorms, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). In its 4 a.m. advisory, Pagasa said Eastern Visayas, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, and Davao Oriental may have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated

- [Marcoleta: Even arrest, imprisonment won't stop me](#) (2026-06-17 07:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Rodante Marcoleta on Tuesday said he would continue efforts to expose individuals allegedly involved in anomalous flood control projects even if he is arrested and jailed. In a video message released following a gathering of 18 “ex-bagmen” of former lawmaker Zaldy Co who aired allegations related to the controversial flood control

- [Baterbonia returns home to chants of ‘MVP!’](#) (2026-06-17 05:46)

TALACOGON, AGUSAN DEL SUR, Philippines — Ateneo Blue Eagles rookie cager Rene Clert “Bobet” Baterbonia is back in his hometown. His remains arrived here past 1 a.m. on Tuesday after a 17-hour trip from Davao City that normally takes only seven hours. The funeral convoy, however, had to slow down at almost every town along

- [Groups to Marcos, Senate: Junk fake antidynasty bill](#) (2026-06-17 05:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Big business and advocacy groups on Tuesday urged the Senate to junk the House-approved antidynasty bill, saying it seeks to protect political clans instead of dismantling them. Approved on third and final reading by the House on June 3, House Bill No. 8389 seeks to ban relatives within the second degree of

- [Court orders Jinggoy Estrada suspended for 90 days](#) (2026-06-17 05:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan on Tuesday ordered the 90-day preventive suspension of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who was charged with graft and plunder for supposedly receiving P573 million in kickbacks from budget allocations for flood control projects last year. “Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, this court hereby orders the suspension pendente lite of accused

- [Nat'l artist returning medal in protest vs CHED move](#) (2026-06-17 05:40)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — National Artist and acclaimed filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik on Tuesday said he is renouncing his national artist status and returning his medallion to protest against changes in the college curriculum, which he said pushed courses to make graduates more employable at the expense of the humanities and social sciences. “You are witnesses

- [Sara Duterte's ‘undisclosed’ guns to be taken up in trial](#) (2026-06-17 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — A new set of evidence in Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment case will include guns that she failed to disclose in her annual statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), a member of the House prosecution team told the Inquirer on Tuesday. Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon, who leads the team

- [Special session may proceed sans minority bloc, says Gatchalian](#) (2026-06-17 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The special session of Congress that convenes today to tackle urgent legislation and pending appointments may proceed even if senators aligned with the new minority bloc led by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano choose not to attend, acting Senate President and Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin Gatchalian said. Gatchalian said the Senate has

- [Gatchalian: Defensor liable for bogus ‘hearing’](#) (2026-06-17 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Acting Senate President Sherwin “Win” Gatchalian said that former Rep. Mike Defensor could be legally liable for misleading the public by announcing and presiding over an unauthorized and bogus Senate blue ribbon committee “hearing” on Tuesday. “He’ s definitely creating confusion because of his post announcing that there is a blue ribbon hearing.

- [Alan Cayetano, 8 allies ask SC to void June 3 shake-up](#) (2026-06-17 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Nine senators led by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano on Tuesday asked the Supreme Court to nullify the Senate’ s June 3 reorganization, arguing that the proceedings were unconstitutional and warning that the dispute could affect the legitimacy of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impending impeachment trial. The bloc aligned with the Dutertes filed a

- [Marcos urged to appoint gov’ t peace panel head](#) (2026-06-17 05:06)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — A peace advocacy group has called on the Marcos administration to appoint the chair of the Government of the Philippines-Peace Implementing Panel (GPH-PIP) to engage with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB). Datu Tokz Bin Abdulrahman, spokesperson for the

- [Special session agenda: New laws or new Senate president?](#) (2026-06-17 05:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Will the special session called by the President put an end to the Senate leadership issue? At 9 a.m. on Wednesday, the Senate and the House of Representatives will convene separately to tackle important legislation such as the proposed Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation Act and the anti-political dynasty law. The

- [Biliran Bridge rehabilitation nears completion](#) (2026-06-17 05:04)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — Rehabilitation works on the nearly 50-year-old Biliran Bridge are nearing completion, with final improvements now underway to further enhance the safety and durability of the province’ s only permanent land link to Leyte. The Department of

Public Works and Highways (DPWH)-Biliran District Engineering Office said Tuesday that the P30-million repair and

- [WHO backs Baguio initiative to raise drinking age to 23](#) (2026-06-17 05:02)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — The World Health Organization (WHO) has expressed support for Baguio City's proposal to raise the minimum legal drinking age from 18 to 23, saying the move could help protect young people from the harmful effects of early alcohol consumption. The prescribed age is contained in Proposed Ordinance No. 0023-20, which is

- [Palace defends Marcos, Recto: Wage hike, VAT removal are Congress' duty](#) (2026-06-17 01:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday defended the administration against criticisms from a lawmaker who accused Executive Secretary Ralph Recto of obstructing labor-related reforms and claimed that no labor-related legislation had been enacted under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. In a briefing in Kazan, Russia, Palace press officer Claire Castro rejected accusations made by Kamanggagawa party-list

- [DENR takes custody of 50 smuggled tortoises found at Naia](#) (2026-06-16 23:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday said it has taken full custody of the 50 endangered tortoises recently intercepted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia). The tortoises were discovered by customs personnel at Naia on June 12, 2026 after the baggage of a certain Malaysian passenger arriving

- [Puerto Galera under state of calamity over severe water shortage](#) (2026-06-16 23:06)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — The local government of Puerto Galera town in Oriental Mindoro has declared a state of calamity in this town due to worsening water shortage caused by the prolonged dry spell. Vice Mayor Rocky Ilagan confirmed this in a video interview with media, saying the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and

- [2 nabbed for posing as DPWH personnel in Davao City](#) (2026-06-16 22:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on Tuesday said two female individuals were arrested for allegedly pretending to be Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) personnel in Davao City. Identified by the CIDG only by the aliases "Chel" and "Cham," the two suspects had visited the DPWH Davao Region office

- [Over 200,000 PUV drivers receive cash aid in Calabarzon – DSWD](#) (2026-06-16 22:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Over 200,000 public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers in Calabarzon have already received government cash aid amid rising fuel prices driven by the conflict in the Middle East, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said Tuesday. According to the DSWD, a total of 227,306 PUV drivers in Calabarzon received P5,000 each

- [PCSO: No jackpot winners in June 16 lotto draws](#) (2026-06-16 21:59)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpots of Ultra Lotto 6/58, Super Lotto 6/49 and Lotto 6/42 during Tuesday's Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draws, leaving all top prizes up for grabs in the next scheduled drawings. According to the PCSO, the winning combination for Ultra Lotto 6/58 was 26-08-55-48-05-51 for a jackpot of about ₱128

- [Cordillera inflation in May slows down to 6.8 percent](#) (2026-06-16 21:36)

BAGUIO CITY—Inflation in the mountainous Cordillera finally eased to 6.8 percent in May from a steep 7.6 percent in April. This is due in part to the industry cap on diesel and gasoline prices last month that helped slow down upland food prices. The report comes from the Philippine Statistics Authority on Monday (June 15).

- [DepEd eyes the construction of over 2,000 classrooms with LGUs' help](#) (2026-06-16 21:20)

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Education (DepEd) is working to build over 2,000 classrooms with the help of local government units. An investment worth ₱9.3B is being poured into this project. DepEd says the procurement for this school infrastructure initiative has already started. These partnerships are expected to produce 2,632 classrooms across more than 600 school

- [Palace: Up to senators to restore order in the Senate](#) (2026-06-16 21:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday said it is up to senators to restore order in the Senate as Congress prepares to convene a special session on June 17. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday issued Proclamation No. 1318, directing Congress to hold a special session to fast-track social protection measures amid energy challenges and

- [Kanlaon Volcano releases ash for the 20th time](#) (2026-06-16 21:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Island emitted ash on Tuesday afternoon, marking its 20th time of doing so in just a day, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said. Phivolcs made the pronouncement after posting camera footage of the volcano's latest ash emission event at 5:21 p.m. on Tuesday. READ: 15

- [Angara boosts accountability as LGUs start building classrooms](#) (2026-06-16 20:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Education Secretary Sonny Angara has reinforced institutional oversight and monitoring guidelines to ensure that 79 partner local government units (LGUs) that have started building classrooms will comply with timelines, digital validation, and strict fiscal standards, according to a statement issued by the Department of Education (DepEd) on Tuesday. The initial collaborations between

- [Seven Grade 5 students injured in Cavite school stabbing](#) (2026-06-16 20:28)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — Seven Grade 5 students were injured after allegedly being stabbed by a Grade 8 student using a kitchen knife at a private school in General Trias City, Cavite on Tuesday morning. In a Facebook post written in Filipino at around 7:25 p.m., Mayor Luis “Jon-Jon” Ferrer IV said he immediately went

- [Mark Villar not among SC petitioners vs Gatchalian bloc amid trip abroad](#) (2026-06-16 20:20)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Mark Villar was noticeably not among the signatories of the Supreme Court petition filed on Tuesday by the Cayetano bloc to declare null and void the Senate proceedings on June 3, which put Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian as the Acting Senate President. According to his office, this was due to Villar’s trip

- [LIST: Manila Water service interruptions in parts of Metro Manila, Rizal](#) (2026-06-16 20:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila and Rizal will face water interruptions due to emergency repair and maintenance activities until June 20. According to Manila Water in an advisory, the maintenance activities will be conducted to help maintain supply of potable water. Meanwhile, the emergency repairs are being undertaken to restore normal water

- [OVP, DepEd officials may be hostile witnesses in VP Duterte trial](#) (2026-06-16 20:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Officials from the Office of the Vice President (OVP) and the Department of Education (DepEd) may be called as hostile witnesses in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said in a statement on Tuesday. Luistro issued the statement after the House prosecution panel filed the pre-trial brief

- [Palace orders probe into PhilHealth benefit denial claim](#) (2026-06-16 19:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday ordered a thorough investigation into claims that a member of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), who later died, was denied benefits due to the state insurer’s 24-hour confinement rule. The issue stemmed from a viral social media post by Maria Lourdes Sult, whose husband needed an operation estimated to

- [Legarda on SC petition filed by allies: There’s constitutional controversy](#) (2026-06-16 19:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda on Tuesday said the petition filed before the Supreme Court seeking to declare the June 3 session at the Senate null and void goes beyond the leadership dispute in the upper chamber. READ: Alan Cayetano, allies file SC petition to ‘protect’ Senate In a statement released the same day

- [Comelec’s Garcia denies receiving money from Co: All lies](#) (2026-06-16 19:50)

MANILA, Philippines – Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chairperson George Erwin Garcia on Tuesday dismissed allegations that he received P10 million from supposed former bodyguards

and bagmen of ex-congressman Zaldy Co. In a press conference led by former Rep. Mike Defensor, whom Comelec recommended charges against for indirect bribery, the self-proclaimed bagmen said they delivered P10

- [House to seek appearance of Ateneo coaches in athletes' death probe](#) (2026-06-16 19:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The coaching staff of the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) men's basketball team will be at the top of the list of resource persons to be invited by the House of Representatives for its investigation into the death of two student-athletes, Deputy Speaker Paolo Ortega V said on Tuesday. Ortega in a statement

- [Indian tourist hurt in zipline 'glitch' in Bukidnon resort](#) (2026-06-16 19:41)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY— A 25-year-old Indian tourist was injured after plunging 39 feet when a zipline cable he was riding snapped allegedly due to “age and prolonged use” in Kitaotao, Bukidnon, last Sunday. Police Major Joan Navarro, spokesperson for the Police Regional Office 10, said the tourist received first aid at the German Doctors

- [More private prosecutors to join VP Duterte trial before July 6 — Luistro](#) (2026-06-16 19:41)

MANILA, Philippines — More private prosecutors are expected to join the House prosecution team before the July 6 opening of the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, according to Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro, chair of the House committee on justice and the lead prosecutor. “It’s true. The private prosecutors keep on coming to join the

- [One-day session enough if Senate can end impasse, says solon](#) (2026-06-16 19:12)

MANILA, Philippines — A single day for the special session will be enough to address measures that have not been passed by Congress as long as the Senate is able to resolve their leadership issues, House Deputy Speaker Paolo Ortega V said on Tuesday. Ortega, in a statement, said that several of the bills pending approval

- [Ramon Tulfo on claims he got money from Zaldy Co: I wish it's true](#) (2026-06-16 18:56)

MANILA, Philippines – Columnist Ramon Tulfo on Tuesday denied receiving money from the supposed former bagmen and bodyguards of ex-congressman Zaldy Co. Co's self-proclaimed lackey named Tulfo as one of the media personalities who allegedly received bags of money from flood control projects. “Hahahaha! I wish that was true,” Tulfo quipped in a social media

- [Kidlat Tahimik gives up nat'l artist perks to protest college curriculum](#) (2026-06-16 18:50)

BAGUIO CITY — Kidlat Tahimik on Tuesday announced that he will return his National Artist medallion and give up the privileges that come with the distinction to protest the government's Reframed General Education Curriculum (RGEN). Speaking at a Teachers Camp forum, Kidlat said he intends to surrender the medallion to urge the Commission on Higher

- [Pangilinan to sue alleged ex-bagmen of Zaldy Co for slander](#) (2026-06-16 18:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Kiko Pangilinan on Tuesday said the supposed former employees of former Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co will face the court for slander that he intends to file against them. Earlier, in a press conference led by former congressman Mike Defensor, the “ex-bagmen” showed photos of Co’s supposed employees from Misibis

- [P10.9M cigarettes seized for lacking health warnings, 2 nabbed](#) (2026-06-16 18:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on Tuesday said its operatives in Davao Oriental confiscated P10.9 million worth of cigarettes that allegedly lacked the mandated health warnings, leading to the arrest of three individuals. The first batch of the purported contraband worth P8.1 million was discovered by the police in Baranagay

- [House ready to hold special session, Adiong says](#) (2026-06-16 18:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives is ready to hold the special session called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday, Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong said on Tuesday. Adiong, an Assistant Majority Leader at the House, told reporters in an online interview that the special session will start at nine o’ clock in

- [DILG urges LGUs to brace for future tremors after Mindanao earthquake](#) (2026-06-16 18:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) urged local government units (LGUs) to prepare for future earthquakes after the magnitude 7.8 tremor that shook Mindanao last week. “As the country remains highly vulnerable to seismic hazards, the DILG underscored the importance of institutionalizing preparedness and recovery mechanisms at the local

- [PNP: P60-M drugs found in parcels at Pasay City mail hub](#) (2026-06-16 18:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Tuesday said its operatives, in coordination with the Bureau of Customs and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), discovered suspected illegal drugs worth P60 million in parcels at a mail hub in Pasay City. In a statement, the PNP said the drugs were discovered during a

- [Tesda trains Albay IP members on solar light assembly](#) (2026-06-16 17:39)

LEGAZPI CITY, Philippines — At least 15 indigenous peoples (IP) members from Sto. Domingo, Albay, benefited from a short course on assembling solar nightlights and post lamps through the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Southern Luzon Technological Colleges Foundation Institute (SLFTCI) on Tuesday. TESDA-Bicol Regional Director Archie Grande said the short course

- [DENR tells public to avoid areas with coastal uplift](#) (2026-06-16 17:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Soccsksargen on Tuesday told residents in the coastal areas of Gian, Sarangani, to stay clear of

areas where coastal uplift occurred after the magnitude 7.8 earthquake in the province on June 8. Coastal uplift refers to the vertical rise of the shoreline caused

- [Gov' t school in Baguio City ensures 'learning' of special learners](#) (2026-06-16 17:18)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — People with disabilities must not be kept at home, as they too can be taught to survive and live day to day by providing them with formal education to hone their skills in school. “We cater to special children of all ages, and we adopt the education based on their assessed needs,”

- [Kanlaon emits ash 19 times, registers 18 volcanic quakes](#) (2026-06-16 17:16)

BACOLOD CITY – Kanlaon Volcano emitted ash 19 times and had 18 volcanic earthquakes in the last two days, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported. The volcano had six ash emissions on Tuesday, the longest of which lasted from 8:58 a.m. to 12:31 p.m., or for three hours and 33 minutes. READ:

- [Ridon: Undeclared firearms new evidence in Duterte impeachment case](#) (2026-06-16 17:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Public prosecutor and Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon said on Tuesday that new evidence in Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment case will include firearms worth millions that she failed to disclose in her statements of net worth. In an interview, Ridon said Duterte omitted about 50 “short and long” firearms from her

- [Ateneo players 'fully cooperating' with PNP CIDG probe — lawyer](#) (2026-06-16 16:52)

MANILA, Philippines — A group of former and current Ateneo de Manila University men’ s basketball players is “fully cooperating” with the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP CIDG) probe into the fatal drownings of players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. They began arriving at the CIDG headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City,

- [PPI launches 'Press Forward' in CDO, eyes media-citizen council](#) (2026-06-16 16:49)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — To protect journalists from costly criminal lawsuits while maintaining public accountability, the Philippine Press Institute (PPI) convened media practitioners from across Northern Mindanao and Caraga regions here on Tuesday to lay the groundwork for a regional media-citizen council. READ: PNP: Voyeurism, online libel cases up last year Titled “Press Forward:

- [Sandiganbayan suspends Jinggoy Estrada for 90 days](#) (2026-06-16 16:33)

Updated at 6:00 pm MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan on Tuesday ordered the 90-day preventive suspension of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada amid charges related to the flood control scandal. “Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, this Court hereby orders the suspension pendente lite of accused Senator Jose ‘Jinggoy’ P. Ejercito Estrada from his present position as

- [Batac City turns ‘Dap-ayan’ traditional farmer sheds into tourism hubs](#) (2026-06-16 16:31)

BATAC CITY — Rural communities in this northern agricultural city are crafting a sustainable road map for the “Dap-ayan,” transforming these traditional farmer sheds into a new frontier for eco-tourism. Annual searches for the Best Dap-ayan ni Mannalon and Arc have evolved significantly since their pandemic-era launch as village leaders take charge of improving these airy,

- [Taytay, Atimonan log dangerous heat index levels](#) (2026-06-16 16:09)

LUCENA CITY — Local governments in Taytay, Rizal, and Atimonan, Quezon, have urged residents to take precautionary measures after both areas recorded dangerous heat index levels on Tuesday. In an advisory posted on its Facebook page around 2:30 p.m., the Atimonan Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office said the coastal town along Lamón Bay

- [Teen nabbed for rape-slay of 14-year-old cousin in Nueva Vizcaya](#) (2026-06-16 15:58)

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A 17-year-old boy was arrested on Monday in connection with the rape and murder of his 14-year-old cousin in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya. The victim’s body was discovered on June 13 inside a comfort room at the Information Center tourism building in Barangay Capisaan. Police Capt. Lloyd Guillermo, the Kasibu police chief, said investigators

- [Duterte camp wants Trillanes, 40 others, to testify in impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-16 15:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte’s camp appears to want arch-nemesis and former Senator Antonio Trillanes IV, along with former aide Ramil Madriaga and over 40 other individuals, to testify before the Senate Impeachment Court for her trial. Alleged copies of the pre-trial brief from Duterte’s camp, sent by sources to INQUIRER on Tuesday, showed

- [PNP: CIDG focused on Ateneo probe, no updates for now](#) (2026-06-16 15:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) said the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) will not issue any further updates on the investigation into the fatal drownings of Ateneo de Manila University men’s basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. Several former Ateneo players arrived at the CIDG headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon

- [Mindanao earthquake: P362M released for aid — Recto](#) (2026-06-16 15:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Executive Secretary Ralph Recto on Tuesday said the national government is expediting the release of emergency aid and recovery funds for communities affected by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Mindanao. “The full machinery of government is mobilized. Following the president’s directive, we were able to immediately deliver assistance to affected families, and

- [Philippine eagle outlives lifespan in captivity, a win in conservation](#) (2026-06-16 15:44)

MANILA, Philippines — A Philippine Eagle rescued as a juvenile in the early 1980s has surpassed the typical lifespan of its species in captivity, becoming a rare living benchmark of how far, and how long, Philippine conservation has had to work to keep its most iconic bird alive. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

- [Tao boat from Taiwan reaches Batanes, revives ancient sea route](#) (2026-06-16 15:31)

ITBAYAT, Batanes — The “Golden Friendship,” a traditional indigenous boat of the Tao people of Lanyu (Orchid Island), sailed into the Mahatao Shelter Port in Mahatao, Batanes, at around 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The vessel, carrying a 20-member crew, departed Lanyu—an island located about 90 kilometers southeast of Taiwan—on Sunday, June 14, and completed the

- [DMW promises the return of OFW’s ‘correct’ remains to Antique](#) (2026-06-16 15:19)

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique — The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) is working out the return of the exact remains of a migrant worker to her family in Antique by Wednesday. The remains of Rona Jean Gervoso were swapped with those of another overseas Filipino worker (OFW), Honeylith Zamoras, 31, of Dipolog City, Zamboanga del

- [Cayetano on ouster talks: If they have 13, congratulations](#) (2026-06-16 15:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano on Tuesday talked about letting go of the Senate presidency amid speculations he could be ousted during a special session of Congress called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The convening of the special session is scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday. READ: Marcos calls for Congress

- [Escudero received money from Co — ex-bagmen](#) (2026-06-16 15:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero allegedly received money in four suitcases at his house, according to the supposed former bagmen of ex-congressman Zaldy Co. At a press conference on Tuesday, 18 former employees of Co were joined by four others, and two individuals said they had delivered suitcases of varying sizes to

- [Tarsier rescued, released back to habitat in Kidapawan](#) (2026-06-16 14:54)

KIDAPAWAN CITY — A tarsier accidentally rescued after it was trapped in a river here was successfully released back into its natural habitat on Monday afternoon, a village official said. Bernard Jay Lumbayan, village chair of Paco, said personnel from the City Environment and Natural Resources Office and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

- [3 Koreans nabbed for alleged exploitation of minors in Angeles City](#) (2026-06-16 14:30)

MABALACAT CITY, Pampanga — Authorities arrested three Korean men for allegedly using two Filipino minors in an unauthorized gaming operation in Angeles City on Tuesday. In a statement, the Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3) said the mother of the two minors sought assistance from authorities after reporting that her children had been staying at an

- [Quake aid reaches isolated towns in Sarangani, Davao Occidental](#) (2026-06-16 14:21)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Military forces have deployed air assets to deliver critical relief supplies to isolated communities in Sarangani and Davao Occidental after landslides rendered major road networks impassable following the powerful June 8 magnitude 7.8 earthquake. Maj. Ruben Gadut, chief of the Army's 10th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office, said that Philippine

- [Corruption is 'worst sin,' says Marcos as he renews vow to punish crooks](#) (2026-06-16 14:12)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. renewed his vow on Tuesday to hold accountable officials involved in corruption scandals, noting that stealing public funds is the worst of all sins. During a joint press conference with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Malacañang, Marcos reaffirmed the government's fight against corruption, which he stressed limits what the

- [Senate urged to open Duterte impeachment pre-trial meet to public](#) (2026-06-16 14:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The group Bantay Senado has asked the Senate Impeachment Court to open the pre-trial conference for Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment to the public to ensure transparency. In a statement on Monday night, Bantay Senado said the pre-trial conference scheduled on June 18 should be open to the media and the public,

- [Alan Cayetano, allies file SC petition to 'protect' Senate](#) (2026-06-16 13:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano on Tuesday confirmed that he and his allies have sought the help of the Supreme Court amid the ongoing leadership row in the Senate. In a Facebook post, Cayetano, who claims to be the Senate president, said the petition seeks to protect the Senate as an institution and

- [Phivolcs: Ground deformation observed in parts of Sarangani, GenSan](#) (2026-06-16 13:21)

MANILA, Philippines – Ground deformation have been observed in Sarangani and General Santos City areas following the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that jolted parts of Mindanao last June 8, the head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said. “Based on the aerial and ground assessment, landslides, tension cracks, road subsidence, and rockfalls were seen

- [Quorum of 12 still applies in Senate special session — Gatchalian](#) (2026-06-16 13:18)

MANILA, Philippines — The quorum of 12 used by the Gatchalian bloc to shake up the Senate leadership may still apply at the upcoming special session, Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin Gatchalian said on Tuesday. The attendance of the Cayetano bloc on Wednesday's special session remains uncertain due to its members' absence in the last

- [Quake-hit villagers thank volunteers with humble gifts](#) (2026-06-16 13:12)

MANILA, Philippines — In a remote barangay in San Jose, Glan, Sarangani, residents who had waited days for help met the first volunteers to reach them with what little they could give: bananas, chickens and ducks. The volunteers had traveled six hours from Alabel to deliver relief goods to communities devastated by last week's strong

- [IPs, anti-poverty chiefs join NTF-Elcac](#) (2026-06-16 13:10)

MANILA, Philippines – National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Chairperson Nancy Alaon Catamco and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) Lead Convenor Secretary Lope Santos III on Monday were designated as the body's new grassroots development and empowerment leaders, the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) said. NTF-Elcac executive director Undersecretary Ernesto Torres Jr.

- [Gatchalian mulls legal action vs Defensor for blue ribbon announcement](#) (2026-06-16 12:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin Gatchalian said on Tuesday he is considering legal action against former congressman Mike Defensor for announcing a supposed Senate committee hearing despite having no authority. Defensor previously announced that the Cayetano bloc will hold its own flood control probe outside the Senate premises; however, no confirmation was

- [PNP to dela Rosa: Face legal processes, surrender other guns](#) (2026-06-16 12:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Tuesday urged Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa to face the “legal processes” against him and surrender his remaining firearms after his camp turned over 20 guns to the police following the cancellation of their registration. “We acknowledge this initial compliance through your legal counsel,” PNP chief

- [Undeclared firearms new evidence in Sara Duterte impeachment case – Ridon](#) (2026-06-16 12:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon said on Tuesday that new evidence in Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment case will include firearms worth millions that she failed to disclose in her net worth statements. In an interview, he said Duterte omitted about 30 “short and long” firearms from her statements of assets, liabilities

- [Mindanao earthquake death toll rises to 68; 33 still missing](#) (2026-06-16 12:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The death toll from the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Maasim, Sarangani, in Mindanao rose to 68 on Tuesday, while 33 people remain missing, according to disaster response authorities. Based on the latest advisory from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) released Tuesday noon, as of 6 a.m. on

- [How flavors, social media draw Filipino youth to vaping](#) (2026-06-16 12:26)

For years, researchers have warned that flavors, attractive packaging and youth-oriented designs could make tobacco and nicotine products more appealing to young people. Now, Filipino youth are offering a firsthand account of how those strategies have evolved into something much bigger — one that reaches them through social media feeds, online trends, peer circles and

- [Suspect in deadly Leyte ambush arrested; cops hunt other gunman](#) (2026-06-16 12:06)

TACLOBAN CITY — Police arrested one of two suspects linked to the deadly ambush in Albueria, Leyte, that left two people dead and three others wounded on Monday, authorities said. The suspect, identified only as alias “Totoy,” 27, an unemployed resident of Albueria, was apprehended around 10 p.m. on Monday following a hot pursuit operation

- [Ateneo rookie’ s remains now home in Agusan del Sur](#) (2026-06-16 11:25)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — The remains of Ateneo Blue Eagles cager Rene Clert “Bobet” Baterbonia finally arrived in the wee hours of Tuesday in his hometown of Talacogon, Agusan del Sur. Baterbonia’ s cortege arrived in Talacogon town past 1 a.m. Tuesday, after leaving Davao City at around 8 a.m. Monday, according to a

- [EXPLAINER: What is a coastal uplift?](#) (2026-06-16 11:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The coastlines in Sarangani and Davao Occidental are now the focus of scientific investigations after the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Mindanao on June 8 exposed coral reefs that were once submerged. As the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) explained, the phenomenon is called coastal uplift, a vertical deformation of

- [Ex-Ateneo players go to CIDG amid Baterbonia-Adili drowning probe](#) (2026-06-16 11:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Several former Ateneo de Manila University men’ s basketball players arrived at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Camp Crame, Quezon City on Tuesday, June 16, amid its investigation into the fatal drownings of players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. Among the players seen entering the CIDG were Anton Asistio, Mike

- [MVPSF says role in Ateneo basketball program limited to funding](#) (2026-06-16 10:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The MVP Sports Foundation (MVPSF) on Tuesday clarified that its involvement with the Ateneo de Manila University’ s men’ s basketball team is limited to providing financial support. In a statement, MVPSF president Alfredo S. Panlilio said the foundation has long supported the team, along with other collegiate and national sports programs, but does

- [Cayetano-wing flood control hearing ‘will no longer proceed’ — venue](#) (2026-06-16 10:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The supposed Senate blue ribbon committee hearing of the bloc led by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano will not proceed, the management of the venue confirmed on Tuesday. Former congressman Mike Defensor earlier announced that a flood control probe would proceed on Tuesday, but outside the Senate premises. This is without the confirmation

- [Magalong orders strict Baguio food checks after rat found in soup](#) (2026-06-16 10:38)

BAGUIO CITY — Mayor Benjamin Magalong has ordered stricter inspections and sanctions against food establishments following a viral video that appeared to show a rat inside a bowl of sinigang served at a local buffet restaurant. The city government has launched an investigation into the incident and apologized to affected customers. Magalong said the restaurant

- [15 ash emission events logged at Kanlaon Volcano — Phivolcs](#) (2026-06-16 10:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Island generated a total of 15 ash emission events since Monday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). In an advisory, state seismologists said one of the latest ash emission events occurred at 8:58 a.m. on Tuesday. “This event generated grayish plumes that rose 500

- [Over 700 fishermen in Pangasinan receive cash aid from gov’ t](#) (2026-06-16 10:13)

AGNO, Pangasinan — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Region I has begun distributing cash assistance to fisherfolk in this coastal town in western Pangasinan under the Presidential Assistance for Farmers and Fisherfolk program. BFAR Region I Director Remely Lachica said 773 fisherfolk from Agno are among the beneficiaries of the assistance

- [P70-M of smuggled cigarettes seized in Lanao raid; 15 arrested](#) (2026-06-16 10:05)

COTABATO CITY – Authorities busted a big-time alleged smuggling syndicate in Picong, Lanao del Sur, arresting at least 15 individuals and seizing imported cigarettes worth P70 million during a joint operation Monday morning, officials confirmed Tuesday. Four others managed to escape, while five minors were turned over to social workers. Brig. Gen. Christopher Abecia, Police

- [Student-athletes’ protection bill filed in Senate](#) (2026-06-16 10:02)

MANILA, Philippines – A bill on the protection of student-athletes during and in preparation for competitions was filed in the Senate on Tuesday. Sen. JV Ejercito filed Senate Bill No. 2269, or the “Student-Athletes Comprehensive Protection Act of 2026”, which seeks amendments to expand Republic Act No. 10676, or the Student-Athletes Protection Act. This comes

- [More than 6,600 aftershocks recorded a week after Mindanao earthquake](#) (2026-06-16 09:58)

MANILA, Philippines — More than a week after the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck offshore Maasim, Sarangani in Mindanao, state seismologists have recorded over 6,600 aftershocks. As of 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 16, data from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology

and Seismology (Phivolcs) showed that 6,652 aftershocks had been recorded following the powerful offshore

- [Cebu OKs P25-M aid to 4 quake-hit Mindanao provinces](#) (2026-06-16 09:43)

TAGBILARAN CITY — The Cebu Provincial Board has approved a total of P25 million in financial assistance for four Mindanao provinces devastated by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck off Sarangani on June 8. During its session on Monday, the provincial board unanimously passed four resolutions authorizing Cebu Governor Pam Baricuatro to release P10 million

- [‘Evolving security concern’ triggers Senate-wide inspection](#) (2026-06-16 08:45)

MANILA, Philippines—An “evolving security concern,” which was confirmed by various intelligence agencies, has triggered a comprehensive Security Survey and Inspection (SSI) of the entire premises of the Senate starting this Tuesday. The SSI will be conducted by the Philippine National Police (PNP), according to the latest advisory issued by acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian.

- [57% of Filipinos open to working, living abroad — Octa survey](#) (2026-06-16 08:25)

MANILA, Philippines — More than half of adult Filipinos would be willing to live or work abroad, with better job opportunities cited as primary reason for considering migration, according to a recent survey by OCTA Research. The OCTA Research “Tugon ng Masa” survey, conducted from March 19 to 25 through face-to-face interviews with 1,200

- [1 dead, 6 injured in Baguio City highway mishap](#) (2026-06-16 07:51)

BAGUIO CITY — A bus conductor died while six other individuals were injured after a passenger bus crashed into a parked six-wheeler truck along Marcos Highway in Baguio City before dawn on Tuesday. Police said the fatality, a resident of Urdaneta City, Pangasinan, was declared dead on arrival at a hospital after being pinned inside

- [Metallic debris with Chinese markings found on Batangas shore](#) (2026-06-16 07:46)

LUCENA CITY — A piece of metallic debris bearing foreign markings was found along the shoreline of Lian, Batangas, on Monday, June 15, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said. The PCG station in Batangas reported that a resident discovered the aluminum debris, measuring about 20 feet long and 10.5 feet wide, along the shoreline of

- [Fair Tuesday weather with afternoon rain showers likely – Pagasa](#) (2026-06-16 07:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Fair weather is expected to prevail nationwide on Tuesday, with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms likely to develop later in the day, according to the state weather bureau. In its latest weather briefing, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the easterlies, or warm winds from the Pacific Ocean,

- [Marcos calls Congress to hold special session](#) (2026-06-16 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Leaders of Congress welcomed President Marcos’ proclamation on Monday, calling the legislature to a special session this week to tackle urgent measures and pending appointments, which he cited in his pronouncement. Earlier on Sunday, Sen. Joel Villanueva said he would attend a special session of Congress should Marcos convene one. The attendance

- [Cagers’ deaths: Ateneo head says sorry, accepts Baldwin’ s resignation](#) (2026-06-16 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University president Roberto Yap, SJ apologized on Monday to the families of collegiate basketball athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili, saying that the Ateneo leadership acknowledges the families’ “unbearable” pain over the deaths of the two students. Baterbonia and Adili drowned during a school-sanctioned training activity at a beach

- [Tulfo slams false info on blue ribbon meet](#) (2026-06-16 05:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Erwin Tulfo on Monday rejected as “misinformation” the announcement by former Rep. Mike Defensor about a supposed flood control hearing set outside the Senate on Tuesday. Tulfo, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, said in a statement bearing the official logo of his panel that no hearing has been scheduled

- [Luistro sees lower conviction vote if Senate numbers fall](#) (2026-06-16 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro on Monday said the vote threshold for convicting Vice President Sara Duterte in her impeachment trial should be reduced from 16 to 14 if more senators become unable to participate in the proceedings. Speaking at a media briefing, Luistro, lead prosecutor in the impeachment trial, cited a 1949

- [Rights groups ask SC: Order BuCor to surface Palparan](#) (2026-06-16 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Human rights groups Karapatan and Desaparecidos on Monday backed a motion filed before the Supreme Court seeking to compel the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) to reveal the whereabouts of convicted former Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan. The motion was filed on June 9 by Erlinda Cadapan and Concepcion Empeño, whose daughters, student-activists Sherlyn

- [Visayas power supply may stay unstable until August](#) (2026-06-16 05:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The tight power supply situation in the Visayas is expected to persist until August as several major coal-fired power plants remain offline, according to the country’ s grid operator. At a media briefing on Monday, National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) assistant vice president Cynthia Alabanza said the region’ s supply constraints, which

- [Passage of antiscalping law pushed ahead of BTS Manila concert](#) (2026-06-16 04:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan has pushed for the immediate passage of his proposed antiscalping measure following widespread reports that tickets to the Manila concert of K-pop group BTS are being resold at exorbitant prices. Pangilinan, who expressed concern over several reports that reached his office from frustrated ticket buyers, said that scalping

- [SC suspends lawyer Falcis for ‘vulgar’ post](#) (2026-06-16 04:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has barred lawyer Jesus Nicardo Falcis III from practicing law for one year for using profane and vulgar language in a social media post directed at the supporters of celebrity and TV host Kris Aquino. In a statement on Monday, the high tribunal’s Office of the Spokesperson said the

- [Marcos back in quake zone to bring aid, oversee recovery](#) (2026-06-16 04:40)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY, Philippines — President Marcos returned to the quake-affected areas in Region 12 for the second time on Monday, less than a week after a powerful earthquake struck the region on June 8. Marcos arrived at the airport here on Monday morning and immediately proceeded by a helicopter to Glan, the hardest-hit town

- [Farmers: Agrarian reform remains unfinished](#) (2026-06-16 04:35)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — Thirty-eight years after the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (Carp) took effect in June 1988, a national peasant group said the promise of comprehensive land reform remains largely unfulfilled for millions of Filipino farmers. “After 38 years, the message from farmers remains clear: Agrarian reform is not yet finished. The promises

- [DENR seeks Baste Duterte explanation over garbage dumping in Davao City](#) (2026-06-16 04:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has sought an explanation from Davao City Mayor Sebastian “Baste” Duterte over alleged illegal waste dumping outside its Davao Region office. In a letter on Monday, DENR Davao Regional Executive Director Mercedes Dumagan asked the mayor to explain after personnel caught individuals dumping mixed

- [Cayetano bloc hearing will just be free speech expression, says Luistro](#) (2026-06-16 00:22)

MANILA, Philippines — While nothing prevents the group headed by Senator Alan Peter Cayetano from holding a discussion on the flood control scandal, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro believes it will just be a freedom of expression exercise since it would not get the approval of the Senate leadership. In a press conference on Monday, Luistro

- [E-fund transfer ready for Expanded Centenarians Act beneficiaries](#) (2026-06-15 22:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) on Monday announced that qualified grantees of the Expanded Centenarians Act (ECA) may now receive their cash gifts through digital means. Under the ECA, seniors who reach ages 80, 85, 90, and 95 receive a cash gift of P10,000, while those who reach 100 receive

- [Plunder, bribery complaint ‘legally insufficient,’ says Marcoleta](#) (2026-06-15 22:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Rodante Marcoleta said the plunder and indirect bribery complaint lodged in the Office of the Ombudsman against him over campaign donations worth P75 million is “legally insufficient”. Marcoleta addressed the accusation in his counter affidavit, received by the Ombudsman on June 5 but was only furnished to the media over the

- [Lotto results: No jackpot winner in June 15 draws](#) (2026-06-15 21:48)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpots in the Grand Lotto 6/55 and Mega Lotto 6/45 draws on Monday, June 15, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The Grand Lotto 6/55 winning combination was 08-44-43-24-04-11 for a ₱45 million jackpot. There was no jackpot winner. The Mega Lotto 6/45 winning combination was 44-14-10-21-35-18 for a

- [Manila Water supplies hygiene needs of Mayon, Mindanao evacuees](#) (2026-06-15 20:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Water Company recently led water relief operations in the municipalities of Malapatan and Glan in Sarangani, following the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that shook the Soccsksargen Region. The firm conducted its relief operation through its social development arm, Manila Water Foundation (MWF), and the Non-East Zone operating unit, Manila Water Philippine Ventures-Cebu

- [Jovito Palparan whereabouts questioned over returned court notices](#) (2026-06-15 20:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Human rights groups and relatives of two disappeared students from the University of the Philippines (UP) are demanding transparency over conflicting reports on the whereabouts of convicted former Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan. Palparan was convicted in 2018 for kidnapping and serious illegal detention for the disappearance of UP students Sherlyn Cadapan and

- [Why did Ateneo stay silent? Out of ‘respect’ for families, execs say](#) (2026-06-15 20:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The silence from Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) a week after the deaths of basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili was meant to respect the grieving families, school officials said on Monday. In a statement read during a press conference, ADMU President Fr. Roberto Yap, SJ, said the university “chose direct,

- [Priority bills in special session address pressing concerns – Dy](#) (2026-06-15 20:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The priority bills that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. identified when he called for a special session of Congress for June 17 will tackle pressing concerns of ordinary Filipinos, Speaker Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III said in a statement on Monday According to Dy,

these bills focus on social protection, education, healthcare, and

- [Napolcom staff says sorry over grave threats after road crash](#) (2026-06-15 19:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Police Commission (Napolcom) staffer, who allegedly threatened a transport network vehicle service (TNVS) driver after their cars collided, apologized over the incident. The staffer appeared before the media and Napolcom Commissioner Rafael Calinisan, who identified him as Jaime Flores Jr., in a press briefing at their Quezon City office on

- [Agusan lawmaker pays tribute to Baterbonia at Naliyagan Festival 2026](#) (2026-06-15 19:48)

PROSPERIDAD, Agusan del Sur — Agusan del Sur's Naliyagan Festival 2026 turned solemn on its third night as 1st District Rep. Alfelito Bascug paid tribute to late rising basketball star Rene Clert Baterbonia. Spectators fell silent as Bascug shed tears while speaking about Baterbonia, turning the festive gathering into a reflection on loss, sacrifice, and

- [Gatchalian urges colleagues to participate in special session](#) (2026-06-15 19:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Monday prodded his fellow senators to participate in a special session called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. this week. The special session was slated at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, June 17. “I invite my colleagues to attend and take part in the proceedings as we act on

- [Marcos inspects Sarangani school to assess quake damage](#) (2026-06-15 19:42)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. led an inspection of the Malapatan National High School in Sarangani on Monday to assess the damage it sustained from the magnitude 7.8 earthquake last June 8, according to a statement issued by the Department of Education. Marcos also directed the DepEd to maintain continuous inspections of all

- [BOC intercepts smuggled endangered tortoises at Naia](#) (2026-06-15 19:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) on Monday said it intercepted luggage containing live endangered tortoises at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia). According to the BOC-Naia, the endangered tortoises were discovered after the baggage of a Malaysian passenger arriving from Bangkok was flagged during X-ray screening last June 12. READ: Taiwan-bound turtles,

- [NCRPO still validating alleged threat to Senate](#) (2026-06-15 19:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) on Monday maintained that it was still validating the alleged threat against the Senate. “Whether or not there is a threat, our deployment is enhanced so that, if the threat is confirmed, we are already at a level where our deployment is appropriate for that

- [Ateneo: Basketball team retreat a tradition, 5th time at Aurora resort](#) (2026-06-15 19:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) management has admitted that the week-long team-building of its men's basketball team has been a traditional activity, extending to the time of former head coach Tab Baldwin's predecessors. In a press conference on Monday afternoon, ADMU president Fr. Roberto Yap, SJ, said that based on what he

- [DepEd simplifies lesson planning to lessen teachers' paperwork](#) (2026-06-15 19:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) has introduced a simplified and more flexible lesson planning framework to lessen the paperwork for public school teachers, giving them more time to focus on their students. As part of ongoing reforms for the new school year, Education Secretary Sonny Angara has issued new guidelines on Lesson

- [Lawyer Jesus Falcis on suspension: A price I willingly paid for family](#) (2026-06-15 18:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawyer Jesus Nicardo Falcis III on Monday said he accepts his one-year suspension imposed by the Supreme Court as a price he willingly paid for defending his family, as he challenged the judiciary and the legislature to hold the nation's top political figures to the same standard of accountability. "I accept the

- [2025 SALN: VP Duterte, husband post P98.6M net worth, an 11% hike](#) (2026-06-15 18:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth (SALN) for 2025 of Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband, Manases Carpio, posted more than an 11-percent increase after they declared a total net worth of P98.6 million. Duterte and Carpio's latest SALN posted more than a P10-million increase compared to 2024, when

- [Leviste wants House to allocate P14B for disaster victims' food packs](#) (2026-06-15 18:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Batangas 1st District Rep. Leandro Legarda Leviste has filed a resolution seeking to have the House of Representatives allocate P14 billion from its 2026 budget to fund food packs for disaster victims or rice for every Filipino family. In a statement, Leviste said the P14 billion will be taken from the House's

- [Dy on Marcos' special session call: House ready to act on priority bills](#) (2026-06-15 18:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives "stands ready to heed" the call of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for a special session of Congress on June 17, Speaker Faustino Dy III said in a statement on Monday as he welcomed the move. "The House has already laid much of the groundwork for these priority reforms. We

- [Palace allots P278M for LGUs hit by Mindanao earthquake](#) (2026-06-15 17:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the President has allocated a total of P278 million from its Socio-Civic Projects Fund for provinces and local government units affected by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake in southern Mindanao. During his visit to Sarangani on Monday, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. announced the financial assistance package aimed at helping local

governments

- [Ateneo: No heads-up on risks of Baldwin coaching students](#) (2026-06-15 17:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) has clarified that it has never received information from anyone regarding risks that supposedly come with former men's basketball team coach Tab Baldwin mentoring student-athletes, amid claims from Baldwin's estranged wife that she warned university officials. ADMU President Fr. Roberto Yap, SJ, also said in a statement

- [Magnitude 6.2 earthquake rocks Davao Oriental](#) (2026-06-15 17:44)

COTABATO CITY – An offshore magnitude 6.2 earthquake rocked Davao Oriental at 5:18 p.m. Monday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said. The state volcanology office traced the epicenter 164 kilometers east of Gen. Generoso, Davao Oriental, and said it was tectonic in origin. It had a depth of 86 kilometers. The agency

- [House panel, Sara Duterte camp file pre-trial briefs with Senate](#) (2026-06-15 17:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate as an impeachment court received on Monday both the defense and the House prosecution's pre-trial briefs for the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte. The pre-trial briefs contain a summary of witnesses, evidence, and proposed modifications to the impeachment trial among others. According to House Secretary-General Cheloy Garafil, who filed

- [Dole sets June 29 hearing on Tab Baldwin's work permit validity](#) (2026-06-15 17:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) has scheduled a formal hearing on June 29 concerning the working permit verification involving Ateneo de Manila University men's basketball team coach, Thomas “Tab” Baldwin. READ: Dole chief summons Ateneo coach Tab Baldwin over drownings, work permit According to Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino, the formal

- [DA, other agencies to tackle illicit tobacco trade in summit](#) (2026-06-15 16:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) and other key government agencies are set to join an international summit aimed at combating the proliferation of illegal tobacco and nicotine products in the country. The third International Tobacco Summit, themed “Leveraging Growth, Securing Futures: Enhancing Livelihood and Revenue against Illicit Trade,” will take place on

- [Bangsamoro supporters urge anew Malacañang to protect peace gains](#) (2026-06-15 16:55)

COTABATO CITY– Peace advocates, former Moro combatants, civil society groups, and youth organizations gathered in Mendiola, Manila, on Monday morning to renew their calls for the national government to uphold the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) and protect the gains of the peace process. The latest peace rally was organized under the banner of

- [Mindanao earthquake: Marcos turns over P20M for Glan rehab](#) (2026-06-15 16:43)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday turned over P20 million to the municipality of Glan, Sarangani, for rehabilitation efforts following the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Mindanao on June 8, the Presidential Communications Office said. In addition to the funds, which came from the Socio-Civic Projects Fund, Marcos also turned over one

- [Search ramps up for missing hiker on Mt. Kalatungan in Bukidnon](#) (2026-06-15 16:31)

PANGANTUCAN, Bukidnon — Police and volunteer mountaineers have intensified their search and rescue operation for a 31-year-old hiker, who was reported missing on Mt. Kalatungan after joining a mountain climb on June 11. The missing hiker from Valencia City, Bukidnon, was identified as Alkharj Gomez Zamayla, who was last seen on June 12 while traversing

- [Methane detected in Iloilo deep well](#) (2026-06-15 16:18)

ILOILO CITY—The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Region 6 (Western Visayas) on Monday confirmed that it has detected methane at a deep well in Dueñas, Iloilo. In a press release, the EMB-6 said it conducted an initial assessment of a reported gas emission from a newly drilled deep well in Barangay Fundacion after residents

- [WATCH: Ateneo apologizes over deaths of Baterbonia, Adili](#) (2026-06-15 16:10)

MANILA, Philippines – Ateneo de Manila University President Fr. Roberto C Yap, SJ, issues statement on the June 8 tragedy involving its men’ s basketball team, which resulted in the deaths of Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. Yap, also apologized to the families of Baterbonia and Adili, whose deaths had drawn national attention. READ: Tab Baldwin

- [Ateneo head apologizes: 2 young men entrusted to us didn’ t return home](#) (2026-06-15 16:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) President Roberto Yap, SJ has apologized to the families of Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili, who died during a team-building activity, saying it breaks their hearts to know that two young men entrusted to them did not return home. In a press conference on Monday afternoon, Yap

- [Ateneo accepts Tab Baldwin’ s resignation](#) (2026-06-15 15:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) has accepted the resignation of men’ s basketball team head coach Tab Baldwin, university president Roberto Yap, SJ, confirmed to reporters. Yap said this during a press conference on Monday afternoon, where the ADMU president discussed the developments regarding the deaths of Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili, two members

- [SBMA port operations revenue climbs 20% in first quarter of 2026](#) (2026-06-15 15:27)

OLONGAPO CITY — The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) reported on Monday a 20 percent increase in revenue from port operations in the first quarter of 2026, reaching P389 million from P324 million in the same period last year. SBMA Senior Deputy Administrator for Port Operations Ronnie Yambao said the Seaport Department accounted for the

- [Ateneo drowning probe: CIDG to reach out to Baldwin' s estranged wife](#) (2026-06-15 15:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) plans to reach out to the woman who claimed to be the estranged wife of Ateneo de Manila University men' s basketball team head coach Tab Baldwin. CIDG Director Maj. Gen. Robert Morico II said Monday that investigators would look into the statement made by the

- [Erwin Tulfo praying for new Senate president during special session](#) (2026-06-15 15:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The convening of a special session of Congress on June 17 gave rise to the possibility that Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian would be elected as Senate president. Gatchalian was installed as Senate president pro tempore on June 3 following an alleged boycott by colleagues allied with Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano. READ: Senate minority: Majority' s

- [CIDG seeks more lookout orders vs Ateneo coaches after no-show](#) (2026-06-15 15:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) has asked the Department of Justice (DOJ) to issue additional Immigration Lookout Bulletin Orders (ILBOs) against coaches of the Ateneo de Manila University men' s basketball team who failed to personally appear before investigators despite being subpoenaed in connection with the fatal drowning of players Rene

- [Tulfo: No authorized Senate blue ribbon panel hearing on June 16](#) (2026-06-15 15:04)

MANILA, Philippines – No Senate blue ribbon committee hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, the panel' s chairperson, Sen. Erwin Tulfo, clarified on Monday. Tulfo, along with the Blue Ribbon Oversight Office Management, confirmed this, contrary to the social media post of former Congressman Mike Defensor, who announced that there would be a hearing

- [Pagcor sends 10,000 food packs to Mindanao earthquake victims](#) (2026-06-15 15:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) on Monday started its relief operations for the victims of the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Mindanao recently, with more than 10,000 food packs already on the way to affected areas. The relief food packs will be distributed in General Santos City; Mati City, Davao Oriental;

- [Luistro sees Duterte impeachment trial finished by September](#) (2026-06-15 15:00)

MANILA, Philippines – Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said on Monday that she expects Vice President Sara Duterte' s impeachment trial to conclude by September. In a media briefing, lead prosecutor Luistro said she expects the trial to last at least three months if it proceeds

without delays. “At minimum, one, two or three months,” she said.

- [CIDG eyes 7 persons of interest in Ateneo drowning case](#) (2026-06-15 14:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) is now looking into at least seven persons of interest amid the ongoing investigation into the deaths of Ateneo de Manila University basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. CIDG director Maj. Gen. Robert Morico II disclosed the updated figure during a press briefing at

- [DENR wants Davao Mayor Duterte to explain illegal waste dumping](#) (2026-06-15 14:48)

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sought an explanation from Davao City Mayor Sebastian “Baste” Duterte over alleged illegal waste dumping outside its Region XI office. It also filed a complaint against the vehicle owner caught on CCTV unloading mixed waste at the site. In a letter dated June 15, DENR Region

- [CIDG: Ateneo president, telco execs to be subpoenaed over drowning case](#) (2026-06-15 14:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University President Fr. Roberto Yap and officials of Smart Communications will be subpoenaed over the fatal drowning of basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said on Monday. “We learned also from the university athletics office that the Ateneo basketball team is

- [Prosecutors seek Filipino, regional language use in Sara Duterte trial](#) (2026-06-15 14:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution team in Vice President Sara Duterte’s trial seeks the use of Filipino and translations for regional languages to ensure the proceedings could be easily understood by Filipinos, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said on Monday. In a media briefing, lead prosecutor Luistro said the panel will formally raise the request

- [CIDG: Ateneo drowning case possible homicide, hazing](#) (2026-06-15 14:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The investigation into the drowning of Ateneo de Manila University men’s basketball team players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili is now focused on possible homicide or hazing cases, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said. READ: NBI subpoenas Baldwin, Ateneo officials over drowning incident “This investigation has now turned into a

- [PNP maintains heightened alert as more schools reopen](#) (2026-06-15 14:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday said it will maintain heightened security measures as more schools, particularly private institutions, begin classes for School Year 2026–2027. PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said police personnel will continue implementing the same security protocols deployed during the June 8 opening of classes in

- [Luistro: Over 30 witnesses to be presented in Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-15 14:03)

MANILA, Philippines – The House prosecution team in Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial plans to present more than 30 witnesses, lead prosecutor and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said on Monday, as they prepare to file their pre-trial brief before the Senate. In a media briefing, Luistro said the prosecution panel has listed the witnesses

- [Occidental Mindoro solon seeks P13-M damage suit vs broadcaster](#) (2026-06-15 13:33)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Occidental Mindoro Lone District Representative Leody “Odie” Tarriela has filed a civil complaint seeking P13 million in damages against broadcaster Radamalyn “Boy Kamandag” Cardoza, accusing him of filing a baseless case before the Office of the Ombudsman earlier this year. The complaint, filed before the Regional Trial Court of Muntinlupa,

- [Senate resolution urges gov’t to secure funds for earthquake response](#) (2026-06-15 13:18)

MANILA, Philippines — A resolution urging the government to ensure enough funds for the recovery and rehabilitation of the earthquake-struck areas in Mindanao was filed in the Senate on Monday. Proposed by Sen. Joel Villanueva, Senate Resolution No. 447 calls on the national government to “take all necessary measures to ensure the availability of adequate

- [Nartatez: Divisive politics won’t sway cops amid Senate tensions](#) (2026-06-15 13:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. maintained that his agency’s personnel will not be swayed by “divisive political interests” amid ongoing tensions in the Senate. “Our only mandate is to preserve public order and enforce the rule of law,” Nartatez said in a statement on Monday. READ: Lacson:

- [SC suspends Jesus Falcis over ‘profane’ post vs Kris Aquino supporters](#) (2026-06-15 13:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court (SC) has suspended for one year Atty. Jesus Nicardo Falcis III for using profane and vulgar language in a social media post targeting the supporters of celebrity Kris Aquino. SC’s Office of the Spokesperson issued the statement quoting a decision penned by Associate Justice Jhosep Y. Lopez. In its statement, it

- [DSWD releases nearly P125M in aid for Mindanao earthquake victims](#) (2026-06-15 12:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has released a total of P124,946,118.48 in humanitarian assistance for communities affected by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Mindanao last week, the agency said Monday. In a teleconference briefing, DSWD Disaster Response Management Bureau Director Maria Isabel Lanada reported that as of 6

- [Marcos calls for Congress special session](#) (2026-06-15 12:07)

[Updated June 15, 2026, 12:40 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has called for Congress to convene a special session on June 17 to fast-track social protection measures amid energy challenges and calamities. Under Proclamation No. 1318 signed on Monday, the President directed Congress to take up priority legislative measures that remain pending

- [NBI chief: Dela Rosa should ‘surrender’ along with firearms](#) (2026-06-15 12:05)

MANILA, Philippines – National Bureau of Investigation Director Melvin Matibag on Monday expressed hope that Sen. Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa would surrender to authorities together with his firearms. Matibag made the remark hours after the Philippine National Police (PNP) confirmed that Dela Rosa’s camp had surrendered 20 of his 117 registered firearms. READ: Bato Dela

- [2 dead, 3 wounded in Leyte ambush; cops launch hot pursuit](#) (2026-06-15 12:05)

TACLOBAN CITY- A deadly shooting incident in Barangay Salvacion, Albuera, in Leyte, left two persons dead, and three others wounded on Monday morning, prompting a police manhunt in the mountainous area of the barangay. Based on initial police reports from the Leyte Police Provincial Office (LPPO), the victims were onboard a Toyota Wigo en route

- [PNP bolsters patrols amid power outages after Mindanao earthquake](#) (2026-06-15 12:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday said it increased its patrol and visibility operations amid continued power outages in the wake of the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that shook Mindanao last week. “All police units remain ready to respond to emergencies and maintain order while affected areas work toward the full restoration

- [Phivolcs: Over 6,100 aftershocks after magnitude 7.8 Mindanao quake](#) (2026-06-15 11:59)

[Updated June 15, 2026, 1:38 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — A total of 6,144 aftershocks from the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that shook Mindanao last week have been recorded as of 11 a.m. on Monday, June 15, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said. Of the 6,144 aftershocks, 78 were felt across the affected regions,

- [Ormoc City blaze leaves 40 families displaced, 30 homes razed](#) (2026-06-15 11:55)

TACLOBAN CITY— A late-night fire razed a residential area in Ormoc City, Leyte, leaving dozens of families homeless after destroying 30 houses and a classroom-laboratory building in Barangay Naugan on Sunday night. The third-alarm fire broke out in Purok 3 at around 11:52 p.m., rapidly spreading through a densely populated community and causing an estimated

- [Mindanao earthquake death toll rises to 65, says OCD](#) (2026-06-15 11:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The death toll from the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that shook Mindanao last week has risen to 65, as of 6 a.m. on Monday, June 15, Office of Civil Defense (OCD) deputy

administrator Raffy Alejandro said in a press briefing. He noted that most of the deaths were due to earthquake-induced landslides and

- [Marcos back in quake-hit Mindanao, visits Sarangani evacuees](#) (2026-06-15 11:47)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. returned to quake-affected areas in Region 12 or Soccsksargen for the second time on Monday, less than a week after a powerful tremor jolted the area on June 8. Marcos arrived at the airport here on Monday morning and proceeded to Glan, the worst-quake-hit town in Sarangani

- [Angeles museum, half-buried churches keep Pinatubo fury alive](#) (2026-06-15 11:37)

TARLAC CITY— From half-buried churches that still bear the weight of lahar to museums preserving the memory of destruction, the 1991 Mount Pinatubo eruption remains a story of landscape devastation and human resilience. The Sunken Shrine in Cabetican, Bacolor, Pampanga, and the San Guillermo Parish Church stand as enduring witnesses to the eruption's fury. Both

- [Individuals in gov't web defacement already identified — Matibag](#) (2026-06-15 11:14)

MANILA, Philippines – The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has already identified individuals suspected of defacing government websites in the past few days, NBI Director Melvin Matibag confirmed on Monday. The websites of the NBI, the Senate and the House of Representatives were defaced in three separate occasions over the weekend. Asked whether there is

- [Remulla: Ateneo athletics chief appears before CIDG, Baldwin no-show](#) (2026-06-15 10:42)

[Updated June 15, 2026, 11:51 a.m.] MANILA, Philippines — Only Ateneo de Manila University athletics director Em Fernandez personally appeared before the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Camp Crame on Monday morning. That is for the investigation into the fatal drowning of men's basketball team players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili, according to

- [Drones battle sugarcane pest outbreak across Negros, Panay](#) (2026-06-15 10:41)

BACOLOD CITY—The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) has begun drone and manual spraying of insecticides in sugarcane fields in Isabela, Negros Occidental, to contain the spread of the highly destructive red-striped soft scale insect (RSSI). Sugar Board Member David Andrew Lizares Sanson said on Sunday that spraying operations started last week in several barangays in Isabela

- [Eastern Samar steps up measures as El Niño looms](#) (2026-06-15 10:15)

TACLOBAN CITY—The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRPMC) of Eastern Samar has stepped up preparedness measures and inter-agency coordination in anticipation of a possible El Niño event, as climate agencies warn of an increasing likelihood of

its development in the coming months. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) placed Eastern

- [Ateneo grads say school must ‘do better’ in Baterbonia-Adili probe](#) (2026-06-15 09:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The graduating class of the Ateneo de Manila University called on the school to “do better” in its investigation into the fatal drowning of men’s basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili at an Aurora beach resort. “There is no joyful way to graduate in the shadow of this incident, and we

- [Bataan diocese mourns loss of 2 priests who died over the weekend](#) (2026-06-15 09:19)

BALANGA CITY, Bataan — Two Roman Catholic priests died one after the other over the weekend due to heart attacks, church and local authorities said. Fr. Ernie de Leon, 59, parish priest of Hermosa town, died on Saturday morning, while Fr. Tristan Ralf Quezon Pacheco, 43, of St. Joseph Cathedral Shrine in Balanga, passed away

- [P2.6-M smuggled cigarettes seized, 2 nabbed in Cotabato](#) (2026-06-15 09:18)

COTABATO CITY – Police seized P2.6 million worth of alleged smuggled cigarettes and arrested two suspects who attempted to flee from authorities at a checkpoint here on Sunday. Brig. Gen. Alan Manibog, director of the Police Regional Office-12 (PRO-12), said the operation began in Barangay South Manuagan after police officers flagged down an Isuzu Forward

- [Cops arrest 5, seize P6.8-M shabu in Marawi drug bust](#) (2026-06-15 09:09)

COTABATO CITY — Police authorities seized P6.8 million worth of suspected shabu and arrested five individuals, including a woman, during a buy-bust operation on Sunday afternoon in Barangay Basak Malutlut, Marawi City. In a statement, Police Maj. Mohammad Ridhwhan Ombawa, commander of Regional Drug Enforcement Unit of Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (RDEU-PRO BAR), identified

- [Amnesty: Mindanao pays price for years of impunity](#) (2026-06-15 09:01)

MANILA, Philippines — As Mindanao reeled from a magnitude 7.8 earthquake on Monday, June 8, Amnesty International Philippines (AIPh) said conversations could no longer be limited to disaster preparedness or emergency response. For AIPh, the dire human rights situation in Mindanao is the consequence of decades of impunity and the failure to hold the government

- [Hoax bomb threat triggers sweeps at Iloilo offices](#) (2026-06-15 08:46)

ILOILO CITY — A bomb threat circulating on social media targeting the Iloilo City Hall and the Iloilo Provincial Capitol on Sunday afternoon (June 14) prompted emergency sweeps by explosive ordnance disposal units before authorities later declared it a hoax. The Iloilo City Police Office (ICPO) said no explosives or hazardous materials were found in

- [Occidental Mindoro’s No. 1 most wanted arrested in Bulacan](#) (2026-06-15 08:44)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The top-ranked most wanted person in Occidental Mindoro was arrested in Bulacan during a coordinated police operation on Sunday, June 14, authorities said. The suspect was arrested in Barangay Poblacion, San Ildefonso, Bulacan through a joint manhunt conducted by the Calintaan Municipal Police Station, with support from the San Ildefonso

- [Bato Dela Rosa' s camp surrenders 20 firearms, says PNP](#) (2026-06-15 08:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa’ s camp has surrendered 20 of his firearms to the authorities, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP). In a statement on Monday, the PNP said it had coordinated the surrender of the firearms through dela Rosa’ s “authorized legal representative” in Barangay Maa, Davao City last Thursday, but

- [Rain likely in parts of PH as easterlies prevail on June 15](#) (2026-06-15 07:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Parts of the country may experience rainy weather on Monday, June 15, due to localized thunderstorms as the easterlies continue to prevail, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. In the agency’ s forecast on Monday morning, Pagasa weather specialist Chenel Dominguez said, although fair weather conditions are expected in

- [Villanueva says ‘will be there’ in special session](#) (2026-06-15 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Joel Villanueva on Sunday said he would attend a special session of Congress should President Marcos convene one, a move that could prove decisive in resolving the Senate leadership impasse by providing the crucial 13th vote needed to formally elect Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian as Senate President. “In the event a special

- [Lacson: More detentions of Senators to affect VP trial](#) (2026-06-15 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator-judges by day, detainees by night? Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson said this could be a potentially awkward situation if detained senators are allowed by the courts to attend the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte—allowing them to wear their senator-judge robes during the trial and their persons deprived of liberty uniforms

- [Floods, coastal uplift affect quake-hit areas](#) (2026-06-15 05:05)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY, Philippines — Heavy rainfall on Saturday triggered flash floods in parts of Sarangani province and this city even as many residents try to cope with the aftermath of the powerful June 8 magnitude 7.8 earthquake, with the death toll rising to 61—seven in the Davao Region and 54 in Soccsksargen. Floods temporarily

- [INQUIRER.net remains top PH news site](#) (2026-06-15 05:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Inquirer.net remained the Philippines’ most visited news website from January to May 2026, recording 34.59 million visits and widening its lead over its closest rival, GMA Network, according to data from digital intelligence company Similarweb. Similarweb’ s

website traffic data from January to May 2026 showed GMA Network in second place with 29.77

- [PNP urges policy review after hacking of Congress websites](#) (2026-06-15 04:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police on Sunday called for a government-wide review of cybersecurity measures after hackers defaced the websites of the Senate and House of Representatives within days of each other. “This incident serves as a reminder that cybersecurity must remain a top priority for all government agencies,” said PNP chief Gen.

- [PNP cracks down on scam hubs linked to former Pogos](#) (2026-06-15 04:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police intensified its campaign against scam hubs that have allegedly resurfaced in smaller, guerrilla-style operations following the government’s crackdown on Philippine offshore gaming operators (Pogos). In a statement on Sunday, PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said they are currently verifying reports and intelligence indicating that illegal scam

- [Tourism revives Pinatubo landscape](#) (2026-06-15 04:30)

TARLAC CITY, Philippines — What was once buried under ash and lahar from the 1991 Mount Pinatubo eruption has been transformed into one of Central Luzon’s leading ecotourism destinations, now sustaining Indigenous communities and residents who spent decades rebuilding their lives after the disaster. Thirty-five years after the eruption displaced about 1.2 million people across

- [NBI subpoenas Baldwin, Ateneo officials over drowning incident](#) (2026-06-15 00:05)

MANILA, Philippines – The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has issued a subpoena to Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) men’s basketball head coach Tab Baldwin, as well as several athletes and university officials, NBI Director Melvin Matibag said on Monday. This comes after Blue Eagles players Rene Clert Baterbonia and Divine Adili died in a

Source: The Manila Times

- [Signal No. 1 up in Batanes, Cagayan as Typhoon Francisco intensifies](#) (2026-06-22 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on Monday raised Signal No. 1 over Batanes and the northeastern portion of Cagayan (Gonzaga, Santa Ana) including the eastern portion of Babuyan Islands, as Typhoon Francisco gained strength. Weather specialist Aldczar Aurelio said that “Francisco” was estimated 715 kilometers east of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan while moving west-northwestward at 30 kilometers per hour (kph). It was packing maximum sustained winds of 140 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 170 kph. The typhoon is expected to exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Friday. Meanwhile, Visayas, Mindanao, and Palawan will have cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms due to the effects of the southwest

monsoon. Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon will likely have partly cloudy to overcast skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to localized thunderstorms, Pagasa said.

- [PH Coast Guard completes Guam training](#) (2026-06-22 05:51)

GUAM — The Philippine Coast Guard has completed a series of joint training engagements with the United States Coast Guard in Guam as it prepares for its historic first participation in the Rim of the Pacific exercise, the world's largest international maritime war game. According to the US Coast Guard, the PCG offshore patrol vessel BRP Gabriela Silang and its crew conducted pre-exercise activities in and around Guam from June 9 to 13 while en route to Hawaii for RIMPAC 2026. The vessel arrived at Apra Harbor on June 9 and departed on June 12, before taking part in a joint sail with the US Coast Guard cutter Frederick Hatch through the US exclusive economic zone on June 13. "The pre-exercise engagements in Guam were invaluable in preparing our crew for RIMPAC 2026," BRP Gabriela Silang commanding officer Capt. Jomark Angue said in a statement released by the US Coast Guard. "Training alongside our US Coast Guard partners—on the water, on the deck, and in the field—sharpened our readiness and deepened the interoperability that defines a true alliance. We are proud to carry the Philippine flag into the world's largest maritime exercise, and we carry with us the spirit of partnership that began long before we reached Pearl Harbor," Angue added. The Guam stopover marked the conclusion of the first leg of the vessel's voyage to Hawaii, where it is scheduled to participate in RIMPAC activities from June 22 to Aug. 2. During the port visit, Philippine and US Coast Guard personnel conducted a range of training activities, including vessel tours, maritime law enforcement demonstrations, mock security boarding exercises and small-boat operations. The crews also participated in sports and cultural exchanges aimed at strengthening professional ties. Cmdr. Grant Johnson of US Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam said the engagements helped foster trust and cooperation between the two maritime services. "Whether we were training side by side on the water or sharing a basketball court and a karaoke mic, our crews built the kind of trust and friendship that lasts long after the lines are cast off," Johnson said. The United States and the Philippines are treaty allies under the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty and continue to expand security cooperation through agreements such as the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement. RIMPAC 2026 will bring together 31 allied and partner nations, 40 surface ships, five submarines, 140 aircraft and more than 25,000 personnel. Hosted by the US Pacific Fleet and led by the US 3rd Fleet, the exercise will focus on amphibious operations, anti-submarine warfare, air defense, humanitarian assistance and disaster response. The BRP Gabriela Silang, a 274-foot offshore patrol vessel and one of the PCG's largest ships, will represent the Philippines in the multinational exercise, marking a milestone for the country's maritime service as it seeks to enhance interoperability with regional partners.

- [No arrest warrant for Marcoleta — PNP](#) (2026-06-22 05:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday clarified that no arrest warrant has been issued against Sen. Rodante Marcoleta. "As of now, the PNP has not received an official communication regarding a warrant," PNP public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co

said in a press briefing in Camp Crame. “Once we receive a warrant from a competent authority, we will implement,” he added. Marcoleta earlier said that he got information that an arrest warrant will be issued against him in connection with a plunder case over his alleged non-disclosure of campaign funds.

- [VP Sara impeachment trial may run beyond September — lawmaker](#) (2026-06-22 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte could extend beyond September as both the prosecution and defense prepare to present a large volume of witnesses and documentary evidence, House prosecutors said Monday. Speaking after the latest pretrial conference, lead prosecutor Rep. Gerville Luistro said the timeline earlier floated by the prosecution may no longer be sufficient given the scope of the case. “If I will consider the number of witnesses and exhibits of both parties, mukhang hindi kakayanin ng hanggang September lang (it appears the trial may not be completed by September),” Luistro told reporters. She said the final schedule remains subject to the discretion of the impeachment court, which will determine how many trial dates will be allocated to each side. The trial proper is set to begin on July 6. The panel’s legal spokesperson and private prosecutor Benjamin Tolosa Jr. said the prosecution has requested 62 trial dates, while the defense has asked for 30. He noted, however, that the proceedings could move faster depending on how the court manages witness presentations. “It’s possible that it could be shorter,” Tolosa said, explaining that multiple witnesses may be accommodated in a single hearing day. Despite procedural disagreements during the pretrial phase, Luistro said the prosecution remains committed to ensuring that the trial proceeds as scheduled. “Even if there will be attempts, the prosecution will remain firm in making sure that the trial will start on July 6, 2026, as previously scheduled by the Senate,” she said. The prosecution panel also reported progress in the marking of evidence for the articles involving confidential funds and alleged unexplained wealth, with both camps expected to submit additional comments before the impeachment court issues its pretrial order. The order will serve as the roadmap for the trial, outlining the agreed facts, witnesses, exhibits and hearing schedule.

- [Police launch manhunt for suspect in Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 05:03)

TACLOBAN CITY — The Tacloban City Police Office (TCPO) and Police Regional Office 8 (PRO-8) launched a manhunt to capture another suspect in the shooting incident at the San Jose National High School in Tacloban City on Monday that left three people dead and five others injured. Police said responding officers immediately secured the school, provided assistance to the injured, and rushed them to nearby medical facilities for treatment. Authorities arrested one suspect shortly after the incident. A second suspect remains at large. The TCPO said an extensive investigation is ongoing to determine the motive behind the attack, identify everyone involved, and ensure those responsible are held accountable under the law. Both TCPO and PRO-8 appealed to the public to remain calm, avoid spreading unverified information, and cooperate with authorities as additional police personnel have been deployed to maintain security in the area.

- [3 killed, 5 injured in shooting at Tacloban High School](#) (2026-06-22 03:20)

TACLOBAN CITY — Three persons were confirmed dead and five others were injured in a shooting incident at the San Jose National High School in Tacloban City on Monday morning. Police said the shooting occurred at around 9 a.m., with initial reports from the Philippine National Police confirming three fatalities and five injured victims. Authorities continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the attack. Videos circulating online showed students and teachers fleeing the school in panic, some in tears, as a wounded female student was carried out by fellow students. There were unconfirmed reports that at least one of the fatalities was a student.

- [Senate official hopeful impeach pre-trial will be finished Monday](#) (2026-06-22 02:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Secretary Renato Bantug Jr. expressed hope that the pre-trial conference will be finished today so that the pre-trial order will be issued on Thursday. The pre-trial conference for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte continued on Monday, June 22, to finish the marking of evidence presented by the defense and prosecution panels. The pre-trial conference serves as the initial gathering of both panels before the senator-judges begin the trial. The Senate, sitting as Impeachment Court, is expected to start the trial on July 6. "Hopefully, we get to finish it within the day so that we can start working with the pre-trial order," Bantug said in a chance interview. "It's a tight schedule considering we only have two weeks away from the trial," he added. Asked about the reported altercation during the pre-trial conference in June 18, Bantug said, "Everytime that lawyers were gathered in a room you can expect that." "It will be unusual if there will be no exchanges between lawyers. There's nothing unusual. It's something that we can expect," he added. The defense and prosecution panels on Thursday finished marking of evidence concerning Articles 3 (Bribery) and 4 (Threats). But both panels needed more time to process documents related to Articles 1 (Misuse of Funds) and 2 (Unexplained Wealth) because these are voluminous. They continued the procedure today.

- [NGCP issues yellow alert for Visayas](#) (2026-06-22 01:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) has issued a yellow alert for the Visayas grid on Monday, June 22 as major coal power plants remain unavailable while electricity demand is expected to be high. In its 8 a.m. advisory, the transmission firm said that the yellow alert will be between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. as peak demand is estimated to reach up to around 2,427 megawatts (MW), while available supply is only at 2,593 MW. NGCP said that 25 plants are on forced outage, while 15 plants are running on derated capacities, for a total of 944 MW unavailable to the grid. Major coal plants that are offline are Therma Visayas Inc. Unit 1 (169 MW), Therma Visayas Inc. Unit 2 (169 MW), Panay Energy Development Corporation Unit 3 (150 MW). A yellow alert is issued when the operating margin is insufficient to meet the transmission grid's contingency requirement but does not often lead to power interruptions.

- [Impeach pre-trial conference resumes](#) (2026-06-21 16:13)

THE pre-trial conference for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte will resume today, June 22, with the defense and prosecution finishing the marking of documents. The pre-trial serves as the initial meeting of both panels before the senator-judges begin the trial proper. The Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, is expected to start the trial on July 6. The defense and prosecution panels met on July 18 at the Senate to present their evidence related to the four Articles of Impeachment against Duterte. Michael Poa, who heads Duterte's defense team, said last week they have finished marking evidence concerning Articles 3 (Bribery) and 4 (Threats). Poa said both panels need more time to process documents related to Articles 1 (Misuse of Funds) and 2 (Unexplained Wealth), which are voluminous. Senate Secretary and Clerk of Court Renato Bantug Jr. presided over the preliminary meeting, along with Deputy Clerks of Court Marivic Laurel-Garcia and Maria Valentina Cruz. The prosecution panel from the House of Representatives was led by Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro. The Senate received on June 15 the pre-trial briefs submitted by the two panels. Bantug said that pre-trial is where the parties formalize stipulations and identify issues that the court can resolve in a simplified manner. House Secretary General Cheloy Garafil said the prosecution panel submitted 29 copies of its pre-trial brief, more than enough for all senator-judges. Garafil also confirmed the filing of the formal entry of appearance of the prosecution's lawyers. Poa said the defense panel submitted a pre-trial brief of more than 60 pages. He said the document contains the names of several witnesses the defense plans to present. In a Notice of Pre-Trial Conference issued by Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin Gatchalian on June 9, the impeachment court directed Duterte and the House prosecutors to appear on June 18 at the Senate to address pre-trial matters, including the sequence for the presentation of evidence. Akbayan Rep. Jose Manuel Diokno on Sunday said the prosecutors were focused on preparing for evidence presentation amid public debate over how the Constitution's requirement of a two-thirds vote should be applied. Interviewed in dzBB's Bantay Balita sa Kongreso on Sunday, Diokno said "the number of votes is not on our mind. Our only purpose is for our presentation of evidence to be convincing and persuasive." The House, voting 257-25 with nine abstentions, impeached Duterte on May 11 over alleged misuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth allegedly amassed, alleged bribery, and the remark to assassinate President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. A month earlier, the House Committee on Justice found probable cause to impeach Duterte and sent the impeachment articles to the House plenary for action. Diokno said the pre-trial will likely be finished either Monday or Tuesday.

- [Strait of Hormuz closed again as US, Iran talks begin](#) (2026-06-21 16:10)

DUBAI — Iran's Fars news agency cited a military source as saying on Sunday that the Strait of Hormuz remains closed and the Revolutionary Guards Navy has not issued permission for any vessels to transit until further notice. The United States and Iran had agreed to a 60-day ceasefire for peace deal negotiations, but Tehran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps on Saturday declared the Strait of Hormuz shut in response to Israeli strikes in Lebanon, though the US military said commercial vessels were still operating. US Vice President JD Vance and

senior Iranian officials arrived in Switzerland on Sunday to launch negotiations over Tehran's nuclear program and build out the fragile interim deal to end the war in Iran. The framework was signed last week, and now top US and Iranian negotiators are in a 60-day sprint to reach an agreement on the technical details that hold massive implications for the world economy and global security. Yet only days after signing the agreement, it's being stress-tested after fighting escalated in Lebanon between Israel and the Iranian-backed militant group Hezbollah and by the subsequent announcement by Iran's military that it had closed the Strait of Hormuz, the vital waterway that transits a fifth of the world's traded oil and natural gas. Vance first sat down for talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Staff Field Marshall Asim Munir, who has served as a key intermediary between the United States and Iran throughout the conflict. Iran's main focus during negotiations on Sunday will be the ongoing war between Israel and Lebanon, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei told Iran's state news agency on Sunday. Iran is insisting that the deal's implementation start with the part of the deal that calls for a cessation of all wars, including between Israel and Hezbollah. Baghaei said the US "has been unable or unwilling" to hold Israel to the ceasefire. Iranian officials were to hold their own meetings with Pakistani and Qatari mediators before a planned four-way meeting including the US negotiating team. Iran is cautiously approaching the negotiations given its previous experience with the US negotiations on the nuclear issue, which twice in the past year have been interrupted by massive strikes against the country. "The implementation of any document is more important than its signing," Baghaei said Sunday. But Iran's president added that Iran will maintain its right to a nuclear program. "What is certain is that we will never back down from the right to enrich uranium, and the other side is also forced to accept it," Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday, according to Iran's state media.

- [DOLE shifts TUPAD program to sustainable livelihood for lasting impact](#) (2026-06-21 16:09)

THE Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is preparing to convert its flagship Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers (Tupad) program from short-term emergency jobs to sustainable livelihood ventures that can generate lasting income for disadvantaged workers. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino said the department is developing an enhanced version of Tupad aimed at creating entrepreneurs rather than merely offering short-term employment. The proposed shift marks a significant change in the direction of the government's labor assistance efforts, focusing on helping beneficiaries build income-generating ventures that can continue operating long after government support has ended. Tolentino said the enhanced framework seeks to maximize the skills acquired by workers through government-sponsored training programs and convert those competencies into viable businesses. Instead of assigning displaced workers to routine community cleanup activities and other short-term projects, the upgraded program will organize beneficiaries according to their technical skills and areas of expertise. Tolentino said DOLE is working closely with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) to align skills training with enterprise development opportunities. "I have already discussed the initiative with Tesda Director General Jose Francisco 'Kiko' Benitez as part of efforts to develop a more sustainable approach to

employment generation," he said. Under the proposed model, graduates of Tesda training programs with similar competencies will be grouped together and provided with the necessary capital and support to establish collective enterprises. Tolentino cited coffee barista trainees as an example, saying that instead of being assigned to temporary work, they could receive assistance to establish and operate their own coffee shop. The concept aims to create community-based businesses that can generate steady income, expand local economic activity, and eventually create jobs for other residents. Tolentino believes the approach will help bridge the gap between skills training and actual livelihood opportunities, ensuring that government investments in workforce development produce lasting economic returns. DOLE is finalizing the guidelines, mechanics, and operational framework for the enhanced Tupad program, with an official rollout targeted by July 2026. Once launched, DOLE regional directors will lead implementation on the ground, identify viable local enterprises, and oversee the transition of beneficiaries from trainees and temporary workers into business owners capable of sustaining their own livelihoods.

- [Marcos allocates P3B more for repatriation of OFWs](#) (2026-06-21 16:08)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has approved an additional P3 billion to strengthen the government's repatriation and reintegration program for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) displaced by the conflict in the Middle East. Executive Secretary Ralph Recto noted in a statement that the additional funding will cover the entire repatriation process, which includes pre-departure assistance, flights and reintegration support for returning workers. "War or not, there are Filipinos in extreme distress that we should bring home," Recto said on Sunday. Citing the latest data from the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Recto said 10,446 Filipinos from the Middle East have been repatriated through humanitarian flights. The figure includes 8,281 OFWs, 1,803 dependents, and 362 stranded Filipinos. Some of the humanitarian flights also served as medical evacuation missions, with health care personnel onboard assisting sick passengers, since the president "does not want repatriation to be a mere airport-to-airport thing," Recto said. "By tapping the skills of the OFWs honed by their work abroad, society benefits as well. This is a kind of technology transfer that helps the economy. This is a brain gain we need," he said. The DMW has conducted 15 Bayanihan Para sa Balikbayang Manggagawa National Reintegration Network and Job Fairs nationwide to connect returning workers with local and overseas employment opportunities, livelihood programs, and financial literacy services. The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration has provided livelihood assistance to 664 returning OFWs through its Balik Pinas, Balik Hanapbuhay program, which offers up to P20,000 in startup assistance for small businesses. Recto also said the Department of Education (DepEd) has established a hiring pathway for returning Philippine-licensed teachers seeking employment in public schools. Based on the latest DepEd data, around 10,000 former OFWs have joined the public school teaching workforce through various administrations.

- [Marcos allocates P3B more for repatriation of OFWs](#) (2026-06-21 16:08)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has approved an additional P3 billion to strengthen the government's repatriation and reintegration program for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) displaced by the conflict in the Middle East. Executive Secretary Ralph Recto noted in a statement that the additional funding will cover the entire repatriation process, which includes pre-departure assistance, flights and reintegration support for returning workers. "War or not, there are Filipinos in extreme distress that we should bring home," Recto said on Sunday. Citing the latest data from the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Recto said 10,446 Filipinos from the Middle East have been repatriated through humanitarian flights. The figure includes 8,281 OFWs, 1,803 dependents, and 362 stranded Filipinos. Some of the humanitarian flights also served as medical evacuation missions, with health care personnel onboard assisting sick passengers, since the president "does not want repatriation to be a mere airport-to-airport thing," Recto said. "By tapping the skills of the OFWs honed by their work abroad, society benefits as well. This is a kind of technology transfer that helps the economy. This is a brain gain we need," he said. The DMW has conducted 15 Bayanihan Para sa Balikbayang Manggagawa National Reintegration Network and Job Fairs nationwide to connect returning workers with local and overseas employment opportunities, livelihood programs, and financial literacy services. The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration has provided livelihood assistance to 664 returning OFWs through its Balik Pinas, Balik Hanapbuhay program, which offers up to P20,000 in startup assistance for small businesses. Recto also said the Department of Education (DepEd) has established a hiring pathway for returning Philippine-licensed teachers seeking employment in public schools. Based on the latest DepEd data, around 10,000 former OFWs have joined the public school teaching workforce through various administrations.

- [24 Filipinos detained in Russia return home](#) (2026-06-21 16:07)

TWENTY-FOUR Filipino workers detained for nine months in Yakutsk, Russia, returned to the Philippines after being released by Russian President Vladimir Putin on the request of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro welcomed the returnees who arrived in two batches on Philippine Airlines flights from Thailand Sunday morning. The Filipinos were detained over immigration issues after being victimized by illegal recruiters. Concerned about their welfare, Marcos raised their case with Putin during their meeting on the sidelines of the Asean-Russia Commemorative Summit in Kazan on June 17. Russian authorities facilitated the workers' release on June 19, "bringing an end to months of uncertainty for them and their families," the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Sunday. The president thanked Putin "for his positive response and to the Russian authorities for their cooperation in resolving the matter," the DFA said in a statement. The Philippine Embassy in Moscow said that throughout the nine-month-long case, it "maintained regular communication with the Filipinos and their families, conducted welfare visits, engaged relevant Russian authorities." The embassy also coordinated with the DFA and other concerned government agencies to bring home the Filipinos. The Department of Migrant Workers and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration provided assistance throughout the repatriation process. Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the freedom granted to the 24 Filipinos by Putin was one of the most significant achievements of Marcos'.

recent visit to Russia."24 souls, 24 families — most of all, 24 Filipinos who would still be languishing in an eastern Siberian jail, probably for the rest of their lives — one of the biggest achievements of the president's visit to Russia that almost escaped public notice and appreciation. Thank you!" Lacson wrote on X.

- [LTO rejects Dermalog's bid to renew contract](#) (2026-06-21 16:06)

THE Land Transportation Office (LTO) has rejected Dermalog's request for another contract renewal and an additional P2.5 billion budget to upgrade the Land Transportation Management System (LTMS). In rejecting Dermalog's request, LTO cited unresolved cybersecurity gaps, audit findings and system deficiencies despite 13 contract extensions granted to the German technology provider. Dermalog sought the renewal during a House Committee on Transportation hearing, asking lawmakers to support additional funding for cybersecurity upgrades, fraud detection measures, and anti-corruption features for the LTMS. Its contract with the LTO expired on May 30, 2026. LTO Executive Director Martin Ontog warned that another extension could delay the government's full control of the LTMS and prolong problems affecting millions of driver and vehicle records. Ontog said existing cybersecurity deficiencies could expose sensitive data to breaches and risk noncompliance with the Data Privacy Act. The P3.14-billion LTMS, a component of the Department of Transportation's (DOTr) P8.2-billion Road IT Infrastructure project, has been repeatedly flagged by the Commission on Audit (COA) over delays, incomplete functions, and operational issues. Ontog said four consecutive COA Audit Observation Memoranda (AOMs) documented deficiencies in the system. COA's 2021 report found the LTMS only 67 percent complete as of December 2020 and questioned the payment of full maintenance costs despite the project's incomplete status. By 2022, completion reached 82.6 percent, but auditors found seven of nine project activities remained unfinished. COA's 2025 and 2026 findings identified 61 unresolved issues, including critical and high-severity concerns carried over from previous years and newly recorded deficiencies. Among the issues cited were problems with the Motor Vehicle Inspection Report System (MVIRS), including plate assignments for exempt vehicles during initial registration, lack of connectivity with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and inability to correct vehicle ownership records. Ontog said these issues continue to affect the LTO's delivery of services. COA recommended that the LTO require Dermalog to provide a definite timeline for resolving remaining LTMS issues and consider sanctions if the company fails to comply with project requirements. Ontog said reports from LTO field officers validated by the Transportation District Officers Association of the Philippines (TDOAP) showed that the system still cannot process several legally required transactions. Among them are Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) transactions, Motor Vehicle User's Charge (MVUC) exemptions for diplomats and economic zone locators, and automatic penalty collection for new registrations. "Every gap requires formal change orders subject to budget appropriation, and every change order requires Dermalog's participation. This is a structural lock in the LTO and nothing gets resolved without the involvement of the vendor and without additional government payment," Ontog said. He also disclosed that Dermalog's 90-day proposal submitted on last May 4 to

Acting Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez included a condition requiring the LTO to settle the contractor's P1.2-billion financial claim within 45 days. Ontog said the claim had been denied and suspended through a COA Notice of Suspension involving LTO payments to Dermalog. "LTO is open to 90 days, but solely to complete the transition of LTMS control to the government and not a renewal. Any condition that delays, dilutes, or monetizes that turnover is unacceptable," he said. Ontog said Dermalog's failure to comply with 13 demands for full LTMS turnover, the expiration of its contract, and unresolved cybersecurity concerns raise serious questions over extending the company's control of the system. While the LTO is prepared to facilitate an orderly transition, it cannot support arrangements that would further extend contractor control over an IT system that faces operational deficiencies, audit issues and pending turnover obligations, he said. Franco Jose Baroña

- [‘Maritime community with shared future’ pushed](#) (2026-06-21 16:05)

A MANILA-BASED policy institute has called for a shift in how maritime issues in Asia are approached, proposing the adoption of a "maritime community with a shared future" as a framework to manage territorial disputes through diplomacy and cooperation rather than military alignment. Speaking during a forum over the weekend, Asian Century Philippines Strategic Studies Institute (ACPSSI) President Herman Tiu Laurel said maritime issues in the South China Sea and surrounding waters should be understood primarily as territorial disputes among claimant states and resolved through sustained negotiations and multilateral engagement, rather than through expanding security partnerships or defense postures. Tiu Laurel said the proposed framework envisions the seas as shared spaces for cooperation rather than arenas for strategic competition. Central to his proposal is the creation of a "maritime community with a shared future," which he said could help stabilize regional relations by encouraging cooperation in four key areas: maritime security, economic development, environmental protection, and the shared use of maritime resources. Under the concept, maritime security would be strengthened through dialogue-based mechanisms aimed at preventing miscalculations at sea and building confidence among coastal states. Economic development could be advanced through joint initiatives in fisheries, shipping and coastal infrastructure projects that benefit multiple countries, rather than exclusive or unilateral exploitation. Tiu Laurel said environmental protection is a shared obligation, citing the need for coordinated action on marine degradation, overfishing and climate-related risks affecting vulnerable coastal communities. On resource use, he argued that equitable and cooperative arrangements would better serve long-term regional stability than approaches rooted in exclusion or control. Tiu Laurel warned that expanding military arrangements and alliance structures in the region risk deepening divisions over territorial disputes. He said such approaches may harden positions among claimant states and make negotiated settlements more difficult. Tiu Laurel urged Asian states to return to inclusive diplomatic processes that allow all parties to address competing territorial claims through dialogue. While acknowledging the complexity of these disputes, he said cooperation remains achievable if states prioritize long-term stability over strategic rivalry. "The seas should not divide nations. They should

connect them through shared responsibility and shared benefit,” Tiu Laurel said in his presentation. He said the “maritime community with a shared future” framework offers a practical pathway for transforming contested waters into areas of cooperation, particularly in fisheries management, environmental protection and maritime safety. The ACPSSI chief said the Philippines and its neighbors should work toward a maritime order grounded in cooperation, mutual respect, and shared development rather than confrontation.

- [PUV drivers to get fuel subsidies through Maya](#) (2026-06-21 16:04)

PUBLIC utility vehicle (PUV) drivers and operators will have faster access to government fuel assistance after the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) partnered with digital financial services provider Maya to distribute fuel subsidies. “Beyond enabling faster and more convenient access to government assistance, digital accounts can also help transport workers participate more fully in the digital economy through tools such as savings, credit and cashless transactions,” Maya Group President and Maya Bank co-founder Shailesh Baidwan said in a statement. Under the Fuel Subsidy Program, qualified beneficiaries can receive government aid through their Maya accounts, reducing dependence on manual payout systems and over-the-counter transactions. The LTFRB said the move is expected to improve the efficiency, accessibility and convenience of subsidy distribution for transport workers. Beneficiaries include operators and drivers of public utility jeepneys (PUJs), UV Express units, taxis and minibuses. Maya said it has already completed the initial batch of subsidy disbursements to beneficiaries. The fuel subsidy program has gained renewed importance amid concerns over higher fuel costs linked to tensions in the Middle East, which have contributed to uncertainty in global energy markets and increased pressure on transport operators. LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said digital disbursement “helps make the release of assistance more efficient and accessible for our transport sector beneficiaries, while also supporting broader efforts to modernize public service delivery.” While Maya will facilitate the release of funds, the validation and identification of qualified beneficiaries will continue to be handled by government agencies like the LTFRB to ensure transparency and proper targeting of assistance. Maya said the initiative provides transport workers with digital accounts that can be used not only for receiving government assistance but also for a range of financial services, including savings, bill payments, insurance, credit products and cashless transactions. Baidwan said Maya had assisted in fuel subsidy disbursements during the Covid pandemic and continues to support various transport-related government payment systems, including transactions through the LTFRB Franchise Online Application system and the payment of traffic violation fees administered by the Metro Manila Development Authority.

- [LGUs urged to tap fund for rain harvesting systems](#) (2026-06-21 16:03)

HOUSE Minority Leader and 4Ps Rep. Marcelino Libanan has urged local government units (LGUs) to tap the People's Survival Fund (PSF) for rain-harvesting systems. In a statement on Sunday, Libanan said that under the 2026 General Appropriations Act, P1 billion was allocated for the PSF “to help finance climate adaptation initiatives, including the installation of functional

rainwater collection and storage systems that can strengthen communities' resilience against potential freshwater shortages." "We should make rainwater harvesting a regular practice so communities can build up additional freshwater reserves before severe dry periods set in," he said. Last Monday, amid the El Niño threat, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that 47 areas, including Metro Manila, could experience dry weather by the end of November, while Camarines Sur could experience a dry spell. Aside from Metro Manila, the 47 places in Luzon are Abra, Albay, Apayao, Aurora, Bataan, Batangas, Benguet, Bulacan, Camarines Norte, Catanduanes, Cavite, Ifugao, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Isabela, Kalinga, La Union, Laguna, Marinduque, Masbate, Mountain Province, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Quezon, Quirino, Rizal, Romblon, Sorsogon, Tarlac, and Zambales. The following places in Visayas are among the 47 on the list: Aklan, Antique, Biliran, Eastern Samar, Guimaras, Iloilo, Northern Samar, Samar (Western Samar), and Southern Leyte. The Dinagat Islands and Surigao del Norte, both in Mindanao, were also part of the 47 threatened areas. Pagasa defines a dry condition as below-normal rainfall (21 to 60 percent less than average precipitation) for two consecutive months. "Every liter of rainwater captured and stored today can help cushion households and communities from water shortages tomorrow. Investing in rainwater harvesting is one of the simplest, most practical, and most cost-effective climate adaptation measures available to us," Libanan said. A board composed of the following administers the PSF, the statement said: the secretaries of the Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and Department of Economy, Planning, and Development; the chairman of the Philippine Commission on Women; the vice chairman of the Climate Change Commission; "and representatives from the scientific community, business sector, and non-governmental organizations."

- [Law creating preventive mechanism vs torture pushed](#) (2026-06-21 16:02)

LAWMAKERS must pass the pending bills that aim to establish the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) in compliance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Opcat), the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) said on Sunday. CHR Chairman Richard Palpal-latoc said the enactment of an NPM law is overdue. It is essential in preventing torture, ill-treatment, and other human rights violations against persons deprived of liberty. Palpal-latoc noted that the Philippines acceded to Opcat more than 15 years ago but has yet to establish the independent preventive mechanism required under the treaty. "This continued delay weakens institutional safeguards against torture and undermines the country's commitment to accountability, transparency, and the protection of persons deprived of liberty," the CHR chief stressed. Rather than responding only after violations occur, it is designed to identify risks, monitor conditions, and recommend corrective measures before harm takes place, he emphasized. At its core, an NPM serves as a proactive safeguard against abuse through regular and unannounced visits to places where individuals are deprived of liberty, he explained. "For persons deprived of liberty, the absence of an independent preventive mechanism allows risks such as overcrowding,

inadequate health care, poor sanitation, prolonged detention, and other conditions that may amount to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment to go undetected or unaddressed,” said Palpal-latoc, a lawyer. Establishing an NPM creates an additional layer of protection by ensuring that places of detention and confinement are regularly monitored and that authorities are promptly alerted to conditions that may place individuals at risk of abuse or rights violations, the commission pointed out. The CHR, according to Palpal-latoc, expresses full support for House Bills 3047, 6662, and 6666 while identifying HBs 3047 and 6662 as the preferred measures. These bills more clearly guarantee the NPM’s independence, authorize regular and unannounced visits to all places of detention, and provide sufficient powers to access information, document conditions, and issue recommendations directly to authorities, the agency said. It likewise recommends requiring the consent of the complaining inmate, or their representative, before cases discovered during NPM visits are referred for administrative or criminal investigation. “This safeguard respects the autonomy of victims and helps protect them from possible reprisals,” he said.

- [Group lobbies for law declaring Rizal as PH national hero](#) (2026-06-21 16:01)

THE Knights of Rizal (KOR) is pushing for the enactment of a law declaring Dr. Jose Rizal as the Philippines’ national hero, saying his status has long been recognized through public acclaim but has never been explicitly established through legislation. The group cited the need for Congress to pass a law that would officially confer the distinction on the country’s foremost patriot and reformist. In a statement, KOR Supreme Commander Emmanuel Calairo said, “Dr. Jose Rizal became our national hero only by virtue of public acclamations and not by a specific law.” He traced the recognition of Rizal’s hero status to public movements from 1898 to 1902, which eventually led the Philippine Commission to enact Act 345 declaring Dec. 30 of every year as Rizal Day, an official public holiday. Calairo said the proposed legislation would complement Republic Act 646, the 1951 law that created the Knights of Rizal, by formally declaring Rizal a national hero. The organization also announced the nationwide rollout of orientation seminars, workshops, and public forums aimed at promoting nationalism, patriotism, and appreciation of Rizal’s writings, philosophy, and advocacies. Calairo said the campaign, which began on June 14, focuses on educating young Filipinos about Rizal’s ideals, particularly his belief that the youth represent the “future of the nation.” The KOR said the initiative seeks to strengthen public understanding of Rizal’s legacy and encourage a deeper commitment to love of country among Filipinos. FRANCO JOSE BAROÑA

- [DOJ opinion on parity in ranks, salaries not needed -- PAO](#) (2026-06-21 16:01)

The Public Attorney’s Office (PAO) has maintained its position that any legal opinion from the Department of Justice (DOJ) was no longer necessary over parity in ranks and salaries for its public attorneys and staff, as sought by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). PAO Chief Persida Rueda-Acosta, interviewed by The Manila Times, stressed that her agency’s long-delayed DBM request did not need any DOJ conformity because the former is an independent and autonomous office since it was established by Republic Act 9406, and “it is

only attached to DOJ for purposes of policy and program coordination.” Rueda-Acosta issued the statement after the DBM asked the DOJ anew for its legal opinion on PAO’ s request for parity in ranks and salaries of public attorneys and staff with their counterparts at the National Prosecution Service (NPS). “We believe that no resolution from the DOJ is forthcoming, considering that the matter has been pending for more than two years,” said the chief public attorney, adding that she already explained in writing to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. the PAO’ s position. In a letter to DBM Undersecretary Wilford Will Wong, Rueda-Acosta, Deputy Chief Ana Lisa Soriano, and PAO-Metro Manila Director Revelyn Ramos-Dacpano said they were also expecting that no resolution would be forthcoming from the DBM despite PAO’ s assertion of its independence and autonomy from the DOJ. Such inaction prevents the PAO from availing of the proper legal remedy, practically putting the matter in limbo, they lamented. “At any rate, such inaction on the part of the DOJ should not serve as a deterrent to the granting of PAO’ s request for parity in rank and salaries pursuant to a constitutional provision on the right to speedy disposition of cases,” the top PAO officials said. PAO cited the case of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corporation, which requested the respective concurrence of the Commission on Audit (COA) and the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel to the engagement of legal advisors. The Supreme Court ruled that COA’s inordinate delay in PSALM’s request for concurrence amounted to grave abuse of discretion, violating PSALM’s right to a speedy disposition of its case, as mandated by the Constitution. “Applying the case by analogy, even without the DOJ’s conformity to PAO’ s request, the same may be granted,” Soriano said. “In fact, the similar inordinate delay on the part of the DBM does not and should not deter the granting of the parity, especially since the Supreme Court en banc, the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, and the Court of Appeals had earlier sustained it,” Soriano pointed out. “Nothing more is left to be done by the DBM but to release the appropriate salaries of the concerned PAO officers,” said Alma Latosa, PAO’ s financial planning and management service head, also a signatory to the letter. The top PAO officials said that it would be highly illogical for the DBM to claim inconsistent positions that public attorneys are qualified for retirement benefits under R.A. 10071 (NPS Law), but they are not entitled to the ranks and salaries under the same RA 10071, which is the present DBM position. They emphasized that the non-recognition of the two offices’ parity would only demoralize public attorneys and encourage them to transfer to offices with better salaries and benefits. “Ultimately, the poor, underprivileged, and marginalized will bear the burden of having less compensated, less motivated, and therefore, less efficient lawyers – a reality inconsistent with the principle of social justice and a violation of the constitutional guarantee of adequate legal assistance to the poor,” Rueda-Acosta said.

- [DOJ opinion on parity in ranks, salaries not needed -- PAO](#) (2026-06-21 16:01)

The Public Attorney’ s Office (PAO) has maintained its position that any legal opinion from the Department of Justice (DOJ) was no longer necessary over parity in ranks and salaries for its public attorneys and staff, as sought by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). PAO Chief Persida Rueda-Acosta, interviewed by The Manila Times, stressed that her agency’ s

long-delayed DBM request did not need any DOJ conformity because the former is an independent and autonomous office since it was established by Republic Act 9406, and “it is only attached to DOJ for purposes of policy and program coordination.” Rueda-Acosta issued the statement after the DBM asked the DOJ anew for its legal opinion on PAO’ s request for parity in ranks and salaries of public attorneys and staff with their counterparts at the National Prosecution Service (NPS). “We believe that no resolution from the DOJ is forthcoming, considering that the matter has been pending for more than two years,” said the chief public attorney, adding that she already explained in writing to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. the PAO’ s position. In a letter to DBM Undersecretary Wilford Will Wong, Rueda-Acosta, Deputy Chief Ana Lisa Soriano, and PAO-Metro Manila Director Revelyn Ramos-Dacpano said they were also expecting that no resolution would be forthcoming from the DBM despite PAO’ s assertion of its independence and autonomy from the DOJ. Such inaction prevents the PAO from availing of the proper legal remedy, practically putting the matter in limbo, they lamented. “At any rate, such inaction on the part of the DOJ should not serve as a deterrent to the granting of PAO’ s request for parity in rank and salaries pursuant to a constitutional provision on the right to speedy disposition of cases,” the top PAO officials said. PAO cited the case of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corporation, which requested the respective concurrence of the Commission on Audit (COA) and the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel to the engagement of legal advisors. The Supreme Court ruled that COA's inordinate delay in PSALM's request for concurrence amounted to grave abuse of discretion, violating PSALM's right to a speedy disposition of its case, as mandated by the Constitution. “Applying the case by analogy, even without the DOJ's conformity to PAO’ s request, the same may be granted,” Soriano said. “In fact, the similar inordinate delay on the part of the DBM does not and should not deter the granting of the parity, especially since the Supreme Court en banc, the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, and the Court of Appeals had earlier sustained it,” Soriano pointed out. “Nothing more is left to be done by the DBM but to release the appropriate salaries of the concerned PAO officers,” said Alma Latosa, PAO’ s financial planning and management service head, also a signatory to the letter. The top PAO officials said that it would be highly illogical for the DBM to claim inconsistent positions that public attorneys are qualified for retirement benefits under R.A. 10071 (NPS Law), but they are not entitled to the ranks and salaries under the same RA 10071, which is the present DBM position. They emphasized that the non-recognition of the two offices’ parity would only demoralize public attorneys and encourage them to transfer to offices with better salaries and benefits. “Ultimately, the poor, underprivileged, and marginalized will bear the burden of having less compensated, less motivated, and therefore, less efficient lawyers – a reality inconsistent with the principle of social justice and a violation of the constitutional guarantee of adequate legal assistance to the poor,” Rueda-Acosta said.

- [Asean legislators seek Suu Kyi release](#) (2026-06-21 11:58)

MANILA, Philippines — About 134 former and incumbent lawmakers appealed to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., as chairman of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) this

year, to facilitate the release of political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi. Suu Kyi, who turned 81 on June 19, had been detained since Feb. 1, 2021 by the Myanmar junta. The legislators from 11 countries, including Reps. Leila de Lima and Arlene Bag-ao, and former representative Emmi de Jesus, wrote an open letter to Marcos and his fellow Asean leaders to demand the release of Suu Kyi and all political prisoners held by the Myanmar junta. "We convey our deepest respect and appreciation for your leadership as Asean Chair and for Asean's continued efforts to advance regional peace, democracy, and sustainable resolution to the crisis in Myanmar," the group said in its June 19 letter to Marcos. The Asean Parliamentarians for Human Rights, together with parliamentarians from Australia, the European Union, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom wrote to Marcos in his capacity as Asean chairman "to formally call for the unconditional and immediate release" of Suu Kyi and fellow political prisoners. "These are not new demands — they mirror the commitments already undertaken by the Myanmar military under Asean's own Five-Point Consensus (5PC)," the lawmakers said. The 5PC peace plan consists of immediate cessation of violence, constructive dialogue, designation of an Asean special envoy, humanitarian assistance, and visit of the special envoy. Marcos had designated Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro as Asean Special Envoy to Myanmar. She was tasked to facilitate a peaceful solution to the Myanmar political crisis. The Human Rights Watch reported in 2022 that Myanmar security forces have killed more than 1,700 people, including at least 130 children, and arbitrarily arrested about 13,000 others. The junta also displaced over 550,000 people in its operations in ethnic minority areas. The APHR welcomed Lazaro's recent stated intention to meet with Myanmar's political and ethnic resistance organizations.

- [Globe's new hub in Rizal boosts connectivity services](#) (2026-06-21 11:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Globe announced that it has launched another Onsite Distribution Operations hub in the town of Angono, Rizal. Jil De Castro, Globe's Territory Business head, said the new facility located in Barangay Mahabang Parang was expected to bring broadband services closer to Rizal communities. De Castro said the Angono hub would likewise bring Globe At Home applications, prepaid products, and customer support closer to residents and nearby communities. Since more households, students, remote workers, and small business owners rely on stable internet connectivity for work, learning, communication, and daily digital activities, the telco executive said the center would also serve as a customer touchpoint to make Globe At Home services more accessible to them. Supporting Globe's broader initiative in expanding community-based service hubs nationwide, the facility would enable customers to conveniently access connectivity solutions in their own neighborhood. Noting that more Filipinos continue to embrace digital lifestyles, De Castro said that Globe is even more committed to bring its services closer to where its customers live and work. "Through hyper-localized hubs like the one in Angono, we are making broadband applications, prepaid services, and customer support more accessible while strengthening our connection with the communities we serve," De Castro said. Moreover, the Angono hub also functions as the go-to area for Globe At Home applications, prepaid transactions, product inquiries, and customer engagement initiatives within Angono and other nearby Rizal communities. "By establishing more localized

touchpoints nationwide, Globe aims to improve customer experience through faster assistance, greater convenience, and stronger grassroots engagement,” the Globe executive said. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., the hub will serve town residents as well as neighboring communities seeking access to Globe At Home, Globe Prepaid, TM, and GOMO products and services. The center likewise reflects Globe At Home’s continuing efforts to expand its distribution footprint beyond major urban centers, ensuring that growing residential communities have easier access to reliable digital connectivity solutions, De Castro said. De Castro said the facility was inaugurated through a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Globe representatives, partner organizations and barangay officials. Present during the event were Maribel Mallari, CEO of Emviem; Regional Marketing Manager Trisha Dimandal; Trade Marketing Manager Johriel Zaragoza; Area Operations Head Nikki Gonzales; Area operations Head Adrian Adriatico; Business Development Expert B Nico Geron and Jason Sumang; and De Castro. Globe vowed to continue strengthening digital inclusion by making connectivity more reliable and to support community programs including livelihood, disaster response, and digital education.

- [VP Duterte visits quake victims in Davao Occidental, Sarangani](#) (2026-06-21 11:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte on Sunday visited victims of the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that hit Mindanao. “We first visited Barangay Nuing in Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental, to personally check on them and know their situation and needs,” Duterte said in Filipino in a post on Facebook. The Office of the Vice President (OVP) said in a statement that she extended assistance to residents affected by the quake. “We next visited the Sarangani Municipal Hospital and an evacuation center in Barangay Mabila, Balut Island,” Duterte said. The OVP said that Duterte went to Glan, Sarangani province “where she met with displaced families staying at the Glan Tent City evacuation site and that she visited patients at the Philippine Emergency Medical Assistance Team Field Hospital.” Duterte urged Filipinos to remain alert and ready for disasters.

- [‘Francisco’ intensifies into a typhoon](#) (2026-06-21 11:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Tropical Cyclone Francisco has developed into a typhoon but it remains unlikely to directly affect the country, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Sunday. Nathaniel Servando, Pagasa chief, said the typhoon was estimated to be 1,055 kilometers east of Central Luzon while moving west-northwestward at 25 kilometers per hour (kph). Packing maximum sustained winds of 120 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 150 kph, the typhoon will likely remain over the Philippine Sea all throughout the forecast period. However, Signal No. 1 may be hoisted Monday over some areas in the northern and eastern portions of Cagayan, Babuyan Islands, and Batanes, Servando said. “Also, a closer approach to extreme Northern Luzon is not ruled out should the forecast track continue to shift westward,” he added. While the trough or extension of the typhoon has been affecting Bicol Region, the southwest monsoon or habagat has been bringing scattered rains in Visayas, Mindanao and Palawan, Pagasa said. Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon will have isolated downpours or thunderstorms due to the localized

thunderstorms.

- [Marcos pays tribute to father](#) (2026-06-21 10:40)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. paid tribute to his father, former president Ferdinand Marcos Sr., as he reflected on the values and lessons he learned which continue to guide him in public service. In a social media post for Father's Day, the president said he remains grateful for his father's teachings on duty, perseverance, and selfless service. "No matter how much time passes, there are some lessons a son never outgrows. My father taught me the value of duty, the importance of perseverance and the conviction that our lives are measured by what we give of ourselves in service to others," he said on Sunday. "For those lessons and for his love, I remain deeply grateful," he added. The post was accompanied by a collage of family photographs showing the chief executive with his father, along with the message, "Happy Father's Day." Marcos also extended his tribute to fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, and father figures, recognizing their love, sacrifice, and guidance in shaping their children's lives and their contributions to nation building. "On this Father's Day, I honor not only my father but all fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers and father figures whose love, sacrifice and presence help shape the lives of their children and the future of our nation," he said.

- [French police raid house for drugs and find a Picasso](#) (2026-06-21 09:39)

CRETEIL, France — A police raid looking for drugs at a house in a Paris suburb turned up a painting by Pablo Picasso, prosecutors said Saturday. "This discovery was made during a search carried out as part of an investigation into drug trafficking," said the public prosecutor's office of Creteil, south-east of Paris. They had opened an investigation into theft and dealing in stolen goods, the statement added. On Friday, four people were brought before a court for an immediate hearing in connection with the case, the office said. According to newspaper Le Parisien, which first reported the story, the search was carried out on Monday by investigators in Champigny-sur-Marne, a town east of Paris. As well as the Picasso, the police seized cannabis resin, luxury clothing and several thousand euros in cash, the newspaper said. The Creteil prosecutors office said the painting had been authenticated as a work by the Spanish painter, but did not specify which painting it was.

- [Legarda walks Rizal Trail in Germany](#) (2026-06-21 07:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda walked the Rizal Historic Trail which was opened on June 20 in Wilhelmsfeld, Germany, a day after Filipinos marked the 165th birth anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal. Legarda walked the path taken by Rizal in Germany, saying that the footsteps of the national hero "remain part of the country's living memory." The trail featured the route that Rizal took to the Heidelberg University Eye Clinic, where he pursued advanced studies in ophthalmology. Organized by the Gemeinde Wilhelmsfeld and the Knights of Rizal Wilhelmsfeld-Heidelberg Chapter, the program began at Hinterbergweg hiking parking lot in Wilhelmsfeld. Legarda said the trail begins at a house she knows well. "When you stand in that house, the distance between 1886 and today grows very thin." The senator has worked to secure

the trail's future through the Philippine Consulate General in Frankfurt. She also ensured that support is provided for the trail markers under the 2026 budget of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. In March 2026, at Legarda's encouragement, her son, Rep. Leandro Legarda Leviste purchased the Ullmer vicarage where Rizal wrote the last chapters of *Noli Me Tangere*, using private funds and placing the house in Filipino ownership, with plans to convert it into a museum and cultural center. "I remember the quiet of it, the vicarage where Dr. Jose Rizal stayed with Pastor Ullmer and his family, the garden he and Eta tended at dawn, the home where a young man from Calamba was treated less like a boarder and more like a son," she said.

- [Marcos allocates P3B more for repatriation of OFWs](#) (2026-06-21 06:51)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has approved an additional P3 billion to strengthen the government's repatriation and reintegration program for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) displaced by the conflict in the Middle East. In a statement, Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said the additional funding will cover the entire repatriation process which includes pre-departure assistance, flights, and reintegration support for returning workers. "War or not, there are Filipinos in extreme distress that we should bring home," the official said on Sunday. Citing the latest data from the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Recto said 10,446 Filipinos from the Middle East have been repatriated to the country through humanitarian flights. The figure includes 8,281 OFWs, 1,803 dependents, and 362 stranded Filipinos. He added that some of the humanitarian flights served as medical evacuation missions, with healthcare personnel deployed to assist sick passengers as the president "does not want repatriation to be a mere airport-to-airport thing." "His order is that no one is neglected after they land. What the president wants is to bring to the provinces help for those in dire need, especially economic opportunities," Recto said. The DMW has so far conducted 15 Bayanihan Para sa Balikbayang Manggagawa National Reintegration Network and Job Fairs nationwide to connect returning workers with local and overseas employment opportunities, livelihood programs, and financial literacy services. Meanwhile, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration has provided livelihood assistance to 664 returning OFWs through its Balik Pinas, Balik Hanapbuhay Program, which offers up to P20,000 in startup assistance for small businesses. Recto said the Department of Education (DepEd) has established a hiring pathway for returning Philippine-licensed teachers seeking employment in public schools. Based on the latest DepEd data, around 10,000 former OFWs have joined the public school teaching workforce.

- [DSWD's guarantee letters accepted anew at Mercury Drug](#) (2026-06-21 06:33)

MANILA, Philippines — At least 262 Mercury Drug branches nationwide will again accept guarantee letters (GLs) issued by the Department of Social Welfare and Services (DSWD) for medicines and medical supplies for the poor. DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian said that beginning on Monday, June 22, beneficiaries of its Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) program may once again use their GLs at the pharmacy store's participating

branches. Gatchalian said the resumption of the partnership between the DSWD and Mercury Drug aims to expand beneficiaries' access to much-needed medicines and medical assistance. "This would also ensure faster and more convenient utilization of assistance provided under the AICS program," he said. Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao said that the resumption of GLs in Mercury Drug outlets forms part of the department's continuing efforts to strengthen the implementation of AICS and improve the delivery of medical assistance to Filipinos in need. She noted that the DSWD continues to strengthen its collaboration with private institutions to make social protection services more accessible, efficient, and responsive to the needs of vulnerable sectors. "We continue to bolster our engagement with our partner establishments in order to bring DSWD services closer to our countrymen. In this way, we not only expedite their access to assistance, but also alleviate the difficulties they face during times of illness or other crises," Dumlao said. Dumlao said the DSWD forged a similar arrangement with Generika Drugstore, further expanding the network with partner pharmacies where AICS beneficiaries may use their GLs.

• [In Taylor Swift's beach town, every clue becomes a wedding rumor](#) (2026-06-21 06:24)

WESTERLY, Rhode Island — When a large tent appeared next door to Taylor Swift's Watch Hill estate this week, it didn't take long for speculation about the superstar's impending nuptials to ripple through the affluent New England seaside village — and the internet. Soon, fans were swapping theories online, photographers were staking out vantage points and residents found themselves fielding questions about a wedding that never was. Or at least, a wedding that seems yet to happen. The rumors, so far, have proved unfounded. But they offered a glimpse into life in Watch Hill, the Rhode Island beach community in the town of Westerly, close to the Connecticut border, where Swift has owned a home for more than a decade and where curiosity about the singer has become woven into everyday life. Rumors take hold. From the nearby lighthouse, visitors craned for a better view of Swift's mansion, a sprawling white home perched atop a rocky bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Security cameras dotted the property, and a guard called out to visitors who strayed too close. Wedding planner Nicole Simeral, dressed in black, stood outside the small white chapel across from the massive yellow Ocean House hotel — Swift's neighbor on the beach — waving along cars and buses that slowed and directing traffic to keep moving. She watched visitors speculate about a wedding she said she knew wasn't Swift's. She's working a different wedding every weekend in June in that spot. Still, the questions kept coming. "Is Taylor Swift getting married here? Many, many, many have asked," Simeral said. She said there had been "a lot of chitter chatter" as people tried to connect sightings of people who know Swift in local shops to impending nuptials. But she doubted Watch Hill would be practical for a wedding of that scale because of its limited luxury lodging. The Watch Hill rumors also dovetailed with separate online speculation that Swift and her fiancé, Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, were planning a celebration at Madison Square Garden, though no details about the pair's wedding have been released, despite multiple requests for comment to Swift's spokesperson. The tent itself, Simeral said, was hardly unusual. "Next weekend, there'll be another tent just like this." For two summers,

Westerly Police Department community service officer Nick Quaratella has stood at the entrance to a public path leading to the beach beside Swift's estate, answering questions from beachgoers and keeping traffic moving. "They come to the beach, but then they also ask if she's here or not," Quaratella said. He said he can't help but joke around with some fans. "I'll say, 'Oh, did you hear that she moved?'" he said. "And they'll say, 'No.' And I say, 'Yeah, Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson moved in.' And they'll go, 'Oh, really?' and then they'll walk away." "That's pretty funny," he concluded. Over the years, he's seen plenty of unusual reactions. His coworker once spotted a fan on their knees, bowing toward the entrance gate near the property. Visitors have shouted "I love you, Taylor!" from the roadside. One woman convinced her granddaughter he was Swift's security guard and posed for a photo with him. Quaratella has fielded a few questions about the supposed wedding, but not as many as he expected. "At this point, it's part of my job," he said. "It makes me smile. It makes me laugh. I have no problem with it. It makes the day go by." Living with Taylor Swift Down near a strip of beach boutiques, lifelong resident Lauren Nigrelli said the frenzy surrounding the star has eased since Swift first moved into the neighborhood in 2013. Back then, Nigrelli recalled, fans would drive around in circles by her shop playing Swift's songs. "Things have definitely calmed down since then," she said. Today, Swift's presence remains a fixture among local businesses in what she described as a "quaint New England coastal community." Nigrelli, a Realtor who owns the boutiques Tide and Tide Kids, said she began selling apparel emblazoned with "Holiday House," the nickname associated with Swift's mansion, after children began coming into the store asking for it. On Saturday, she was also selling a Taylor Swift-Travis Kelce wedding sticker book. "I think every shop has something related to her," Nigrelli said. On the beach below the mansion, Audrey and John Curtis, a married couple from Connecticut who have been vacationing in Westerly for years, settled into beach chairs and debated the wedding rumors. "We were just looking up at her house," Audrey Curtis said, pointing toward the mansion. "She's not getting married here now, though." Curtis said she had heard various theories, including speculation that a wedding might be held at Ocean House. But as she thought through the logistics, she became skeptical. "Then I was thinking about, 'How would everybody get here?'" she said. "In New York, you've got JFK, you've got LaGuardia, and she's got two penthouses in New York that she combined, so I figured they could obviously have more people there." Her husband wasn't so sure. "They could lie and say it's happening there, but it's happening here," John Curtis said. "When important people do things, they don't want people to know."

- [BI nabs American on FBI's most wanted list](#) (2026-06-21 05:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Immigration (BI) has arrested and deported an American wanted by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for his alleged role in a massive healthcare fraud scheme worth billions of dollars. Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado identified the fugitive as Herbert Leon Kimble, 60, who is on the FBI's most wanted fraudsters list with a \$150,000 reward on his head. Kimble was arrested on June 11 in Pasig City by agents of the BI's Fugitive Search Unit, working alongside government

intelligence operatives. The operation forms part of the government's intensified campaign to strengthen border security and prevent the Philippines from becoming a refuge for foreign fugitives. US authorities said Kimble is the subject of a federal arrest warrant issued by the United States District Court in South Carolina.

- [Parts of Metro Manila to have water interruptions this week](#) (2026-06-21 02:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila will have water interruptions this week because of maintenance works, Manila Water Company Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. said on Sunday. Manila Water said that in Pasig City, some portions of Brgy. Ugong will have water service interruptions on June 22-23 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of line meter declogging and strainer declogging. Some areas in the villages of Obrero and Laging Handa in Quezon City will have no water on June 25-26 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of line meter declogging in a water system along Tomas Morato Ave. corner Scout Lozano St. Some places in the villages of Poblacion and Valenzuela in Makati City will have water interruptions on June 25-26 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to replacement of a line meter in water systems at J.P. Rizal Ave. cor. F. Zobel and at J.P. Rizal cor. Cardona. Meanwhile, Maynilad said that in Caloocan City, some places in Brgy. 178 will have water interruptions on June 22-23 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of network maintenance activities at Mahogany corner Duhat. Some locations in the villages of 168 and 169 in Caloocan City will have no water on June 25 and 26 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to network diagnostic and leak localization activities at Deparo Road. Some portions of Brgy. 169 in Caloocan City and some sections in the villages of Nagkaisang Nayan and San Agustin in Quezon City will have service interruptions on June 24 between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m. due to network maintenance works at Heavenly Drive. Some parts of Brgy. Pasong Putik, Quezon City will have water interruptions on June 23-24 between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of facility maintenance work at the Maligaya Inline Booster. Some areas in the villages of Greater Fairview and Payatas will also have service interruptions on June 22-23 between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of network maintenance work at Calachuchi Street and Regalado Avenue. In Valenzuela City, some locations in the villages of Gen. T. De Leon and Parada will have no water on June 22-26 between 12:01 a.m. and 4 a.m. because of network maintenance activities at Prodon Street, Independence Street, Demetillo Street, Gen. T. De Leon Road and Policarpio Street.

- [Some areas in Metro Manila, 4 provinces to have power interruptions due to maintenance works](#) (2026-06-21 01:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Batangas, Cavite, and Rizal will have power interruptions this week due to maintenance works, Meralco said on Sunday. Some parts of Brgy. Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City will have no power on June 23 between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. due to the replacement of electricity facilities along Upper McKinley Hills. Some places in Bagumbong, Caloocan City, and some areas in Brgy. Bagbaguin, Meycauayan City, Bulacan will have power interruptions on June 26 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. due to line reconductoring works, and installation and relocation of electricity facilities. Also, some areas in the villages of

Pasong Bakal, Upig, Bagong Barrio, Basuit and Sapang Putik in San Ildefonso, Bulacan will have no electricity on June 24 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. because of the relocation of electricity facilities and line reconductoring work. Some parts of First Philippine Industrial Park in Brgy. Sta. Anastacia, Sto. Tomas City, Batangas will have no electricity on June 28 between 9 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. and also between 4:45 p.m. and 5 p.m. because of the installation and retirement of some electricity facilities. In Cavite, some portions of Ayala Westgrove Heights Subd. Phases 1, 2 and 3 in Brgy. Inchican in Silang will have power interruptions on June 23 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. because of the replacement of electricity facilities in the area. The whole of South Plains Executive Village in Dasmariñas City, Cavite will have no power on June 23 between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. due to line reconductoring work. Some locations in Brgy. Osorio, Trece Martires City, Cavite will have no electricity between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. on June 23 and between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. on June 29 because of repair works inside the Meralco-Osorio substation. Some sections of Brgy. Poblacion in Amadeo, Cavite will have power interruptions on June 24 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. due to the reconstruction of electricity facilities along C. Bayani St. in Brgy. Poblacion. In Rizal, several areas in the villages of Dolores and San Juan in Taytay will have no electricity on June 23 between 12:01 a.m. and 5 a.m. because of the installation of a new primary line switch along Rizal Ave. Some places in the villages of San Isidro, Cainta and Muntindilaw in Antipolo City will have no electricity on June 24 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. because of line reconductoring work along Brookside St. Some portions of Sumulong Highway including Josefina Subd. and XentroMall in Brgy. Mambugan, Antipolo City will have power interruptions on June 25-26 between 11:30 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. because of line reconstruction work.

- [Filipinos detained in Russia return home](#) (2026-06-21 00:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Twenty-four Filipino workers detained for nine months in Yakutsk, Russia returned to the Philippines after being released by Russian President Vladimir Putin following the request of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro welcomed the unidentified Filipinos, who arrived in two batches at dawn Sunday. Marcos, concerned about the welfare of the Filipinos, raised their case with Putin during their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Asean–Russia Commemorative Summit in Kazan on June 17. Following the President's appeal, Russian authorities facilitated the workers' release on June 19, "bringing an end to months of uncertainty for them and their families," the Department of Foreign Affairs said on Sunday. Marcos expressed his appreciation to Putin "for his positive response and to the Russian authorities for their cooperation in resolving the matter," the DFA said in a statement. The DFA coordinated the workers' repatriation with Russian authorities. The Department of Migrant Workers and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration provided assistance throughout the repatriation process.

- [‘Francisco’ further intensifies while moving over Philippine Sea](#) (2026-06-20 23:06)

MANILA, Philippines – Severe Tropical Storm Francisco is forecast to intensify into a typhoon within the day, but is unlikely to hit the country directly, the state-run weather agency said on

Sunday. Weather specialist Robert Badrina of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said 'Francisco', estimated at 1,315 kilometers east of southeastern Luzon, was moving west-northwestward at 25 kilometers per hour (kph) with maximum sustained winds of 100kph and gustiness of up to 125kph. Expected to remain over the Philippine Sea throughout the forecast period, Francisco could make a closer approach to extreme Northern Luzon should the forecast track continue to shift westward, Badrina said during a 5 a.m. briefing. Reiterating that the tropical cyclone would intensify into a typhoon on Sunday, Badrina said that Francisco was unlikely to affect the country's weather. "However, the onset of heavy rains due to the southwest monsoon (habagat) and Francisco is possible beginning Monday," according to the Pagasa forecaster. The national weather bureau said that Wind Signal 1 may be hoisted in some localities in Cagayan, Babuyan Islands, and Batanes by Monday morning. Pagasa said the trough or extension of Francisco is already affecting the Bicol region and Eastern Visayas. Meanwhile, Mindanao, the rest of Visayas, and Palawan would have cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms due to habagat. Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon would have a similar weather pattern brought about by localized thunderstorms, it added.

• [House anti-dynasty bill 'most realistic,' lawmaker says](#) (2026-06-20 16:13)

A RANKING House lawmaker defended the anti-political dynasty measure passed at the House of Representatives, noting it is the "most realistic" approach to implementing the Constitution's mandate against political dynasties while preserving democratic choice. The measure, filed under House Bill 8389, seeks to prohibit political dynasties by restricting spouses and relatives within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity from simultaneously seeking or holding elective positions within the same political jurisdiction. Under the House-approved version, relatives within the prohibited degree may not simultaneously occupy elective positions within the same province, city, municipality, district, or barangay (village). The bill was principally authored by Speaker Faustino Dy III and Majority Leader Sandro Marcos. During a forum in Quezon City on Saturday, Deputy Speaker and La Union Rep. Paolo Ortega V said the House version may not be as sweeping as some advocates want, but it stands the best chance of becoming law. "Perhaps the anti-political dynasty bill that we passed — the version we pushed for and got approved — is, you could say, the most realistic one. Somehow, some trimming did happen, and although it isn't that comprehensive or that dramatic, it's the most realistic version that actually has a chance of being passed," Ortega, whose family is a political dynasty, added in Filipino. He said the bill should be viewed as a "significant first step" after decades of failed attempts to pass an enabling law. He also said that the House version adopts a "clustering approach" that would prevent close relatives from simultaneously holding multiple elective positions within the same political jurisdiction. Ortega, however, said that anti-dynasty legislation alone will not solve all governance issues. He added that during the bill's deliberations, he proposed raising qualifications for public office and encouraging the development of future leaders regardless of family background. He argued that voters should continue to judge candidates based on competence and performance rather than family name

alone, and he has pushed for stronger political parties and a shift toward issue-based politics. Ortega also said that strong political parties would help reduce political turncoatism and encourage judging candidates based on competence and performance rather than family name alone.

- [‘16 to convict’ not hard-and-fast rule — Carpio](#) (2026-06-20 16:13)

THE number of senators needed to convict Vice President Sara Duterte in her impeachment trial could fall below the constitutionally cited 16 votes depending on how many members of the Senate are legally qualified to participate in the proceedings, former Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said over the weekend. Carpio said that the two-thirds voting requirement under the Constitution is based on the total membership of the Senate, but the actual number of votes required for conviction may change if some senators are unable to sit as impeachment judges. The Senate is scheduled to convene as an impeachment court on July 6 to hear the case against Duterte. Under the Constitution, conviction in an impeachment trial requires the vote of two-thirds of all members of the Senate, which currently means 16 votes out of the 24-member chamber. But Carpio argued that the phrase “all members of the Senate” refers only to those who remain qualified to perform the functions of a senator, including participating in an impeachment trial. He cited the case of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who remains a sitting senator but is currently detained and under preventive suspension by the Sandiganbayan. Carpio said Estrada’s suspension could remove him from the computation because a senator under preventive suspension cannot hold public office and therefore cannot act as a senator-judge in an impeachment proceeding. “According to the Supreme Court, you cannot hold public office. If you cannot hold public office, you cannot vote,” Carpio said, citing the Supreme Court ruling in the case of Trillanes vs. Pimentel. He added that to participate in an impeachment trial, “you must be a senator first.” With Estrada potentially excluded from the count, Carpio said the number of senators considered in the computation could already be reduced. However, he distinguished the situation of Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, who has been in hiding after the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant linked to alleged crimes against humanity during the previous administration’s war on drugs. Carpio said dela Rosa cannot yet be removed from the Senate count because he has not been arrested and placed under preventive detention. “He hasn’t actually been arrested, so you cannot say he cannot vote because he is not yet in preventive detention,” Carpio said in Filipino and English. He added that dela Rosa must still be given the benefit of the doubt that he could appear. Former Supreme Court Associate Justice Adolfo Azcuna, however, raised a different view, saying dela Rosa could be excluded from the computation if he is considered a fugitive. Azcuna said being a fugitive could be treated as a form of “constructive resignation” because the senator would have effectively removed himself from the legal system. If dela Rosa is excluded from the count, the number of votes needed for conviction could drop further to 15, according to Azcuna’s interpretation. Dela Rosa has been linked by the ICC to former president Rodrigo Duterte’s alleged crimes against humanity case. The National Bureau of Investigation earlier said it was verifying reports about his whereabouts, including claims that he had been seen traveling, but

officials said such reports could also be misleading. Carpio maintained that the impeachment vote threshold should not automatically be considered fixed at 16 because circumstances affecting the composition of the Senate could alter the computation, including legal disqualifications, death or resignation of members. Meanwhile, Carpio warned that the impeachment proceedings could face delays if the Senate impeachment court grants a motion to dismiss filed by Duterte's defense team. He said the prosecution could bring the matter before the Supreme Court, which could prolong the process before the actual trial proceeds.

- [Manila roads closed for upcoming Mapua run](#) (2026-06-20 16:12)

THE Manila Police District (MPD) announced that several roads will be closed for the upcoming Mapúa Run 2026 on early Sunday, June 21. In a Facebook post on Saturday, the MPD said the road closures around Intramuros will begin at 2:30 a.m. The affected roads include the northbound lane of the Binondo-Intramuros bridge, Riverside Drive and its access roads near the Manila Central Post Office, and a portion of Magallanes Drive from the southbound lane of Jones Bridge to Plaza Mexico. Also affected by the road closures are Victoria Gate, General Luna Gate, Muralla Street from General Luna to Andres Soriano Avenue, Sta. Lucia Street, Anda Street and portions of Soriano Avenue. The MPD urged motorists to follow the issued rerouting schemes to avoid delays while the abovementioned roads are still closed. For vehicles coming from Jones, MacArthur and Quezon bridges and heading toward the southbound lane of Roxas Boulevard, the MPD said they will be redirected through P. Burgos Avenue via Lagusnilad and Taft Avenue. Meanwhile, motorists traveling on the Binondo-Intramuros Bridge southbound lane will be advised to turn left onto Andres Soriano Avenue and proceed to Anda Circle before continuing to their destinations. Those coming from Maria Orosa Street and intending to pass through General Luna Street will be rerouted via the Round Table before turning right to P. Burgos Avenue.

- [Yulo brothers shine as Caloy bags gold, Eldrew gets bronze at Asian Gymnastics Championship](#) (2026-06-20 16:12)

(UPDATE) IT turned into a golden family affair at the 13th Asian Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships as Carlos Yulo once again proved his supremacy in the floor exercise, while younger brother Eldrew Yulo announced his arrival on the senior stage with a podium finish on Saturday at the Zunyi Olympics Center in China. The Paris Olympic double gold medalist delivered a commanding routine, scoring 14.700 to clinch the gold medal. Close behind was Japan's Shoma Tsukiyama, who secured silver with 14.600, while 18-year-old Eldrew impressed with 14.300 to capture bronze — the first senior international medal of his career. Carlos' victory further cemented his dominance in the event, marking his third straight gold in the Asian Championships after topping the podium in 2023 (Singapore), 2024 (Uzbekistan), and 2025 (South Korea). In the qualifiers, Carlos set the tone early with a leading score of 14.433. Eldrew, meanwhile, barely made the cut, finishing eighth among the finalists with 13.600. But the younger Yulo rose to the occasion when it mattered most, delivering a clutch performance in the final to secure his breakthrough medal. He outperformed China's

Hongyan Li (14.066) and Haonan Yang (13.933) to seal his spot on the podium. Carlos now shifts focus to two remaining finals — the parallel bars and horizontal bar — both scheduled on Sunday. He enters the parallel bars final after placing fourth in qualification with 13.966, trailing China's Liu Yang, who topped the field with 14.533. Joining the stacked parallel bars lineup are Zhang Boheng, Hung Yuan-hsi (Taiwan), Ryu Sung-hyun (South Korea), Miwa Teppei and Tsuyoshi Hasegawa (Japan), and Pak Song-hyok (North Korea). Eldrew will also return to action in the horizontal bar final alongside his brother, facing a competitive field that includes Maeda Fusuke (Japan), Toishybek Diyas (Kazakhstan), Tang Chia-hung (Taiwan), Zhang, and Teppei. With momentum on their side, the Yulo brothers look poised to deliver more podium finishes and further elevate Philippine gymnastics on the continental stage.

- [Pasay announces road closures for Pride Run 2026](#) (2026-06-20 16:12)

SEVERAL roads in Pasay City will be temporarily closed early morning today for Pride Run 2026, the Pasay Traffic and Parking Management Office said. The roads will be closed starting at 1 a.m. until 7 a.m. to ensure the safety of participants and allow the smooth conduct of the running event. Affected roads include portions of SM Mall of Asia Block 20, Seaside Avenue and Macapagal Boulevard southbound, where a zipper lane will be implemented on the northbound side to allow two-way vehicle traffic. The closure will also cover Jalandoni Street northbound, Sotto Street with zipper lanes near PICC and the Star City side, Roxas Boulevard southbound, Atang Dela Rama Street with zipper lanes and Buendia Extension with zipper lanes. The Pasay Traffic and Parking Management Office advised motorists to plan their trips ahead and take alternative routes during the road closure period to avoid delays.

- [PH, US forces complete military exercise in WPS](#) (2026-06-20 16:11)

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the United States Indo-Pacific Command have completed a six-day Bilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA) in the West Philippine Sea (WPS), further strengthening maritime cooperation between the two allies. Held from June 14 to 19, the activity marked the fourth Philippine-US MCA conducted this year and involved naval, air and marine forces from both countries. The Philippine contingent deployed several key assets, including the Philippine Navy's BRP Diego Silang (FFG7), an AW109 helicopter, FA-50 fighter aircraft, C-208B aircraft, and Sokol helicopters. The Philippine Coast Guard also participated through the BRP Melchora Aquino (MRRV 9702) and BRP Sindangan (MRRV 4407). US forces, meanwhile, joined the exercise with the United States Coast Guard cutters USCGC Charles Moulthrop (WPC 1141) and USCGC Emlen Tunnell (WPC 1145), a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft, and personnel from the 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment. Throughout the exercise, participating forces conducted maritime interoperability activities, including search and rescue operations; Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) drills; communication exercises; Division Tactics/Officer of the Watch (Divtacs/OOW) maneuvers; photo exercises; and joint fire rehearsals. The AFP said the successful completion of the MCA reflects the continued commitment of the Philippines and the United States to improving maritime domain awareness, enhancing operational coordination, and supporting a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific

region. The exercise was conducted amid ongoing efforts by both countries to boost maritime security cooperation in the region. Meanwhile, the Philippine Navy (PN) said on Saturday that its guided missile frigate, the BRP Miguel Malvar (FFG-6), along with other nations participating in the biennial “Rim of the Pacific” (Rimpac) exercises, successfully executed an air defense exercise while en route to Hawaii on June 18. Aside from the BRP Miguel Malvar, other participants include the Republic of Singapore Navy frigate RSS Steadfast (RSS-70), Italian Navy multi-purpose surface combatant ITS Giovanni delle Bande Nere (P-434), and Japan Self-Defense Maritime Force destroyer JS Kongo (DDG-173). During the exercise, participating ships tested their respective air defense systems, firing at an unmanned aerial vehicle target launched from JS Kongo, acting as the simulated low-flying hostile aircraft. “Such training enables the participating navies to refine tactics, techniques, and procedures while enhancing integration among partner navies,” the PN said. This year’s Rimpac will run in Hawaiian waters from June 24 to July 31.

- [EcoWaste Coalition Warns Against Toxic Perfumes for Father's Day](#) (2026-06-20 16:10)

THE EcoWaste Coalition issued a warning on Saturday against buying perfumes containing harmful synthetic chemicals as gifts on Father’s Day. It said these ingredients have been banned in fragrances and other cosmetics after being proven to cause harm to the reproductive system and trigger contact allergy. EcoWaste said the European Union’s Cosmetic Products Regulation and the Asean Cosmetic Directive have prohibited the use of butylphenyl methylpropional, also known as BMHCA, p-BMHCA and lilyal, lily aldehyde, lysmeral or 2-(4-tert-butylbenzyl) propionaldehyde, as ingredients in cosmetics and fragrances.” BMHCA has been prohibited in the EU since 2022, while the Asean ban took effect in 2024 as per Food and Drug Administration Circular No. 2023-007,” the group said. Despite the prohibition, EcoWaste said that some cosmetics and fragrances, particularly imitations of popular brands, still contain these harmful chemicals.” Among the products found to contain BMHCA are imitation perfumes bearing popular brand names, such as Aimore, Bulgari, Calvin Klein, Chanel, Clinique, Davidoff, Deep in Blue, Escada, Eternity, Lacoste, Salvatore Ferragamo and Versace,” the group said. The EU classified the toxin as a “reproductive toxicant,” which is “a substance that impairs fertility and reproductive health in men and women.” EcoWaste urged consumers not to buy cheap counterfeits characterized by poor packaging, inadequate information, as well as spelling and grammatical errors in the labeling.

- [STARtista Gallery brings Filipino stars to life at Star City](#) (2026-06-20 16:10)

THEME park visitors can now pose with some of the country’s most recognizable celebrities, athletes and public figures as Star City officially opened the STARtista Gallery, a new attraction featuring hyperrealistic resin statues of Filipino icons. Launched on June 19, the exhibit showcases lifelike figures representing personalities from entertainment, sports and public service, offering guests a museum-like experience reminiscent of international celebrity wax attractions. Among those featured are ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde; Manila Mayor Isko Moreno; celebrity couple Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres-Gomez; Olympic gold medalist Hidilyn Diaz;

billiards legend Efren “Bata” Reyes; actor-comedian Michael V.; actresses Angel Aquino, Rhian Ramos, Rica Peralejo, Ara Mina, Maui Taylor, Diana Zubiri and Gladys Reyes, as well as younger stars including Wilbert Ross, Bea Binene and Ashtine Olviga. The gallery also has figures of Pops Fernandez, Paolo Contis, Django Bustamante, Michael Flores, and several other personalities. Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, wife of Star City founder Fred J. Elizalde, said the project was inspired by her husband’s vision of creating a space that celebrates Filipino achievement in an interactive and accessible way. “STArTista Gallery is a new fun addition to Star City where hyperrealistic statues of beloved Filipino icons come to life. Fred wanted to create a space where guests could celebrate Filipino talent in a fresh, engaging and highly shareable way,” she said during the launch. While the statues are placed behind barriers for preservation, they are positioned to allow visitors to take photos alongside the figures. Actress Gladys Reyes said she was surprised and honored to learn she would be included in the gallery. “It’s an honor to be one of those chosen to have a figure made. It’s something to be proud of because in a way, you are being immortalized,” she said during an interview. Reyes added that she only requested that the figure closely resemble her facial features and hairstyle. For actor Michael Flores, the exhibit serves as more than a photo opportunity. “I feel blessed to be part of this gallery. People, especially the younger generation, will be able to see the history of Philippine show business. They’ll get to know the stars from different eras and understand their contributions,” he said. Ara Mina, meanwhile, said the attraction highlights local talent while giving Filipinos a homegrown alternative to celebrity figure museums abroad. “Out of so many artists in the Philippines, being chosen is something to be grateful for. It’s like having our own version of a Tussauds museum here, so people can support something that’s proudly ours,” she said. Project lead John Galang said the figures were created using detailed 3D scans of the personalities to capture their likenesses as accurately as possible. “We did 3D scans of the artists. If you look closely, the faces are very similar to the real people. This is an ongoing tribute to Philippine show business,” Galang said. He added that future additions will include more personalities from television, sports and politics, including former presidents, with the goal of making the gallery both entertaining and educational. Galang said the team is also focused on attracting younger audiences by including contemporary stars familiar to today’s generation. The gallery’s expansion is already underway, with figures of Bayani Agbayani, Gabby Concepcion and comedy icon Dolphy currently in production. More personalities are expected to be added over the next two months. Visitors can access the STArTista Gallery at no additional cost with a regular Star City admission ticket.

- [ICC sets trial procedures for Duterte crimes against humanity case](#) (2026-06-20 16:09)

(UPDATE) THE International Criminal Court (ICC) Trial Chamber III has issued detailed procedural rules governing the upcoming crimes against humanity trial of former president Rodrigo Duterte, including strict time allocations for opening statements and deadlines for submissions ahead of the trial’s start on Nov. 30, 2026. In a 23-page decision issued on June 19, the chamber — composed of Presiding Judge Joanna Korner, Judge Keebong Paek, and Judge Nicolas Guillou — set out the framework for the conduct of proceedings, covering opening

statements, evidence presentation, witness procedures, filings and transparency measures. Under the ruling, the prosecution was granted up to six hours to deliver its opening statement, which will be presented first when the trial begins. The Common Legal Representatives of Victims (CLRVs) were allotted up to three hours for their own opening statement, while the defense has not yet been given a fixed time limit after informing the chamber it could not yet estimate the duration of its presentation. The chamber ordered that opening statements must be delivered in a single sitting, with no unused time allowed to be reserved for later use. All opening statements will be held in public session, and parties must notify the court at least 15 days before trial if they intend to deliver their statements at the commencement of proceedings. Any audiovisual materials to be used must be submitted eight days before trial, with objections due five days before proceedings begin. The chamber also ruled on the sequence of presentations, with the prosecution going first, followed by victims' representatives and the defense. It said the defense and CLRVs may choose to present their opening statements either at the start of the trial or immediately before presenting their evidence. Beyond opening statements, the chamber laid out a structured timeline for filings and trial preparations. The prosecution was ordered to submit its detailed trial brief, final witness list, and evidence list by Aug. 31, 2026. The brief must outline the core facts of the case, legal arguments and supporting exhibits, while the witness list must include identities or pseudonyms, summaries of expected testimony, sequencing of witnesses, estimated questioning time, and any requests for protective measures. Victims' legal representatives were given until Sept. 28, 2026, to file their own trial brief, while the defense must submit by Oct. 30, 2026, its statement of the main factual and legal issues it disputes, as well as the general nature of Duterte's defense, including any specific defenses it intends to raise. The chamber clarified that this filing will not prevent the defense from introducing additional issues later in the proceedings. The ICC also established the structure of the trial itself, which will proceed in phases: the prosecution's presentation of evidence, followed by victims' representatives if authorized by the chamber, and then the defense. Any rebuttal or rejoinder evidence will require prior approval. For witness examinations, the party presenting the witness will conduct the initial questioning, followed by victims' representatives and then the opposing party. The chamber reiterated that the prosecution carries the burden of proof, while victims' lawyers may focus their questioning on issues related to harm suffered and reparations. The defense and prosecution may also question witnesses on credibility and other relevant circumstances affecting liability, including mitigating or aggravating factors. The chamber said challenges to witness credibility should be raised during questioning when they relate to key issues in the case. On evidence, the ICC adopted a flexible approach allowing documentary, digital and physical materials to be submitted without immediate rulings on admissibility. Instead, the chamber will assess relevance, probative value and potential prejudice when issuing its final judgment under Article 74 of the Rome Statute, though it may rule immediately on particularly significant evidence. The prosecution was also instructed to submit applications under Rule 68 of the ICC Rules of Procedure and Evidence on a rolling basis — by Aug. 31, 2026, for witnesses scheduled to testify that year, and by Oct. 30, 2026, for remaining witnesses. Requests for protective measures for prosecution witnesses must also be filed by Oct.

30. The chamber emphasized that witness testimony should, “insofar as possible,” be conducted in public, with closed sessions limited to strictly necessary circumstances. It also ordered that court filings generally be made public, with redactions allowed only when justified, and directed the Registry to prepare public versions of transcripts. Protocols were likewise adopted for witness preparation, vulnerable witnesses, dual-status witnesses, redactions, and the ICC’s electronic court system. Duterte has remained in ICC custody since his arrest in Manila on March 11, 2025. He faces three counts of crimes against humanity involving murder and attempted murder allegedly committed during the Philippines’ anti-drug campaign from 2011 to 2019, covering his tenure as Davao City mayor and later as president. The ICC Pre-Trial Chamber confirmed the charges on April 23, 2026, finding reasonable grounds to believe he bore responsibility for the alleged crimes, and has since rejected his requests for interim release. The 81-year-old former leader has been permitted to skip some procedural hearings but will be required to appear once the trial begins. Trial Chamber III is set to hold further status conferences on June 23 and July 14 to address remaining procedural matters ahead of the trial’s opening.

- [CPD: Modern Filipino fatherhood means active family planning](#) (2026-06-20 16:08)

THE Commission on Population and Development (CPD) said fathers play a crucial role in family planning as the country celebrates Father’s Day on June 21. “When fathers actively participate in decisions concerning their family’s health, welfare and future, they help create a stronger foundation for their children and contribute to healthier and more resilient communities,” said CPD Executive Director Lisa Grace Bersales in a statement. The CPD noted that fatherhood includes ensuring that the family, especially the children, thrive in a conducive environment. Modern fatherhood, it said, is multifaceted, encompassing not only financial provision but also caregiving, mentoring and shared decision-making. “This Father’s Day, we celebrate Filipino fathers who continue to embrace these responsibilities with dedication and love,” Bersales said. The CPD noted that demographic trends show that Filipinos are gravitating toward smaller families, indicative of growing emphasis on providing better opportunities and quality of life for children. “Strong families are built through partnership and shared responsibility,” Bersales said. While male involvement in family planning has historically been low, the CPD noted that the trend is changing. In 2023 and 2024 alone, it said the number of men who undergo vasectomy and use condoms has risen, with new acceptors of no-scalpel vasectomy increasing by 52.84 percent and new condom acceptors growing by 9.61 percent. The CPD highlighted the importance of agreed-upon family planning because it enables couples to achieve their desired family size, space pregnancies effectively and make informed choices that benefit the health of mothers and children. This ensures that families are better prepared to invest in their children’s nutrition, education and future development. “By working alongside mothers in nurturing and planning for their families, fathers help build healthier, stronger and more resilient Filipino families,” Bersales said.

- [Pangilinan Pushes Smart Agriculture, Tech for PH Farming](#) (2026-06-20 16:07)

NAGA CITY — Sen. Francis Pangilinan urged stakeholders to embrace smart agriculture and climate-resilient solutions to secure the nation's food supply. Pangilinan, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform, said that knowledge is power, emphasizing the transformative potential of technology for farmers and fisherfolk alike. "If we want to have an ample food supply, we must mobilize resources toward the weakest link and provide them with capacity, with technology, with organization, with extension service," the senator said in his keynote address during the 10th ClickConEx: Convergence of Luzon I.C.T. Champions and Exhibitions in Naga City on Friday. He noted that through technology, farmers and fisherfolk could easily access information about weather forecasts, pest warnings, market prices and planting advice through smartphones. Pangilinan added that information and communications technology can directly connect producers to consumers through a seamless, digitally enabled supply chain. The senator allayed fears that the use of technology in agriculture would replace traditional methods. Rather, he said it would build on generations of Indigenous and farming knowledge — from farmers who have passed down wisdom about nature and planting to fisherfolk who best understand the rhythm of the sea — and be strengthened by science, data and technology. He said reestablishing the Bureau of Agriculture Cooperatives would strengthen farmers' and fisherfolk's capacity to organize themselves and compete effectively. As a cooperative, they can buy inputs at lower prices, access credit more easily, invest in equipment and machinery, process their product and negotiate better prices in the market. "What is the point of technology if our food producers, farmers and fisherfolk are not organized? Whatever interventions are made by national and local governments, if farmers and fisherfolk are not organized and capacitated, any intervention will not be sustainable," Pangilinan said. "The lessons of superpowers in agriculture in the region are that they have strong, organized farming and fishing cooperatives, regulations and associations," the senator said, pertaining to Taiwan, Vietnam and Thailand.

- [House Bill Aims to Increase Paid Paternity Leave to 105 Days](#) (2026-06-20 16:06)

AKBAYAN Party-list Rep. Jose Manuel Diokno has filed House Bill 9891, or the Paternity and Parental Leave Act (PAPA Leave Act), that would expand paternity leave benefits for fathers from seven to 105 days. Diokno said the measure aims to promote responsible parenthood, strengthen family bonds and improve child development outcomes by enabling fathers to be more present during the critical early stages of a child's life. Akbayan Representatives Percival Cendana and Dadah Ismula, and Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao, are Diokno's co-authors in the legislation. If enacted, it would increase paid paternity leave from the current seven days to 90 continuous days for live childbirth and 60 continuous days in cases of miscarriage or emergency termination of pregnancy. It also introduces an additional 15 days of paid parental leave, which could be availed of within a year of childbirth, either continuously or on separate occasions, bringing the total leave benefit to 105 days. It aligns with the 105-day maternity leave law championed by the party and Sen. Risa Hontiveros. "By investing in shared parenting, this measure advances gender equality, improves child and family well-being, and strengthens labor force participation. It affirms that childcare is not solely the responsibility of women, but a

shared parental duty that must be actively supported by the State,” Diokno said. He, however, noted that any father who fails to provide such care and support while on paternity or parental leave is deemed to have committed an act of violence under Section 5 (i) of Republic Act 9262, otherwise known as the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004. The legislation broadens eligibility beyond married fathers, extending coverage to nonmarital fathers and alternative caregivers who play a significant role in caring for newborns and young children. It extends its coverage to workers in the informal economy and voluntary members of the Social Security System, subject to contribution requirements. Penalties will be imposed on employers and individuals who violate its provisions, including fines, imprisonment and the revocation of business permits, while accountability mechanisms are established to prevent the misuse of leave benefits.

- [Landslide areas in quake-hit Mindanao half the size of BGC](#) (2026-06-20 16:04)

THE Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) identified approximately 137.87 hectares of land potentially affected by landslides during the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck parts of southern Mindanao. In a statement on Saturday, PhilSA said that through satellite imagery from its Sentinel-2A and Sentinel-2B satellites, the agency identified several areas across different villages in Sarangani and Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental, affected by landslides. This area is equivalent to more than half the land area of Bonifacio Global City (BGC). By comparing pre-disaster satellite images from June 1 with post-disaster images from June 14, PhilSA identified areas of vegetation loss indicative of landslides. The analysis focused on changes in the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index, a measure of vegetation health. Areas that appeared green and covered in vegetation in the pre-disaster images but now show brown or exposed soil in post-disaster images were identified as potential landslide zones. While these findings provide critical insights, PhilSA emphasized that the maps and data are subject to ground validation for further accuracy. PhilSA’s satellite mapping efforts support the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. By providing wide-area coverage through satellite analysis, the agency aims to assist in monitoring the situation, identifying high-risk areas and prioritizing response efforts in disaster-stricken communities. The satellite-derived maps and associated data are critical tools for disaster response teams, helping them pinpoint areas in need of immediate attention and allocate resources more effectively. “By making space data accessible to stakeholders, PhilSA enables informed decision-making and strengthens disaster response capabilities across the nation,” the agency stated.

- [Muntinlupa honors fathers through fun run](#) (2026-06-20 16:03)

MUNTINLUPA City celebrates Father’s Day through the Takbo Tatay Takbo 2026 fun run, using the event to promote responsible fatherhood and encourage fathers to prioritize their health. Mayor Ruffy Biazon said on Saturday that the activity carried two key messages for fathers — awareness of their role in their families and advocacy for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Biazon said the celebration was meant to remind fathers that their responsibility goes beyond the occasion, as they serve as protectors, leaders and contributors to their families and

communities. “Father’s Day should not only be celebrated for the sake of celebrating it. If we say we are celebrating Father’s Day, it should have meaning,” Biazon said. He urged fathers in Muntinlupa to continue being responsible figures in their homes and communities by fulfilling their roles as family leaders. The mayor also highlighted the importance of health among fathers, saying they need to take care of themselves so they can continue supporting their families and contributing to society. “Health advocacy is for our fellow citizens, especially fathers. Because we are the fathers of our homes, it is important that we ourselves are healthy so we can fulfill our responsibilities,” Biazon said. Biazon reminded participants that staying healthy is part of being a responsible father, encouraging them to maintain an active lifestyle and look after their well-being. During the fun run, he also reminded participants to listen to their bodies, hydrate and take their time to avoid health risks while joining the activity. The Takbo Tatay Takbo 2026 featured 5K and 10K race categories, with routes passing through key areas in Muntinlupa before returning to the Muntinlupa Sports Complex in Putatan, where the activity started and ended. The 5K route passed through areas including Putatan, Muntinlupa City Hall and the Philippine National Police Laguerta area, while the 10K route extended to MCTI, Montillano, Alabang Viaduct and Lakewood before heading back to the sports complex.

- [DOT continues talks with BINI for tourism](#) (2026-06-20 16:02)

THE Department of Tourism (DOT) has reiterated its intention to tap P-pop sensation BINI as the country’s tourism ambassadors as discussions between the agency and the group continue. Tourism Secretary Bernardita “Dita” Angara-Mathay said in an ambush interview on Friday that negotiations are still ongoing, expressing optimism that the collaboration will eventually move forward. “They would be our ambassadors, so we are currently focused on our ongoing negotiations with them,” Angara-Mathay said. The planned partnership comes after BINI gained international recognition through its groundbreaking performance at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in California. The DOT believes the group’s growing global popularity can help showcase the Philippines to a wider international audience. Officials see BINI’s strong following, particularly among younger audiences, as an opportunity to further strengthen the country’s tourism promotion efforts. The proposed collaboration forms part of the agency’s broader campaign to highlight Filipino talent while encouraging more travelers to experience the country’s diverse destinations. The department has yet to announce the details of the proposed partnership as negotiations with the group remain under way. Angara-Mathay did not provide a timetable for when the discussions are expected to conclude. The DOT expressed confidence that the potential partnership with BINI would further reinforce the Philippines’ tourism branding once an agreement is finalized.

- [Villanueva hails approval of 5 new Philippine state medical schools](#) (2026-06-20 16:00)

SEN. Joel Villanueva welcomed the establishment of five new medical schools in state universities across the country, saying the move brings the Philippines closer to quality health care. Villanueva, principal sponsor and author of Republic Act 11509, or the Doktor Para sa Bayan Act, said the expansion strengthens the implementation of the law, which was enacted in

2020 to address health care inequality and the shortage of physicians in underserved areas.” This is a win for our youth aspiring to become doctors, for local communities and for every Filipino who deserves quality health care,” Villanueva said. The Commission on Higher Education recently approved the offering of Doctor of Medicine programs in five state universities beginning Academic Year 2026–2027. The newly approved institutions are Visayas State University in Region 8 (Eastern Visayas); Eastern Samar State University in Region 8; University of Eastern Philippines in Region 8; Benguet State University in the Cordillera Administrative Region; and Cotabato State University–Cotabato Regional Medical Center School of Medicine in Region 12 (Soccsksarg).” With these five new approvals, the number of state university and college medical schools has grown from 25 to 30, completing our goal of establishing a medical program in every region of the country,” said Villanueva, chairman of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education. To further support the program, Villanueva pushed for a P1.095-billion allocation for the Doktor Para sa Bayan program under the 2026 General Appropriations Act. The amount represents the highest budget granted to the program since it became law in 2021.” This is not merely an investment in education — it is an investment in lives,” Villanueva said.” Every doctor we train means countless patients who will receive timely and quality medical care,” he added.

- [House Anti-Dynasty measure 'most realistic' approach — House leader](#) (2026-06-20 15:52)

MANILA, Philippines — A ranking House lawmaker has defended the Anti-Political Dynasty measure passed at the House of Representatives, noting that it is the “most realistic” approach to implementing the Constitution’s mandate against political dynasties while preserving democratic choice. During a forum in Quezon City on Saturday, Deputy Speaker and La Union Rep. Paolo Ortega V said the House version may not be as sweeping as some advocates want, but it stands the best chance of becoming a law. “Perhaps the anti-political dynasty bill that we passed—the version we pushed for and got approved—is, you could say, the most realistic one. Somehow, some trimming did happen, and although it isn’t that comprehensive or that dramatic, it’s the most realistic version that actually has a chance of being passed.” Ortega, whose family is a political dynasty, added in Filipino. He further added that the bill should be viewed as a “significant first step” after decades of failed attempts to pass an enabling law. The measure, filed under House Bill 8389, seeks to prohibit political dynasties by restricting spouses and relatives within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity from simultaneously seeking or holding elective positions within the same political jurisdiction. Under the House-approved version, relatives within the prohibited degree may not simultaneously occupy elective positions within the same province, city, municipality, district, or barangay (village). The bill was principally authored by Speaker Faustino Dy 3rd and Majority Leader Sandro Marcos.

- [Pinoy crew members of hantavirus ship return to PH](#) (2026-06-20 13:16)

The 38 Filipino crew members of the MV Hondius have returned to the Philippines after completing a 42-day quarantine in the Netherlands, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) said on Saturday. In a statement, the DMW said the seafarers arrived at Ninoy Aquino

International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 on Friday night and were welcomed by Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac, along with representatives from the Department of Health (DOH), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ), Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), and their licensed recruitment agency. Cacdac assured the seafarers of continued government support and relayed President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive for the DMW, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), and DOH to coordinate efforts to ensure their safe return home.

- [Landslide-hit areas from Mindanao earthquake cover nearly half the size of BGC](#) (2026-06-20 13:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) identified approximately 137.87 hectares of land that have been potentially affected by landslides during the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that affected parts of southern Mindanao. In a statement Saturday, PhilSA said that through satellite imagery, it identified several areas across different villages in Sarangani and Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental, that were affected by landslides, equivalent to more than half the land of Bonifacio Global City.

- [Philippines, US boost maritime cooperation in WPS](#) (2026-06-20 05:34)

MANILA Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Saturday announced that Filipino and American naval and air units conducted their fourth bilateral maritime cooperative activity (MCA) in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) this year. The MCA ran from June 14 to 19 and involved units from the AFP and the US Indo-Pacific Command (US INDOPACOM), now officially called the US Pacific Command (USPACOM). "The exercise featured Philippine naval, air, and marine assets, including the BRP Diego Silang (FFG-7), AW-109 helicopter, FA-50 fighter aircraft, C-208B aircraft, and Sokol helicopters," the AFP said. The Philippine Coast Guard deployed the BRP Melchora Aquino (MRRV-9702) and BRP Sindangan (MRRV-4407). The USPACOM, meanwhile, deployed the USCGC Charles Moulthrop (WPC-1141), the USCGC Emlen Tunnell (WPC-1145), a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft, and the 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment. "Over the six-day activity, participating forces conducted a series of maritime interoperability exercises, including search and rescue, visit, board, search, and seizure, communication exercises, division tactics/officer of the watch maneuvers, photo exercise, and joint fires rehearsal," the AFP said. It added that the successful conduct of another MCA highlights the enduring commitment of the Philippines and the US to strengthening maritime cooperation, enhancing maritime domain awareness, and reaffirming support for a rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific Region. Pre-RIMPAC drills Meanwhile, the Philippine Navy (PN) said on Saturday that its guided missile frigate, the BRP Miguel Malvar (FFG-6), along with other nations participating in the biennial "Rim of the Pacific" (RIMPAC) exercises, successfully executed an air defense exercise while en route to Hawaii on June 18. Aside from the BRP Miguel Malvar, other participants include the Republic of Singapore Navy frigate RSS Steadfast (RSS-70), Italian Navy multi-purpose surface combatant ITS Giovanni delle Bande Nere (P-434), and Japan Self-Defense Maritime Force destroyer JS Kongo (DDG-173). During the exercise, participating

ships tested their respective air defense systems, firing at an unmanned aerial vehicle target launched from JS Kongo, acting as the simulated low-flying hostile aircraft."Such training enables the participating navies to refine tactics, techniques, and procedures while enhancing integration among partner navies," the PN said. This year's RIMPAC will run in Hawaiian waters from June 24 to July 31.

- [Pasay announces road closures for Pride Run 2026](#) (2026-06-20 05:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Several roads in Pasay City will be temporarily closed early Sunday morning for Pride Run 2026, the Pasay Traffic and Parking Management Office said. The roads will be closed starting at 1 a.m. until 7 a.m. to ensure the safety of participants and allow the smooth conduct of the running event. Affected roads include portions of SM Mall of Asia Block 20, Seaside Avenue, and Macapagal Boulevard southbound, where a zipper lane will be implemented on the northbound side to allow two-way vehicle traffic. The closure will also cover Jalandoni Street northbound, Sotto Street with zipper lanes near PICC and the Star City side, Roxas Boulevard southbound, Atang Dela Rama Street with zipper lanes, and Buendia Extension with zipper lanes. The Pasay Traffic and Parking Management Office advised motorists to plan their trips ahead and take alternative routes during the road closure period to avoid delays.

- [Ateneo prepares to bring home Adili to family in Nigeria](#) (2026-06-20 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Ateneo de Manila University on Saturday said preparations were underway to bring home the remains of the late Blue Eagles cager Divine Adili to Nigeria, his home country. In a statement on Saturday, the university said it was "part of the University's continuing commitment to Divine Adili and his family." "Preparations are underway for the repatriation of Divine's remains to Nigeria, where he will be laid to rest in accordance with his family's wishes," the university said. Two Ateneo representatives will accompany Adili on his final journey. "One of them, Fr Munching de Guzman SJ, has begun the necessary preparations for travel, including obtaining the required vaccinations and medications for entry into Nigeria," Ateneo said. "While documentary and travel arrangements are still being finalized in coordination with Divine's family and the relevant authorities, preparations continue to ensure that Divine's return home is carried out with dignity, care, and respect," it added. Adili and teammate Rene Baterbonia died on June 8, while in a training session in Aurora.

- [P-pop girl group Bini eyed as PH tourism ambassadors](#) (2026-06-20 05:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Tourism (DOT) said it remained committed to tapping P-pop girl group BINI as the country's tourism ambassadors as negotiations continued. "They would be our ambassadors, so we are currently focused on our ongoing negotiations with them," Tourism Secretary Bernardita Angara-Mathay said in an ambush interview on Friday. The proposed partnership follows BINI's historic performance at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, which further elevated the group's international profile. The DOT believes BINI's global appeal can help strengthen the Philippines' tourism campaign and promote the country to more local and international travelers.

- [ICC sets trial procedures for Duterte crimes against humanity case](#) (2026-06-20 04:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The International Criminal Court (ICC) Trial Chamber III has granted the prosecution up to six hours to deliver its opening statement when the crimes against humanity trial of former president Rodrigo Duterte begins on Nov. 30, 2026. The chamber also allotted up to three hours for the Common Legal Representatives of Victims (CLRVs) to present their opening statement, while the defense has yet to receive a fixed time limit after it said it could not estimate the duration of its presentation at this stage. The time allocations were part of the ICC's 23-page directions on the conduct of proceedings issued on June 19 by Trial Chamber III, composed of Presiding Judge Joanna Korner, Judge Keebong Paek, and Judge Nicolas Guillou. The ruling established procedures for the trial, including evidence presentation, witness examinations, and filing deadlines. The chamber ordered that the prosecution would deliver its opening statement first, followed by the victims' representatives and then defense. It said the defense and victims may choose to give their opening statements either at the start of the trial or immediately before presenting their evidence. However, the ICC ruled that opening statements must be presented in one sitting. The parties and participants will not be allowed to reserve unused time from their opening statements and continue them later during the proceedings. The chamber also directed the victims' representatives and defense to notify the court 15 days before the trial begins if they would deliver their opening statements at the commencement of proceedings. Any materials to be used during opening statements must be submitted eight days before trial, with objections due five days before the start of proceedings. All opening statements will be conducted in public session, with parties instructed to prepare accordingly. The ICC also allowed the use of audio-visual materials during the presentations. The chamber also ordered the prosecution to submit by Aug. 31, 2026 its detailed trial brief, list of witnesses, and list of evidence it intends to present. The trial brief must include the main facts of the prosecution's case, the witnesses who will testify, relevant exhibits, and the legal arguments it will rely on. The prosecution's witness list must include details such as witness identities or pseudonyms, relationships to other witnesses or relevant persons, summaries of expected testimony, the order in which witnesses will be called, estimated questioning time, and any requests for protective measures. The defense, meanwhile, was directed to file by Oct. 30 the main factual and legal issues it disputes, as well as the general nature of Duterte's defense, including any specific defenses it intends to raise. The chamber also set the sequence of opening statements, with the prosecution presenting first, followed by the Common Legal Representatives of Victims and the defense. The prosecution was granted up to six hours for its opening statement, while victims' representatives were given up to three hours. During the trial proper, evidence presentation will proceed with the prosecution first, followed by victims' representatives if authorized by the chamber, and then the defense. Any rebuttal or rejoinder evidence will require prior approval. The ICC also laid down procedures for documentary, digital, and physical evidence, stating that such evidence will generally be recognized without an immediate ruling on admissibility. The chamber said it will assess relevance, probative value, and possible prejudice when determining the guilt or innocence of the accused. For witnesses, the calling party will question the witness first, followed by victims'

representatives, if any, and then the opposing party. The chamber said challenges to a witness' s credibility or the reliability of testimony must be raised during questioning when they concern major issues in the case. The chamber further ordered that applications to use previously recorded testimony under Rule 68 of the ICC Rules of Procedure and Evidence must be submitted by the prosecution no later than Aug. 31, 2026 for witnesses testifying within 2026, and by Oct. 30, 2026 for other witnesses. It also adopted protocols covering witness preparation, witness familiarization, vulnerable witnesses, dual-status witnesses, redactions, and the electronic court system. The ICC said the directions were adopted to ensure an organized and efficient trial process while preserving the rights of the accused, victims, and other participants.

- [Opposition groups voice concern over Escudero as impeachment presiding officer](#) (2026-06-19 19:53)

Several opposition groups on Friday voiced concern over the possibility of designating former Senate President Francis Escudero as the Senate' s presiding officer on the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. Earlier this month, Escudero joined the new majority bloc of current Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, after being part of the current minority led by Senator Alan Peter Cayetano. "We express serious concern over the reported plan of the new Senate majority to designate Senator Francis 'Chiz' Escudero as presiding officer of the impeachment court of twice-impeached Vice President Sara Duterte," the groups said in a joint statement. "In a Senate composed of imperfect options, we recognize the tactical considerations that may have informed this plan. But among the available options, this is perhaps the most imperfect and one of the most dangerous. At a time when the Senate must restore public confidence in its independence and credibility, elevating Escudero to this crucial role risks achieving the opposite," they added. When he was Senate President, Escudero was previously under fire because of sending back the articles of impeachment against the Vice President to the House of Representatives.

- [EPD nabs high-value drug suspect, recovers P260K worth of shabu](#) (2026-06-19 19:34)

The Eastern Police District on Thursday has arrested two suspects in its anti-illegal drugs watch list confiscating P260,780.00 worth of suspected shabu in Bgy. Dela Paz, Pasig City. The operation was carried out at about 2:10 PM on June 18, 2026 by the joint elements of the District Drug Enforcement Unit (DDEU) and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Eastern District at the operation stemmed from a Search Warrant issued by the Regional Trial Court 154, Pasig City. Eastern Police District's Acting District Director, Police Brigadier General Melecio M Buslig Jr., identified the suspects as "Luis," 59, a resident of Brgy. Dela Paz, Pasig City, considered a high-value target under the Unified Drugs Watch List. Confiscated during the operation were seven heat-sealed plastic sachets containing a white crystalline substance believed to be shabu, weighing approximately 38.35 grams with an estimated Standard Drug Price of PhP260,780.00. The suspect was subsequently brought to the District Drug Enforcement Unit for proper documentation and processing. The confiscated evidence will undergo

laboratory examination by the EPD Forensic Unit, while charges for Violation of Section 11, Article II of Republic Act 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, are being prepared for filing before the Pasig City Prosecutor's Office."The arrest of a listed High-Value Individual and the recovery of a substantial volume of illegal drugs underscore our relentless efforts to dismantle drug networks operating within our communities. We will continue to pursue those who profit from the misery caused by illegal drugs while ensuring that every operation is conducted within the bounds of the law and with full respect for human rights," Buslig Jr. said.The Eastern Police District continues to strengthen its collaboration with partner law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders as part of its intensified campaign to keep Metro East communities safe from the threat of illegal drugs.

- [DND says dual citizenship complaint filed vs Gibo based on 'unverified claims'](#)
(2026-06-19 17:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of National Defense (DND) dismissed a perjury complaint filed against Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., as the case is based on "unverified allegations" and lacks credible evidence.In a statement, DND Assistant Secretary Erik Dy said the complaint attempts to shift the burden of proof to the government by asking the Office of the Pasay City Prosecutor and other state agencies to establish facts that the complainants themselves failed to prove. "That is not how the justice system works," Dy said.The complaint stems from allegations that Teodoro falsely declared that he no longer possessed a foreign passport, particularly a Maltese passport.The complainants are also seeking certified true copies of documents that will prove Teodoro's denouncement of his Maltese citizenship.Dy stressed that the burden of proof rests on those making the accusation and that a perjury complaint must be supported by competent evidence. "A complaint for perjury requires competent evidence, not speculation, assumptions, or a fishing expedition in search of proof," he said.The DND official maintained that the allegations against Teodoro remain unsubstantiated. "Until credible and verified evidence is presented, these claims remain nothing but unproven accusations," Dy said.

- [Marcos hopes Senate now 'become more orderly' under Gatchalian leadership](#)
(2026-06-19 17:12)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. expressed hope that the Senate will now "become more orderly" under the leadership of Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian so that the upper chamber can "finally proceed with the normal conduct of governance." The President issued the statement a day after Gatchalian was elected Senate president after weeks of a power struggle with former Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano."Well, that is exactly what we have been all hoping for – that things become more orderly, that the Senate runs smoothly. Everyone knows what happened," Marcos said during the Kapihan with the Philippine media in Kazan, Russia on Thursday. "I will support whoever the Senate chooses, as long as the process that they undertook in making a choice is proper, is legal, is constitutional, then that's fine with me," he added.

- [Marcos sees no problem with Escudero as Senate trial head](#) (2026-06-19 16:15)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday said he sees no problem with having Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero as presiding judge at the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. Sen. Ping Lacson had indicated that Escudero could be the presiding officer of the impeachment court, following a consensus among members of the majority bloc. During a media interview in Kazan, Russia, Marcos dismissed the criticisms hurled at Escudero for his role as presiding judge over the impeachment trial of Duterte last year. “Those are opinions. I don’t think that reflects in any way on how he will do. As a matter of fact, the rules that were adopted by the Senate were the rules that Senator Chiz wrote during last year’s impeachment, when they were handling last year’s impeachment complaint,” Marcos said. “So, in terms of his ability to be able to run the trial, I don’t think that’s in doubt,” he said. The 2025 trial of Duterte ended before it could officially start after the Supreme Court ruled that the impeachment complaint was unconstitutional and void. Escudero, who was Senate president at the time, was blamed by critics for trying to archive the case instead of dismissing it through a full trial. The president said that the Supreme Court ruling has nothing to do with Escudero. Marcos said he will back whoever the Senate elects as presiding officer, “as long as the process that they undertook in making the choice is proper, is legal, is constitutional.” Several opposition groups, however, are wary about the choice of Escudero as the trial’s presiding officer. In a joint statement posted on the page of the coalition Tindig Pilipinas, the groups said that in “a Senate composed of imperfect options, we recognize the tactical considerations that may have informed this plan. But among the available options, this is perhaps the most imperfect and one of the most dangerous.” “At a time when the Senate must restore public confidence in its independence and credibility, elevating Escudero to this crucial role risks achieving the opposite,” they said. “This plan inevitably recalls Escudero’s conduct during the previous impeachment proceedings, where his twisted interpretation of the constitutional directive to proceed ‘forthwith’ became the basis for the delay and deferment of the impeachment process,” the groups said. “The argument that Escudero is best suited for the role because of his legal background is unconvincing. Legal knowledge alone does not guarantee fairness, impartiality or fidelity to the spirit of the Constitution. An impeachment trial is not merely a legal exercise; it is a constitutional and political process that demands public trust in the neutrality of those who oversee it,” they added. The groups said the impeachment trial is a “defining test” for the Senate and for Philippine democracy, and called on Gatchalian to be the presiding officer instead of Escudero. “It must demonstrate that no public official is above the law and that constitutional accountability cannot be defeated through procedural maneuvering. The Senate owes the Filipino people a process that is fair, credible and beyond suspicion. With the issue of the legitimacy of the Senate presidency settled, we hope the new Senate majority reconsiders and instead let Senate President [Sherwin] Gatchalian lead as presiding judge and shepherd the impeachment trial to its just conclusion,” they said. Among the organizations who signed the joint statement were 1Sambayan, August Twenty One Movement, Buhay ang People Power Campaign Network, Student Council Alliance of the Philippines, and 18 other groups and civil society organizations, as well as 16 individuals that

included Fr. Flavie Villanueva. Duterte's impeachment trial was among the controversies cited by the Catholic Church and other religious groups that demanded accountability. In a press conference on Friday, Bishop Efraim Tendero, global ambassador of the World Evangelical Alliance, underlined the moral responsibility of religious leaders to guide the nation toward justice and accountability. "While the Constitution recognizes the separation of the church and state, we cannot separate the state from God," said Tendero. Religious organizations will hold a "White Ribbon March" on June 28 at the EDSA People Power Monument, demanding accountability from the government. The White Ribbon Movement (WRM), led by Kidapawan Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo, will be joined by the Inter-Religious Leaders Council for National Transformation. The WRM has presented three key demands: ending corruption, the passage of a "genuine" anti-political dynasty bill and implementing electoral reforms. The WRM evolved from the "Trillion Peso March" protests launched last year. Bagaforo explained the significance of the movement. "White is for all people of goodwill. It represents honesty, integrity and our shared commitment to a better future for the Philippines," he said. The June 28 protest will feature interfaith prayers, speeches from religious and civic leaders, and a march to the People Power Monument. Participants are encouraged to wear white as a sign of solidarity. "As citizens, we know our part. We trust our country to God. So let us unite on June 28, 2026, at the People's Power Monument, as we hold another large-scale protest," Bagaforo said in Filipino.

- [CIDG finds 'inconsistencies' in statements of Ateneo players, coaches](#) (2026-06-19 16:14)

THE Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) found "inconsistencies" in the accounts of the players and the coaching staff of the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) men's basketball team regarding the tragedy in Dipaculao, Aurora. Resigned head coach Thomas Anthony "Tab" Baldwin, assistant coach Dean Castaño and team manager Emmanuel Fernandez, as well as other university officials, were among those who appeared before the CIDG fact-finding probe on the drowning of student athletes Rene Clert Baterbonia and Divine Adili on June 8. "There are some inconsistencies between what the players said and what the coaches said pero di pa kami tapos, so wala pa kaming maibibigay na comment hanggang matapos lahat ito (but we aren't done yet, so we could not give any comment yet until all of this is done)," Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla, who was present during the questioning, told reporters on Friday. Fr. Roberto Yap SJ, ADMU president, did not show up because the university's graduation ceremony coincided with the CIDG investigation. His appearance was rescheduled on Thursday. Remulla did not disclose the specifics of the supposed inconsistencies, only noted that the players were in the water while the coaches were on shore. "We are piecing together the statements of what makes sense and what doesn't. It will take us a while, it will take us another week," he said. Remulla said investigators were also checking the claims of the resort where the team-building activity took place that the team was advised not to go too far from the shore. The CIDG earlier said the activity happened over 700 meters from the resort, a location so remote there were no houses or people around. Remulla said the drone footage that Baldwin was asked to bring was too short to provide a fuller picture

of what happened. “The drone footage is very short, parang two minutes after the fact, but we are still researching kung may (if they have) footage sila of the event itself. So far wala pang lumalabas (nothing has surfaced yet),” Remulla said. He said Baldwin was able to operate the drone during the height of the incident. On Friday, ADMU students walked out of their classes to press the school management to “do better” in protecting students amid the deaths of the two varsity players. The walkout was organized by the Sanggunian ng mga Mag-aaral ng Paaralang Loyola ng Ateneo de Manila (Council of Students of the Loyola Schools of Ateneo de Manila) and was held during the Loyola Schools graduation ceremonies. In a statement posted on the Facebook page of Sanggunian, the Ateneo community said the university “should have done better.” “While commitments were made and apologies were stated, the community seeks clear direction and plans in ensuring the community is safeguarded and that concrete changes are made to how the university operates. We also commit to actively participating in ensuring that these concrete changes are crafted and implemented,” the statement said. Speaking to reporters, Sanggunian President Jedryc Romero said the community deeply mourns the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili, and is one in finding answers over their deaths. “We know that from all of these happenings, there needs to be change in how the University operates, and the community is here to support that effort in order to make sure that community is safeguarded,” Romero said. Graduating student Bonnie de la Paz said they are pushing for representation from students, faculty and even student athletes to the Ateneo Board of Trustees. “Otherwise, Rene and Divine’s death could happen again,” de la Paz said. De la Paz also said that the graduating students wore black armbands during the graduation rites to remember the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili. Sen. Bong Go has introduced a resolution proposing a Senate inquiry into the drowning of Baterbonia and Adili. Senate Resolution 450 aims to evaluate existing policies, safety protocols and training practices governing athletic environments to enhance safeguards and welfare protections for student-athletes nationwide. “The safety and well-being of our athletes must always be of paramount importance. While sports foster discipline, teamwork and excellence among our youth, every training activity and team-building exercise must be conducted with adequate safety measures and proper supervision,” Go said. He noted that findings from the CIDG investigation reiterates the need for a Senate inquiry. Although numerous schools implement their own safety policies, there is no comprehensive, uniform national framework focused on risk management, emergency medical preparedness, and the delineation of coach and staff responsibilities during team-building activities and training camps, Go said.

- [PH yet to seal Russia oil deal due to 'geopolitical considerations'](#) (2026-06-19 16:13)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said that the Philippines has not reached an oil importation deal with Russia, citing geopolitical complexities that continued to shape discussions between the two countries. Speaking to reporters in Kazan, Russia, on Thursday, Marcos said negotiations on a possible long-term petroleum supply arrangement remained ongoing. “In terms of energy, there have been no firm agreements, but merely an understanding that we will continue to develop what we had already started in as a response to the oil crisis that was the

effect of the war in the Middle East which we are hoping will come to an end soon,” Marcos said. He added that Russian President Vladimir Putin “was very open to any kind of suggestion that we do increase that engagement and that we look further into supplying – getting our supplies of petroleum products from Russia.” Marcos said the Philippines has been sourcing petroleum products from Russia on an “ad hoc basis” since the start of the global oil crisis that was triggered by the war in the Middle East in February. “There was no real system in place. Now we are beginning to put that system in place, and I think it will be very good for the Philippines to have another assured lifeline when it comes to petroleum products,” he said. Even if the war ends, the government will continue to look for “nontraditional” partners for its supply of petroleum products, the president said. The war between the United States and Iran has forced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, where roughly 20 percent of the world’s oil and liquefied natural gas imports pass through. On June 20, Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said the Department of Energy seeks to launch an “aggressive” fuel transition plan meant to reduce the country’s reliance on imported oil. Based on government data, 97 percent of liquid petroleum products — such as diesel, gasoline and kerosene — are imported from Asian refineries. Despite the potential benefits of diversifying energy sources, the president acknowledged concerns that deeper economic engagement with Russia could draw criticism from countries opposed to Moscow’s military actions in Ukraine. Marcos said the Philippines remained committed to promoting peace and does not want to be associated with activities that could be perceived as supporting armed conflict. Marcos said the Philippines’ current trade volume with Russia, which is currently at \$5 billion, remains relatively small and cannot realistically be viewed as a significant source of funding for any conflict. The president also framed the discussions within the context of a changing global landscape, saying the Philippines is adapting to what many leaders now describe as a multipolar world. He said countries are increasingly pursuing a wider range of economic partnerships rather than aligning exclusively with traditional power blocs. “The traditional power structures and the traditional powers are no longer the powers that exist when, for example, the United Nations was formed right after the war. So we, the Philippines, is just responding, adjusting to the new reality,” Marcos said. In a related development, diesel and gasoline prices are expected to drop significantly next week, as the global market reacts to the interim peace deal signed between US and Iran. Local oil industry sources said on Friday diesel could go down by P7.50 to P9.50 per liter, and gasoline prices by P3 to P5 per liter. Despite easing tensions in the Middle East, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Friday said the Philippines must continue to address long-term energy security challenges, particularly its heavy dependence on imported fossil fuels. “The Philippines needs to reduce its dependence on imported oil to protect the economy against any possible new oil crisis or sudden increase in oil prices. That’s why we must have a clear and sound energy transition plan,” Gatchalian said. He renewed his call for the passage of Senate Bill 366, or the Energy Transition Act, which seeks to establish a comprehensive framework for the transition to cleaner and more sustainable energy sources. The measure aims to accelerate the adoption of renewable and low-carbon energy technologies, lessen reliance on fossil fuels and define the responsibilities of government agencies in implementing transition policies for the transport and power sectors. Gatchalian said a well-defined energy transition strategy would help shield

the Philippine economy from global oil market volatility. He underscored the environmental benefits of the proposed legislation, noting that it would support the country's climate commitments under its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Under the NDC, the Philippines pledges to reduce and avoid greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent from 2020 to 2030, subject to international support and financing. Achieving this target will require significant investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency measures and the modernization of the country's energy infrastructure. Gatchalian said advancing the energy transition is not only an environmental imperative but also an economic necessity that can help ensure stable energy prices, attract green investments, create jobs in emerging industries and enhance the country's resilience against future energy supply disruptions. Energy experts have long advocated for greater investment in renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro and geothermal power to improve energy independence and sustainability.

- [Putin orders release of 24 Filipinos detained in Russia](#) (2026-06-19 16:12)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday said Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered the release of 24 Filipinos who have been detained in the Russian city of Irkutsk in Siberia since mid-2025 over immigration issues. Marcos said he raised the issue during his bilateral meeting with Putin. The Russian leader agreed to facilitate their release, he said. "After nine months in detention, 24 Filipinos in Russia will finally be on their way home to be reunited with their families," Marcos said in a social media post. The Filipinos had been victimized by illegal recruitment agencies that facilitated their entry to Russia. In a press briefing with the Philippine media in Kazan, Marcos said Putin was surprised upon being informed of the plight of the detained Filipinos. "He told me, 'We found out where the 24 Filipinos are. We found out what the problem was with their case — with their situation. First of all, they have not been charged with any wrongdoing. But they have still been kept in detention for nine months,' " Marcos said. The president's announcement came on the final day of his trip to Russia for the Asean-Russia Commemorative Summit. While in Russia, he and Putin discussed a wide range of topics, including food security, energy cooperation, trade and investment. Marcos invited Putin to attend the 21st East Asia Summit, scheduled in Manila in November. Putin said there is "good potential" for cooperation in the fields of agriculture and energy between the two countries.

- [Lacson, Cayetano trade barbs over Senate spending during leadership row](#) (2026-06-19 16:11)

SEN. Panfilo Lacson on Thursday clapped back at Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano over what he described as the waste of approximately P700 million during Cayetano's 28-day stint as Senate president. In a post on X, Lacson responded to Cayetano's remarks during a Facebook Live broadcast in which Cayetano said the Senate's estimated daily operating expenses of P25 million would have been incurred regardless of who was Senate president. "It is true that whoever served as SP (Senate president) would have incurred similar expenses. But the issue is output — working in plenary instead of boycotting sessions, passing laws instead of

livestreaming on Facebook,” Lacson said. “Taxpayers’ money was wasted because there was zero output during Cayetano’s watch,” he added. Earlier Thursday, Lacson said at least P700 million in public funds was spent during Cayetano’s leadership that was marked by inactivity and disruptions in the Senate. He cited several incidents, including the shots fired inside the Senate complex two days after Cayetano assumed the post, the escape of Sen. Ronald dela Rosa while under the Senate’s “protective custody,” a boycott of plenary sessions by senators allied with Cayetano, an alleged failed destabilization attempt and what Lacson described as “bogus” committee hearings. Lacson said he based the P700-million estimate on figures previously cited by Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, now Senate president, during deliberations on the proposed 2026 General Appropriations Act. “As per the estimate made by the erstwhile Finance committee chairman, now SP Gatchalian, under the 2026 GAA, the Senate spends approximately P25 million a day — salaries, allowances, MOOE (maintenance and other operating expenses), etc. Multiply that by 28 days of inaction and inactivity, it’s P700 million,” Lacson said. The Senate leadership changed hands on June 3 after Sen. Francis Escudero moved to the then-11-member minority bloc to form a quorum and elect Gatchalian as acting Senate president. Gatchalian was formally elected Senate president during a special session on June 17. In the Facebook Live broadcast on Thursday, Cayetano rejected accusations that his bloc had been inactive during his time as Senate head. “What they say is that we didn’t work; there’s no truth to it. It’s just a lie. We never stopped working. The question is, what are we working on? That’s nation-building,” he said. While acknowledging that both Senate factions share the goal of nation-building, Cayetano maintained that their approaches differ. “Don’t take it away from us. Our group wants to build a nation. We have good faith. We have a vision of a nation you want to build,” he said. Even as Lacson and Cayetano traded barbs, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. expressed hope the Senate will now “become more orderly” under Gatchalian’s leadership and “finally proceed with the normal conduct of governance.” The president issued the statement a day after Gatchalian was elected Senate president. “Well, that is exactly what we have been all hoping for — that things become more orderly, that the Senate runs smoothly. Everyone knows what happened,” Marcos said during an interview with members of the Philippine media who covered his trip to Kazan, Russia, on Thursday. “I will support whoever the Senate chooses, as long as the process that they undertook in making a choice is proper, is legal, is constitutional, then that’s fine with me,” Marcos said. He said delays in Senate sessions halted deliberations on bills and stalled important government appointments. “Hopefully, with Senator Sherwin becoming Senate president, we can return to the normal operations of the Senate and that they can take care of the business of government, the business of legislation, and all these necessary legislations that we listed to show that [these] are priority — some of them are from before, some of them are new in response to the oil crisis in the Middle East,” he said. The president also expressed his readiness to work with the Senate to fast-track the passage of priority bills. On Monday, Marcos signed Proclamation Order 1318 calling the Congress to a special session. This was after Sen. Joel Villanueva joined pro-Gatchalian senators. The order aims at discussing priority bills set by the Marcos administration for the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council, composed of agency heads under the Office of the President and the Legislative, composed of members of the

House of Representatives and the Senate. “The challenges confronting our people demand urgent action. Families affected by the recent earthquake in Mindanao require immediate assistance. Students need continued support to pursue their education. Our senior citizens deserve better health care. Our children must have better nutrition and vulnerable sectors need stronger protection,” Marcos said in the order. The measures lined up for priority consideration include the proposed National Center for Geriatric Health Act, amendments to the Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education Act, the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations Act, amendments to the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, the Last Mile and Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas Schools Act, amendments to the Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act, the Anti-Political Dynasty Law and the Presidential Merit Scholarship Program.

- [78 duped by illegal recruiters rescued](#) (2026-06-19 16:10)

THE Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) on Thursday rescued 78 overseas Filipino worker (OFW) applicants from an alleged illegal recruitment agency in Palanan, Makati City. The DMW said in a statement that the Jenerick International Manpower Inc. was shut down on Wednesday as part of the agency’s campaign against illegal recruitment and human trafficking. The applicants said they were offered jobs as domestic workers in several countries in Asia and the Middle East, but were housed in lodging facility that was “neither registered nor authorized by the department and lacked the necessary clearance permit.” The facility had inadequate space, poor ventilation and unsafe living conditions for the applicants, the DMW said. The agency coordinated with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration in providing initial assistance to the rescued applicants, which also includes financial aid and temporary accommodation, while the Makati City local government ensured that the rescue was conducted in an “orderly, safe and peaceful manner.” It advised jobseekers and their families to always verify with the DMW a recruitment agency’s license, job order and other relevant documents before making payments, signing agreements or proceeding with any recruitment process.

- [Marcos rules out Cabinet revamp: No plans to replace Remulla with Abalos](#) (2026-06-19 16:09)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said he wanted former Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos in his administration, but noted that it doesn't mean someone will be removed from the Cabinet so he can be reappointed. "Okay. I'll be very candid. I'll be very frank with you. Of course, I want Benhur to play a more active role in government. Of course, he has been there, and he has been helping us in many ways, informally, privately," Marcos told reporters in Kazan, Russia. "I wouldn't mind finding a way for him to help us in an official capacity. But just because we want him to join, to become, to play a more active part in government doesn't necessarily mean that somebody else has to be [removed]," he added. Abalos resigned as secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government in October 2024 to vie for a Senate seat under the Marcos administration’s coalition slate in the 2025 midterm elections. He finished 16th among the senatorial candidates. The president's statement comes amid speculation about the possible exit

of current Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla, who is reportedly to be replaced by Abalos. Marcos dismissed the claim. "You know the — what you want to do — what you are trying to promote in government is stability and the steadiness of work. And that's part — that's an important part of governance," the president said. "If you keep moving people around, they have to start learning their job again. And that they — we just don't have time for that. And this — the people who are sitting in their particular capacities, be it Cabinet, be it some other agency — are, as far as I'm concerned, doing the job that they are asked to do and have gained already the experience that they have learned lessons from," he added. Marcos said he and his Cabinet officials are working well together, describing the team as a "really good group." The President said a revamp was not discussed during Cabinet meetings. "I don't see why you keep talk — why does this subject keep coming up? Because I have to tell you, when we sit around the table in meetings, we don't talk about that," Marcos said.

- [NACC Urges Public to Choose Legal Adoption Over Birth Simulation](#) (2026-06-19 16:08)

THE National Authority for Child Care (NACC) urged the public to pursue legal adoption, saying it would uphold the rights and welfare of orphaned children. NACC Executive Director Maria Gabriela Concepcion said legal adoption ensures that children's best interests are safeguarded while warning against the illegal practice of birth simulation. "You need to go through the legal adoption process because some people simply falsify the birth certificate to make it appear that they are the child's biological parents, but that process does nothing to protect the child, so we must adopt our children the right way," Concepcion said, stressing that birth simulation, or the falsification of a child's birth records, is a criminal offense that commonly occurs in hospitals and lying-in clinics. Under Republic Act 8552, or the Domestic Adoption Act, individuals found guilty of simulating a child's birth or tampering with civil registry records may face imprisonment of six years and one day to 12 years and a fine of up to P50,000. "If you truly love the child and want to give him or her all the rights of a son or daughter, then let us follow the proper legal process," Concepcion said. She added that legally adopted children enjoy the same rights as biological children, including carrying their adoptive parents' surname and inheriting from them as legitimate heirs. "When we legally adopt a child, that child becomes our legitimate son or daughter for all intents and purposes, carries our surname, and becomes one of our heirs," she said. The NACC said that Republic Act 11222, or the Simulated Birth Rectification Act of 2019, grants amnesty to qualified individuals who simulated a child's birth on or before March 28, 2019, provided the act was done in the child's best interest. Concerned individuals, it added, have until March 29, 2029, to file a Petition for Administrative Adoption with an Application for Rectification of Simulated Birth Record through their respective Local Social Welfare and Development Offices to legalize their parent-child relationship without fear of prosecution.

- [Duterte challenges Remulla to drug test over ICC warrant claims](#) (2026-06-19 16:07)

DAVAO City Rep. Paolo Duterte challenged Interior Secretary Juanito Victor Remulla to a hair follicle drug test after the Cabinet official described him as "high" when he claimed that the

International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued warrants of arrest against Sen. Bong Go and two other unnamed individuals. Duterte said Remulla should "look in the mirror" first. He chided Remulla for misdirecting his accusation, which he should direct to those in Malacañang. "If you really want to know who is 'high' and who is 'spaced out,' the solution is quite simple. Let's undergo a hair follicle drug test. Bring your boss along, plus his wife and child. So it's just one round of testing and the discussion is over," Duterte said. Quoting the word "sabog," which means burst, in Remulla's statement, Duterte said: "Maybe bursting with power. Bursting with corruption. Bursting with arrogance. And bursting with the delusion that the people no longer know how to distinguish those who are actually working from those who are just posing for the camera." In an earlier statement, Duterte said that the administration is weaponizing the ICC against its opponents. "To all the officials who are now playing blind and deaf just to please the administration, reflect on this — if they can turn their backs on their own allies now, what more will they do to you once you are no longer useful?" Duterte said. "History teaches us that there are no permanent allies in politics — only permanent interests. And to the public, do not allow justice to become a political tool. The law must be fair, not a weapon against the opposition," he added. Palace press officer Clarissa Castro denied that the administration is weaponizing the ICC against its opponents. Meanwhile, former senator Antonio Trillanes IV urged the public not to believe Duterte's claims.

- [DOTr Urges Asean Partners to Back PH Rail Network Expansion](#) (2026-06-19 16:06)

THE Department of Transportation (DOTr) has called on Asean member states to support the expansion of the Philippine railway network. "With these game-changing projects, we can transform the entire landscape of Philippine transportation. To achieve this, we would need help and collaboration from our partners and friends from Asean countries," Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez said at the Asean RailCon 2026 held at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) headquarters on Thursday. Lopez urged Asean partners to continue supporting the implementation of key infrastructure projects, including the North-South Commuter Railway, Metro Manila Subway Project, MRT-7, and other planned rail developments. He emphasized the role of the Philippine Railways Institute in developing a skilled workforce capable of supporting the country's expanding railway sector, noting the need for professionals who are equipped to meet future operational and safety requirements. During the conference, Asean Deputy Secretary-General for the Economic Community Satvinder Singh identified sustainability, resilience, digital innovation, safety standards, long-term investments, and workforce development as priorities for advancing railway systems across the region. "Rail transport offers a strategic path towards sustainable growth while enhancing connectivity and providing a more inclusive future," Singh said. ADB Philippines Country Director Andrew Jeffries cited the bank's long-standing partnership with the Philippines in revitalizing and expanding its railway infrastructure over the past decade. Jeffries said the rail projects currently under development are expected to provide faster, safer, more reliable, and environmentally sustainable transportation options for millions of commuters once they become fully operational.

- [Cancer Oncologist: Philippines Needs Stronger, Inclusive Health Care System](#) (2026-06-19 16:05)

A SINGAPORE-BASED health expert said the Philippines needs to establish a strong healthcare system accessible to the underprivileged. Dr. Tanujaa Rajasekaran, a senior consultant and medical oncologist at Parkway Cancer Center — a cancer treatment facility based in Singapore — said that while rising healthcare costs remain a major problem worldwide, the Philippines must find ways to ensure that all citizens receive quality healthcare regardless of their economic status. Rajasekaran was reacting to the recent death of a Filipino man denied public healthcare benefits by the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) despite 25 years of contributions. She shared her insights as a practicing oncologist in Singapore, which is known for its robust healthcare system. "What the government has done is make sure that there is a safety net so that even in patients who fall below the income gap ceiling, there's always help for them," Rajasekaran told The Manila Times. Rajasekaran said that Singapore operates both public and private healthcare systems. She added that under the public system, a national health insurance scheme allows indigents access to government-funded healthcare services. For those who can afford additional coverage, private insurance allows access to private healthcare facilities and services. "Even if you have the poorest of the poor patients, if they are ill, they will never be denied healthcare," she said. Rajasekaran said cancer awareness and screening in the Philippines lag due to cultural taboos, limited public education, and uneven access to treatment facilities, which are mostly concentrated in Metro Manila. She said cancer screening should be made available in far-flung areas. "You need to train the people to get screening done and eventually get people to go out to the villages," she said. Rajasekaran said a lack of cancer awareness among Filipinos should also be addressed. She said religious leaders in villages could be trained to explain the importance of vaccination and other preventive measures. "Conversations with parents, teachers, and even religious leaders are crucial in dispelling myths about the HPV vaccine," she said. "Education and outreach are key. You need to educate people about the importance of screening and train local healthcare providers to deliver these services," Rajasekaran added. Rajasekaran was optimistic that the Philippines is moving in the right direction toward universal health coverage but noted that systemic improvements will take time. "I think things are moving in the right direction, but it may take some time to ensure that everybody has some form of universal healthcare insurance so that everyone can get the best treatment available," she said.

- [More criminal raps filed over deserted cargo](#) (2026-06-19 16:04)

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) on Friday filed a second batch of criminal complaints before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against five cargo forwarding firms allegedly involved in fraudulent balikbayan box operations linked to more than 3,000 abandoned shipments discovered in ports across the country. Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno led the filing of complaints against Ikthus Trading Corp., Marcelo D. Laylo Cargo Forwarders, Me Amoree International Consumer Goods Trading, MT De Guzman Non-Specialized Wholesale Trading, and Cargoflex Haulers Corp. for alleged violations of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) and

other applicable laws. The cases involve 3,176 abandoned balikbayan boxes uncovered at various ports nationwide, prompting a wider investigation into suspected smuggling activities and other customs violations. According to the BOC, investigators found indications of fraudulent misdeclaration and undervaluation of goods, unauthorized deconsolidation activities, outright smuggling, non-declaration of commercial items, importation of prohibited and regulated products, and possible violations of intellectual property rights laws. The agency said the abandoned cargoes raised concerns over irregular importation practices and non-compliance with required shipping and documentation procedures. The filing marks the second batch of cases initiated by the BOC as part of its campaign against fraudulent cargo forwarding operations. On May 29, the bureau filed its first criminal complaint against Makati Express Cargo Inc. Nepomuceno said the bureau would continue pursuing cargo operators found to have engaged in deceptive and unlawful practices. “We will not stop investigating, building cases, and filing appropriate complaints against cargo operators involved in deception and other fraudulent activities that harm our OFWs and their families,” he said. The customs chief also warned that additional complaints may be filed, especially since several other cargo forwarding firms remain under investigation. The BOC said ongoing case buildup and intelligence efforts could lead to further charges, depending on the results of the probes undertaken to protect overseas Filipino workers and ensure compliance with customs regulations.

- [PhilHealth reforms urged after benefit denial case](#) (2026-06-19 16:03)

SEN. Mark Villar called on the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) to strengthen its policies, improve accountability mechanisms, and enhance benefit delivery to ensure no Filipino is denied healthcare assistance when it is needed most. The senator’s appeal arose from a viral social media post involving a widow who claimed that her family was unable to avail themselves of PhilHealth benefits after her husband, a long-time contributing member, was reportedly denied coverage because he did not meet the agency’s 24-hour confinement requirement. The case has triggered widespread public concern and renewed scrutiny of PhilHealth policies, particularly provisions that may prevent members from accessing benefits despite years of contributions to the state health insurer. “We already have a Universal Health Care Law. The direction of our healthcare system should be focused on wider access and faster service, not on policies that cause confusion and fear among members,” Villar said. “No family should be surprised that they cannot use the benefits they have worked so hard for just because of a technicality.” The Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, enacted in 2019, seeks to guarantee equitable access to quality and affordable healthcare services for all Filipinos. Villar stressed that the implementation of health insurance benefits should reflect the law’s objective of providing timely and accessible healthcare support. To address concerns raised by the recent incident, Villar urged PhilHealth to conduct a comprehensive review of its claims processing system. Among the reforms he has proposed are reassessing and possibly revoking the 24-hour confinement policy, strengthening public information and education campaigns, and improving the guidelines for members regarding available benefits and eligibility requirements. According

to Villar, clearer policies and more efficient processes are necessary to reduce confusion among members, minimize delays in the release of benefits, and reinforce public trust in the country's healthcare system. He emphasized that PhilHealth must ensure that its programs remain responsive to the needs of ordinary Filipinos, particularly those facing medical emergencies and financial hardships. "These reforms are necessary to ensure that the principles of the Universal Health Care Law are fully realized through an efficient, transparent, and member-centered healthcare delivery system," Villar said. The senator also underscored the importance of accountability within the agency, noting that every contribution made by Filipino workers and their families represents hard-earned income that should translate into meaningful health protection. "Our countrymen earned every contribution paid to PhilHealth. They should have confidence that there is an institution ready to support them in times of medical need," Villar said. "PhilHealth's goal is to protect Filipinos, and this should be reflected not only in policies but in the experience of each member." The controversy has reignited public discussions about the need for policy reforms within PhilHealth, with healthcare advocates and concerned citizens calling for a review of benefit-eligibility rules to ensure that deserving members are not deprived of healthcare assistance due to procedural requirements.

- [Vico urges Pasig residents: Draw inspiration from Rizal](#) (2026-06-19 16:02)

PASIG City Mayor Vico Sotto urged residents to draw inspiration from Dr. Jose Rizal's life and achievements as the city marked the national hero's 165th birth anniversary. Sotto said during the city of Pasig's commemoration on Friday, June 19, Rizal accomplished much despite living only 35 years and six months, citing his studies, travels, organization-building, and writings, including *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, which he completed and published before turning 30. "I thought about it too. Because Jose Rizal, we all know, only lived for 35 years — 35 years and 6 months, something like that. His life was very short," Sotto said. The mayor said Rizal's accomplishments at a young age were a reminder for us to be more mindful of our time, especially amid distractions from technology and social media. "Maybe Jose Rizal was really just a genius, and we cannot remove that from the discussion. But perhaps in today's time, speaking practically, we also have many distractions," he said. Sotto said people can easily lose time in activities such as streaming platforms and scrolling through social media, adding that Rizal's life should remain an inspiration to do more for the country. "I hope Jose Rizal remains an inspiration to us. We look at and study his life and everything he accomplished at such a young age. And I hope he inspires us to surpass what we can do for our country," Sotto said.

- [LTO chief vows charges vs 9 arrested enforcers](#) (2026-06-19 16:01)

THE Land Transportation Office (LTO) is set to file administrative charges against nine members of its Regional Law Enforcement Section (RLES) in Caraga following their arrest during an entrapment operation for an extortion case on Thursday. In a statement on Friday, LTO chief Assistant Secretary Marcus Lacanilao, said these administrative sanctions were separate from

criminal charges to be filed at the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor. “Malinaw ang ating polisiya sa LTO na walang puwang ang katiwalian sa hanay ng ating mga kawani. Ang sinumang mapatutunayang lumabag sa batas at sa tiwalang ipinagkaloob ng publiko ay mananagot sa administratibo at kriminal na aspeto (The LTO has a clear policy against corruption. Anyone proven to have broken the law and public trust will face administrative and criminal charges),” Lacanilao said. He assured that the agency would cooperate with law enforcement agencies to ensure the proper, fair, and expeditious filing of criminal charges against the arrested RLES personnel. “Hindi natin kukunsintihin ang anumang uri ng pang-aabuso sa kapangyarihan at patuloy nating lilinis ang hanay ng ating mga tauhan upang mapanatili ang integridad ng ahensya (We won’t tolerate any kind of abuse of power and we will continue to cleanse our ranks to maintain the agency’s integrity),” he said. On Thursday, the LTO Central Office set up an anti- “kotong (extortion)” entrapment operation with the Philippine National Police (PNP) Regional Intelligence Division of the PNP Regional Office 13, PNP Regional Intelligence Unit 13, PNP Regional Mobile Force Battalion 13 and the Buenavista Municipal Police Station. PNA

- [Marcos: PH yet to seal Russia oil deal due to 'geopolitical considerations'](#) (2026-06-19 15:46)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said that the Philippines has not yet reached an oil importation deal with Russia, citing geopolitical factors and other complexities that continued to shape discussions between the two countries. Speaking to reporters in Kazan, Russia on Thursday, Marcos said that negotiations on a possible long-term petroleum supply arrangement remained ongoing. “In terms of energy that there have been no firm agreements, but merely an understanding that we will continue to develop what we had already started in as a response to the oil crisis that was the effect of the war in the Middle East which we are hoping will come to an end soon,” Marcos said. “I can say that President Putin, the Russian Federation’s – the government has – was very – was very open to any kind of suggestion that we do increase that engagement and that we look further into supplying – getting our supplies of petroleum products from Russia,” he added. Marcos said the Philippines has been sourcing petroleum products from Russia on an “ad hoc basis” since the onset of the global oil crisis triggered by the war in the Middle East in February. “There was no real system in place. Now we are beginning to put that system in place and I think it will be very good for the Philippines to have another assured lifeline when it comes to petroleum products,” he said. Even if war does come to an end, the President said the government would continue to look for “non-traditional” partners in terms of the supply of petroleum products. “Should anything like this happen again, we don’t know if the supply will again be suddenly be cut, but now we have many more options than we did before,” he added.

- [Marcos backs direct flights from Russia to PH’s tourist destinations](#) (2026-06-19 13:27)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. expressed support for expanding direct air connectivity between Russia and the Philippines, particularly by increasing flights to the country’s major tourist destinations. In a media interview in Kazan, Russia on Thursday, Marcos

said the plan would strengthen tourism and people-to-people exchanges between the two nations. "Certainly, yeah. Very strong. Yes. Absolutely," Marcos said, when asked if the Philippine government will support direct flights of more Russian airlines to the country's key tourist destinations. "But you know, we're not only talking about tourism. Of course, it's an important part that we would like many more to – both ways for more Filipinos to go to see Russia, for more Russians to come and visit the Philippines," he added.

- [Ateneo continues to support basketball team after tragedy](#) (2026-06-19 13:13)

Following the tragedy that killed two of their teammates last week, the Ateneo de Manila University on Friday said as they continue to honor the memory of the late Rene Clert Baterbonia and Divine Adili, the university continues to support the men's basketball team "during this difficult time". "Over the past several days, our student-athletes, coaches, and staff have participated in necessary proceedings while also beginning the challenging work of recovery. To support this process, the team is taking time for rest, reflection, and healing," the university said in a statement. Ateneo said that the Loyola Schools Office of Guidance and Counseling and the Ateneo Bulatao Center for Psychological Services continued to provide psychological support to the team, in ensuring that everyone is cared for, as the university moves forward. "We are grateful for the prayers, compassion, and solidarity of the Ateneo community. We ask that you continue to keep the team, our coaches and staff, and especially the families of Bobet and Divine in your prayers as we walk this path toward healing together," the university said. The statement came after a walkout by its students and faculty demanding justice for the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili.

- [Recto: P60B fund transfer did not affect PhilHealth operations](#) (2026-06-19 13:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Executive Secretary Ralph Recto on Friday denied any liability over the P60-billion transfer of PhilHealth reserve funds to the National Treasury during his tenure as Finance chief, saying the government acted within legal bounds and in line with existing fiscal policy. In a statement, Recto said such transfer did not affect PhilHealth's operations or the delivery of healthcare services. "Government actions were consistent with existing fiscal management policies and previous explanations provided by concerned agencies. We have been consistent in our position on this," Recto said. Recto issued the statement after the Office of the Ombudsman ruled that there was no prima facie evidence to indict Recto and other PhilHealth officials for technical malversation, plunder, and violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. The Executive Secretary said that the transferred funds originated from excess government contributions and reserve funds that were not being utilized by PhilHealth at the time. "What is important is that the transfer did not affect the PhilHealth services to our people. There is no truth to claims that PhilHealth operations were affected by the said transfer. PhilHealth benefits were not reduced because of that," he added.

- [Marcos returns from Asean-Russia summit, highlights cooperation](#) (2026-06-19 10:01)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday afternoon returned to Manila following his participation in the the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean)-Russia Commemorative Summit in Kazan, Russia. Marcos and his delegation arrived at 4:02 p.m. at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. In his arrival statement, Marcos said the summit, which marked the 35th anniversary of Asean-Russia relations, provided an opportunity for leaders to assess the progress of the partnership and outline future cooperation amid an increasingly complex global environment. The President said that discussions covered significant regional and international developments, including the situation in the South China Sea and the Middle East, as well as ways to strengthen cooperation in areas that directly affect the stability, resilience, and prosperity of the participating nations. “We discussed ways to further advance our bilateral partnership across trade and investment, energy security, agriculture, science and technology, education, and people-to-people exchanges,” he said. The President also noted that Asean and Russia reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing practical cooperation on shared security challenges, including terrorism, transnational crime, cybercrime, and other non-traditional threats, while sustaining engagement across Asean’s political security, economic, and socio-cultural pillars. The summit adopted several key outcome documents, including the Kazan Declaration 2026; Asean-Russia: Unity in Diversity – 35 Years Together; the Asean-Russia Joint Statements on Cultural Cooperation and Energy Cooperation; and the Asean-Russia Comprehensive Plan of Action 2026-2030, which will serve as the roadmap for cooperation over the next five years. Marcos also underscored the growing interconnectedness of regional processes across Eurasia. “In this spirit, I had constructive engagements with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Eurasian Economic Union including through the Eurasian Economic Commission covering inter-regional dialogue and practical cooperation in trade and investment, energy security, connectivity, agriculture, tourism, and addressing transnational challenges,” he added. The President said discussions focused on inter-regional dialogue and practical cooperation in trade and investment, energy security, connectivity, agriculture, tourism, and addressing transnational challenges. On the sidelines of the Asean-Russia Commemorative Summit, Marcos also met with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss the future of Philippines-Russia relations and explore opportunities for expanding bilateral cooperation across key sectors. “On the margins of the summit, I held a very productive bilateral meeting with President Putin where we reaffirmed the friendship and cooperation between Russia and the Philippines as we look forward to the next 50 years in our relations,” he said. The two leaders discussed ways to further advance cooperation in trade and investment, energy security, agriculture, science and technology, education, and people-to-people exchanges. Marcos expressed gratitude to the Russian government and people for their hospitality and the successful hosting of the commemorative summit, emphasizing the Philippines’ commitment to constructive regional engagement and mutually beneficial partnerships with Asean dialogue partners. “The Philippine delegation and I are grateful to the Government and people of the Russian Federation for their warm hospitality and the successful hosting of this Commemorative Summit,” he said.

- [Marcos: No Cabinet revamp but eyes govt post for former DILG chief](#) (2026-06-19 05:15)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. belied rumors that there would be a Cabinet reshuffle amid his plan to appoint candidates who lost in the 2025 elections to government posts. Speaking to reporters in Kazan, Russia, Marcos said he wanted former Interior secretary Benhur Abalos to play a more active role in his administration, but this does not mean that someone will be removed from his Cabinet. "Okay. I'll be very candid. I'll be very frank with you. Of course, I want Benhur to play a more active role in government. Of course, he has been there and he has been helping us in many ways, informally, privately," Marcos said. "I wouldn't mind finding a way for him to help us in an official capacity. But just because we want him to join, to become, to play a more active part in government doesn't necessarily mean that somebody else has to be [removed]," he added. Abalos resigned as secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government in October 2024 to vie for a Senate seat under the Marcos administration's coalition slate in the 2025 elections. He finished 16th among the senatorial candidates.

- [Catholic Church sets 'White Ribbon March' for accountability on June 28](#) (2026-06-19 04:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Catholic Church, along with other religious groups, is set to stage a "White Ribbon March" on June 28, 2026 at the EDSA People Power Monument, demanding accountability from recent developments in the government and the upcoming impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. The movement is led by Kidapawan Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo, along with the Inter-Religious Leaders Council for National Transformation (IRLCNT) and White Ribbon Movement (WRM). In a press conference on Friday, Bagaforo urged the public to join the protest. "As citizens, we know our part. We trust our country to God. So let us unite on June 28, 2026, at the People's Power Monument as we hold another large-scale protest," he said in Filipino.

- [Paolo Duterte challenges Remulla to follicle test over 'stoned' allegation](#) (2026-06-19 04:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Davao City Rep. Paolo Duterte challenged Interior Secretary Juanito Victor Remulla to a hair follicle drug test after he described the congressman as "being stoned" when he claimed that the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued warrants of arrest against Sen. Bong Go and two other individuals. He also said that Remulla should "look in the mirror" first. Remulla on Thursday said that Duterte might have been "high" when he claimed that there was an ICC warrant against Go and two police officers whom he did not name. "I haven't seen.. He could have been stoned when he heard it because we haven't seen anything like that," Remulla said. But in a statement late Thursday night, Duterte chided Remulla, saying he could be misdirecting his aim and was referring to those in Malacanang. "If you really want to know who is "high" and who is "spaced out," the solution is quite simple. Let's undergo a hair follicle drug test. Bring your boss along, plus his wife and child. So it's just one round of testing and the discussion is over," Duterte said. He also said that he might also be referring the word "sabog" to a "burst." "Maybe bursting with power. Bursting with corruption. Bursting with arrogance. And bursting with the delusion that the people no longer know how to distinguish those who are actually working from those who are just posing for the camera," Duterte said. In

his statement, Duterte said that the administration's use of ICC was a "political weapon" used against their opponents, noting that almost every government agency is now being used "to hunt down their political rivals," "To all the officials who are now playing blind and deaf just to please the administration, reflect on this—if they can turn their backs on their own allies now, what more will they do to you once you are no longer useful?," Duterte said.

- [Putin orders release of 24 Pinoys detained in Russia, says Marcos](#) (2026-06-19 02:18)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday announced that Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered the release of 24 Filipinos who have been detained in the Russian city of Irkutsk in Siberia since mid-2025 over immigration issues. "Afterin detention, in will finally be on their way home to be reunited with their families," Marcos said in a social media post. "I thank and thank for their assistance and cooperation in bringing this matter to a positive resolution," he added.

- [DOTr seeks Asean support for expansion of Philippine railway network](#) (2026-06-19 02:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Transportation (DOTr) has called on Asean member states, development institutions, and investment partners to strengthen cooperation in expanding the Philippines' railway network, saying modern rail systems are essential to sustaining economic growth and improving mobility for millions of Filipinos. Speaking at the Asean RailCon 2026 at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) headquarters, Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez said the Philippine government was pushing forward with major railway projects aimed at transforming the country's public transportation system. To accelerate these efforts, the transport chief urged Asean partners to continue supporting the implementation of key infrastructure projects, including the North-South Commuter Railway, Metro Manila Subway Project, MRT-7, and other planned rail developments. "With these game-changing projects, we can transform the entire landscape of Philippine transportation. To achieve this, we would need help and collaboration from our partners and friends from Asean countries," Lopez said. He added that the Philippines remained committed to working closely with Asean nations and development organizations in building a rail system that promotes sustainable development and enhances the quality of life of Filipinos. Lopez also emphasized the role of the Philippine Railways Institute in developing a skilled workforce capable of supporting the country's expanding railway sector, noting the need for professionals who are equipped to meet future operational and safety requirements. During the conference on Thursday, Asean Deputy Secretary-General for the Economic Community Satvinder Singh identified sustainability, resilience, digital innovation, safety standards, long-term investments, and workforce development as priorities for advancing railway systems across the region. "Rail transport offers a strategic path towards sustainable growth while enhancing connectivity and providing a more inclusive future," Singh said. For his part, ADB Philippines Country Director Andrew Jeffries cited the bank's long-standing partnership with the Philippines in revitalizing and expanding its railway infrastructure over the past decade. Jeffries said the rail projects currently under development were expected to provide faster, safer, more reliable, and environmentally

sustainable transportation options for millions of commuters once they become fully operational.

- [Ex-Blue Eagles coach Baldwin attends CIDG probe into players' deaths](#) (2026-06-19 01:46)

MANILA, Philippines -- Resigned Ateneo de Manila University Blue Eagles head coach Tab Baldwin appears before the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on Friday to face the fact-finding body investigating the deaths of his players Rene Clert Baterbonia and Divine Adili. Baldwin headed the team building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora where Baterbonia and Adili drowned on June 8. Baldwin has not responded to summonses by the CIDG and the National Bureau of Investigation because he was then "not in a good condition to appear," his lawyer said. Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla emwarned the seasoned basketball coach that he could be cited for contempt should he fail to attend the hearing again.

- [Senate under Cayetano: a 'waste' of taxpayers' money](#) (2026-06-18 20:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson on Thursday said the Senate, in 28 days, under the leadership of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano cost the government P700 million and produced no output but "chaos." The 28 days Lacson referred to were the session days. Cayetano was Senate president from May 11 to June 17 or one month and six days. "The Philippine Senate in 28 days under Alan Peter Cayetano: Estimated cost - 700M. Output - chaos," Lacson wrote on X. The senator said it was during Cayetano's term that "gunfire" was heard at the Senate referring to the shooting incident involving then Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Mao Aplasca. Lacson also cited Sen. Ronald Dela Rosa's escape on May 14 while under the Senate "protective custody." Dela Rosa, delivered the "crucial" 13th vote to oust Sen. Vicente Sotto III as Senate president and install Cayetano. Lacson said Cayetano's leadership saw "session boycott, failed destabilization attempt, unauthorized committee hearings highlighted by one not presided nor attended by a single senator." The Cayetano-led Blue Ribbon subcommittee led by Sen. Rodante Marcoleta conducted on June 4 a public hearing on the flood control fund scandal. But the inquiry was not authorized. No officer of the Blue Ribbon Committee secretariat was present to record the proceedings and the testimonies of Marcoleta's 18 resource persons -- former aides of resigned representative Zaldy Co who claimed to have delivered "tainted" money in suitcases to several former and incumbent politicians. "What a waste of taxpayers' money!" Lacson stressed.

- [Bam Aquino: Universal feeding program to benefit 8M K to Grade 3 learners](#) (2026-06-18 19:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Bam Aquino sought the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 2272 establishing a universal feeding program that would benefit eight million Kindergarten to Grade 3 learners. The senator on Wednesday sponsored SB 2272 amending the Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act, as he raised the need to combat stunting among Filipino children. Aquino was originally scheduled to sponsor the bill on the floor on May 11 but was deferred due to the changes in Senate leadership. He was able to do this during the Senate special session. He sounded the alarm on the country's child nutrition crisis, warning that

millions of malnourished Filipino children are being deprived of the opportunity to reach their full potential. “Currently, 26.7 percent of Filipino children under five years old are stunted,” Aquino said in his sponsorship speech. “Ibig sabihin po, isa sa bawat apat na kabataan ay hindi naaabot ang kanilang tunay na potensyal (It means that one in four children fail to reach their full potential),” he said. According to enrollment data from the Department of Education for School Year 2025-26, over 7.9 million students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 stand to benefit from 231 days of feeding under the program, consisting of 201 school days and an additional 30 days during summer classes.

- [Ateneo’ s Kieffer Alas shows up CIDG probe on deaths of teammates](#) (2026-06-18 17:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) Blue Eagles Kieffer Alas on Thursday showed up at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) headquarters in Camp Crame to participate in the ongoing fact-finding probe into the deaths of fellow student athletes Rene Clert Baterbonia and Divine Adili on June 8. Alas was with Baterbonia, Adilia and the rest of the Blue Eagles in the team building in Dipaculao, Aurora that ended in a tragedy. Eight ADMU players were seen entering the CIDG, Alas included, around 9 a.m. on Thursday yet no one faced the media or gave a statement. Alas, together with teammate Sam Reyes broke their silence in a podcast interview with broadcast journalist Pia Hontiveros where they flatly denied that the activity was an initiation rite contrary to the findings of the CIDG that circumstances are leaning towards a possible hazing or homicide case. On Wednesday however, CIDG director Police Maj. Gen. Robert Morico II still maintained that denial of the players as well as the coaches does not automatically mean the homicide angle will be dropped. In a chance interview, Morico said their investigators have yet to release an update regarding the investigation. Morico also said the CIDG has now subpoenaed 48 individuals mostly players, coaching staff and university executives to participate in the fact-finding probe into the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili. Earlier this week, past ADMU student athletes were also invited to shed light on their true experiences in the team-building activity headed by embattled now former Blue Eagles Head Coach Thomas Anthony “Tab” Baldwin in the same resort in Dipaculao. Past podcasts of some of the former players have resurfaced where they described the activity not as a team-building but as a “boot camp.”

- [Comelec races to secure funds for Dasmariñas City special election](#) (2026-06-18 17:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) is already preparing for the scheduled special election in the lone district of Dasmariñas City despite unresolved funding, while aggressively pursuing cost-saving measures to trim the ₱191-million budget and meet a critical end-of-June funding deadline. Comelec Chairman George Garcia on Thursday said the poll body is still searching for ways to finance the elections and is exploring measures to reduce the projected budget of ₱191 million. The special congressional election will be held on August 29 to fill the seat vacated by former Rep. Francisco “Kiko” Barzaga following his expulsion from the House of Representatives. Garcia disclosed that Comelec is looking at possible assistance from the local government of Dasmariñas City, although he acknowledged that any

support extended may not be enough to fully cover the funding requirements. To bring down costs, election officials have begun identifying and recovering materials from previous elections that can still be reused. Among the items already being gathered are stocks of indelible ink and various election supplies that remain serviceable. Garcia added that some previously used election forms and documents may also be utilized again, requiring only minor modifications for the upcoming polls. “The most important thing is that the votes are cast and the winners are proclaimed based on the ballots that are counted,” he said. Despite the uncertainty over funding, Comelec has already started preliminary preparations, noting that expenditures remain relatively low at this stage. The major costs, Garcia explained, will begin once the commission starts printing official ballots and election paraphernalia that cannot be recycled, such as election returns and other mandatory documents.

- [VP acquittal looms if only 15 senators can vote](#) (2026-06-18 16:17)

(UPDATE) SEN. Panfilo Lacson on Thursday voiced concern over the possible “absurdity” of the impeachment court being reduced to a mere formality for the acquittal of Vice President Sara Duterte if nine or more of the 24 senator-judges are detained or suspended by the Sandiganbayan. Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla earlier said that at least nine senators were facing investigation for various corruption and plunder-related issues. The senator on Thursday raised the need for the Supreme Court to intervene to address the situation. He said that while the Court cannot intervene in the operation of the impeachment court, it can do so if the issue of grave abuse of authority is raised. He cited the case of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who was suspended for 90 days by the anti-graft court. Estrada is detained for plunder and was not allowed to post bail. “Nothing can be clearer than this. Sen[ator] Jinggoy cannot participate in the impeachment trial of VP Sara Duterte for a period of 90 days,” Lacson wrote on X on Wednesday. “Ano ang saysay ng impeachment trial kung 15 lang ’yung senator judges na present at pwedeng bumoto? Ano saysay? (For what will the impeachment trial be for if only 15 senator judges can vote, and 16 votes are needed to convict?),” Lacson said in a radio interview on Thursday. The trial will be a mere formality for acquittal, he said. “I’d rather leave it to the wisdom of the Court to come up with a practical necessity to intervene,” he added. Lacson said it is better that the Supreme Court rather than the impeachment court settle the question, since it is perceived to be beyond politics. Meanwhile, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said he will likely preside over the impeachment trial, contrary to earlier reports suggesting that a lawyer member of the Senate impeachment court would do so. He said the current expectation under existing Senate rules is that the Senate president presides over the impeachment court, but said the senators are still discussing procedural matters and may reach a different decision. Sources had earlier reported that Sen. Francis Escudero, widely blamed for scuttling the impeachment trial against Duterte in 2025, was picked to be the court’s presiding officer. But Gatchalian said names raised during Wednesday’s session regarding possible presiding officers were merely manifestations and not formal nominations. “None of the names mentioned were official. They were only manifestations. The important thing is the election of the members. If you listen to Sen. [Juan Miguel] Zubiri’s motion, it was a

manifestation,” he said. Gatchalian said he was not concerned about petitions pending before the Supreme Court related to the impeachment process, since the Court has yet to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO). “There is no TRO. If the Supreme Court thinks there is irreparable damage, it will issue a TRO,” he said, adding that Senate work continues in the absence of any court order halting proceedings. Asked about the threshold for conviction in the impeachment trial, Gatchalian emphasized that the Constitution is clear. “It is clear that two-thirds of all members are required,” he said. The Senate president also vowed to adhere strictly to constitutional provisions once the impeachment trial begins. “I can’t predict what issues will appear there, but as far as I’m concerned, I will uphold what is written under the Constitution,” he said. Impeachment manager Lacson said aside from electing a presiding officer, the Senate impeachment court may designate an impeachment manager to ensure the smooth flow of the trial. The senator on Thursday said the impeachment manager would act as a “quarterback” who will assist the presiding officer, similar to the role of the Senate majority leader. Lacson said that while the majority bloc had thought of Escudero as presiding officer, it is also considering Sen. Francis Pangilinan as impeachment manager because both are lawyers. “We are studying appointing an impeachment manager to quarterback the proceedings, especially if the presiding officer is overwhelmed,” Lacson said in Filipino in a radio interview. He said that the election of the presiding officer would be on July 6, when the impeachment court convenes for the trial. Lacson said the presiding officer “is just one vote” and he can be overruled by the other senator-judges on the floor. Pretrial begins The Senate impeachment court on Thursday began pretrial proceedings for the impeachment trial of the vice president, marking the first official meeting between the prosecution and defense panels ahead of the full trial. The preliminary conference was presided over by Senate Secretary and Clerk of Court Renato Bantug Jr., together with Deputy Clerks of Court Marivic Laurel-Garcia and Maria Valentina Cruz. Representing the prosecution was the House of Representatives impeachment panel led by Rep. Gerville Luistro. The defense panel, meanwhile, was headed by lawyer Michael Poa, who appeared on behalf of the vice president. The pretrial conference serves as the initial procedural stage of the impeachment process, allowing both parties to discuss trial procedures, stipulations of facts, documentary evidence, witness lists and other matters intended to streamline the proceedings before formal hearings begin. Senate officials said the conference is a preparatory step before the senator-judges convene as an impeachment court to hear the case. During this phase, both sides are expected to address administrative and procedural issues that could affect the conduct of the trial. The impeachment proceedings against Duterte are among the most closely watched political developments in the country, with the outcome expected to have significant implications for the Philippine political landscape and the remainder of the administration’s term. Further schedules and procedural directives are expected to be announced following the completion of the pretrial process. Other business Also on Thursday, Gatchalian reported productive discussions with minority bloc senators following the opening of the 20th Congress. He said he met with opposition lawmakers who attended the previous day’s session and discussed legislative priorities, including the proposed Anti-Hospital Detention Bill. He also cited talks with Sen. Loren Legarda on other priority measures and announced committee assignments for several minority senators,

including the committees on sports and youth, banking and government corporations.

- [PNP: No orders to track other ICC-tagged suspects](#) (2026-06-18 16:16)

(UPDATE) THE Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday said it has yet to receive special instructions to track down persons said to be the target of arrest warrants from the International Criminal Court (ICC). “As of this time, the PNP has not received any official communication, documentation or directive from any government agency regarding the alleged ICC warrants,” the agency’s chief, Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr., said in a statement. The statement was issued in response to a claim that Davao City Rep. Paolo Duterte made in a social media post on Wednesday night that a “highly reliable source” had told him that the international tribunal issued a warrant to arrest Sen. Bong Go and two police officers. The lawmaker did not identify the two police officers he claimed were subjects of arrest warrants but former PNP chiefs Oscar Albayalde and Vicente Danao have also been named by ICC prosecutors as alleged co-perpetrators of former president Rodrigo Duterte in the crimes against humanity case. However, both Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla and PNP public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co said there has been no formal communication regarding the supposed ICC warrant. “We rely on formal processes and verified information, not speculation or social media posts,” Nartatez said. “The PNP will perform its mandate in accordance with the Constitution, existing laws and established procedures. We will neither preempt the process nor neglect our responsibilities,” he added. Go, along with several others including Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, have been identified by the ICC as co-perpetrators in the crimes against humanity case against the former president who is now detained at The Hague, Netherlands, awaiting trial. Dela Rosa, who led the antidrug campaign during the Duterte administration as national police chief, is in hiding to evade arrest. Former senator Antonio Trillanes IV urged the public not to believe Duterte’s claims. “Don’t believe Pulong,” Trillanes said, referring to Paolo Duterte by his nickname. “There is still no ICC warrant issued for anyone. If one does come out later on, he definitely won’t know about it — just like his father didn’t know there was already a warrant for him,” Trillanes said in a Facebook post in Filipino. Go expressed confidence in his innocence, saying that he has not violated any law and has merely carried out his duties in accordance with the law and his responsibilities as a public servant. In a statement issued to The Manila Times, Go said he is placing his trust in God amid the controversy and remains firm in his belief that he has committed no wrongdoing. The senator reiterated that he has always acted within the bounds of the law and has nothing to hide. He also denied having any involvement in police operations or law enforcement activities, emphasizing that such matters were never part of his official functions under the Duterte administration, where he served as the president’s special assistant and headed the Presidential Management Staff. “Police matters have never been part of my mandate. I hope and pray that the issue regarding the alleged ICC warrant against me will not be politicized. Please count on me to continue serving, because that is what our fellow Filipinos need right now,” he said.

- [Pag-IBIG Fund lowers rates on housing loans](#) (2026-06-18 16:15)

THE Home Development Mutual Fund, or Pag-IBIG Fund, has offered promotional housing rates for members above the socialized housing price ceiling up to P10 million. Housing Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling and Pag-IBIG CEO Marilene Acosta said the new promotional housing loan offers would make homeownership more affordable for workers through President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s expanded Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program. Aliling said the new promotional rates build on Pag-IBIG's move to increase its maximum housing loan amount to P10 million per borrower, which gives members more financing options for homes that better match their needs, income and family situation. Acosta assured the members that they would surely feel the advantage of the offered lower rates through reduced monthly amortizations, especially during the first three years of their housing loan. For example, a P2.5-million loan payable over 30 years would have an estimated monthly amortization of about P12,667 under the new 4.5-percent promotional rate, compared to about P15,393 under the previous 6.25-percent rate, or savings of P2,726 per month. "By lowering our three-year fixed rates from 6.25 percent to as low as 4.5 percent, we are helping our members save on their monthly amortization during the first three years of their loan," Acosta said. These savings can help families manage their daily needs, or even be set aside in their Pag-IBIG Regular Savings or MP2 Savings so they can better prepare for the future while taking the important step toward owning a home," Acosta added. Aliling, who also heads the Pag-IBIG's board of trustees, said the promotional rates form part of its continuing efforts under the Marcos administration's expanded 4PH program. The housing czar said the 4PH has widened access to affordable home financing, revitalized the housing industry and continued to help more Filipino families achieve homeownership. Pag-IBIG said that under the promotional rates, housing loan or installment amounts above the socialized housing price ceiling, currently up to P950,000 for house-and-lot units and up to P1.8 million for condominium units, and up to the low-cost housing ceiling of P2.5 million will have an interest rate of 4.5 percent per annum, fixed for three years. It added that housing loan or installment amounts above the P2.5-million low-cost housing ceiling up to P10 million will have an interest rate of 5.75 percent per annum, also fixed for three years. After the three-year fixed period, the loan will be repriced based on the borrower's chosen repricing period, Pag-IBIG said. "We know that buying a home is one of the biggest and most important decisions a family will make," Acosta said. She emphasized that Pag-IBIG's goal is to make homeownership more affordable for more Filipino workers, while helping them keep more of their hard-earned money for their savings, their families and their future. Qualified members may avail of the promotional rates until Dec. 31.

- [Why buildings collapse or sink during quakes](#) (2026-06-18 16:14)

WHEN designing a structure in earthquake-prone areas, the structural engineer's main goal is to ensure the survival of its occupants. Anthony Pimentel, structural engineer and president of Pimentel & Associates Engineering Consultants, said earthquakes damage buildings because of several failures or weaknesses in the way they were built. Engineers who are either about to build a new structure or assess an existing one post-quake will look at several factors to determine its quake resilience. First is the "failure of foundation." When the foundation is not

able to withstand the seismic stresses imposed by an earthquake, this can cause a building to collapse or sink. These buildings would shake from their original position and cannot hold the structure above. Then, the engineers determine soil profile to address the soil's potential failure. Pimentel said seismic waves generated by earthquakes can turn soft soil into a loose mass of sand particles, reducing its ability to bear the weight of structures built upon it. Softer soil amplifies more seismic waves and induces more ground movements. This can lead to the collapse of buildings, even those that are well-built to withstand tremors. Ruel Ramirez, principal of structural engineering consulting firm RBRA, said that the soil has to be tested to see if it is "liquifiable. It's like water, it's not solid. If you shake that soil, it will sink and come down because it's normally sand. If your land rests on liquifiable soil, no matter how strong your building is, it can collapse." During quake-induced liquefaction, the ground loses its strength during an earthquake. Any structure built on the affected area will sink. Checking for frailties Pimentel also cited the "failure of soft floors," which are defined as levels of a building that have large spaces, minimal shear walls and additional floor-to-floor height. These are usually found in a building's lower-level floors. This is why if a building collapses from an earthquake, the upper floors tend to remain intact while the lower levels crumble since seismic forces are at their highest on the ground level. This effect is called the "pancake collapse" as the building is flattened. Ramirez said a soft story that has weight or mass irregularity is more prone to collapse because it does not have a sense of balance. An example is one that has placed rigid heavy hollow blocks at the top and then used glass at the bottom. Pimentel said another important factor is the use of the appropriate materials. Interviewees emphasized the need for the building owner to invest in the right kind of strong, long-lasting material, instead of resorting to cost-cutting measures to buy inferior concrete or wood. For load-bearing concrete hollow blocks, Ramirez recommends that the strength should be at least 350 PSI to 750 PSI; steel bars or rebars should have a minimum grade of 40. A building's alteration or changes from the original design can also affect its resilience, said Ramirez. Adding a new floor to an old building, for example, will increase its weight, he said. Then there is design and technology. Aside from load-bearing blocks, engineers should have buildings fitted with steel bars to reinforce thin walls and shock absorbers or dampers at the base to dissipate seismic waves. Instead of making a building withstand an earthquake by reinforced materials alone, the idea is to make it sway with the forces generated to keep it from toppling. Another innovation, BASE isolation technology, has the building bear on the foundation through flexible bearing pads that absorb earthquake energy, allowing the ground to shake beneath the structure. This drastically reduces seismic forces as the flexible isolators flex and absorb kinetic energy. Miranda likened this to a building on roller skates. The building may move during an earthquake, but it retains its composure. Jose Miranda, chairman of the Committee on Resilient Architects, cautioned against buying and using sub-par materials, which can increase the structural risk of a building. As an example, he said one- or two-story buildings damaged by an earthquake in northern Cebu in 2025 had undersized steel bars and improper confinement of hollow block walls. The use of unwashed salty beach water with its high level of salinity on the reinforcements caused corrosion and lessened the bond between the steel bars and the concrete. Building codes The government has enacted several building codes that architects, structural engineers and other

allied professionals must adhere to. According to Pimentel, structural engineers follow a criterion or guideline when designing a structure. Perhaps the most important is the National Building Code of the Philippines (Presidential Decree 1096), which, upon its enactment in 1977, has governed all building design, construction, alteration and maintenance in the country. Still, the building owners should not be happy with mere compliance with the minimum requirements of PD 1096, said Ramirez. Adherence to the very basic conditions of the law indicates a performance level that brings about “life safety,” but it does not necessarily guarantee building resilience. It can help increase the chances that the individuals located in that structure at the time of the earthquake will not perish. However, the building can still suffer extensive damage. The National Structural Code of the Philippines (NSCP), published by the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines (ASEP), is the official set of guidelines governing the design, construction and maintenance of structures in the country. It provides the minimum structural requirements to ensure public safety against natural disasters like typhoons and earthquakes. The NSCP has “performance-based provisions... that would provide the parameters that would allow [a building] to attain resistance to earthquakes with Intensity 7 to 8.4,” says Miranda. Ramirez encourages building owners to “go beyond” the code’s minimum requirements and ask their structural engineers for “a better structure” and determine the “performance level” of the building in case of an earthquake. Property developers of high-rise buildings are using this kind of “performance-based design,” with some asking that their buildings take on only 20 percent of the total damage that the earthquake can inflict. This demand started when businessmen and insurance companies realized that their “economic losses will be huge” if they just complied with the code’s minimal requirements. Prevention is always better than the cure, even in construction. Some local government units mandate yearly building inspections. The tests done by structural engineers on new buildings happen every 15 years. However, there is no time limit on having a building assessed for earthquake resilience. Ramirez said a structural engineer can determine the extent of the quake’s damage [on the building] from a certain magnitude after gathering and analyzing pertinent information like post size and soil quality. “We can predict the extent of damage and the amount of losses to the building owner,” he said. And should the owner learn that an earthquake can damage 70 percent of his building, he can ask the engineer to make improvements to reduce that number. The industry players, like the ASEP and the MMEIRS authors, are also updating their reports and guidelines, as most of their initial data and recommendations were completed decades ago. Felino “Jun” Palafox encourages all building owners to become more proactive when it comes to their building’s earthquake resilience. “It’s 90-percent less expensive to address the hazards before they become disasters, aside from saving human lives, buildings and infrastructure,” he said.

- [Tulfo wants to ban pols from distributing aid](#) (2026-06-18 16:13)

SEN. Erwin Tulfo on Thursday criticized efforts to delay the passage of the proposed Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) Act, insisting that elected officials should not be allowed to personally distribute government financial aid because the funds belong to the people, not

politicians. Tulfo, chairman of the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development, said the measure's progress was stalled after some members of the House of Representatives reportedly objected to a provision banning politicians from distributing assistance under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The bicameral conference committee (bicam), tasked with reconciling the Senate and House versions of the bill, had been expected to finalize its report before Congress adjourned sine die on June 17. Tulfo said several congressmen refused to sign the measure because of concerns over Section 17, a provision that bars politicians from personally handing out financial aid. "They refuse to sign and are requesting more time to study certain provisions of the proposed bill, particularly Section 17, which states that politicians are prohibited from distributing financial assistance, especially from the DSWD," Tulfo said in Filipino. He expressed disappointment over the impasse, noting that senators had waited for the bicameral report to be completed on the final day of the session, only for discussions to reach what he described as a "deadlock." The AICS Act is among the priority measures of the Marcos administration. Under the proposed law, assistance would not be limited to the poorest sectors of society. Tulfo said even employed individuals experiencing crises such as medical emergencies, accidents, death in the family or other unforeseen circumstances could qualify for government support. "The goal of this law is to provide aid to all Filipinos, not just the poorest of the poor. Even employed individuals facing a crisis can receive assistance here. That is why we are pushing to institutionalize this, so that funding is continuous and implementation is more efficient," he said. Had the bicameral committee approved the final version of the bill before adjournment, the measure would have only required President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s signature to become law. Tulfo defended the controversial provision as an "anti-epal" safeguard that prevents politicians from claiming credit for government assistance programs. He noted that a similar restriction had been adopted by the Senate and was included in the 2026 General Appropriations Act. For years, Tulfo said, there have been persistent allegations that government assistance programs have been used by some politicians to gain political advantage, particularly during elections. "I have long heard that AICS is constantly being used to dole out goods to our countrymen in exchange for their votes. We are trying to stop that tradition, or whatever you want to call it," he said. Despite the setback, Tulfo said discussions on the AICS Act will continue once Congress resumes.

- [Palace denies ICC being weaponized](#) (2026-06-18 16:12)

MALACAÑANG on Thursday hit back at Davao City Rep. Paolo Duterte over his allegations that the administration is weaponizing the International Criminal Court (ICC) against its political foes. Duterte's accusation came after unconfirmed reports floated that the ICC has also issued arrest orders against Sen. Bong Go and two retired police generals still in connection with former president Rodrigo Duterte's crimes against humanity case. "First of all, we know that the ICC is a court, and there is a case before it. It is a case filed by our fellow Filipinos concerning the alleged abuses related to extrajudicial killings," Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said in Filipino in a video statement from Kazan,

Russia. “And if they do issue a valid warrant of arrest, it would still be valid, and they simply want those who are responsible to be held accountable. So, why do we always blame the court? Why do we blame the administration? Let us not forget that this case was filed in 2017. So, it is not being weaponized; it is to address the appeals and requests of our fellow citizens,” she said. Castro pointed to an existing law which allows the Philippines to surrender accused citizens to an international tribunal — the Republic Act 9851, or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity.” In a social media post last Wednesday, Duterte criticized the present leadership for supposedly using government agencies to suppress and silence political opponents to cover up the bigger issue of stealing the public’s money. Last month, the ICC issued a warrant against Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, naming him as a “co-perpetrator” in the former president’s war on drugs. Dela Rosa has since been tagged as “wanted” after again going into hiding to evade arrest. Castro said that if there are indeed warrants for Go and former police officials, the Palace will defer the matter to the Department of Justice.

- [Marcos, Putin eye cooperation in food, energy security](#) (2026-06-18 16:11)

(UPDATE) PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Russian President Vladimir Putin have agreed to explore new opportunities for cooperation in food and energy security, as they sought to further enhance bilateral relations. The two leaders held a meeting on the sidelines of the Asean-Russia Commemorative Summit in Kazan, Russia on Wednesday. Putin told Marcos that Russia saw "good potential" to enhance its supply of agriculture and energy resources" with the Philippines. "Apparently, we are approaching the present threshold with an immense capital of mutually beneficial cooperation underpinned by good traditions of mutual respect and respect for legitimate interests of each other," Putin said. The Russian leader noted that bilateral trade exceeded \$500 million last year. "Of course, this is far from the limit. There is a good potential to enhance supplies of agriculture and energy resources," Putin said. "Today, we have a good opportunity, Mr. President, to evaluate the current stage the of Russia-Philippines cooperation." Marcos agreed with Putin, saying that the Philippines is looking to forge closer energy and food security cooperation with Russia. "There are many potential areas that I think we should still open to explore and I think that the present level of trade, although it is steady, I think there is a great deal more that we can do," Marcos said. He cited ongoing efforts by both countries to expand business-to-business cooperation, including partnerships in innovation, retail products, cosmetics, food processing, and industrial collaboration. "We appreciate the forward-looking exchange on the different structural issues that affect the trade and —between our two countries," he added. Marcos also highlighted the significance of the meeting as Manila and Moscow celebrated the golden anniversary of diplomatic ties established on June 2, 1976. He thanked Putin for Russia's hospitality and noted the significance of the meeting as the two countries celebrated half a century of diplomatic ties. Meanwhile, Marcos invited Putin to attend the 21st East Asia Summit, which will be held in Manila in November. The East Asia Summit is an annual gathering among the 11-member Asean and its eight dialogue partners including China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, and United

States."The East Asia Summit remains an integral part in maintaining a regional architecture towards our shared goal of a stable, secure, and prosperous region," Marcos said. Marcos is in Kazan to co-chair the Asean-Russia Commemorative Summit alongside Putin and fellow Assa leaders as they review 35 years of Asean-Russia relations and chart the future direction of the strategic partnership between the regional bloc and Moscow.

- [PH named world's top retirement destination](#) (2026-06-18 16:10)

THE Philippines has been named the world's leading retirement destination for 2026 after securing the top spot in the Retirement Abroad Index 2026 released by Expatriate Group, an international health insurance provider serving expatriates and retirees in more than 180 countries. The recognition follows the country's selection as the Best Retirement Destination in Asia at the 2025 TripZilla Excellence Awards, reinforcing its growing reputation among foreign retirees seeking affordability, quality healthcare, and a high standard of living. The Retirement Abroad Index evaluated 20 countries based on health care quality, visa accessibility, health insurance requirements, cost of living, and expat community integration, with the Philippines ranking first in all five categories. The country's performance has been driven in part by the Philippine Retirement Authority's (PRA) Special Resident Retiree's Visa, which allows qualified foreign nationals to establish long-term residency in the Philippines. "This recognition affirms the progress we are making in creating a more welcoming, accessible, and enjoyable experience for travelers and retirees alike," Tourism Secretary Bernardita "Dita" Angara-Mathay said on Thursday. "Beyond our natural attractions, the Philippines offers warm hospitality, affordable living, quality services, and vibrant communities that allow people to live, travel, and thrive, and we will continue working with the PRA and our stakeholders to further strengthen the country's competitiveness as a world-class retirement and tourism destination," she added. PRA General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Bob Zozobrado welcomed the distinction. "It reaffirms the Philippines' growing reputation as a premier choice for retirees seeking a fulfilling and comfortable lifestyle abroad, and we remain committed to enhancing the retirement experience for foreign nationals and showcasing the many advantages that make the Philippines truly a home away from home," he said.

- [MMDA heightens earthquake readiness](#) (2026-06-18 16:09)

THE Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said it is intensifying citizen earthquake preparedness as it joined the second-quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill on Thursday. This comes after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Southern Mindanao on June 8. Thursday's drill commenced with a ceremonial pressing of the button signaling the start of the nationwide exercise, followed by the "duck, cover, and hold" drill. The full-scale exercise involved MMDA teams conducting emergency response scenarios. Emergency "go bags," containing essential items for emergencies like flotation devices, were used during the exercise. The use of a mobile command center and operations vehicle equipped with locator devices, power tools, and rescue cameras was also tested. The MMDA Public Safety Division conducted a post-evaluation after the activity to assess the agency's readiness and identify

areas for improvement. The MMDA said the drill was part of preparations in the event a magnitude 7.2 earthquake emanates from the West Valley Fault that could severely affect Metro Manila and the National Capital Region.

- [Dizon: Flood control work delays unacceptable](#) (2026-06-18 16:08)

(UPDATE) PUBLIC Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon expressed dismay over the delay of a flood control project at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH). Upon inspection, Dizon found that the work was only at 16 percent completion despite having started in December 2024. The PGH is one of the country's largest public hospitals, serving thousands of patients every day. "The president said our people deserve better than this," Dizon said, noting the approaching rainy season could expose patients, hospital workers, and visitors to hazards. Accompanied by UP-PGH Director Dr. Gerardo Legaspi, the Public Works chief also inspected several other unfinished building projects inside the hospital complex. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has a standing directive to address deficiencies in public hospital infrastructure to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of medical services across the country. The president has directed the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to sustain round-the-clock clearing, dredging, and desilting operations in major waterways, drainage systems, esteros, canals, and rivers nationwide. Among the top priority areas are Metro Manila, the Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Tarlac, Naga City, and key areas in the Visayas and Mindanao, including Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, and Maguindanao. Dizon urged the public to practice proper waste disposal, noting that garbage-clogged waterways remain one of the leading causes of flooding. He called on citizens to report stalled, defective, or neglected government projects so they can be addressed. This comes as a viral video shows a submerged section of Arzadon Road in Barangay Mayombo, Dagupan City, Pangasinan. The problem was promptly addressed by the DPWH.

- [Manila Day a special nonworking day](#) (2026-06-18 16:07)

MALACAÑANG has issued Proclamation 1320, declaring June 24 a special nonworking day in the city of Manila in celebration of its 455th founding anniversary. The declaration, it said, was to give residents an opportunity to participate in Manila Day festivities. "WHEREAS, it is but fitting and proper that the people of the City of Manila be given full opportunity to participate in the occasion and enjoy the celebration," it added. Work in government offices and private establishments within the city of Manila will be suspended on that date, subject to existing rules and regulations governing special nonworking holidays. Manila, the country's capital city, was founded on June 24, 1571, when Spanish conquistador Miguel López de Legazpi formally established the city under Spanish rule. The annual celebration commemorates the city's rich history and cultural heritage, with local government units traditionally organizing various civic, cultural, and community activities.

- [San Juan designates strict 'basaan' zone](#) (2026-06-18 16:06)

SAN Juan City said it has moved the major events of the 2026 Wattah Wattah Festival to June 23, noting a specific zone was designated for the water-dousing or “basaan” tradition on June 24. The Wattah Wattah Festival is held every June 24 in honor of San Juan Bautista, the city’s patron saint. It has been the subject of criticism for many years. The public outcry stems from unruly revelers forcing unwilling commuters, workers and delivery riders to participate, often ruining expensive electronics and work attire in the process. Mayor Francis Zamora announced during a press conference Thursday that the Wattah Wattah Parade, Street Dance Competition and Festival Queen Competition will be held a day earlier than the usual June 24 schedule. The city government said the adjustment will allow June 24 to focus on the traditional basaan festivities and other main activities, including the Santong Tao Float Competition, Watt-Ah Barangay: Best Booth Competition, and the Wattah Wattah Basaan and Street Party. The official Basaan Zone will be located along Pinaglabanan Street between N. Domingo Street and P. Guevarra Street, where water-dousing activities will be allowed on June 24 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. The city government said the designated area is part of its effort to ensure a safer and more organized celebration while managing crowds during the festival.

- [Malabon pushes workplace wellness](#) (2026-06-18 16:03)

MALABON City Mayor Jeannie Sandoval led the signing Thursday of the commitment letter and commitment wall for the city’s healthy workplaces initiative. “The commitment letter symbolizes institutional accountability and dedication to workplace wellness, while the commitment wall reflects the collective support and unity of participating agencies and organizations,” the mayor said. Also launched during the event was the Kabataan One Network for Empowerment and Kalusugan (Konek) or the Integrated Information Service Delivery Network for Adolescent Health and Development Manual of Referral. “These efforts form part of the city’s continuing commitment to improving public health outcomes, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and building a more resilient community for the youth,” City Administrator Alexander Rosete said. The manual is a guide for residents on how to gain access to essential health programs and services. The initiatives, spearheaded by the City Health Department-Health Education and Promotion Section, aim to strengthen access to health information and services for adolescents and ensure that city employees benefit from safe, supportive, and wellness-oriented workplaces. ARLIE CALALO

- [Makati solo parents get subsidy](#) (2026-06-18 16:02)

MAKATI City announced Thursday the release of the first tranche of P5,000 Solo Parent Subsidy for 2,584 beneficiaries. Mayor Nancy Binay said the aid is part of the Makati City Solo Parents Empowerment Program created under City Ordinance 2025-A-026, which provides a total annual benefit of P10,000 to each recipient in two equal tranches. The first tranche is scheduled for release on or before July 1, while the second tranche will be released on or before Dec. 1 of each year. “Solo parents carry a weight that most people do not fully see. They raise their children, manage their households, and hold their families together, often with very little support. This subsidy is our way of telling every solo parent in Makati: we see you, and this city

has your back,” Binay said. Eligible recipients must have a valid Solo Parent identification card issued by the Makati Social Welfare Department and a fully verified GCash account. Solo parents who registered before June 1 are entitled to both the midyear and year-end incentives, while those who registered from June 1 to Nov. 1 will receive only the year-end tranche. The program also provides solo parents and their dependents access to livelihood and skills training, educational assistance, healthcare services, PhilHealth coverage, psychosocial counseling, employment and work re-entry programs, and housing assistance. It supports the provisions of the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act or Republic Act 11861. Makati also provides a separate monthly P1,000 cash subsidy to 1,700 solo parents who are certified city residents earning minimum wage and below and are not recipients of other regular government cash assistance programs. JAMES DANIEL DANIO

- [PH universities drop in world rankings](#) (2026-06-18 16:02)

PHILIPPINE universities took a nosedive in the 2027 edition of the World University Rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). In the rankings released on Thursday, the University of the Philippines (UP) retained its status as the country's top university, but its rankings slid by 40 places. From 362nd place last year, UP ranked 402nd. It placed 338th in the 2025 rankings. Ateneo de Manila University slid from 511st place to 581st. In a statement posted on its website, Ateneo said that despite the decline, it is still the highest-ranked Filipino private institution. Its ranking score of 28.8 out of 100 was based on nine indicators, with the university ranking highest in Employment Outcomes, followed by Sustainability and Employer Reputation. It scored lowest in International Faculty, Citations for Faculty and International Students. Other universities experienced significant declines include De La Salle University (751st to 760th from 654th place last year), University of Santo Tomas (951st to 1,000th place from 851-900th place last year) and Adamson University (1201st to 1400th from 1001-1200th place last year). Adamson said its repeat appearance in the QS rankings confirms that its international standing is a “consistent streak rather than a one-time milestone.” “Adamson's retention of its rank highlights solid performance in criteria including academic reputation, sustainability and employability. With back-to-back rankings secured, Adamson confirms its global presence is here to stay,” the university noted. For 2027, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology remains the top-ranked university in the world, and National University of Singapore as the top university in the Asian region. A total of 1,504 universities across the globe were ranked in the 2027 list from more than 8,000 institutions who submitted their rankings to QS. RED MENDOZA

- [DOJ studying proper venue for cases arising from Senate probe](#) (2026-06-18 16:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Justice (DOJ) is studying whether cases that may arise from its investigation into the May 13 incident at the Senate should be handled by the department or by the Office of the Ombudsman. Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida said that the issue is being evaluated because some of the individuals involved in the incident are public officials, which could place any potential criminal proceedings within the Ombudsman's jurisdiction. Speaking at a press briefing, Vida said the DOJ's special panel investigating the

incident is continuing to assess the facts and evidence gathered so far. He noted that the Office of the Ombudsman is also conducting a separate investigation into the matter and has jurisdiction over offenses committed by public officials in connection with the performance of their official duties. "One of the things the panel still has to weigh is where any case should be filed," Vida said. The justice secretary said investigators are working to determine whether the DOJ would be the proper prosecuting authority or whether the matter should instead be pursued before the Ombudsman. "The facts are becoming clearer," he said, adding that the inquiry continues. He stressed that any decision on the filing of charges would be based solely on evidence and applicable law. The DOJ earlier constituted a special panel to investigate the circumstances surrounding the May 13 incident at the Senate, including events linked to an attempt by law enforcement authorities to serve an arrest warrant on Senator Ronald de la Rosa.

- [Lacson worries over impeachment court reduced to a mere formality for acquittal](#) (2026-06-18 15:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson voiced concern over the possible "absurdity" of the Impeachment Court being reduced to a mere formality for acquittal if at least nine of 24 senator-judges were detained and suspended by the Sandiganbayan. Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla earlier said that at least nine senators were facing investigation for various corruption and plunder-related issues. The senator on Thursday raised the need for the Supreme Court to intervene to address the situation. He said that while the high court cannot intervene in the operation of the Impeachment Court, it can do so if the issue of grave abuse of authority is raised. He cited the case of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada who was suspended for 90 days by the anti-graft court. Estrada is detained for plunder and was not allowed to post bail. "Nothing can be clearer than this. Sen. Jinggoy cannot participate in the impeachment trial of VP Sara Duterte for a period of 90 days," Lacson wrote on X on Wednesday. "Ano ang saysay na impeachment trial kung 15 lang yung senator judges na present at pwedeng bumoto? Ano saysay? (For what will the impeachment trial be for if only 15 senator judges can vote, and 16 votes are needed to convict?)," Lacson said in a radio interview on Thursday. The trial will be a mere formality for acquittal, he said. "I'd rather leave it to the wisdom of the Court to come up with a practical necessity to intervene," Lacson added. "Sabi ko, formality na ang acquittal, bakit pa tayo mag-trial? So diyan dapat mag-intervene ng Korte Suprema (The trial could be reduced to a formality for acquittal. So, the Supreme Court may need to intervene)," he said. "Mas mainam nang sila na maginterpret yan. Dahil kung kami, maraming question, kasi pulitika yan. Samantalang ang Korte Suprema, they're beyond politics (It is better that the Supreme Court interpret it. The Impeachment Court can have its own interpretation but many questions can be raised. But the high court is perceived to be beyond politics)," he said.

- [Lacson scores Marcoleta's ego-driven actions at CA Hearing](#) (2026-06-18 14:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson scored fellow Sen. Rodante Marcoleta for his "ego-driven" actions during the confirmation hearing of five senior military officials and 85

foreign service officers on Wednesday. During Wednesday's Commission on Appointments hearing, Lacson motioned to act promptly on the confirmation of the military and foreign service officers, as the delay caused by the Senate leadership row was "no fault of their own." But Marcoleta claimed the affected Armed Forces of the Philippines senior officers were considered bypassed because they fell short of the one-year ban, or one year before they reached retirement age. Lacson pointed out that the CA's special session is a continuation of the first regular session and cannot be considered a new regular session, contrary to Marcoleta's insistence. "Hindi raw siya mag-object, basta i-withdraw ko rin ang manifestation (ko). Ano siya, hilo? (He said he would not object so long as I withdraw my manifestation. Is he nuts?)," Lacson said on Thursday in a radio interview. "What he wants is to feed his ego, to make me admit that my manifestation was wrong. So, is he nuts? I refused to accommodate him all for his ego. I'm not playing to his ego," he said in Filipino. Lacson wondered why Marcoleta had to disrupt the proceedings. Eh, minamadali na nga, ala-una pasado na, hindi pa kami [nag] lunch (We were trying to fast-track it especially since it was past 1 p.m. and we haven't had lunch)," he said. "Kasi nakita ko nag lunch na siya sa lounge eh, busog na siya (But I saw him having eaten his lunch at the lounge already so he was [already] full)," he added. Lacson said that while he was concerned that Marcoleta would invoke Section 20 that allows a CA member to singlehandedly suspend the consideration or confirmation of a nominee or appointee, a review of the CA rules showed that the section cannot be invoked on the last day of session.

- [Marcos urges stronger ASEAN-Russia cooperation on security, economy, and people-to-people ties](#) (2026-06-18 14:05)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday, called for deeper cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Russia, identifying peace and security, economic engagement, and people-to-people exchanges as the three key priorities that should guide the partnership in the years ahead. Speaking at the opening of the 35th Asean-Russia Commemorative Summit in Kazan, Marcos, as chairman of the regional bloc and co-chairman of the gathering alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin, said the milestone anniversary offers an opportunity to build on decades of cooperation founded on mutual respect, sovereign equality, and peaceful engagement. "As we mark this milestone, the Philippines would like to highlight three priorities that should animate our cooperation in the years ahead," he said. First, collaboration meant to strengthen peace, security, and stability amid growing geopolitical uncertainties must be intensified against transnational threats including terrorism, trafficking, cybercrime, and online scams. The president also called for a more dynamic economic partnership between Asean and Russia, noting that existing trade and investment relations have yet to realize their full potential and urged both sides to pursue greater economic opportunities through improved trade facilitation, stronger investment flows, and closer business-to-business connections. "We must be more deliberate and more ambitious in expanding economic opportunities improving trade facilitation, deepening investment flows, and connecting our business communities," he said. "Our economic cooperation must also be inclusive. Our micro, small, and medium enterprises must have a place in this partnership, and

our cooperation must extend into the emerging sectors that will shape tomorrow's global economy," he added. Lastly, Marcos highlighted the role of scholarships, student exchanges, academic partnerships, tourism, and cultural exchanges in sustaining Asean-Russia relations beyond government initiatives. "These are not peripheral to our relationship; they are at its living core," he said. "Thirty-five years is a foundation. What we build on it is our choice and our responsibility," he added.

- [Asean, Russia adopt comprehensive roadmap, cultural, energy cooperation](#) (2026-06-18 13:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and Russia on Thursday adopted several key outcome documents aimed at expanding practical cooperation in the region. In a joint press approach during the Asean-Russia Commemorative Summit in Kazan, Russia, Marcos said he and Russian President Vladimir Putin welcomed the adoption of the outcome documents that "will guide the next phase of Asean-Russia relations." These, he said, include the Kazan Declaration 2026, Asean-Russia unity and diversity 35 years together, the Asean-Russia Comprehensive Plan of Action for 2026 to 2030, the Joint Statement and Concept Paper on Cultural Cooperation, and the Joint Statement and Concept Paper on Energy Cooperation. "Together, these documents provide a comprehensive roadmap for expanding practical cooperation and delivering tangible results and benefits to our peoples in the years to come," Marcos said. As Asean chair, Marcos said the Philippines welcomed Russia's continued engagement with Asean and its support for Asean centrality and the Asean-led architecture. "We remain committed to ensuring that the momentum generated at the summit translates into concrete outcomes and meaningful cooperation," he added. Marcos said he and Putin also welcomed the productive and substantive discussions among leaders on the future direction of Asean-Russia cooperation, as well as on regional and international developments of common concern. He said the summit underscored their collective commitment to strengthening cooperation across the political security, economic, and sociocultural pillars of engagement. "We exchanged views on promoting peace, stability, and sustainable development, enhancing trade and investment, strengthening food and energy security, advancing science and technology cooperation, and deepening people-to-people exchanges," Marcos said. He said they also discussed developments in the wider Eurasian region and welcomed opportunities for greater engagement between Asean and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Eurasian Economic Union. "We noted the growing interaction between Asean and these organizations and recognized the potential for enhanced cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including economic connectivity, trade and investment, energy, agriculture, tourism, and addressing transnational challenges," he added.

- [Remulla jests on Pulong's 'intel' on Bong Go ICC warrant: He might be stoned](#) (2026-06-18 13:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla utterly denied having received any supposed arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court at least having any information

about such contrary to the claims of Rep. Pulong Duterte that arrest order against Sen. Bong Go and two others were already out. “Wala pa kong nakitang.. Baka sabog siya nun nung narinig kasi wala pa kaming nakitang ganun eh,” Remulla told reporters in Filipino in jest when asked if he knew of any such warrant from the ICC. (I haven’t seen.. He could have been stoned when he heard it because we haven’t seen anything like that.) Even Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. also denied the lawmaker’s claim. “Ako hindi ko alam (Me, I don’t know),” Nartatez said in a chance interview on Thursday. Both chiefs however assured that the PNP is always ready to implement such a warrant if and when official orders come down to them. “The Philippine National Police is ready. Marami tayong tracker, manhunt teams at arrest teams to implement the warrant of arrest,” Nartatez said. (The Philippine National Police is ready. We have a lot of tracker, manhunt and arrest teams to implement the warrant.) “We are always prepared pero yung ganung klaseng pronouncements eh delikado yung diba (but those kinds of pronouncements are dangerous),” Remulla also said. Duterte on Wednesday alleged that ICC arrest warrants have been issued against Go and two former police officers. The lawmaker did not identify the two police officers but former PNP chiefs Oscar Albayalde and Vicente Danao have likewise been named as alleged co-perpetrators in the crimes against humanity case filed against the former president. The son of the detained former president Rodrigo Duterte said that a “highly reliable source” gave him the information. It can be recalled however that former senator Antonio Trillanes IV earlier said that Go, a former aide of the Duterte patriarch, is the next target of the ICC. Trillanes claimed having received information that an arrest warrant awaits Go. Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, is currently in hiding following the release of the ICC arrest warrant against him as among the alleged co-perpetrators in the crimes against humanity. Dela Rosa is considered the chief architect of the war on drugs implemented in Davao during the old Duterte’s term as Mayor of Davao City and nationwide during his presidency.

- [Bong Go maintains innocence amid reported ICC arrest order](#) (2026-06-18 12:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Bong Go has expressed confidence in his innocence following reports that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has allegedly issued an arrest warrant against him, stressing that he has not violated any law and has merely carried out his duties in accordance with the law and his responsibilities as a public servant. In a statement issued to The Manila Times, Go said he was placing his trust in God amid the controversy and remained firm in his belief that he has committed no wrongdoing. “I leave everything to God. In my entire life, I have never violated any human law or God’s law,” said Go in Filipino. The senator reiterated that he has always acted within the bounds of the law and has nothing to hide. “I repeat that I have not violated any law. That is why I am here, and I am just doing my job,” he added. Go also denied having any involvement in police operations or law enforcement activities, emphasizing that such matters were never part of his official functions. “Police matters have never been part of my mandate. I hope and pray that the issue regarding the alleged ICC warrant against me will not be politicized. Please count on me to continue serving, because that is what our fellow Filipinos need right now. I will not waste the trust given to me by 27 million

Filipinos,” he said. The reported warrant is linked to the ICC’s continuing investigation into alleged crimes against humanity connected to the Philippine government’s anti-illegal drugs campaign during the administration of former president Rodrigo Duterte. The ICC has been examining allegations of extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations allegedly committed during anti-drug operations conducted from 2011 to 2019. Go, a longtime aide and former special assistant to president Duterte before becoming a senator, has repeatedly denied allegations linking him to any unlawful activities associated with the anti-drug campaign. As of posting time, government authorities had yet to issue an official statement regarding the reported warrant. Legal experts have noted that questions surrounding the ICC’s jurisdiction in the Philippines continue to be the subject of legal and political debate following the country’s withdrawal from the Rome Statute in 2019. The senator maintained that he remained focused on his legislative duties and public service commitments despite the issue, expressing faith that the truth will ultimately prevail. “I just did my job according to the law,” Go reiterated. Further developments are expected as authorities and legal representatives respond to the reported ICC action.

- [UP remains top PH university in 2027 QS Rankings](#) (2026-06-18 10:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The University of the Philippines retained its status as the top university in the Philippines in the 2027 World University Rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). But while UP remained on top, its ranking dropped from 362nd place to 402nd, according to the report released Thursday (Manila time). Ateneo de Manila University is at no. 2 at 581, lower than the 511 this year. The other universities included in the rankings were De La Salle University (751st to 760th), University of Santo Tomas (951st to 1,000th), and Adamson University (1201st to 1400th). For 2027, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is the top ranking university in the world, while the National University of Singapore is the top university in the Asian region. A total of 1504 universities across the globe were ranked in the 2027 list.

- [PNP denies arrest warrant issued to Duterte allies](#) (2026-06-18 10:02)

MANILA, Philippines — No arrest warrant has been issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against individuals linked to the illegal drug campaign of former president Rodrigo Duterte, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Thursday. “As of this time, the PNP has not received any official communication, documentation or directive from any government agency regarding the alleged ICC warrants,” the agency’s chief, Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr., said in a statement. The PNP was reacting to Davao City Rep. Pulong Duterte’s claim in a social media post on Wednesday night that a “highly reliable source” told him that the international tribunal issued a warrant to arrest Sen. Bong Go and two police officers. The lawmaker did not identify the two police officers but former PNP chiefs Oscar Albayalde and Vicente Danao have been named as alleged co-perpetrators in the crimes against humanity case filed against Duterte. Former senator Antonio Trillanes IV said on Facebook not to believe the Davao lawmaker. “Don’t believe Pulong. There is still no ICC warrant issued for anyone. If

one does come out later on, he definitely won't know about it—just like his father didn't know there was already a warrant for him,” Trillanes said in Filipino. Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla and Col. Allen Rae Co, PNP public information chief, said there has been no formal communication regarding the supposed ICC warrant. “We rely on formal processes and verified information, not speculation or social media posts,” Nartatez said. “The PNP will perform its mandate in accordance with the Constitution, existing laws, and established procedures. We will neither preempt the process nor neglect our responsibilities,” he added. Go, along with several others including fugitive Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, have been identified by the ICC as co-perpetrators in the crimes against humanity case against the former president who is now detained at The Hague, Netherlands. Meanwhile, Malacañang denied that it was using government agencies to suppress and silence political opponents just to cover up the bigger issue of stealing the public's money. “First of all, we know that the ICC is a court, and there is a case before it. It is a case filed by our fellow Filipinos concerning the alleged abuses related to extrajudicial killings,” Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said in Filipino in a video statement from Kazan, Russia. “And if they do issue a valid warrant of arrest, it would still be valid, and they simply want those who are responsible to be held accountable. So, why do we always blame the court? Why do we blame the administration? Let us not forget that this case was filed in 2017. So, it is not being weaponized; it is to address the appeals and requests of our fellow citizens,” she added. The Palace official pointed to an existing law which allows the Philippines to surrender accused citizens to an international tribunal — the Republic Act 9851, or the “Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity.”

- [Mindanao quake death toll climbs to 78 — NDRRMC](#) (2026-06-18 08:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The death toll in the 7.8 magnitude Mindanao earthquake has now climbed to 78, the National Risk Reduction and Management Council said Thursday. In its June 18, 2026 situational report, the agency said the missing remained at 30, with the injured at 1,339. A breakdown of the dead showed that 21 were from Region 11 with 13 missing; 57 were from Region 12 with 17 missing. The quake has now affected 357,000 families or 1.5 million persons. Over 5,000 families are currently sheltered in evacuation centers or at least 21,000 persons. So far, there were 13,700 totally damaged houses while 61,000 were partially damaged. The latest report also showed that 774 infrastructure were damaged with an estimated cost of P1.9 billion. Meanwhile, the cost of damage to agriculture is now at P29.8 million mostly in Davao del Norte and Davao del Sur. As of posting time, 14 municipalities in Davao Occidental, Sarangani and South Cotabato have been put under a state of calamity. The government has now provided P176.8 million worth of assistance to affected families and about P8.1 million to affected local government units and municipalities.

- [Two of 10 Filipinos believe Senate will decide on evidence in impeach trial, nearly 50% uncertain — survey](#) (2026-06-18 06:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Less than two out of 10 Filipinos believe that most Senators will decide on the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte primarily on the basis of evidence and the law than political considerations, according to a survey conducted by OCTA Research. In its non-commissioned Tugon ng Masa survey on the impeachment, 19 percent said that senators would decide on Duterte's impeachment on the basis of evidence, 32 percent said that they would not and 49 percent were undecided. OCTA said that the findings suggested that many Filipinos remained uncertain whether most senators would base their decisions primarily on the evidence, the law and the merits of the case. Regional differences were evident as well, with 25 percent of National Capital Region (NCR) respondents believe that most senators would decide on evidence, the highest among all major regions. Mindanao respondents, however, were the highest among those who did not believe that senators would decide on evidence at 57 percent. OCTA said that the survey was conducted prior to the commencement of Duterte's impeachment trial in the Senate, thus, the results reflected public perceptions, expectations, and anticipations regarding the Senate's prospective handling of the impeachment case against Duterte rather than evaluations of its actual conduct during the proceedings. The survey had 1,200 respondents and has a margin of error of plus or minus three percent.

- [Pag-IBIG Fund offers promotional housing loans to boost affordability](#) (2026-06-18 05:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) or Pag-IBIG Fund has offered promotional housing rates for members above the socialized housing price ceiling up to P10 million. Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling and Pag-IBIG CEO Marilene Acosta said the new promotional housing loan offers would make homeownership more affordable for Filipino workers through President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino (4PH) program. Aliling said the new promotional rates build on Pag-IBIG's move to increase its maximum housing loan amount to P10 million per borrower, which gave members more financing options for homes that better match their needs, income and family situation. Meanwhile, Acosta assured the members that they would surely feel the advantage of the offered lower rates through reduced monthly amortizations, especially during the first three years of their housing loan. The HDMF chief executive cited an example like a P2.5 million loan payable over 30 years which would have an estimated monthly amortization of about P12,667 under the new 4.5 percent promotional rate, compared to about P15,393 under the previous 6.25 percent rate, or savings of around P2,726 per month. "By lowering our three-year fixed rates from 6.25 percent to as low as 4.5 percent, we are helping our members save on their monthly amortization during the first three years of their loan," Acosta said. These savings can help families manage their daily needs, or even be set aside in their Pag-IBIG Regular Savings or MP2 Savings so they can better prepare for the future while taking the important step toward owning a home," the top Pag-IBIG official said. Aliling, who also heads the Pag-IBIG's board of trustees, stressed that the promotional rates form part of its continuing efforts under the Marcos administration's expanded 4PH program. The housing czar said the 4PH has widened access to affordable home financing, revitalized the housing industry, and continued to help more Filipino families achieve

homeownership. “We continue to heed the directive of President Marcos to make decent and affordable homes more accessible to Filipino families,” Aliling said. “Under expanded 4PH, Pag-IBIG Fund has made socialized housing more affordable for low-income earners through our three percent subsidized housing loan rate for eligible socialized housing borrowers,” he added. Moreover, the DHSUD chief noted that Pag-IBIG has increased its housing loan limit to P10 million per borrower to give more members, particularly those in the middle class, a better opportunity to choose a home that matches their needs and capacity. “Now, through these promotional rates, we are making those housing options even more affordable so more Filipino workers can take the next step toward owning a home,” Aliling pointed out. Pag-IBIG said that under the promotional rates, housing loan or installment amounts above the socialized housing price ceiling, currently up to P950,000 for house-and-lot units and up to P1.8 million for condominium units, and up to the low-cost housing ceiling of P2.5 million shall have an interest rate of 4.5 percent per annum, fixed for three years. It said further that housing loan or installment amounts above the P2.5 million low-cost housing ceiling up to P10 million shall have an interest rate of 5.75 percent per annum, also fixed for three years. After the three-year fixed period, the loan shall be repriced based on the borrower’s chosen repricing period, Pag-IBIG said. “We know that buying a home is one of the biggest and most important decisions a family will make,” Acosta said. She emphasized that Pag-IBIG’s goal is to make homeownership more affordable for more Filipino workers, while helping them keep more of their hard-earned money for their savings, their families and their future. Qualified members may avail of the promotional rates for Pag-IBIG Housing Loan and Pag-IBIG Acquired Assets Long-Term Installment Payment applications received until Dec. 31, 2026.

- [Dizon cracks down on delays, flood risks as Remulla says probes must go beyond prosecution](#) (2026-06-18 04:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Vince Dizon has intensified the government’s campaign against delayed infrastructure projects and recurring flooding, warning that unfinished works and poor maintenance would continue to put communities and vital public facilities at risk. During an inspection at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH), Dizon expressed disappointment over a flood control project that remained behind schedule despite having started in December 2024. The project has achieved only 16 percent completion, raising concerns that the hospital could again face flooding during the rainy season. Dizon said the delay was unacceptable given the critical role of PGH as one of the country’s largest public hospitals, serving thousands of patients and visitors every day. “The President said our people deserve better than this,” Dizon stressed, noting that the approaching rainy season could once again expose patients, hospital workers, and visitors to flood-related disruptions. Accompanied by Dr. Gerardo Legaspi, UP-PGH director, the Public Works chief also inspected several other unfinished building projects inside the hospital complex. The inspections form part of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s directive to address deficiencies in public hospital infrastructure and ensure uninterrupted delivery of medical services across the country. Dizon said safe and functional facilities were essential to

protecting both patients and healthcare workers while maintaining quality healthcare services. At the same time, the administration continues to implement a proactive and systematic flood mitigation strategy through the Oplan Kontra Baha initiative. Under the program, the President has directed the DPWH to sustain round-the-clock clearing, dredging, and desilting operations in major waterways, drainage systems, esteros, canals, and rivers nationwide. Beyond prosecution, meanwhile, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said the ongoing investigations into the country's infrastructure projects must go beyond prosecution and should also be a catalyst for institutional reform. Speaking before governance leaders and world experts at the 7th Global Conference on Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Remulla said the country faced "governance challenges, including complex investigations involving public infrastructure projects," "These are difficult moments for any country," Remulla added. Remulla said that instead of viewing the flood control projects investigation through the lens of criminal accountability, he said governments must use them as opportunities to examine deeper institutional weaknesses. "When weaknesses are exposed, we have an opportunity—and a responsibility—to correct them," he said. Remulla also said governments must not just rely on prosecutions and convictions but through systemic changes that restore public trust. "The goal is not simply to punish the mistakes of yesterday. The greater responsibility is to build better institutions for tomorrow," Remulla added. Remulla stressed that accountability remains non-negotiable. "Those who abuse public office must be held accountable. That is our constitutional duty, and we will continue to perform that duty without fear or favor," he said.

- [Senate begins pre-trial proceedings in Duterte impeachment case](#) (2026-06-18 04:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court on Thursday began pre-trial proceedings for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, marking the first official meeting between the prosecution and defense panels ahead of the full trial. The preliminary conference was presided over by Senate Secretary and Clerk of Court Renato Bantug Jr., together with Deputy Clerks of Court Marivic Laurel-Garcia and Maria Valentina Cruz. Representing the prosecution was the House of Representatives impeachment panel led by Gerville Luistro. The defense panel, meanwhile, was headed by lawyer Michael Poa, who appeared on behalf of the Vice President. The pre-trial conference serves as the initial procedural stage of the impeachment process, allowing both parties to discuss trial procedures, stipulations of facts, documentary evidence, witness lists, and other matters intended to streamline the proceedings before formal hearings begin.

- [Cebu Pacific urges special baggage booking after orchestra discord](#) (2026-06-18 02:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Cebu Pacific (CEB) on Thursday reminded passengers traveling with musical instruments to avail of the airline's Special Baggage option when booking flights. This reminder follows complaints from members of the Manila Symphony Orchestra (MSO) regarding a baggage policy that prevented them from bringing their instruments' hard-shell cases into the aircraft cabin. The incident occurred on June 17, 2026, when nine members of the

orchestra were stopped by ground staff at the boarding gate because their hard-shell violin cases exceeded the airline's standard cabin baggage dimensions. According to reports, personnel instructed the musicians to check in the protective hard cases. This forced the musicians to remove their violins and bows and hand-carry them completely bare into the cabin. The event sparked significant backlash online. Rona de Leon, the orchestra's production manager, posted that despite traveling multiple times locally and internationally, they had never faced such a restriction before. In response, Cebu Pacific defended its handling of the situation, clarifying that the cases were checked in free of charge as a practical solution since their dimensions violated standard carry-on safety limits. "With regard to the recent incident, all passengers carrying violins were able to board their flights and travel as scheduled. Some violin cases met the hand-carry size limit of 56cm x 36cm x 23cm and were allowed onboard," CEB said in a statement. The budget carrier added that for violins exceeding the size limit, the airport team worked with the passengers to find a solution. The empty cases were checked in free of charge, while the instruments themselves were carefully hand-carried by the passengers into the cabin. However, CEB noted that the group had not prepared for the size limits beforehand. "None of them booked musical instruments in their booking. The traveling orchestra did not coordinate their instruments with the airline," the budget carrier said via Viber. To avoid similar issues, the airline advised passengers carrying large musical instruments to purchase the Musical Instrument allowance through CEB Special Baggage. According to the airline, this option can be added during the initial booking process on the CEB mobile app right after entering personal information. "We understand that musical instruments are often valuable and deeply personal belongings. We encourage passengers to review baggage size requirements before traveling so we can help ensure a smooth and comfortable journey for both them and their instruments," CEB said.

- [Marcos, Putin agree to explore new cooperation in food, energy security](#) (2026-06-18 02:28)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Russian President Vladimir Putin have agreed to explore new opportunities for cooperation in food and energy security, as they sought to further enhance their bilateral relations. The two leaders held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Asean-Russia Commemorative Summit in Kazan, Russia on Wednesday. In his remarks, Putin told Marcos that Russia saw "good potential" to enhance its supply of agriculture and energy resources" with the Philippines. "Apparently, we are approaching the present threshold with an immense capital of mutually beneficial cooperation underpinned by good traditions of mutual respect and respect for legitimate interests of each other," Putin said. The Russian leader noted that bilateral trade exceeded \$500 million last year and said there remains substantial potential for expansion. "Of course, this is far from the limit. And of course, there is a good potential to enhance supplies of agriculture and energy resources," Putin said. "Today, we have a good opportunity, Mr. President, to evaluate the current stage the of Russia-Philippines cooperation," he added. Marcos agreed with Putin, saying that the Philippines is looking to forge closer energy and food security cooperation with Russia. "There

are many potential areas that I think we should still open to explore and I think that the present level of trade, although it is steady, I think there is a great deal more that we can do," Marcos said. "We appreciate the forward-looking exchange on the different structural issues that affect the trade and – between our two countries," he added.

- [Palace declares June 24 a special non-working day in Manila](#) (2026-06-18 02:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang issued Proclamation 1320 declaring June 24 a special non-working day in Manila in celebration of its 455th Founding Anniversary. The issuance of the circular was to give residents the opportunity to participate in the city's anniversary festivities. "WHEREAS, it is but fitting and proper that the people of the City of Manila be given full opportunity to participate in the occasion and enjoy the celebration," it stated. Work in government offices and private establishments within the City of Manila would be suspended, subject to existing rules and regulations governing special non-working holidays. Manila, the country's capital city, traces its founding to June 24, 1571, when Spanish conquistador Miguel López de Legazpi formally established the city under Spanish rule. The annual celebration commemorates the city's rich history and cultural heritage, with local government units traditionally organizing various civic, cultural, and community activities.

- [Quezon City condo fire forces evacuation, no casualties reported](#) (2026-06-18 02:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Residents of a condominium building in Quezon City were forced to evacuate Thursday morning after a fire broke out in Eastwood, Barangay Bagumbayan. Initial reports from the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) indicated that the incident was first reported as a rubbish fire before it escalated and was raised to first alarm at 6:53 a.m. Thick smoke billowed from the Olympic Tower 3 building, prompting the evacuation of residents as firefighters rushed to contain the blaze. Videos and photos shared online showed occupants leaving the condominium while emergency responders carried out firefighting operations. Firefighters remained at the scene Thursday morning to extinguish the fire and prevent it from spreading to other parts of the building. No casualties or injuries were immediately reported. Authorities have yet to determine the extent of the damage. The BFP said an investigation was underway to determine the cause and assess the losses incurred. No other details are available as of posting time.

- [Sandro Marcos on alleged suitcases of money: It's all BS](#) (2026-06-17 20:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Presidential son Ferdinand Alexander Marcos dismissed the allegation that he received suitcases of money from one of the 18 people claiming they had delivered money to former and incumbent lawmakers. "We don't dignify the testimonies ... It's all BS", Marcos, House majority leader and congressional representative of Ilocos Norte's first district, said in a media interview on Wednesday. Asked if he planned to file a complaint, he said in Filipino and English, "Is it really worth it? Is it really worth it, honestly? Then also give them publicity? Don't bother. ... We're here to finish a lot of work..."

- [House leadership gives prosecutors free hand in impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-17 20:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The House leadership is giving its prosecutors a free hand in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. "We all know Chair Jinky [Luistro] is the head prosecutor for the public prosecutors, and she's done a great job in steering and managing the impeachment in itself," House Majority Leader Ferdinand Alexander Marcos said in a media interview. "So I don't think it's necessary for the leadership to intervene or have any directives to them," Marcos said. "They are all brilliant in their own way. So I think just leave them be and let them do what they have to do," he said. The House, voting 257-25 with nine abstentions, impeached Duterte on May 11, 2026 over alleged misuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth allegedly amassed, alleged bribery, and the kill remark against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. It then sent the impeachment articles to the Senate for trial. Duterte denied the allegations in the two impeachment complaints heard by the House Committee on Justice. This committee on Apr. 29, 2026 found probable cause to impeach her so it sent the impeachment articles to the House plenary for action.

- [Torre urges vigilance after 7 students hurt in Cavite school stabbing](#) (2026-06-17 18:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority General Manager Nicholas Torre III on Wednesday urged the public to remain vigilant after seven Grade 5 students were injured in a stabbing incident allegedly involving a Grade 8 student inside Bethel Academy School in Barangay Sta. Clara, General Trias City, Cavite. Initial police information showed the incident occurred around 8 a.m. inside a Grade 5 classroom, where the Grade 8 student allegedly entered and attacked younger students using a bladed weapon. Two of the injured students were reported to be in critical condition, while authorities continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident. Torre said the incident serves as a reminder that safety is a shared responsibility and that early intervention remains one of the most effective ways to prevent violence. He urged parents, teachers, students, and school personnel to immediately report threats, bullying, alarming behavior, or other safety concerns to school authorities and law enforcement agencies. Torre also reminded communities to take seriously warning signs that may affect students' safety and well-being, stressing the importance of open communication, responsible reporting, and timely intervention.

"Individuals who observe situations requiring government assistance may coordinate with school authorities, local law enforcement agencies, emergency services, or available government reporting channels, including the MMDA 136 Hotline," Torre said. He said cooperation among communities can help create safer schools, safer communities, and a safer Metro Manila.

- [Sandro Marcos admits emotions played role in backing VP Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-06-17 18:15)

MANILA, Philippines — House Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte 1st District Rep. Sandro Marcos said he let his emotions get the better of him when he supported the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte in 2025 but that it was different now. "I was the first person to sign last impeachment. But, again, I think that was me being more of a son than a member of the House

of Representatives," Marcos said in a media interview on Wednesday. He said it was different now. "I don't only represent the first district of Ilocos Norte, I'm not only the son of the president but I also represent the institution now as majority leader," he said. "And, to tell you the truth, I did let my emotions get the better of me. That was the first time I experienced something like that.... lesson learned," Marcos said. In Feb. 2025, the lawmaker mentioned Duterte's kill remark against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in explaining why he signed the fourth impeachment complaint which the House sent to the Senate. The Supreme Court later declared unconstitutional the impeachment articles sent in 2025 by the House to the Senate. Under the 1987 Constitution, only the House can initiate impeachment cases and only the Senate can conduct an impeachment trial. The House, voting 257-25 with nine abstentions, impeached Duterte on May 11, 2026 over alleged misuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth allegedly amassed, alleged bribery, and the kill remark against the president. It then sent the impeachment articles to the Senate for trial. Duterte denied the allegations in the two impeachment complaints filed in 2026 and heard by the House Committee on Justice. This committee on Apr. 29, 2026 found probable cause to impeach her so it sent the impeachment articles to the House plenary for action.

- [DOJ panel seeks to identify alleged accomplices in De la Rosa escape](#) (2026-06-17 17:53)

MANILA, Philippines — A Department of Justice (DOJ) special panel investigating the May 13 incident at the Senate is moving to identify individuals who may have helped Sen. Ronald de la Rosa evade arrest and is examining whether reported sniper fire formed part of a coordinated effort to facilitate his escape. Justice Secretary Frederick Vida said Wednesday that the panel has recommended further investigation to establish the liability of all persons who may have conspired with or assisted De la Rosa in leaving the Senate complex in the early hours of May 14. The recommendation follows the panel's initial findings on events surrounding an attempt by National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents to serve an arrest warrant on the senator. Investigators are also looking into reports from the NBI and members of the media that sniper shots appeared to have been fired from the fifth floor of the Senate building toward an identifiable NBI vehicle parked within the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) compound. The panel seeks to determine whether the reported gunfire was part of an orchestrated plan intended to aid De la Rosa's departure from the Senate premises. Vida stressed, however, that the investigation remains ongoing and that authorities have not yet reached final conclusions. "At this stage, the investigation remains active and ongoing," he said. The justice secretary said he did not want to prejudge the findings of the panel or preempt its eventual conclusions, emphasizing that the inquiry would continue to be conducted professionally and objectively. He assured the public that investigators would follow the evidence wherever it leads and that no individual would be presumed liable until all relevant facts have been fully examined. The DOJ earlier constituted the special panel to conduct an independent investigation into the Senate incident, which occurred amid efforts by law enforcement authorities to implement an arrest warrant against De la Rosa. Vida urged the public to allow the investigative process to run its course as prosecutors continue gathering and

evaluating evidence.

- [Ejercito 'instrumental' in the defection of Escudero and Villanueva to the majority bloc](#)
(2026-06-17 17:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. JV Ejercito was "instrumental" in the decision of Sens. Chiz Escudero and Joel Villanueva to defect to the majority bloc and end the power struggle in the Senate. Escudero abandoned the Cayetano-led faction on June 3 and became the majority bloc's 12th member. Villanueva followed suit on June 17 during the Senate special session called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Sen. Panfilo Lacson said it was Ejercito who broke the news late Tuesday evening that he already secured Villanueva's support for Sen. Gatchalian. "Nung sinabi ni JV, na it's done [it's already] past 11 in the evening [of June 16]," Lacson said in a chance interview. Ejercito said he is close friends with Villanueva and Escudero. "I have worked with them. It's just that we just kept the lines open." The senator said he served as a "bridge" or instrument in conveying the concerns of Escudero and Villanueva to the majority, where he belonged. "I think more than anything it's the love for the institution that made them decide to join the new majority. To be fair there were no concessions offered [to them]," Ejercito said. "Parang hindi sila masaya sa nangyayari (It appeared that they were no longer happy with what was happening)," he said. Ejercito cited the Cayetano's call for his bloc to boycott the June 1 and 2 sessions of the Senate to protest Malacanang's alleged interference in the chamber's affairs. "The events in the past months damaged the institution. We love the Senate very much. It was first time in history that the public perception on the Senate plunged, even lower than that of the House of Representatives," he added.

- [DOJ seeks clarification from Jimmy Bondoc on statements about De la Rosa arrest warrant](#)
(2026-06-17 16:14)

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has sent a letter to lawyer Jimmy Bondoc seeking clarification on his public statements regarding the service of an arrest warrant on Sen. Ronald de la Rosa, Justice Secretary Frederick Vida said on Wednesday. Vida confirmed during a press briefing that the letter had been delivered and received by Bondoc's office earlier in the day. He said the DOJ is requesting clarification and additional information in relation to Bondoc's earlier public pronouncements concerning the implementation of the warrant. "The letter simply seeks clarification and assistance in light of statements he publicly made regarding the service of an arrest warrant upon his client, Senator De la Rosa," Vida said. The justice secretary said the department's request is aimed at ensuring the lawful and orderly implementation of legal processes. Given Bondoc's public statements, Vida said the DOJ deemed it appropriate to formally seek information that could help authorities in carrying out judicial and law enforcement procedures properly. The DOJ did not provide further details on Bondoc's statements or the specific context of the request, citing the sensitivity of ongoing legal processes. Authorities have not indicated whether the matter forms part of a separate proceeding or is connected to the wider investigation into the Senate incident involving the attempted service of an arrest warrant on De la Rosa.

- [Ateneo students' deaths not accident – CIDG](#) (2026-06-17 16:12)

THE death of Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili during a team-building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora, was no accident, according to the initial probe conducted by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG). “Not an accident,” Maj. Gen. Robert Alexander Morico II, CIDG director, told reporters in a press briefing at Camp Crame on Wednesday. The CIDG previously said the investigation is likely leaning toward a possible homicide or hazing case, noting the Anti-Hazing Law also covers forced physical exercises initially looked into by authorities. ADMU dismissed the possibility of homicide and hazing. Pelagio Cuison, lawyer of ADMU basketball coach Reynaldo Jacinto, who has been part of the basketball team for 20 years, told the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) that what happened to Baterbonia and Adili was an accident. Based on gathered information, Morico said that the afternoon activity of the players was done about 700 meters away from the resort, devoid of houses or people. In a podcast interview, Blue Eagles Kieffer Alas and Sam Reyes, who were present during the incident, denied any hazing that happened. The CIDG said that such a denial does not automatically dismiss the possibility of hazing, noting the investigation is still ongoing. “We will see,” Morico said, adding statements made by the players in the podcast were classified as “hearsay.” He said corroborating their claims through individual interviews with the rest of the participants is necessary to reconstruct the incident. Several past and present Blue Eagles appeared in separate inquiries on the incident by the CIDG and the NBI. Other former student athletes were also invited to shed light on the team building led by former ADMU head coach Tab Baldwin.

- [Opposition groups form alliance for '28 polls](#) (2026-06-17 16:10)

SEVERAL opposition parties formed a “One United Democratic Opposition” in preparation for the 2028 national and local elections. In a Facebook post on Wednesday, representatives of the Liberal Party, Akbayan Party-list, Katipunan ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino and Magdalo gathered in a caucus on Tuesday to “further strengthen coordination among ongoing initiatives and reinforce cooperation toward shared democratic goals.” The groups said the mandate is to secure a victory for the Filipino people. “This is not about a single party or a single personality. It is about the unity of those who believe that democracy must be protected, institutions must be strengthened and government must be accountable to the people,” the groups said in a statement in Filipino. “As plans for 2028 gradually take shape, it is clear that the most important objective is not the success of any one party or candidate, but the success of the people... The unity continues. One United Democratic Opposition. One goal. One stand. Let the people win,” they added. The caucus was attended by former congressman and Liberal Party President Erin Tañada, Akbayan Party President Rafaela David, Katipunan ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino President Kerby Salazar, and former senator and Magdalo Chairman Antonio Trillanes IV. Trillanes and Akbayan had earlier endorsed the possible presidential bid of Sen. Risa Hontiveros for 2028. This caucus aimed to “strengthen coordination on ongoing initiatives and cooperation on shared democratic objectives.” “While our approaches to strengthening our movement and preparing for the future may vary, we are united by one purpose: to win for the

Filipino people,” Akbayan said.

- [Some areas more prone to quake risks](#) (2026-06-17 16:09)

Second of three partsREPORTS such as the 2002–2004 Metro Manila Impact Reduction Study hold that certain locations are more prone to earthquake risks than others. The study, conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, in partnership with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, estimates that about 40 percent of residential buildings in the National Capital Region would be severely damaged or collapse during the “Big One” — an Intensity 7.2 earthquake. There would be massive disruptions to water, power, telecommunications and major transportation routes. The most vulnerable territories are the ones located on or near the West Valley Fault, a 100-kilometer active geological fault line running through the Greater Manila Area. Had the Big One happened in 2004, based on the data, Architect Jun Palafox, head of Palafox Associates, said 3 percent of the tall buildings and 10 percent of the low-rise buildings in the NCR would have collapsed. Jose Miranda, chairman of the Committee on Resilient Architects, estimated that 2 percent of 30- to 60-story buildings, and 13 percent of medium- to low-rise ones would be damaged or collapse. Ruel Ramirez, principal of structural engineering consulting firm RBRA, said all buildings and houses in the NCR will be affected should either the West Valley Fault or the Manila Trench move. The impact on certain properties will depend on which fault line is moving. The West Valley Fault movement will place low-rise buildings, including houses, in critical condition. The Manila Trench movement will endanger high-rise buildings. “The travel time of the earthquake on the West Valley Fault is fast. The shorter buildings also move fast because of that frequency,” he said. “The Manila Trench [travel time] is slow, the movement of the ground is slow, it is the high-rise that is affected.” Degree of damageThe resulting damage depends on the intensity of the earthquake. Ideally, structures should not suffer any serious damage if the magnitude is 4 or 5. When it comes to Intensity 6, Ramirez said some of the damage to the buildings can still be “reparable.” Miranda agreed, saying that given that some buildings “will just dance, sway back and forth without collapsing.” There are some reasons for this resilience. Ramirez said a building can withstand an Intensity 6 earthquake if it is well-designed. “Non-engineered buildings are the most vulnerable to earthquakes,” said Anthony Pimentel, structural engineer and president of Pimentel & Associates Engineering Consultants. Miranda said high-rise structures can withstand Intensity 7 to 8 earthquakes if their structural design parameters are intentionally designed for that amount of resilience. He differentiates the mindset of some property developers today compared to those of earlier generations: “Most of the old, low-rise buildings may not be structurally fit or were lacking in compliance during the time they were built. Recent modern high-risers are designed by reputable structural engineers using rigorous seismic standards,” he said. To be continued

- [Escudero to oversee impeachment court despite 'forthwith' flak](#) (2026-06-17 16:08)

THE Senate majority bloc has reportedly agreed to elect Sen. Francis Escudero as the presiding officer of the Senate impeachment court that will hear the impeachment case against Vice

President Sara Duterte, despite widespread perceptions that he slow-walked similar proceedings against her in 2025. Sources said the decision of the majority of senators aligns with the recommendation of Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, who reportedly emphasized Escudero's legal background and extensive experience in legislative proceedings as key qualifications for the role. The election of Escudero as presiding officer is expected to take place on July 6, when the Senate is scheduled to convene as an impeachment court and begin proceedings on the impeachment complaint against the vice president. Sen. Panfilo Lacson confirmed that Gatchalian will not preside over the impeachment trial, noting that the Senate leadership and the majority bloc believe the position should be held by a senator with sufficient legal expertise. Lacson clarified that Escudero's expected designation was not part of any political negotiations following his move to the majority bloc. Instead, he said senators independently concluded that the presiding officer must possess a solid understanding of legal procedures and parliamentary rules. "The presiding officer should have basic knowledge of the law because there are instances during the trial when motions and procedural issues must be acted upon immediately," Lacson said. Under Senate rules, the impeachment court is tasked with hearing evidence and arguments from both the prosecution and the defense before determining whether the impeached official should be convicted or acquitted. The reported decision to designate Escudero as presiding officer, however, has drawn mixed reactions from various sectors that had previously criticized his handling of the 2025 impeachment proceedings against Duterte. Several lawmakers, legal scholars, civil society groups and impeachment advocates had accused Escudero of unnecessarily delaying the impeachment process after the House of Representatives transmitted the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate in February 2025. Critics argued that the Constitution's requirement that impeachment cases proceed "forthwith" called for the immediate convening of the Senate as an impeachment court. Escudero maintained at the time that the Senate could not properly organize the court until Congress resumed session in June and that all actions taken were consistent with Senate rules and constitutional requirements. The criticism intensified in June 2025 when the Senate, sitting as an impeachment court under Escudero's leadership, voted to return the articles of impeachment to the House of Representatives for certification on constitutional issues rather than immediately proceeding to trial. The move triggered protests from activist groups and objections from some lawmakers, who argued that the Senate had a constitutional duty to hear the case without further delay. Escudero defended the decision as a procedural measure and insisted that the case had not been dismissed. The upcoming impeachment proceedings against Duterte are expected to draw significant public attention, as they involve one of the country's highest-ranking elected officials and could have major political implications for the administration and the broader political landscape. Further details on the trial schedule, court procedures and the composition of the prosecution and defense panels are expected to be finalized once the Senate convenes as an impeachment court. Prosecutors get free hand Meanwhile, the House leadership is giving its prosecutors a free hand in the impeachment trial. "We all know Chair[man] Jinky [Luistro] is the head prosecutor for the public prosecutors, and she's done a great job in steering and managing the impeachment in itself," House Majority Leader Ferdinand Alexander Marcos said in a media

interview. “So I don’t think it’s necessary for the leadership to intervene or have any directives to them,” Marcos said. “They are all brilliant in their own way. So I think just leave them be and let them do what they have to do,” he said. The House, voting 257-25 with nine abstentions, impeached Duterte on May 11 over alleged misuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth allegedly amassed, alleged bribery and her statement that she had hired someone to kill President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. if she herself were killed. The House then sent the impeachment articles to the Senate for trial. Duterte has issued general denials of the allegations, but refused to attend any of the hearings of the House Committee on Justice to determine if there was probable cause to impeach her. Her lawyers have since sought to scuttle the impeachment trial. On May 12, the House elected the following as impeachment prosecutors: Luistro, Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon, 1-Rider Rep. Ramon Rodrigo Gutierrez, San Juan City Rep. Ysabel Maria Zamora, Iloilo 3rd District Rep. Lorenz Defensor, Akbayan Rep. Jose Manuel Diokno, Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima, Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao, Bukidnon 2nd District Rep. Jonathan Keith Flores, Cagayan de Oro 1st District Rep. Lordan Suan and Manila 3rd District Rep. Joel Chua. The prosecution panel and the defense team filed their pretrial briefs before the Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, on June 15.

- [Mobile load, internet discounts pushed](#) (2026-06-17 16:06)

HOUSE Senior Deputy Minority Leader and Ma20-percentmamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima filed House Bill (HB) 9859 that aims to provide a 20-percent discount on mobile load and internet services to Filipino students. “We fully support Sen. Bam Aquino in enacting this proposal that will surely be a big help for our students. Every peso that they will save on this educational expense is a reduction on their and their families’ worries and burdens. Let us provide Filipino students, our future leaders, with all the help they rightfully deserve,” de Lima said in a statement on Wednesday. The measure, which was filed last June 11 and adopts Aquino’s Senate Bill 126, filed in July 2025, covered prepaid mobile load for text, call and data; postpaid mobile plans; and broadband and internet services “used for educational purposes.” A condition under HB 9859 for entitlement to the proposed 20-percent discount was the presentation of a valid school ID or proof of enrollment. It mandates that the discount would be available throughout the year, including weekends and holidays, and would apply only to personal education use. Under the bill, if a promotional discount from a telecommunication company is more than 20 percent, then the student could choose one of either discount. It would allow telecommunication companies to claim, subject to rules that would be promulgated by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, tax deductions equal to the discount granted. If enacted, telecommunication companies found to have refused its discount shall be fined P50,000 for the first offense, P100,000 for the second offense, and P200,000 for the third and subsequent offenses. The measures provides penalties for retailers “who, without justifiable reason, fail or refuse to provide the student load discount or who impose conditions contrary to” its intent: P25,000 for the first offense; P50,000 for the second offense; and P100,000 “and possible disqualification or blacklisting from being an accredited load or service retailer for the third and subsequent offices.”

- [Think tank: Teodoro's anti-China rhetoric risks tourism, trade gains](#) (2026-06-17 16:05)

A MANILA-BASED think tank warned on Wednesday that Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr.'s criticisms of China could jeopardize the Philippines' tourism and trade gains after Beijing imposed sanctions on him and his immediate family. Asian Century Philippines Strategic Studies Institute (ACPSSI) President Herman Tiu Laurel in an interview said the sanctions should prompt a reassessment of policies and statements that could further strain Manila-Beijing relations as the government works to expand economic ties with China. "The anti-China diatribes of Secretary Gibo Teodoro endanger the government's economic recovery program, particularly initiatives aimed at strengthening tourism and trade relations with China," Laurel said. He cited efforts by the Department of Tourism that helped drive a 63-percent increase in Chinese tourist arrivals in the first five months of 2026, as well as trade promotion initiatives led by the Department of Trade and Industry and Philippine Ambassador to China Jaime FlorCruz. Tiu Laurel said that China had previously imposed similar sanctions on Filipino officials, including the late former foreign affairs secretary Albert del Rosario, former Supreme Court Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales, former senator Francis Tolentino, and members of the Kalayaan Island Group local government. He argued that the sanctions should be viewed within the broader context of preserving stable bilateral relations between the two countries. Tiu Laurel's remarks came after fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said it would not support Teodoro following China's move, arguing that the issue reflects intensifying geopolitical rivalry in the region. Fernando Hicap accused Teodoro of condemning Chinese activities in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone while backing the expanded military presence of the United States. Pamalakaya reiterated its call for a peaceful resolution of disputes in the West Philippine Sea, an independent foreign policy, and a review of military agreements and foreign military exercises. China recently announced sanctions barring Teodoro and his immediate family from entering mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau.

- [Floating platform removed from Bajo de Masinloc](#) (2026-06-17 16:05)

PHILIPPINE authorities have confirmed the removal of a floating platform that had been monitored inside the lagoon of Bajo de Masinloc, the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) said on Wednesday. In a statement, the task force said the platform's removal was verified through maritime domain awareness patrols and monitoring operations conducted by Philippine authorities on June 17. The Philippines earlier filed a diplomatic protest after detecting the structure within the disputed shoal. The task force reiterated the Philippines' claim over Bajo de Masinloc, also known as Scarborough Shoal. "Only the Philippines has the right to place or construct structures and conduct activities, including marine scientific research, in Bajo de Masinloc and its territorial sea," the NTF-WPS said. The task force maintained that the country has longstanding sovereignty and jurisdiction over the area, citing historical records, official government documents, cartographic evidence and continuous acts of administration. The NTF-WPS also said Philippine authorities would continue conducting regular maritime patrols, maritime domain awareness operations and lawful presence missions in and around Bajo de Masinloc. The task force called on foreign entities to

comply with international law and refrain from activities that infringe on Philippine sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction. The government remains committed to protecting the country's territorial integrity and defending its entitlements in the West Philippine Sea, the NTF-WPS said. The structure, first detected in May, was described by Philippine security officials as a small movable platform measuring roughly 6 by 6 meters.

- [Philip Morris pushes smoke-free future](#) (2026-06-17 16:05)

PHILIP Morris International (PMI) vowed to continue its push for a smoke-free future through new technologies and alternatives to wean adult smokers from cigarettes. Tommaso Di Giovanni, PMI vice president for communications and engagement, said that the company is “doing everything to get to a smoke-free future as soon as possible.” He noted, however, that this will not be possible if it acts alone on this vision. “We need to work together, because regulation is important, acceptance in society is important, and acceptance by consumers is important,” he said during a conference in Sweden. He believes that acceptance of new technologies requires joint efforts from industry, regulators and society. During the conference, the success of Sweden was highlighted in lowering smoking rates to about 5.4 percent, far below the European Union's average of roughly 23 percent. In the past 15 years, Sweden has been able to cut smoking rates from about 15 percent to near smoke-free levels. This was attributed to the widespread use of smoke-free alternatives like snus and nicotine pouches. The speakers during the summit said that Sweden's experience shows how consumer choice, innovation and balanced regulation can help more smokers switch away from cigarettes. Since 2008, PMI has invested more than \$16 billion in developing smoke-free products, including IQOS heated tobacco devices, ZYN nicotine pouches, and VEEV e-cigarettes. According to the company, over 43 million adults worldwide now use these products, and around 70 percent have completely stopped smoking cigarettes. “In 2026, we are present in 106 markets and 43 million people use our smoke-free products. About 70 percent of them have quit cigarettes, while 43 percent of our net revenues now come from these products,” Di Giovanni said. He added that PMI is continuing its shift toward becoming a smoke-free company. “Cigarettes are being left behind in our company, and we're happy about that. But more than a billion people around the world still smoke, so there is still a lot of work to be done by companies, governments and society,” he said.

- [San Juan launches ‘Right To Care’ card for LGBTQ+](#) (2026-06-17 16:05)

SAN JUAN City has launched a Right To Care Card program for LGBTQ+ couples and live-in partners, allowing them to designate a person they trust to carry out their medical and health care decisions when they are unable to communicate or make decisions for themselves. Mayor Francis Zamora disclosed the program on Wednesday during the city's 19th Cityhood Anniversary celebration, describing it as part of San Juan's efforts to create a more inclusive and rights-based city. Seventeen couples comprised the first batch of beneficiaries who completed the requirements for card issuance. Under the program, a resident may appoint a health care proxy through a notarized special power of attorney (SPA), specifying the health

care and medical decisions the chosen person may execute on their behalf in cases of illness, injury, or incapacity. Zamora said the health care proxy's authority is based on the wishes of the resident who executed the SPA, not on the proxy's own decisions. "The Right To Care Card is not a piece of plastic. It is peace of mind. It is dignity. It is autonomy. It is empowerment," Zamora said. The card serves as official proof that the Healthcare Proxy has been registered with the City Government of San Juan and allows authorized health care providers to verify the designation through a unique QR Code. Once scanned, the QR Code provides access to the registered SPA, allowing health care professionals to confirm the authorized person and the specific medical decisions approved by the resident. San Juan created the program through City Ordinance 16, Series of 2025, later strengthened and expanded by City Ordinance 22, Series of 2026, collectively known as the San Juan Healthcare Proxy Ordinance. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have full legal capacity, and be bona fide residents of San Juan City, while their chosen Healthcare Proxy must also meet the same legal requirements. Residents applying for the card must submit the application form, a valid government-issued ID showing a San Juan address, recent 1x1 photos of both parties, and a notarized SPA. The City Gender and Development Office will evaluate applications, conduct verification, and require applicants and their designated health care proxies to attend an orientation seminar covering their rights, responsibilities and the limits of the proxy authority. Zamora said the city will continue to conduct monthly seminars and release additional batches of cards for applicants who complete all documentary and legal requirements. The Right To Care Card will remain valid for three years unless revoked by the resident, replaced by a new SPA, invalidated by a court decision, or terminated under existing laws.

- [DOLE sets aside P167.8M for earthquake victims](#) (2026-06-17 16:05)

THE Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said it has mobilized P167.79 million in emergency assistance for communities affected by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Mindanao to reinforce the government's relief and recovery efforts in the region. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino ordered on Wednesday DOLE regional offices to immediately extend assistance and livelihood interventions to affected residents in line with the whole-of-government response to the disaster by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. In Soccsksargen, DOLE Regional Office 12 has readied assistance packages for ceremonial turnover and payouts under its flagship emergency employment and livelihood programs. The agency has prepared P125.27 million under the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (Tupad) program to provide temporary employment opportunities for workers in General Santos City, Sarangani, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato province. DOLE, likewise, allocated P42.53 million under the Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP), also known as the Kabuhayan Program, to help affected communities restart income-generating activities and strengthen their economic resilience. The livelihood assistance package is ready for release via checks distributed to accredited co-partners who will implement community-based livelihood projects. To further expand recovery efforts, DOLE Regional Office 12 proposed an additional P413.64-million funding package to support more families and workers affected by the earthquake. The

proposed allocation includes P303.64 million for additional Tupad projects, P100 million for livelihood assistance under DILP and P10 million under the Adjustment Measures Program. If approved, the expanded Tupad initiative will benefit 42,812 individuals through short-term employment activities that contribute directly to community rehabilitation and recovery. The proposed projects include “Learn and Earn” skills training programs, digital and administrative support for disaster-related data processing and rehabilitation work on damaged homes, public facilities and community infrastructure. Meanwhile, in Davao Region, DOLE launched a Clean Water Campaign for earthquake victims in Davao Occidental, distributing more than 15,000 bottles of mineral water. The agency, working closely with local government units, workers’ organizations, employers’ groups and members of the Regional and Industry Tripartite Industrial Peace Councils, said it will continue relief operations and ensure the swift delivery of assistance to affected communities as recovery efforts move forward.

- [Marcos to push security, trade, energy cooperation in Russia visit](#) (2026-06-17 16:05)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said that enhancing cooperation in security, trade, energy, food security, and other key areas would top his agenda during his visit to Russia. The president and his delegation departed on Tuesday at midnight for Kazan, Russia, to participate in the commemorative summit between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and Russia. “As Chair of Asean, the Philippines is committed to ensuring that this Commemorative Summit produces substantive and forward-looking outcomes that deepen Asean’s Strategic Partnership with Russia and contribute, in concrete terms, to regional peace, stability, and shared prosperity,” Marcos said. “Together with my fellow Asean Leaders and President Vladimir Putin, we will take stock of 35 years of Asean–Russia cooperation and help chart a course for the decades ahead,” he added. Marcos said discussions during the summit would focus on cooperation in peace and security, trade and investment, food and energy security, science and technology, digital transformation, education, tourism and people-to-people exchanges. The summit also coincides with the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Russia. “For over five decades, our bilateral ties have steadily deepened across trade, education, culture, agriculture, energy, science, and, above all, through the sustained bonds between our peoples. We look forward to building on these foundations and opening new avenues of cooperation for the future,” he added. On the sidelines of the summit, Marcos is also scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with Putin. The president reiterated the Philippines’ commitment to Asean unity and cooperation with external partners. First lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, in a social media post, described the trip as brief but significant, noting that the president would spend only around 38 hours in Russia. Asean leaders and Putin are expected to adopt several key outcome documents, including the Kazan Declaration 2026, which will articulate the shared vision of Asean and Russia as they commemorate 35 years of partnership. Putin has sought to deepen political and economic ties with Asia during Moscow’s more than four-year full-scale offensive against Ukraine. The summit in the capital of Tatarstan, around 700 kilometers (435 miles) east of Moscow, comes as the G7 meets in France with ending the Ukraine and Middle East wars as its main focus. Representatives of 11 Asean

countries arrived in Kazan on Wednesday, with the main day of the summit set for the following day. Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia and Singapore are sending their prime ministers. Myanmar — which held a coup in 2021 and has close ties to Moscow — will also send a delegation. Moscow said the leaders will "exchange views on global and regional problems" and new aims in Russia — ties in "security, trade, investment and humanitarian cooperation." Facing giant Western sanctions over its Ukraine offensive, Moscow has reoriented its economy — especially oil exports — toward Asia. With AFP

- [CA OKs promotion of military officials](#) (2026-06-17 16:03)

THE Commission on Appointments (CA) on Wednesday approved the promotion of five senior military officials and 85 foreign affairs officers. The CA approved the ad interim appointments of Vice Admiral Allan Javier, Maj. Gen. Isagani Criste, Brig. Gen. Niceforo Diaz Jr., Brig. Gen. Rosemawattee Remo, and Lt. Gen. Edmundo Peralta. It also approved the nominations and ad interim appointments of 85 officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs, including Josel Ignacio as ambassador to India, with concurrent jurisdiction over Nepal; Senen Mangalile as ambassador to Cambodia; Noel Novicio as ambassador to Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Fiji; Robespierre Bolivar as chief of mission; and Emilio Fernandez as chief of mission. Sen. Panfilo Lacson, chairman of the CA Committee on Foreign Affairs, said the career diplomats deserve timely action because they have devoted their careers to advancing Philippine interests abroad. The CA also approved the request of the DFA to waive the personal appearance of 63 officials, many of whom are posted overseas, on official travel, or performing essential consular and diplomatic duties.

- [BI pushes ‘end-to-end’ border security upgrade](#) (2026-06-17 16:02)

THE Bureau of Immigration (BI) is advocating for a nationwide border security modernization program that would deploy artificial intelligence, biometrics and advanced data analytics across the country's major gateways to detect criminals, human traffickers, and other security threats. At the center of the proposal is the Civil Aviation and Immigration Security Services (Caiss) project, a P10.74-billion unsolicited public-private partnership (PPP) proposal currently undergoing interagency review. BI spokesman Dana Sandoval said the project offers a comprehensive, end-to-end security solution without imposing direct costs on the government, adding that the proposed system would modernize every stage of border management — from passenger processing and data collection to risk assessment and intelligence-driven screening. "The advantage of this project is that it is end-to-end. From frontline operations to data processing, data collection, and data assessment, the entire system is integrated," Sandoval said. "And it is not limited to NAIA alone." The project would cover all 11 functioning international airports in the country, one international seaport in Zamboanga, and six border crossing stations. Sandoval said one of the project's most significant features is its ability to sort and analyze passenger information intelligently, using customized security parameters. "We can establish parameters that allow data and information to be sorted more efficiently, enabling a more targeted approach when monitoring certain passengers," she

explained. She added that the technology would significantly enhance the Philippines' border security capabilities and help the country catch up with more technologically advanced immigration systems already operating in other nations. Another key component of the proposal is a guaranteed technology refresh every four years. Sandoval said this provision would ensure that the BI continues using the latest available technologies without requiring additional government spending. The project also adopts a user-pays financing model, with only individuals who directly use the service shouldering the associated costs, shielding taxpayers who do not benefit from the system from any financial burden. "This project will have zero financial burden on the government because only those who use the service will pay for it," she said. "Filipinos who do not use the service will not be financially burdened." The proposal has already undergone a Swiss challenge, a competitive process that allowed other companies to submit alternative or improved offers. Sandoval said the government actively invited firms specializing in similar technologies to participate, but no competing proposal was submitted. She noted that the project has also been reviewed by the Department of Finance, Department of Justice, and Office of the Solicitor General. However, she emphasized that the proposal remained under evaluation and no contract had been finalized. "This means that no contract has been signed yet, and the entire agreement has not yet been finalized. As of now, there are no collections, and nobody is being charged under this project," Sandoval said. While acknowledging concerns about potential user fees, Sandoval stressed the need to balance modernization efforts with public welfare. "Public opinion and the views of our stakeholders are important to us. We want to know what they believe will be beneficial," she said, adding that the BI follows the policy direction of the national government and the president when adopting new technologies. If approved, the Caiss project would cover major international gateways including NAIA, Clark, Davao, Mactan-Cebu, Boracay, Iloilo, Kalibo, Laoag, Bohol-Panglao, Puerto Princesa, and Zamboanga airports, as well as the Zamboanga international seaport and six border crossing stations. The proposed system is designed to comply with standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization, United Nations agency responsible for global aviation standards. Its features include advanced passenger information systems, contactless facial-recognition border control, biometric self-service kiosks, criminal-record search engines, and deception detection technology.

- [Go aids Manila fire victims](#) (2026-06-17 16:01)

DEMONSTRATING his commitment to responding swiftly to communities in crisis, Sen. Bong Go personally visited the site of a fire incident in Barangay 20, Manila City, on Monday, June 8. Despite having a scheduled relief activity in Barangay 275 on the same day, Go made time to stop at the fire-hit community to assess the situation firsthand and assure affected residents that government assistance was forthcoming. Later that evening, members of his Malasakit Team returned to Barangay 20 to distribute relief assistance and provide support to families displaced by the fire. The team conducted a follow-up relief operation on June 11, extending aid to additional victims affected by the incident. The senator's team distributed financial assistance, grocery packs, vitamins, shirts and sports equipment, including basketballs and

volleyballs, to help affected families cope with the disaster's aftermath. Recognizing the hardships faced by residents who lost their homes and belongings, Go expressed concern for their welfare and emphasized the importance of immediate assistance and community solidarity during times of crisis. "Things can be bought, money can be earned, but life cannot be earned with money. As I said, let's pray; let's help each other. What's important is that we are alive and we are here," Go said. The senator underscored the need to strengthen fire prevention and emergency response capabilities nationwide. He cited Republic Act (RA) 11589, or the Bureau of Fire Protection Modernization Act of 2021, which he authored and co-sponsored. The law mandates a 10-year modernization program for the Bureau of Fire Protection, including enhanced training, acquisition of modern equipment, recruitment of additional personnel, and intensified fire prevention campaigns in coordination with local government units. Go reaffirmed his commitment to assisting Filipinos affected by calamities and encouraged residents to remain hopeful as they recover from the incident.

- [Gatchalian now Senate president](#) (2026-06-17 16:00)

(UPDATE) SEN. Sherwin Gatchalian was elected Senate president on Wednesday after mustering 13 votes to win the position, ending a drama-filled and chaotic struggle for leadership of the chamber. Gatchalian clinched the chamber's presidency on Wednesday during the special session of Congress after Sen. Joel Villanueva, who belonged to the group of ousted Senate chief Alan Peter Cayetano, attended the session and cast his vote for the new leader. Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri nominated Gatchalian as Senate president, citing his dedication to work. "He's the one who always closes the Senate," Zubiri said in Filipino. Gatchalian was elected through acclamation with no objections posed. "He's the leader that the Senate needs in this time of division and disarray, and he has done this before. I know he'll be able to rise above the fray and lead us back to our principal function, which is to attend to the work of legislation," Zubiri said. Sen. Panfilo Lacson lauded his colleagues for answering a higher calling — one that rises above friendships and affiliations — to fulfill their duty as legislators and uphold the integrity of the Senate. "I think I will be remiss of my duty and responsibility as a senator, colleague and friend, if I didn't thank and commend our two distinguished colleagues, Sen. [Francis] Chiz Escudero and Sen. Joel Villanueva, for responding to their higher calling for this chamber, our beloved institution known as the Philippine Senate," Lacson said before nominating Sen. Vicente Sotto III as Senate president pro tempore. Escudero and Villanueva were the newest additions to the majority bloc. Following his election, Gatchalian took his oath of office before former Senate presidents Sotto, Zubiri and Escudero. He was accompanied by his mother during the oath-taking ceremony. Legislative priorities Gatchalian pledged to give priority to legislative measures addressing the country's most urgent economic and social challenges, including rising fuel and commodity prices, disaster recovery efforts in Mindanao and preparations for the looming threat of Super El Niño. In his acceptance speech, Gatchalian called on senators from both the majority and minority blocs to set aside political differences and work collectively in advancing measures that directly benefit the Filipino people. "We hear you. Amid the high prices of oil and commodities, the impact of the

earthquake in Mindanao, the threat of Super El Niño and other pressing issues, the public expects one thing: concern, action and results,” he said. Gatchalian underscored the Senate’s responsibility to craft responsive legislation that promotes economic stability, strengthens disaster preparedness and supports vulnerable sectors affected by calamities and climate-related challenges. Accepting the Senate presidency, Gatchalian described the position not as a symbol of personal authority but as a solemn responsibility to uphold the integrity of the institution and serve the Filipino people. “The opportunity to serve as Senate president is not an ordinary honor. It is a daily call to be a role model in service,” he said. “Above all, this duty is a responsibility — to the Senate, to our Constitution and to the Filipino people.” The senator also vowed to foster an inclusive and solution-oriented legislative environment where differing views are respected, and consensus is built around policies that advance national development. “We want a Senate for the people. A Senate that is open to dialogue. A Senate that is focused on solutions,” he said. Gatchalian had been elected Senate president pro tempore and acting president during a session on June 3, after Escudero joined the 11 members of the then-minority to form a quorum. Sen. Loren Legarda, a member of the minority, addressed Gatchalian as Senate president for the first time when she attended the afternoon special session. “On behalf of the minority, may I manifest for the record, that Sen. Alan Peter S. Cayetano shall serve as the minority floor leader,” she said. “This is without prejudice to the final resolution of the case currently pending before the Supreme Court,” she added. Legarda was referring to the petition the Cayetano bloc filed before the Supreme Court on Tuesday questioning the June 3 Senate reorganization that removed Cayetano as Senate president. The minority bloc did not attend the morning special session of the Senate called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to attend to pressing legislative matters of national importance. Legarda congratulated Gatchalian, who she described to be “a dedicated, disciplined, hardworking, brilliant colleague and a dear friend.” She also congratulated Sotto, who replaced her as Senate president pro tempore. “We, in the minority, because I remain to be in the minority, will collaborate for the good of the Filipino people,” she said in a chance interview after she attended the Commission on Appointments confirmation of five senior military officials and 85 foreign service officers. With just over a month as Senate chief following his ouster on Wednesday, Cayetano is now the second “shortest serving” Senate president in Philippine history. The late senator Camilo Osias served twice as Senate president for 13 days each or 26 days due to party changes. Cayetano was Senate president from May 11 to June 17 — or for one month and six days until his ouster during the Senate special session. Committee chairmen Along with Sotto’s election as president pro tempore, the Senate approved a major reorganization of its leadership structure and committee assignments. Zubiri was sworn in as majority leader, while Villanueva was designated deputy majority leader. Among the significant changes approved by the chamber was the reconstitution of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, with Sen. Erwin Tulfo designated as chairman and Sen. Francis Pangilinan as vice chairman. The Senate declared that all senators would serve as members of the oversight committee except Escudero, although no explanation was provided for his exclusion. The Blue Ribbon Committee is responsible for conducting investigations in aid of legislation, particularly on matters involving alleged corruption, misuse of public funds and government

accountability. The leadership and committee reorganization effectively settles weeks of uncertainty over the Senate's internal structure and paves the way for the chamber to resume legislative and oversight functions under its new leadership. Tulfo also secured the chairmanships of the Committees on Social Justice and Energy, underscoring his prominent role in the new Senate lineup. Pangilinan, meanwhile, was appointed chairman of the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Agriculture and Justice. As Justice Committee chairman, he will also serve as the Senate's representative to the Judicial and Bar Council, the constitutional body that screens nominees to the judiciary. Sen. Bam Aquino was designated chairman of the Committees on Trade and Commerce, Basic Education, and Science and Technology. Aquino's committee assignments place him at the forefront of discussions on economic development, education reform and innovation. Sen. Risa Hontiveros will lead the Committee on Health and Demography and the Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality, two panels expected to play key roles in advancing social welfare and public health legislation. Zubiri was named chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Rules, the latter responsible for managing the chamber's legislative agenda and internal procedures. Sotto will head the Committees on National Defense and Security, and Ethics and Privileges, positioning him to oversee matters involving national security and Senate conduct. Sen. Lito Lapid was assigned as chairman of the Committee on Games and Amusement, while Sen. Raffy Tulfo will lead the Committees on Public Services and Migrant Workers. Villanueva was designated chairman of the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development. One of the most critical assignments went to Sen. JV Ejercito, who was named chairman of the powerful Committee on Finance, which scrutinizes the national budget and government spending. Ejercito will also head the Committee on Local Government and serve as vice chairman of several major committees, reflecting his expanded role in the majority bloc. Lacson was appointed chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, which handles taxation and revenue measures. He will also serve as vice chairman of several key committees, including Justice, Defense and Local Government. The Senate also named its representatives to constitutional bodies and oversight panels. The chamber's seven members to the Commission on Appointments are Lacson, Zubiri, Villanueva, Hontiveros, Sotto, Raffy Tulfo and Ejercito. The Senate Electoral Tribunal, which resolves election contests involving senators, will be composed of Senators Aquino, Pangilinan, Lapid and Escudero. In the majority leadership, Ejercito was elected senior deputy majority leader, while Villanueva was named deputy majority leader. Final committee memberships and assignments remain subject to formal Senate ratification and publication in official records, and additional committee assignments may be announced.

Congratulations The House of Representatives congratulated Gatchalian on his election as Senate president. "This development comes at an important time as both houses of Congress continue to carry out their constitutional responsibilities and act on issues that have a direct impact on the lives of Filipinos," Speaker Faustino Dy III said in a statement. "The House remains committed to working with the Senate in advancing priority legislation, strengthening the economy and delivering meaningful reforms that benefit our people," he said. House Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte 1st District Rep. Ferdinand Alexander Marcos

welcomed Gatchalian's election as Senate president, saying he knew "how level-headed he can be." Malacañang also congratulated Gatchalian. In a statement, Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said that with the leadership issue now settled, the Palace hopes that the good cooperation between the executive and the legislature will continue to advance bills that will benefit the public. Among the priority legislation the president wants enacted are the Anti-Political Dynasty Law, Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations Act, Presidential Merit Scholarship Program, and the Last Mile and Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged and Conflict-Affected Areas Schools Act. WITH REINA TOLENTINO AND KRISTINA MARALIT

- [Hontiveros thanks #WinRi supporters](#) (2026-06-17 15:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros urged the netizens, especially those who were trying to "ship" or pair her with Senate President (SP) Win Gatchalian, to support the work of the Senate. She was asked to comment on the viral #WinRi trend pairing Gatchalian and Hontiveros for working closely together on important Senate matters. Some even brought up a possible WinRi tandem in the 2028 national elections. "SP Gatchalian is strong on his own merits," Hontiveros said in a chance interview during a break on the Senate special session called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. "Lahat kami sa majority fought para mahalal namin sya (All of us in the majority fought [hard] in order to elect him [as Senate president]," Hontiveros said on Wednesday. "Kung may mga kababayan tayo na natutuwa sa akin, natutuwa kay SP at dahil doon mas interesado sila sa trabaho namin at ng Senate nagpapasalamat ako sa kanila [If we have fellowmen who are fond of me, fond of SP, and because of that they are more interested in our work in the Senate, I thank them]," she said. "Hello sa mga 'Winners.' Please, ipagpatuloy nyo ang pagsubaybay at pagsuporta sa trabaho ng Senate (continue on supporting the work of the Senate)," Hontiveros added.

- [Legarda congratulates new Senate leaders, will remain with the minority](#) (2026-06-17 13:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda said she was glad that Sen. Win Gatchalian was officially elected as Senate president but she will remain with the minority bloc. Legarda and her blocmates did not attend the morning special session of the Senate called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to attend to pressing legislative matters of national importance. She congratulated Gatchalian who she described to be "a dedicated, disciplined, hardworking, brilliant colleague and a dear friend." Legarda also congratulated Sen. Vicente Sotto III who replaced her as Senate president pro tempore during the June 17 Senate reorganization. "I willingly give my pro tempore [position]. [I've] Been there, done that. So, I congratulate all of them," the senator said. "And I'm glad na 13 ang boto (that 13 votes [were secured for Gatchalian]). So, maayos na, legal na (it's all settled, its now legal)," Legarda said referring to the constitutional requirement that a senator needs 13 votes to be elected Senate president. Gatchalian was elected Senate president pro tempore on June 3 after his bloc became the new majority, following the defection of Sen. Chiz Escudero to their camp, making him their

12th member.Sen. Joel Villanueva's switch to the majority ended the Senate power struggle as he gave the crucial 13th vote to replace Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano as Senate chief."Every day is a fresh start and we welcome, recognize, and congratulate the new leadership who are dear friends [and] who are competent public servants," Legarda said."We, in the minority, because I remain to be in the minority, will collaborate for the good of the Filipino people," she said in a chance interview after she attended the Commission on Appointments confirmation of five senior military officials and 85 foreign service officers.

- [CIDG to Baldwin: ‘Man up,’ face fact-finding probe](#) (2026-06-17 13:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Major General Robert Alexander Morico II, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) director on Wednesday dared embattled former Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) Head Coach Thomas Anthony “Tab” Baldwin to “man up” and face fact-finding probes into the deaths of his players. “Well I guess man up, be man enough to face the investigation,” Morico said of his message to Baldwin who has been snubbing summons for investigations into the fatal drowning of Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili during a team building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora which he headed. “In the interest of justice and equity para doon sa (for the) two players which you call as your brother because if you are talking about ‘yung (the) battlecry of BEBOB, [Blue Eagles] Band of Brothers, if you are brother hindi ka tatalikod (you will not turn back), so help the family attain justice,” Morico said. Baldwin, seen by many as the primary responsible for the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili, has been repeatedly issued summons by the CIDG as well as the National Bureau of Investigations (NBI) but has yet to appear in any citing. According to his lawyer, Baldwin was “not in a good condition to appear.” ADMU admitted to have instructed Baldwin to refrain from speaking publicly so as to allow official investigations and fact-finding processes as a university decision to prioritize healing, care and due process over public commentary. Baldwin is summoned yet again to appear before the CIDG and the NBI on Friday (June 19). According to Morico, authorities have now summoned 48 personalities to appear before the CIDG probe including Baldwin. Of this number, 22 are players and the rest are coaching staff. Baldwin was particularly requested to bring with him the full CCTV and drone camera footage which remains in his possession, Morico said. “With the subpoena to Mr. Thomas Baldwin we are asking him to bring with him the aerial footages of the drone during the conduct of training because he is the one with the cctv footages from the start when they have formation doon sa resort until the time na nangyari yung incident,” he said. Morico vowed to exhaust all available powers of the CIDG including the filing of contempt and obstruction of justice cases against the coaches including Baldwin should they still fail to appear before the ongoing fact-finding probe.

- [DOJ orders further probe into complaint against Sen. Padilla](#) (2026-06-17 13:05)

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has returned a complaint filed against Sen. Robinhood Padilla to the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) for further investigation, Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida said on Wednesday.Speaking at a press briefing, Vida said the investigating prosecutor handling the case requested additional

documents and statements from concerned individuals before determining the next course of action."A complaint was filed against Senator Robin Padilla. This case was referred back to the CIDG for further investigation pursuant to Department Circular No. 20," Vida said. The Justice secretary said prosecutors deemed it necessary to obtain more evidence to support the evaluation of the complaint. Vida declined to discuss the nature of the allegations or other details of the case, citing the ongoing investigation. "The investigating prosecutor requested further documents and certain statements from concerned individuals. At this stage, it would be premature to comment on the details of this ongoing investigation," he said. The DOJ did not provide a timetable for the completion of the additional investigation or indicate when prosecutors are expected to decide on the complaint. Under DOJ procedures, complaints may be referred back to law enforcement agencies when prosecutors determine that additional evidence or clarification is needed before preliminary investigation proceedings can continue. Last month, the PNP filed a complaint against Padilla and others for supposedly helping Senator Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa escape the Senate building. However, Padilla denied the claim and explained that Dela Rosa merely hitched a ride out of the area.

- [P15-B supplemental budget for Mindanao quake relief, recovery filed](#) (2026-06-17 12:52)

MANILA, Philippines — House Assistant Majority Leader and Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong has filed a bill seeking a P15 billion supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2026 to support urgent relief, recovery, rehabilitation, repair, and reconstruction efforts in communities devastated by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck offshore near Sarangani Province on June 8, 2026. Under his House Bill 9887, the additional budget would augment the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund to address the widespread destruction across Regions XI and XII, including severe damage to homes, schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, irrigation systems, power facilities, ports, airports, and other critical infrastructure. It would also provide direct assistance to displaced families, farmers, fisherfolk, and vulnerable sectors whose livelihoods were disrupted. In a statement, Adiong said that Mindanao residents need immediate help from one of the strongest earthquakes in recent memory. "Our people need immediate help to rebuild their lives, restore essential services, and recover their livelihoods. This bill delivers the substantial resources required to accelerate relief and long-term rehabilitation," Adiong said. He added that as a Mindanaoan, he felt for his brothers and sisters across the regions who are struggling to pick up the pieces after the tragedy. "We must stand with them and give them the support they urgently need," Adiong said. Under his proposal, P2 billion each will be allocated to the Department of Agriculture for irrigation system repairs and direct assistance to farmers and fisherfolk, and to the Department of Education for the repair and rehabilitation of damaged schools. P1.5 billion each will be given to the Department of Social Welfare and Development for emergency cash aid, food packs, and temporary shelter, and to the Department of Health for hospital repairs, medical equipment, and local health facilities. Another P2 billion will be provided for Housing assistance and relocation through the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development and the National Housing Authority. Substantial funding will also support the Department of Public Works and Highways

and local government units for roads, bridges, and community infrastructure, along with allocations for power restoration, state universities and colleges, and transport facilities. The quake has claimed 47 deaths, 688 injuries and 31 person remaining missing, with 45,000 individuals remain displaced and 12,600 homes damaged.

- [Marcos' Russia visit seen boosting energy security, testing diplomatic balance – analyst](#) (2026-06-17 11:36)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s visit to Russia is expected to strengthen the Philippines' energy security efforts while showcasing Manila's ability to balance relations with major global powers, a political analyst said on Wednesday. Marcos is currently in Kazan, Russia where he is set to lead the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the 35th ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit. Professor Froilan Calilung said Marcos' trip carried both a multilateral and bilateral dimension, one as the current chairman of the Asean and as a co-chairman of the summit alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin. The analyst noted that Marcos' leadership role in the summit provided diplomatic cover for deeper engagement with Moscow while maintaining the Philippines' strong ties with its traditional Western allies. "The structural leadership role provides him with a lot of diplomatic cover and allows the Philippines to engage deeply with Moscow without appearing to break ranks with Western security allies such as the United States and the European Union," Calilung said in English and Filipino during the Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon televised briefing. He said that by acting on behalf of the Asean, Marcos reinforced the bloc's principle of centrality while advancing regional cooperation with Russia. Beyond the summit, Calilung said the president's coming meeting with Putin was expected to focus on Philippine national interests, particularly in the areas of trade, investment and energy, especially amid the volatility in the Middle East. The war in the region has exposed the Philippines' vulnerability as a nation heavily dependent on crude oil imports. "With Russia being one of the world's largest oil producers and exporters, stronger ties could help shield the Philippines from future supply shocks," Calilung said and added that the country may seek to capitalize on Russia's efforts to expand economic partnerships in Asia by exploring direct state-to-state arrangements that could support the country's energy requirements and broader economic goals. The analyst also highlighted potential cooperation in nuclear energy, an area where Russia has extensive experience and technological expertise. He said the Philippines could learn from Russia's use of nuclear power as it explored alternative energy sources to address high electricity costs. "If the Philippines is able to tap nuclear power as an alternative energy source, it could help reduce electricity generation costs and make the country more attractive to investors," Calilung said.

- [DOJ places Tab Baldwin, four former Ateneo coaching staff on immigration watch list amid drowning probe](#) (2026-06-17 11:18)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Justice (DOJ) has placed former Ateneo de Manila University basketball coach Tab Baldwin and four former members of the Blue Eagles' coaching staff under an Immigration Lookout Bulletin Order (ILBO) as authorities continue to investigate

the deaths of players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. DOJ Acting Secretary Frederick Vida announced on Wednesday that he had signed the ILBO covering Baldwin, former team manager Christopher Quimpo, and assistant coaches Reynaldo Jacinto Jr., Dean Castaño, and Sandro Soriano. The order was issued amid an ongoing investigation into the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili, who drowned during a team-building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora on June 8. Vida clarified that an ILBO did not prohibit a person from leaving the country but served as a monitoring mechanism that alerted immigration and law enforcement authorities if the individuals attempted to travel abroad while the investigation was underway. "It does not restrict travel or establish guilt," Vida said during a press briefing. He added that the DOJ remained prepared to act once formal complaints were filed. "The investigation remains ongoing, and the department stands ready to undertake its mandate once a complaint is formally filed," Vida said, urging the public to allow investigators to gather and assess evidence before drawing conclusions. The issuance of the lookout bulletin came after requests from the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and Baterbonia's family. Authorities have yet to file complaints before the DOJ as fact-finding efforts continue.

- [5 senior military officials, 85 Foreign Affairs execs get promotions as Senate ends squabble](#) (2026-06-17 09:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Appointments (CA) on Wednesday approved the promotion of five senior military officials and 85 foreign affairs officers whose confirmations were delayed due to the Senate power struggle. But the leadership squabble ended after Sen. Win Gatchalian was elected Senate president during the special session called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The CA approved the ad interim appointments of Vice Admiral Allan Javier, Maj. Gen. Isagani Criste, Brig. Gen. Niceforo Diaz Jr., Brig. Gen. Rosemawattee Remo, and Lt. Gen. Edmundo Peralta. The CA also approved the nominations and ad interim appointments of 85 Department of Foreign Affairs officers including Josel Ignacio as ambassador to India, with concurrent jurisdiction over Nepal; Senen Mangalile as ambassador to Cambodia; Noel Novicio as ambassador to Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Fiji; Robespierre Bolivar as chief of mission; and Emilio Fernandez, chief of mission.

- [Marcos arrives in Kazan for Asean-Russia meet](#) (2026-06-17 09:21)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. arrived in Kazan, Russia on Wednesday for a two-day working visit. The aircraft carrying Marcos and the Philippine delegation landed at 7:53 a.m. local time (12:53 p.m. in Manila), Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said. Marcos will participate in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean)-Russia Commemorative Summit and hold a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The visit marks Marcos' first trip to Russia and comes 50 years after former president Ferdinand Marcos Sr. visited the then-Soviet Union in 1976, a trip that led to the establishment of diplomatic relations between Manila and Moscow.

- [Ateneo students deaths 'no accident' — CIDG](#) (2026-06-17 09:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The deaths of Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) Blue Eagles Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili during a team building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora in June was “not an accident,” the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said on Wednesday, even as the school's coaches dismissed allegations of homicide and hazing. Maj. Gen. Robert Alexander Morico II, CIDG director, told reporters in a press briefing at Camp Crame that their investigation leaned toward a possible homicide or hazing case as the Anti-Hazing law also covered forced physical exercises initially looked into by authorities. Pelagio Cuison, lawyer of ADMU basketball coach Reynaldo Jacinto who has been part of the basketball team for 20 years, told the National Bureau Investigation (NBI) that what happened to Baterbonia and Adili was unintentional and an accident. According to Morico, the afternoon activity of the players was done in a secluded and unpopulated area about 700 meters away from the resort. In a podcast interview, Blue Eagles Kieffer Alas and Sam Reyes, who were among the players present during the team building tragedy, flatly denied any hazing that happened but admitted that all of them who were in the water almost drowned. The CIDG maintains that the investigation is still ongoing and parties’ denial does not automatically dismiss the angle of hazing. “We will see,” Morico said. Since only two players talked during a podcast interview, Morico classified their statement as “hearsay” and corroborating their claim through interviews with the rest of the participants was necessary to reconstruct the incident. Several past and present Blue Eagles appeared in separate probes by the CIDG and the NBI on the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili. Aside from the players who participated in the team building, former student athletes were also invited to shed light on the true nature of the annual Aurora team building spearheaded by now ADMU ex-head coach Tab Baldwin. This was after past podcast interviews by former Blue Eagles resurfaced describing the activity not as a team building but a “bootcamp,” a term used for basic military training. In a statement, the NBI clarified that under Article 365 of the Revised Penal Code, “death caused by reckless or simple imprudence is a criminal matter wholly independent of any intent to harm.” Essentially, an event may be “accidental” in the sense that no one wished it, and yet remain the product of a failure to exercise the care the law demands,” the NBI said.

- [Floating platform removed from Bajo de Masinloc lagoon, says PH task force](#) (2026-06-17 06:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine authorities have confirmed the removal of a floating platform that had been monitored inside the lagoon of Bajo de Masinloc, the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) said on Wednesday. In a statement, the task force said the platform's removal was verified through maritime domain awareness patrols and monitoring operations conducted by Philippine authorities on June 17. The NTF-WPS noted that the Philippines had filed a diplomatic protest after detecting the structure within the disputed shoal. While acknowledging the platform's removal, the task force reiterated the Philippines' claim over Bajo de Masinloc, also known as Scarborough Shoal. “Only the Philippines has the right to place or construct structures and conduct activities, including marine scientific research, in Bajo de Masinloc and its territorial sea,” the NTF-WPS said. The task force maintained that the

country has longstanding sovereignty and jurisdiction over the area, citing historical records, official government documents, cartographic evidence and continuous acts of administration. The NTF-WPS also said Philippine authorities would continue conducting regular maritime patrols, maritime domain awareness operations and lawful presence missions in and around Bajo de Masinloc. The task force called on foreign entities to comply with international law and refrain from activities that infringe on Philippine sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction. The government remains committed to protecting the country's territorial integrity and defending its entitlements in the West Philippine Sea, the NTF-WPS said.

- [MRT-3 exec, Sumitomo ordered to explain morning train glitch; free rides ordered for commuters](#) (2026-06-17 05:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez on Wednesday ordered the MRT-3 management and its maintenance provider, Sumitomo Corporation, to explain the disruption that affected commuters during the morning rush hour, while also directing the grant of free rides for passengers for the rest of the day. In a memorandum, Lopez required MRT-3 General Manager Michael Capati to submit within 24 hours a detailed explanation on why he should not face administrative sanctions following the service disruption between Buendia and Guadalupe stations at around 5:30 a.m. The incident caused delays and inconvenience to thousands of commuters who rely on the rail line for their daily travel. The Department of Transportation (DOTr) said normal operations were restored at about 6:57 a.m., but not before the disruption affected morning passenger traffic. The transportation chief also ordered Capati to issue a show-cause order to Sumitomo Corporation, the MRT-3 rehabilitation and maintenance service provider, as well as its consultants, requiring them to explain the cause of the incident. “Both MRT-3 and Sumitomo must explain why the disruption occurred. This caused major inconvenience to passengers who depend on the MRT-3. We have to identify the cause of the disruption and do everything necessary to ensure continuous and reliable train service for commuters,” Lopez said in a statement. To mitigate the impact on passengers, Lopez directed MRT-3 to provide free rides throughout the day. The cost of the free rides, the DOTr said, would be charged to Sumitomo.

- [Poor Filipino kids still dream of professional jobs - study](#) (2026-06-17 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Poor Filipino children continue to dream of becoming teachers, nurses, engineers, doctors, police officers, and military officers despite economic disadvantage, according to a study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS). In the study titled “Dreams and Small Means: Career Aspirations of Children in the Philippine 4Ps Program,” nearly half, or 47.3 percent of respondents aspired to professional occupations, while 29.2 percent hoped to enter service and sales occupations. Meanwhile, only a small fraction expressed interest in agricultural work (0.3 percent) or elementary occupations (0.4 percent), even though many of their parents currently work in these sectors. The findings by the researchers suggest that disadvantaged children were not lacking in ambition, and that many aspire to occupations associated with higher income, professional status, and greater

opportunities. The study also found that children enrolled in the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and those from non-beneficiary households shared similarly high ambitions for their future careers, reflecting strong hopes for upward mobility across both groups. The study, authored by Kris Ann Melad, Michael Abrigo, Douglas Diola, and Centene Pablo, examined the future career goals of nearly 10,000 children and young adults aged 10 to 25 from economically disadvantaged households across the country.

- [Alan Cayetano second shortest serving Senate president in PH history after Camilo Osias \(2026-06-17 04:52\)](#)

(UPDATE) MANILA, Philippines -- With just over a month as Senate chief following his ouster on Wednesday, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano is now the second "shortest serving" Senate president in Philippine history. The late senator Camilo Osias served as Senate president for 26 days due to party changes. Cayetano was Senate president from May 11 to June 17 -- or for one month and six days following his ouster during the Senate special session called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. During his meeting with some pastors on May 18, Cayetano said, "Yesterday (May 17), someone sent me that the shortest serving Senate president served for 13 days." "So, I'm not sure if I'll survive the 13 days or we'll last only for 7, 8, days. But what I do know is this: one day I will leave this office, maybe today, maybe a month from now, maybe after the impeachment. Who knows? But what matters is what I do in the middle," Cayetano said. He sealed his fate after his former blocmate, Sen. Joel Villanueva, defected to the majority bloc and became its 13th member. Cayetano saw it coming after Villanueva announced that he will attend the special session. Earlier on Wednesday, Cayetano acknowledged that his allies no longer have the numbers to retain control of the Senate leadership, saying he would not stand in the way of a vote to elect a new Senate president during a special session, even as he maintained that the chamber's controversial June 3 leadership change remained constitutionally questionable. In a lengthy statement issued ahead of the June 17 special session, Cayetano said he had accepted the political reality facing his bloc after discussions with fellow lawmakers, while stressing that his opposition was never about holding on to power but about defending what he described as the Senate's independence and pursuing accountability over alleged corruption in government. "And now, after speaking with Sen. Joel Villanueva, it appears our colleagues on the other side will soon have the numbers to elect a new Senate President. I will not stand in the way of that vote," Cayetano said. The senator's remarks appeared to signal the end of a weeks-long leadership struggle that has divided the chamber since the disputed June 3 reorganization of the Senate. Despite conceding that a new leader may soon emerge, Cayetano reiterated his position that the earlier leadership change lacked the quorum required under the Constitution and remains subject to legal challenge. "We have said from the first, and we still maintain, that what was done on June 3 was done without the quorum the Constitution requires, and was, for that reason, void," he said, adding that the matter is now before the courts. Under the Constitution, a senator needs 13 votes to be elected Senate president. The majority elected Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian as Senate president minutes after he opened the session. Cayetano on May 11 unseated then Senate president Vicente Sotto III after securing 13

votes, including the "crucial" vote of Sen. Ronald dela Rosa who went out of hiding after six months just to install the former.

- [Marcos to push security, trade, energy cooperation in Russia visit](#) (2026-06-17 04:40)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said that enhancing cooperation in security, trade, energy, food security, and other key areas would top his agenda during his visit to Russia. The President and his delegation departed on Tuesday midnight for Kazan, Russia, to participate in the commemorative summit between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and Russia. In his departure statement, Marcos said the trip carried both regional and personal significance as it marked his first visit to Russia. “Today, I depart for Kazan, Russia, to participate in the Asean–Russia Commemorative Summit, marking the 35th anniversary of Asean–Russia relations,” the President said. “It will be my first time on Russian soil—a journey I undertake nearly 50 years after my father, President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr., made his own historic visit to the then-Soviet Union in 1976, which culminated in the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries,” he added. The President said this milestone “opened an enduring chapter in Philippines–Russia relations grounded in mutual respect, dialogue, and cooperation—one that we continue to build upon today.” “As Chair of Asean, the Philippines is committed to ensuring that this Commemorative Summit produces substantive and forward-looking outcomes that deepen Asean’s Strategic Partnership with Russia and contribute, in concrete terms, to regional peace, stability, and shared prosperity,” Marcos said. “Together with my fellow Asean Leaders and President Vladimir Putin, we will take stock of 35 years of Asean–Russia cooperation and help chart a course for the decades ahead,” he added.

- [Palace, House congratulate Gatchalian on Senate presidency, urge chamber to act on priority bills](#) (2026-06-17 04:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang and the House of Representatives on Wednesday congratulated Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian following his election as the new Senate President after Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano yielded to the new majority just in time for the special session. In a statement, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said that with the leadership issue now settled, the Palace hoped that the good cooperation between the executive and the legislature would continue to advance bills that would benefit the public. “The Palace extends its congratulations to the newly elected Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian,” she said in Filipino. “We thank the House of Representatives under the leadership of Speaker Bodjie Dy and the Senate majority who are ready to fulfill their duties,” she added. Cayetano in a social media post earlier in the day admitted that “the arithmetic has changed” and that he “will not stand in the way of that vote” to name a new Senate president. Castro reminded the senators of Marcos’ directive to ensure the delivery of a “speedy and efficient service to the people.” “Priority legislative bills must be enacted to further strengthen and expand the government’s assistance to our countrymen,” she said. Among the priority legislation the president wants enacted are the Anti-Political Dynasty

Law, Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) Act, Presidential Merit Scholarship Program, and the Last Mile and Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged and Conflict-Affected Areas (GIDA) Schools Act. Meanwhile, Speaker Faustino Dy 3rd said in a statement on Wednesday that the election of a new Senate president "comes at an important time as both houses of Congress continue to carry out their constitutional responsibilities and act on issues that have a direct impact on the lives of Filipinos." "The House remains committed to working with the Senate in advancing priority legislation, strengthening the economy, and delivering meaningful reforms that benefit our people," he said.

- [Recto, Estrella, Tolentino named govt caretakers during Marcos' Russia trip](#) (2026-06-17 04:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III, and Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino have been designated as government caretakers during President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s working visit to Kazan, Russia, Malacañang said Wednesday. Marcos is en route to Kazan to participate in the Asean–Russia Commemorative Summit and hold a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. It is his first time in Russia, which comes 50 years after his father, then president Ferdinand Marcos Sr., visited the Soviet Republic in 1976. "As Chair of Asean, the Philippines is committed to ensuring that this Commemorative Summit produces substantive and forward-looking outcomes that deepen Asean's Strategic Partnership with Russia and contribute, in concrete terms, to regional peace, stability, and shared prosperity," Marcos said in his departure statement. "Together with my fellow Asean Leaders and President Vladimir Putin, we will take stock of 35 years of Asean–Russia cooperation and help chart a course for the decades ahead," he added. The summit will be held on June 17 and 18 in Kazan, where Asean leaders and Putin are expected to adopt key documents outlining future areas of cooperation between the regional bloc and Russia.

- [LTFRB suspends 24 buses of firm involved in fatal Baguio road crash](#) (2026-06-17 03:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has suspended for 30 days the operations of 24 buses of North Genesis Bus Line, Inc. following a road crash in Baguio City that left at least two people dead and several others injured. LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said the preventive suspension would remain in effect while authorities investigated possible violations of the conditions of the company's Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC). "We commit to an impartial and no-nonsense investigation not only because it is our mandate but because it is the life and limb of commuters that are at stake when it comes to public transportation," Mendoza said in a statement issued on Wednesday. The accident involved a North Genesis passenger bus that crashed along Kilometer 6 of Marcos Highway in Baguio City early Tuesday morning. Based on initial reports, the bus was traveling toward Baguio when it collided with a truck parked along the roadside. Two passengers died after becoming trapped inside the bus, while at least six others sustained injuries. The LTFRB issued a show-cause order directing the bus company to explain why it

should not face sanctions for allegedly employing a reckless driver. The board also ordered the mandatory drug testing of all the company's drivers and required roadworthiness inspections for the 24 suspended buses. To ensure compliance with the suspension order, the LTFRB directed the company to surrender the license plates of all affected units. Mendoza also instructed regional LTFRB officials to monitor the prompt release of insurance benefits to the families of the fatalities and to passengers injured in the crash. He urged public utility vehicle operators and drivers to prioritize road safety, stressing that the trust of passengers must be matched by safe and responsible transport services.

- [Cayetano second shortest-serving Senate president in Philippine history](#) (2026-06-17 03:32)

MANILA, Philippines — With just over a month as Senate chief, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano is the second "shortest serving" Senate president in Philippine history. Cayetano was Senate president from May 11 to June 17 -- or for one month and six days following his ouster during the Senate special session called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Camilo Osias holds the record for being the shortest-serving Senate chief. He served for just 13 days — from April 17 to 30, 1952. Cayetano was ousted as Senate president on June 17 after his former bloc mate, Sen. Joel Villanueva, defected to the majority bloc and became its 13th member. Under the Constitution, a senator needs 13 votes to be elected Senate president. The majority elected Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian as Senate president minutes after the latter opened the session. Cayetano on May 11 unseated then Senate president Vicente Sotto III after securing 13 votes, including the "crucial" vote of Sen. Ronald dela Rosa who appeared after six months of hiding.

- [Gatchalian now Senate president as Villanueva attends session](#) (2026-06-17 02:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Win Gatchalian is now officially the Senate president after he mustered 13 votes to be elected to the position. Gatchalian clinched the chamber's presidency on Wednesday during the Senate special session after Sen. Joel Villanueva attended session. Villanueva used to be with the group of ousted Senate chief Alan Peter Cayetano, who hinted that he no longer has the numbers to remain in power. Senate Majority Leader Miguel Zubiri nominated Gatchalian as Senate president as he cited the senator's dedication to his work. "Siya na po lagi ang nagsasara ng Senado (He's the one who always closes the Senate)," Zubiri said. Gatchalian was elected through acclamation.

- [Pagasa monitors new LPA outside PAR](#) (2026-06-16 21:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The national weather bureau said on Wednesday that it is closely monitoring the movement of a low pressure area (LPA) outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) which has a medium chance of intensifying into a tropical depression. Estimated to be some 3,060 kilometers east of northeastern Mindanao, the weather disturbance may enter PAR but it would not directly affect the weather conditions in the country, weather specialist Chenel Dominguez said. Another scenario, it may curve away from PAR but there would be a possibility that this would enhance the southwest monsoon locally known as 'habagat,' according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical

Services Administration (Pagasa). In the meantime, Pagasa said the easterlies – winds that pass through the Pacific Ocean and carry humid and warm weather – has been affecting Eastern Visayas, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, and Davao Oriental. While partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms would likely occur, flash floods or landslides would also be possible in these areas especially during severe thunderstorms, she warned. Meanwhile, Metro Manila and the rest of the country would likely experience the same weather pattern but due to the effect of the localized thunderstorms, the state-run weather agency said.

- [Ex-Ateneo players share experiences with Baldwin](#) (2026-06-16 17:59)

TEN former Blue Eagles arrived at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) headquarters at Camp Crame Tuesday to give statements on their training with embattled Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) basketball coach Tab Baldwin. Only three former Blue Eagles were invited by the CIDG but seven more came, most of them now playing in the professional league. Among them were Anton Asistio (Rain or Shine Elasto Painters), Mike Nieto (TNT Tropang Giga), Geo Chiu (TerraFirma Dyip), Kyle Ong, Tyler Tio (TerraFirma Dyip), Lars Fjellvang (San Beda Red Lions), Kymandi Ladi (Caloocan Batang Kankaloo), Dom Escobar (Caloocan Batang Kankaloo) and two unnamed others. Authorities were taking their statements as of press time. Baldwin resigned as coach of the Ateneo Blue Eagles following the drowning of Rene Clert Baterbonia and Divine Adili during a training activity in Dipaculao, Aurora on Monday. Meanwhile, Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino said Baldwin's resignation will not stop the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) from investigating his compliance with Alien Employment Permit (AEP) requirements. Tolentino stressed that the inquiry centers on circumstances that existed before Baldwin stepped down, particularly the employer-employee relationship in effect at the time of the incident under review. "We're looking at an incident that transpired June 8th. We're not looking at the prospective itself, of the resignation," Tolentino said in an interview, noting the inquiry is focused on determining whether labor and employment regulations were properly observed while Baldwin was still serving as Ateneo's head coach. "The employee-employer relationship, which existed during the incident, would have to be scrutinized," he added. This comes a day after Baldwin, through legal counsel, attended the initial hearing conducted by DOLE following the subpoena issued on June 11. Baldwin did not personally appear at the proceeding, with his lawyer citing health concerns and mental stress as reasons for his absence. During the initial hearing, Baldwin's legal team presented his Alien Certificate of Registration (ACR), which establishes his status as a legal resident of the Philippines. DOLE acknowledged the explanation and granted Baldwin time to submit a verified answer and supporting documents. Baldwin has until June 25 to file his formal response to the allegations. "After June 25, we will hold a formal hearing on June 29. We are simply following the law. The parties are allowed two hearings, but if only one hearing is conducted, we have 30 days after the initial hearing to resolve the matter," Tolentino said. Clarifying the distinction between the two documents, he said an ACR authorizes a foreign national to reside in the Philippines, while an AEP is required for lawful employment in the

country. A formal hearing was scheduled on June 29, with Baldwin expected to attend. Tolentino warned of potential legal repercussions for noncompliance, including deportation or imprisonment ranging from three months to three years. He advised academic institutions to ensure that the work performed by their foreign employees strictly adheres to the scope of their contracts. In a related development, the remains of Adili will be moved from the AdMU campus to the Arlington Memorial Chapels in Quezon City on Wednesday. “As part of the preparations for repatriation and in accordance with the wishes of the Adili family, the venue of the wake for Chukwuemeka Divine Adili, beloved Ateneo student and athlete, will be moved to Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, beginning June 17, 2026,” Ateneo said in a social media post on Tuesday. It said Adili’s wake is open from noon to 8:00 p.m. every day, with daily masses celebrated for the player every day at 5 p.m. Arlington also hosted the wake for Baterbonia. As of press time, the Nigerian player’s remains lie in repose at the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the Ateneo campus. “Divine Adili’s journey brought him far from home, but along the way he found teammates, classmates, coaches, and friends who came to know and love him,” the university said in a statement on June 12. “He made a lasting impact through the warmth of his presence, the friendships he formed, and the joy he brought to the communities he became part of. We remember Divine with affection and gratitude, and grieve with all those who loved him — in the Philippines, in Nigeria, and beyond,” it added.

IZEL ABANILLA, WILLIAM DEPASUPIL, ARIC JOHN SY CUA

- [Anti-ticket scalping measure pushed](#) (2026-06-16 17:58)

SEN. Mark Villar has renewed his call for the immediate passage of Senate Bill (SB) 1989, or the proposed Anti-Ticket Scalping Act. The legislation aims to protect consumers from exploitative ticket resale practices and ensure fair access to concerts, sporting events, and other public entertainment activities. Villar said ticket scalping has generated increasing complaints from consumers who are unable to purchase tickets at their original prices due to hoarding and unauthorized resale. He first introduced the bill during the 19th Congress as SB 8273. He refiled the measure in the 20th Congress as SB 1630. The proposal was later consolidated with similar bills and substituted under Committee Report 51 as SB 1989, which has already been sponsored on the Senate floor. “Many of our countrymen have experienced running out of tickets because they are being bought in large numbers and resold at very high prices. This is not right. This is an exploitative practice that puts consumers at risk and must be addressed through the law,” Villar said. Under the measure, ticket scalping would be prohibited, including the unauthorized resale or distribution of admission tickets at a price exceeding 10 percent of the ticket’s face value. The bill also targets practices that undermine the integrity of ticketing systems, such as the use of automated software or bots, fake accounts, false identities, and other deceptive methods employed to bypass ticket purchase limits. The legislation requires event organizers, ticketing companies, and other stakeholders to implement safeguards against ticket hoarding and fraudulent resale activities. These measures are intended to ensure that tickets remain accessible to genuine consumers rather than opportunistic resellers. To strengthen enforcement, SB 1989 imposes penalties on individuals found guilty of ticket scalping and

related offenses. Unauthorized ticket resale, fraudulent acquisition of tickets, and similar prohibited acts may be punishable by fines and imprisonment. The bill likewise provides sanctions against individuals who use bots and other automated technologies to manipulate ticket sales and evade ticketing controls.

- [QC wins award at Venice Climate Week](#) (2026-06-16 17:56)

QUEZON City Mayor Joy Belmonte on Tuesday said that the local government has been recognized as a global leader in climate adaptation and disaster resilience after winning the Frontline Protection Award during the Venice Climate Week in Italy. Belmonte said the recognition at the Planet Aqua City Awards, in collaboration with C40 Cities, was conferred on QC's IRISE UP (Intelligent, Resilient, and Integrated Systems for the Urban Population) project, a pioneering climate and disaster resilience platform that harnesses advanced technology, real-time monitoring systems, and artificial intelligence to help protect communities from climate-related hazards. It affirms the city's commitment to building a safer, more resilient, and climate-ready Quezon City, Belmonte said. "This award reflects the hard work of the city government and our partners in developing innovative solutions that place the safety and welfare of our people at the center of climate action," she added. "As climate risks continue to intensify, local governments must embrace science, technology, and community participation to strengthen resilience. We are proud that Quezon City's data-driven efforts are being recognized on the global stage," she added. Developed through the Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, the IRISE UP integrates a vast network of automated weather stations, flood sensors, and the institutionalized reporting system in the communities, the city government said. Local authorities, particularly at the barangay level, can easily implement targeted preparedness measures and preemptive evacuations before disasters occur through the platform that transforms meteorological and environmental data into localized, impact-based alerts across the city's 142 villages, it added. The Planet Aqua City Awards recognize cities that are driving innovative and replicable solutions for climate adaptation and water resilience. The Frontline Protection category honors initiatives that effectively safeguard vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change and disasters, according to the city's Public Affairs and Information Services Department (PAISD). It said the recognition underscores the city's continuing efforts to institutionalize data-driven governance, disaster preparedness, and climate adaptation programs that protect communities and ensure sustainable urban development.

- [Groups want Salex project halted](#) (2026-06-16 17:55)

CALLS to stop the Southern Access Link Expressway (Salex) project intensified after reported tree-cutting and earthballing activities along Roxas Boulevard were documented by a concerned citizen and gained public attention online. The Move As One Coalition and 33 other organizations raised alarm over the reported activities, questioning the continued work related to the project despite earlier public opposition following the removal of more than 200 trees along Quirino Avenue. The incident renewed concerns over the project's environmental

impact. The organizations warned that communities are already losing trees that provide shade and protection amid extreme heat conditions, even before the proposed expressway is fully constructed. “Salex is a scourge, not a solution. What it will bring to all of us is extreme harm, not progress,” the groups said on Monday. Among the concerns raised were the possible worsening of the urban heat island effect, air pollution and noise pollution, which they said could contribute to health risks among residents. The loss of trees could also affect flood mitigation efforts, as fewer trees would remain to absorb excess rainwater in urban areas, according to the groups. The statement also cited possible damage to more than 50 cultural and natural heritage sites in Manila, along with the risk of urban blight in communities surrounding large expressway projects. Move As One Coalition co-convener Robert Siy Jr. warned that urban expressways could negatively affect surrounding neighborhoods by contributing to economic decline, fewer livelihood opportunities and reduced land values. The groups further questioned the traffic benefits of Salex, citing induced demand where additional road capacity may eventually attract more vehicles and lead to congestion at exits and roads beneath the expressway. They said the project conflicts with the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, which promotes pedestrian and cyclist priority, active mobility infrastructure and the planting of shade trees in urban areas to strengthen climate resilience. The coalition also cited the 1987 Constitution provision requiring the state to protect and advance the people’s right to a balanced and healthy ecology. The groups called on Department of Environment and Natural Resources Acting Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna, Toll Regulatory Board Executive Director Jose Arturo Tugade and San Miguel Corp. President and CEO Ramon Ang to stop Salex. They said they oppose a project that they believe would place environmental and social costs on communities while primarily benefiting private vehicle users.

- [Muntinlupa starts distribution of free school packages](#) (2026-06-16 17:54)

MUNTINLUPA City has started distributing free Balik Eskwela Packages to public school students, with Mayor Ruffy Biazon monitoring the rollout at Bayanan Elementary School Unit 1 on Tuesday, June 16. Biazon said the distribution was conducted simultaneously in other schools, while schools not included in the first schedule will receive their packages in the following days. The mayor said the city government provided free school supplies because of taxpayers’ support. “Thank you to the taxpayers so we can provide free school supplies to public school students,” Biazon said. Biazon also monitored the distribution at the Alabang Elementary School, where he said the process went smoothly as students and parents showed excitement over receiving their packages. He reminded parents to ensure that children are not controlled by gadgets, warning that excessive use could distract them from their studies. “Parents, let’s make sure that our children are not controlled by gadgets. We must be the ones who control the gadgets, because kids can lose focus in studying and be diverted to gadgets,” Biazon said. Biazon assured the public that all students enrolled in Muntinlupa public schools will receive the free Balik Eskwela Packages as the distribution continues. The distribution will continue in the coming days based on the schedule prepared by the city government and schools.

- [Lacson: Cayetano, allies should have filed SC petition earlier](#) (2026-06-16 17:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Senate president Alan Peter Cayetano and his allies should have filed much earlier their petition to the Supreme Court to restore themselves to power, so the high tribunal would have enough time to study and rule on it, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Tuesday. The senator on Monday said the majority bloc led by Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian is prepared for dirty tricks that Cayetano may play at the special session of the Senate on Wednesday. Lacson said "disgraced ex-SP Cayetano should have done that earlier to give the Court sufficient time to study and rule on the issue now being raised before the Court." "Instead, he chose to file it at the last minute or a day before the special session called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.," Lacson said. The special session was intended to tackle pending priority measures and the Commission on Appointments to tackle the confirmation of Armed Forces of the Philippines officers and Department of Foreign Affairs officials, including a formal election of Senate President Pro Tempore and acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, he added. "Is he trying to dig deeper in his bag of dirty tricks to create a scene tomorrow by invoking that pending action by the Supreme Court on his petition, he may still exercise his authority as Senate President?" Lacson asked.

- [MANIBELA warns wider transport strike if fuel rollback fails](#) (2026-06-16 16:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Transport group MANIBELA warned of wider protest actions if the Department of Energy (DOE) and oil companies fail to implement a major fuel rollback following United States President Donald Trump announcement of peace deal between the US and Iran. MANIBELA Chairman Mar Valbuena told The Manila Times in an exclusive interview on Tuesday that the group is preparing larger protests after calling on oil firms to bring back previous fuel prices, saying the easing of Middle East war removes the reason for continued high pump prices. Valbuena said MANIBELA will announce its next action if no significant rollback is implemented next week despite the peace deal announcement. "We are planning large-scale protests. Because of the announcement of the peace deal and there is still no bigger rollback next week, we will make an announcement." He said oil companies had benefited for months from fuel price increases linked to the Middle East situation despite the Philippines not being directly involved in the conflict. "Because of the US-Iran peace deal, oil companies should return the previous prices of petroleum products and there has been no war for a long time. For months, oil companies have benefited from taking advantage of the situation in the Middle East where we were not directly attacked, but we are worse off than those hit by missiles because of the very high price of petroleum." Valbuena also questioned the continued use of the Strait of Hormuz situation as a reason for high fuel prices, saying the Philippines does not directly source oil from the Middle East. "For the DOE, you have also been neglectful for a long time. Maybe now that you no longer have the excuse of Hormuz-Hormuz, we can return to the previous prices, unless you are also benefiting from this."

- [Non-resident Filipinos source of 'soft power'](#) (2026-06-16 16:32)

NONRESIDENT Filipinos (NRFs) have emerged as a vital source of the country's "soft power" and international influence, Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) Secretary Dante Ang II said Tuesday. Ang pointed this out during the 2026 Filipino Diaspora Summit attended by about 350 NRFs from almost 30 countries. He said the six million NRFs worldwide put the Philippines "in the radar of foreign governments." "Their professional achievements, community leadership, and success stories have turned them into unofficial ambassadors of the country, exemplifying the Filipino brand of excellence," Ang said. Ang said the CFO was set to launch a program where the agency would partner with NRFs more directly. "We have been holding public consultations on the feasibility of designating honorary diaspora representatives or HDRs who will serve as nondiplomatic community-based entities, dedicated to the cause of the diaspora engagement for the Philippine national development," he said. "To our NRFs, thank you for continuing to carry the Filipino spirit wherever life may take your achievements," Ang told the summit participants. "Your success has shifted global spotlight on our country and your partnerships ensures our nation's story remains one of collective growth and enduring unity," he said. There are 10.8 million Filipinos overseas, about 60 percent of whom are NRFs. NRFs include citizens, permanent residents, marriage migrants, professionals, entrepreneurs, artists, scientists, educators, innovators, public servants, and community leaders across the globe. "For many years conversations about Filipinos abroad often centered on remittances. However, we recognize that our NRFs are more than just economic actors," Ang said. The CFO chairman said the NRFs "are also active partners in national development bringing invaluable experience innovation and global innovation to our shores." "They share knowledge, create global networks and build businesses, preserve and promote Filipino heritage, and influence, international conversations serving as ambassadors of the Filipino spirit around the world," he added. Ang said the CFO is not just an agency that prepares Filipinos for departure. "This agency also fosters lasting partnership with NRFs through diaspora engagement for national development, addressing the pressing needs of our people and helping realize our collective aspirations for a better future." Diaspora summit About 350 nonresident Filipinos, government officials, private sector leaders, and civil society organizations from almost 30 countries converged Tuesday for the 2026 Filipino Diaspora Summit at the Manila Marriott Hotel in Pasay City. The CFO led the historic gathering with the theme: "Transformation Through Diaspora Engagement: Harnessing Filipino Global Power in Advancing the Philippines' Cultural, Economic, and Political Goals." Ang said the summit recognizes the over 6 million nonresident Filipinos worldwide as "strategic partners" in Philippine national development and strengthen sustained engagement toward shared development goals. Unlike other migrant-serving government agencies, the CFO's constituency comprises Filipino permanent residents abroad, naturalized foreign citizens, dual citizens, and marriage migrants whose sustained engagement represent enduring assets for Philippine development in cultural, economic, and political spheres. The summit provides a platform to harness that potential and translate diaspora commitment into concrete partnerships and transformative action. "Clearly Filipino migrants hold a strong, transformative power in advancing, the cultural economic and political goals of the Philippines," Ang said in his opening remarks. "Before my appointment to the CFO, our anniversary celebration was limited to this

commission's employees partners and friends. Last year, we held the CFO 45th anniversary for a milestone celebration, dedicating the event to a day of dialogue, inspiration and festivities with representatives from the academia and civil society," he said. "To improve on this initiative, this year celebration, we invited the stakeholders in the migration conversation, the NRF. This is a new term that we're trying out for nonresident Filipinos," Ang said. He said the CFO adopted the global summit concept and built on the work of the previous administrations. "We channel the ties forged over the decades into new partnerships and connections among Filipinos across the globe that connection is made not only by blood but by a shared history, common values and the collective aspiration to see our nation flourish on the global stage," Ang said. The CFO is distinct from the Department of Migrant Workers which primarily addresses the needs of overseas Filipino workers and other temporary migrants. Established under Batas Pambansa 79, the CFO is dedicated to the welfare and empowerment of expatriates or NRFs.

- [Gatchalian urges all senators to attend special session](#) (2026-06-16 16:27)

ACTING Senate President and Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin Gatchalian on Tuesday called on all senators to attend the special session scheduled for June 17, emphasizing the need to pass pending measures and confirm the appointments of five military generals whose confirmations have been delayed. Gatchalian said the one-day special session, convened by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., presents a crucial opportunity for the Senate to complete unfinished legislative work before adjournment. "For me, it is important that we approve all of these bills and not waste this special session because this is our opportunity to finish everything that has been pending, which is why our senators need to attend," Gatchalian said in an interview on Tuesday. The acting Senate chief urged lawmakers from both the majority and minority blocs to set aside political differences and participate in the proceedings, emphasizing the significance of the measures on the agenda. "I issued a statement encouraging all senators to attend, regardless of whether they are part of the majority or minority. These are very important matters, especially concerning the Commission on Appointments, as we have already surpassed the time allotted for these agenda items," he said. Among the key items for consideration is the confirmation of five senior military officers whose appointments remain pending before the CA. Gatchalian warned that further delays could affect the officials' ability to fully carry out their responsibilities and could have implications for military leadership and operations. He expressed optimism that the special session would proceed smoothly, citing coordination between Senate and House leaders to ensure sufficient attendance and quorum for both the legislative session and the CA meeting. "Even in the CA, we have members from the House; I spoke with the speaker over the last few days, and they are committed to coming, so they will arrive at the CA in full force," Gatchalian said. Under the schedule outlined by Gatchalian, the Senate will convene at 9 a.m. before suspending the session at 11 a.m. to allow the Commission on Appointments to meet. The Senate is expected to resume deliberations in the afternoon and conclude its business before final adjournment between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.

- [DOST chief warns public: Prepare for 'The Big One'](#) (2026-06-16 16:25)

SCIENCE and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. urged the public to be vigilant for the long-anticipated “Big One,” warning that it could have far more severe consequences than the recent magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Mindanao on June 8. In a statement Tuesday, Solidum clarified that the expected earthquake from the West Valley fault in Manila is projected to have a magnitude of 7.2, lower than the temblor in Southern Mindanao. He noted, however, that the epicenter of the earthquake in Mindanao was offshore; hence, only a few areas experienced strong shaking. “But if that had happened on land, more buildings would have collapsed or been destroyed, making it far more dangerous. Metro Manila is heavily populated compared to the Soccsargen area, and that is where we would see the severity of the impact,” he said. This, he noted, could claim the lives of over 30,000 in Metro Manila and about 20,000 in nearby provinces. To reduce the devastation, Solidum said it is important for the public to ensure that houses being built comply with the building code and that existing infrastructure is inspected and evaluated to determine whether they need retrofitting. “If it is determined that it won't collapse and actually complies with the building code, the most dangerous elements then are the parts or fixtures of the building, or furniture, that could topple over or shatter and cause injury or death,” he said. Solidum emphasized the importance of “duck” or “drop, cover, and hold” as well as taking shelter in a safe place. “The very first thing you need to secure is your body and your head to prevent them from being hit by falling debris,” he said. Solidum added that the Manila Trench could be a potential source of the earthquake, instead of the West Valley Fault, which could create a more devastating scenario than the one that struck Sarangani. The Sarangani earthquake has a depth of 33 kilometers and is along the Cotabato Trench. The June 8 earthquake recorded a total of 6,233 aftershocks as of 3 p.m. on June 15, with magnitudes ranging from 1.2 to 6.4; 1,496 were plotted, and 78 were felt.

- [How resilient is your building?](#) (2026-06-16 16:20)

First of three parts WHICH structure will remain standing after an extreme earthquake, and which will collapse into the dust? How can a property owner ensure that his high-rise condominium or three-story apartment will remain safe and resilient before and after an earthquake? What are the tell-tale signs that will reveal the strength or weakness of a building? These are some of the questions that many property owners and the general public have been asking since the recent 7.8 intensity earthquake that rocked Sarangani province in southern Mindanao on June 8, 2026, killing 68 people and damaging more than 30,000 houses and 1,200 school buildings. The Manila Times interviewed architects and structural engineers to address these quake-related concerns. First, diagonal cracks on the wall or on the beams and other sudden construction deformities can indicate structural weakness. Second, a building's longevity, especially if it has withstood several quakes over several years, can give an owner confidence as to their property's resilience. However, ultimately, a property's strength and resistance to an earthquake can not be determined by visual inspection. Professionals have to be called in to accurately assess the extent of damage that a building can withstand in the event of an earthquake with intensity five and above. Architect Jun Palafox, head of Palafox Associates, argues against complacency, especially based on mere history. “Building owners told me that

their buildings have survived a few earthquakes. I said I'd be concerned. If you take a paper clip and bend it once, it will not break. But if you bend it several times, it will break. The same goes for our steel bars and reinforcements." Ruel Ramirez, principal of structural engineering consulting firm RBRA, said that when it comes to assessing a property's potential damage following an intensity-5 earthquake and above, you cannot depend on guesswork. Running the necessary structural tests is especially incumbent upon owners of high-rise buildings who should have them conducted immediately after an earthquake. Jose Miranda, chairman of the Committee on Resilient Architects, said post-damage assessment should not be delayed, especially in high-rise buildings, not only to assess whether they are still habitable, but also to determine mitigation measures if immediate dangers are present. "Certain measures will have to be done not only to protect the occupants but also the nearby properties and the public as well," Miranda said. Moving fault lines In the aftermath of an intensity 5 earthquake, building owners should check their properties for irregular deformities, Miranda said. "Inspect concrete columns and beams, especially the base of ground-floor columns. Cracks in the middle of beams and near support can be critical. Get professional help — a civil engineer or architect — who can recommend further measures to undertake," he said. Aside from earthquakes, skyscrapers can also be vulnerable to strong winds that can topple them if they are not well-designed and engineered, says Anthony Pimentel, structural engineer and president of Pimentel & Associates Engineering Consultants. To be continued

- [Cayetano bloc asks SC to stop majority](#) (2026-06-16 16:14)

(UPDATE) NINE senators led by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano have asked the Supreme Court to nullify the recent leadership change in the Senate, arguing that the move was carried out without a constitutionally required quorum and poses a serious threat to the chamber's independence as a coequal branch of government. In an 87-page petition for certiorari and prohibition filed before the Court, the senators challenged the June 3 proceedings that led to Cayetano's removal as Senate president and the installation of a new Senate leadership, claiming the actions were unconstitutional and invalid. The petition was filed by Sens. Alan Peter Cayetano, Loren Legarda, Pia Cayetano, Jinggoy Estrada, Bong Go, Rodante Marcoleta, Imee Marcos, Robin Padilla, and Camille Villar, together with private citizen and lawyer Jose Luis Montales, who was ousted as Senate secretary. It was not clear why Sens. Joel Villanueva and Mark Villar, who belonged to the Cayetano-led bloc, did not join the petition. Named respondents were Sens. Bam Aquino, JV Ejercito, Francis Escudero, Sherwin Gatchalian, Risa Hontiveros, Panfilo Lacson, Lito Lapid, Francis Pangilinan, Vicente Sotto III, Erwin Tulfo, Raffy Tulfo, and Juan Miguel Zubiri, along with Senate Secretary Renato Bantug Jr. and Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Alfredo Corpus. The petitioners asked the Supreme Court to exercise its expanded power of judicial review under Article VIII of the Constitution and issue a status quo ante order restoring conditions before the disputed Senate proceedings on June 3 while the case is being resolved. At the center of the legal challenge is the claim that the Senate session during which the leadership transition occurred lacked a legal quorum, rendering all actions taken during the proceedings void. "The Senate cannot effectively scrutinize executive actions,

audit public expenditures, or guard civil liberties if its leadership serves at the pleasure, or under the shadow, of the executive," the petition stated. But Lacson said Cayetano and his allies should have filed their petition to the Supreme Court much earlier so it would have enough time to study and rule on it. "Disgraced ex-SP Cayetano should have done that earlier to give the Court sufficient time to study and rule on the issue now being raised before the Court. Instead, he chose to file it at the last minute or a day before the special session," Lacson said. "Is he trying to dig deeper in his bag of dirty tricks to create a scene tomorrow by invoking that pending action by the Supreme Court on his petition, [so that] he may still exercise his authority as Senate President?" Lacson said.

Constitutional question The petitioners said the dispute transcends internal Senate politics and raises fundamental constitutional questions involving legislative independence, separation of powers, and the system of checks and balances. The petitioners warned that allowing what they described as an "un-quorumed Senate minority" to reorganize the leadership of a coequal branch of government would undermine the Senate's institutional integrity and weaken its ability to serve as a check on executive power. They also argued that the controversy is not shielded from judicial review by the political question doctrine, citing Supreme Court rulings that empower the judiciary to determine whether any branch or instrumentality of government committed a grave abuse of discretion. Among the cases cited was the landmark 2003 ruling in *Francisco v. House of Representatives*, which affirmed the Court's authority to review actions of government branches when constitutional limits are allegedly breached. The petition invoked lessons from the martial law era, asserting that the judiciary has a constitutional duty to intervene when allegations of abuse of power arise. In a statement issued Tuesday, Cayetano defended the petition, rejecting suggestions that the case was motivated by a struggle for leadership positions. "Truth is truth is truth. Numbers change. The Constitution does not," Cayetano said. He said the petition seeks constitutional clarification on issues that could affect the Senate's independence and its ability to perform oversight functions, including ongoing investigations into alleged irregularities in government flood control spending. "As the petition explains, this is not about a Senate leadership issue," Cayetano said. "Leadership positions are temporary stewardship. Leaders holding high government positions come and go. Political alliances change. Majorities rise and fall." The senator argued that constitutional rules must remain paramount regardless of changing political alliances, warning that setting aside constitutional requirements for political expediency could weaken future legislative investigations and oversight efforts. "The issue before the Supreme Court is therefore not merely legal. It is institutional," he said. "If constitutional rules can be disregarded whenever they become inconvenient, then every future investigation, every future oversight function, and every future effort to hold power accountable becomes vulnerable to the same treatment." "The Supreme Court exists precisely for moments like this," Cayetano said. "Its role is not to choose sides in a political dispute but to determine whether the Constitution was followed."

Dizzying rush The petitioners said Gatchalian called the session to order on the morning of June 3 with only 12 of the 24 senators physically present. The roll call showed no exclusions. Without explanation, Gatchalian declared a quorum, relying on the 1949 Supreme Court ruling in *Avelino v. Cuenco*, a decision the petitioners say has been gravely misinterpreted. What followed, they argued, was a dizzying rush: a motion to declare all

elective Senate positions vacant was approved “within seconds,” new officers were elected, committee chairmanships were redistributed, and the Senate was adjourned sine die — all in just 14 minutes. “The rump session took all of 14 minutes from gavel to gavel,” the petition said. “Respondent senators did not take up the supposed legislative measures they themselves cited as the reason for convening a session.” At the heart of the legal battle is the meaning of “a majority of each House” under Section 16(2), Article VI of the Constitution. With 24 senators, a majority is 13 — one more than half. Twelve, the petitioners said, is not a majority. They said in Avelino, the Court recognized a quorum only after the Cuenco group had exhausted compulsory processes to compel attendance of absent senators, and only because some members were physically outside the Philippines and beyond the Senate’s coercive power. Here, none of those circumstances exist: no senator was abroad, no arrest orders were issued, and no effort was made to compel attendance before proceeding to legislative business. The petitioners also invoked the Senate’s own precedent on May 5, 2015, when a quorum of 12 was declared only after excluding four senators who were out of the country and three who were under detention, leaving 17 “available” senators — making 12 a majority. That precedent, they said, cannot justify the June 3 session, where no such exclusions were made or documented. The petition painted a wider picture of executive meddling. It pointed to the presence of Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla at the Senate on June 4, where he was seen on video blocking Sens. Pia Cayetano and Padilla from entering a committee hearing — acts the petitioners say constitute crimes against popular representation under Articles 143 and 145 of the Revised Penal Code. Impeachment trial The petitioners warned that the leadership dispute directly imperils the pending impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. The Senate, when sitting as an impeachment court, is presided over by the Senate president, and its proceedings are administered by the secretary. If the authority of those officers is in doubt, every order, subpoena, and ruling issued in the trial could be rendered void. “A senator usurping the office of the Senate president and thus of the presiding officer calling the impeachment court may mean that the impeachment court was not validly constituted and its proceedings void,” the petitioners said. “Respondent senators are not even hiding the fact that their power play is animated towards managing in a certain way the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte,” they said.

- [Pag-IBIG members can obtain emergency loans](#) (2026-06-16 16:13)

QUALIFIED Pag-IBIG Fund members can now borrow up to P10,000 as cash aid through the Special Assistance for Financial Emergencies or SAFE Loan amid the continuing effects of the Middle East war, its top officials said on Tuesday. Pag-IBIG Fund CEO Marilene Acosta said the SAFE Loan would allow qualified members to get quick and affordable cash assistance for urgent needs, giving them a safe alternative to high-interest loans. Acosta said in a statement that the SAFE Loan was made simple and easy to access for members who can apply with greater convenience and receive their loans quickly once approved. “They may apply through Virtual Pag-IBIG or at any Pag-IBIG Fund branch, and the loan proceeds may be credited directly to their Pag-IBIG Loyalty Card Plus,” she said. “Its low interest rate, flexible payment terms,

and three-month grace period before the first payment make it a more affordable option than many other cash loan options available elsewhere,” she added. Monthly payments for the amount of P10,000 would be as low as P308, giving members a manageable way to address urgent needs without resorting to high-interest loans. “Pag-IBIG Fund is built on the savings and trust of its members. When members borrow responsibly and pay on time, they help keep our programs available so we can continue providing affordable assistance to more Filipino workers and their families,” the Pag-IBIG chief executive said. Housing Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling said the government continues to help Filipino families manage the effects of developments abroad and the SAFE Loan is another way for Pag-IBIG Fund to provide practical assistance to its members. Aliling, who also chairs Pag-IBIG’s board of trustees, said the assistance forms part of its continuing support for Filipino workers and their families in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s directive to extend help to Filipinos during times of need. The SAFE Loan also forms part of Pag-IBIG Fund’s broader response to the effects of the situation in the Middle East, following the special benefits package earlier extended to repatriated overseas Filipino workers (OFW) members, Aliling said. “Now, we are also providing added support to qualified members here at home who may feel the effects through their daily expenses. Pag-IBIG Fund is here to provide help that is practical, affordable and within reach,” according to the DHSUD chief. Acosta said that under the SAFE Loan, qualified members, who can file their applications until Sept. 8, 2026, may borrow up to P10,000 or up to 90 percent of their total Pag-IBIG Regular Savings, whichever is lower. The loan carries an interest rate of 5.95 percent per annum and may be paid over one, two or three years, depending on the member’s preferred repayment term, Pag-IBIG said.

- [Ombudsman suspends Estrada](#) (2026-06-16 16:11)

THE Sandiganbayan Second Division ordered the preventive suspension of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada for 90 days pending litigation of the graft case filed against him. “Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, this Court hereby orders the suspension pendente lite of accused Senator Jose ‘Jinggoy’ P. Ejercito Estrada from his present position as Senator of the Republic of the Philippines, and from any other public office which he may now or hereafter be holding for a period of ninety (90) days from receipt of this Resolution, which shall take effect upon the finality of this Resolution,” read the court’s resolution dated June 16. The preventive suspension order was in connection with the case that the Office of the Ombudsman filed against Estrada and former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) secretary Manuel Bonoan in May. The Ombudsman has also filed a graft case against former DPWH-National Capital Region officials Denryl Caesar Cortuna, Manny Bulusan and Arturo Gonzales Jr. The Ombudsman charged the five with plunder. Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano said the cases stemmed from “an intricate mechanism involving illegal budgetary insertions and project allocations within the DPWH infrastructure portfolio for Fiscal Year 2025.” Clavano said case records pointed to “an accumulated sum of illicit payouts” totaling P573 million “which were systematically delivered to” Estrada. “I am determined to face this case and prove that the accusations against me are not true,” Estrada said in Filipino. Bonoan denied the

charges. Estrada said on Tuesday he will avail himself of all legal remedies under the law. “Even prior to the issuance of the Sandiganbayan’s Order today, I have already taken clear and deliberate steps to demonstrate that I will not, and will never, use the powers and privileges of my office to shield myself from the allegations being hurled against me,” Estrada said in a statement. He cited his decision not to be placed under Senate custody and voluntarily surrendered to authorities. He instructed the Senate secretary to temporarily suspend his salary. “I did not think twice about these steps because it’s clear to me that personal interests have no place in the midst of the process that aims to determine the truth,” Estrada said in Filipino. “I don’t want to cast any doubt on my desire to respect the process and prove myself at the proper forum,” he added.

- [Marcos welcomes German President Steinmeier in Malacañang](#) (2026-06-16 16:08)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday hosted in Malacañang German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier who is in the country for a three-day state visit. Steinmeier, accompanied by First Lady Elke Büdenbender and the rest of his delegation, arrived in Manila late Monday night. It is the first time that a sitting German leader has set foot in the country since 1963. “The President’s visit is a clear indication of Germany’s commitment to sustain the momentum of high-level exchanges between our countries, following my productive visit to Berlin to meet with then-Chancellor Olaf Scholz in March 2024, the same year that the Philippines and Germany celebrated 70 years of diplomatic relations,” Marcos said. “Our relations with Germany are important not just because our portfolio of cooperation spans a wide array of sectors, but because these partnerships and projects have proven to be successful and beneficial to our national development efforts,” he added. The chief executive likewise noted that Germany remains a strong partner of the Philippines in terms of trade and investment, being the country’s biggest trading and investment partner in the European Union (EU) with total bilateral trade at about \$5.5 billion and net foreign direct investments amounting to \$10.26 billion in 2025. As of September 2025, there are at least 40 German-affiliated companies registered in the Philippines. Leading firms include Lufthansa Technik, Bayer, Merck, Boehringer Ingelheim, and Linde. Germany is the ninth-largest source of official development assistance (ODA) to the Philippines. As of September 2025, Germany had provided \$46.95 million in assistance, accounting for 2.41 percent of the country’s total grants portfolio of amounting to \$1.949 billion. Marcos likewise underscored Germany’s support to the Philippines in terms of defense and security and maritime cooperation. “The Philippines looks forward to continuing to enhance our partnership with Germany in the years ahead,” he added. Steinmeier, in response, said both countries “are very close” even though “geography is sometimes a hurdle”. This, the German leader said, is possible because of the thousands of Filipinos who reside and work there. Most of them work as engineers, scientists, nurses, and in the service sector. “Our cooperation is not only marked by international and regional developments. Our peoples too continue to grow together,” Steinmeier said. “The great and continuously growing number of Philippine skilled workers in Germany plays an important part in that regard. We welcome them with open arms and are very grateful for the important job

they are doing thousands of kilometres away from their home country. And we see great potential in expanding that cooperation,” he added.

- [Marcos orders faster release of aid for quake victims](#) (2026-06-16 16:05)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered the immediate release of emergency aid and recovery funds for families affected by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Mindanao last week, Malacañang said Tuesday. Marcos issued the directive a day after he returned to quake-affected areas in Sarangani Province and General Santos City to check on displaced families and oversee the delivery of government assistance. Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said that the president’s priority was to save lives, provide immediate relief, restore essential services and infrastructure, and help affected communities bounce back stronger. “The full machinery of government is mobilized. As per the President’s directive, we have immediately sent assistance to the affected families and we will continue to expedite the release of additional aid to help them recover as soon as possible,” Recto said in a statement. Recto also welcomed a Senate resolution calling for adequate funding and resources for earthquake-hit communities. He assured the public that substantial government resources have been rapidly mobilized. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund has an allocation of P34.23 billion that may be tapped for relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction, repair, recovery and other disaster-related interventions. This included the Quick Response Fund lodged in the allotments of implementing agencies, which has an available allocation of P11.95 billion for rapid deployment. The government has already started releasing financial assistance to local government units (LGUs) affected by the earthquake. As of June 15, a total of P362 million had been released, including P100 million for General Santos City, P140 million for Sarangani and P122 million for South Cotabato through the Local Government Support Fund. The Office of the President also released P278 million in financial assistance under the Socio-Civic Projects Fund to 19 LGUs across Mindanao, particularly in the provinces of Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, Davao Occidental and South Cotabato, as well as General Santos City. The assistance package included cash aid, burial assistance worth P50,000 for the families of earthquake fatalities, livelihood support, food assistance, medicines, medical supplies and other essential nonfood items for nearly 90,000 affected families. Meanwhile, the Department of Social Welfare and Development has intensified its relief operations and has so far distributed 125,242 family food packs, 6,990 nonfood items and 7,428 ready-to-eat food boxes. This was on top of almost P37 million in financial assistance released under the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations program for injured individuals, bereaved families and other earthquake victims. The Department of Health (DOH) likewise distributed hygiene kits, vitamins, and emergency medicines. The Philippine Emergency Medical Assistance Team of DOH-Cotabato Regional Medical Center is on the ground to provide medical support. Workers who lost their livelihood may qualify under the Department of Labor and Employment’s Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers program, which provides temporary employment and emergency income support. The Government Service Insurance System has allocated P15.1 billion for emergency loans covering about 608,000 members and pensioners in affected areas. Eligible beneficiaries may avail

themselves of emergency loans of up to P40,000 and P20,000. The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development will also provide P30,000 in cash assistance to families whose houses were totally destroyed by the earthquake. It also directed the Pag-IBIG Fund, the National Housing Authority, the Social Housing Finance Corporation, and National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation to grant a moratorium on housing loan amortizations for qualified affected beneficiaries. The Department of Public Works and Highways prioritized structural assessments of hospitals, public schools, health facilities, roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure, while the Department of Energy (DOE) is working to fully restore electricity in affected areas as quickly as possible. To support emergency response operations, the Department of Information and Communications Technology, in coordination with the Office of Civil Defense, has deployed 73 emergency telecommunications resources in critical areas.

- [DOLE job fairs deliver instant employment to 4,000 Filipinos](#) (2026-06-16 16:03)

THE Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) recorded a historic 4,476 hired-on-the-spot (HOTS) applicants during its nationwide “Trabaho Agad” Job Fairs held on Independence Day. In a nationwide video message, Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino hailed the June 12 job fairs as a “massive success” after thousands of Filipinos secured jobs. Data from the DOLE Bureau of Local Employment showed that 4,476 applicants were hired on the spot this year, the highest figure in the past five years. It surpassed the 3,665 hired-on-the-spot applicants in 2022, 3,422 in 2023, 3,651 in 2024, and 3,722 in 2025. Held in 61 locations, the job fairs directly linked employers with jobseekers, enabling qualified applicants to receive immediate job offers and quickly enter the workforce. Those hired on the spot filled a wide range of positions, including production operators, service crew members, cashiers, sales associates, baggers, teachers, packagers, customer service representatives, clerks, and store clerks. The job fairs also promoted inclusive employment by opening opportunities for senior high school graduates, Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries, Indigenous peoples, repatriated overseas Filipino workers, and persons with disabilities. Tolentino described the record hiring turnout as proof of the department’s success in connecting Filipinos with decent and productive jobs. He credited the close collaboration between DOLE regional offices and Public Employment Service Offices (PESOs) for the successful implementation of the initiative. He also thanked partner agencies, including the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Social Security System (SSS), PhilHealth, Pag-IBIG Fund, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of Information and Communications Technology, and Civil Service Commission, for helping transform the venues into one-stop public service hubs. Beyond job matching, the fairs provided one-stop-shop documentary processing services through participating agencies, such as the NBI, SSS, PhilHealth, and Pag-IBIG Fund, allowing applicants to complete employment requirements more efficiently. The fairs also provided career development and skills enhancement services. A total of 4,214 job seekers availed of career support programs, 1,462 joined skills training activities, 51 beneficiaries received livelihood assistance, 155 explored entrepreneurship opportunities, and 10,391 individuals accessed services from partner

government agencies.

- [Nearly half the world's children exposed to three or more climate risks — Unicef](#) (2026-06-16 16:03)

UNITED NATIONS — More than one billion children face at least three overlapping climate hazards, Unicef warned Monday (Tuesday in Manila), while highlighting the disproportionate impact in some regions of the world. For the report, the UN agency cross-referenced data showing where the roughly 2.4 billion children on the planet live with the geographic distribution of the eight most common climate impacts. They are coastal flooding, river flooding, drought, tropical storms, heat waves — at least three days above a high temperature threshold, which varies by country — extreme heat, wildfires and sandstorms. The report primarily focuses on the 1.1 billion children who are exposed to at least three risks, with the most common combination being drought, extreme heat (above 35 degrees Celsius) and heat waves. That combination affects some 296 million children, including 74 million in Nigeria, 34 million in Pakistan and 32 million in India. The number of children in this three-or-more category has increased sharply over the past 20 years. Almost all children — some 2.3 billion — are exposed to at least one risk. Two billion are exposed to at least two, while 364 million face at least four. Of the 123,000 children exposed to seven or more climate hazards, some 46,000 are in Myanmar. “Children are at the forefront of the impact of climate change,” said Unicef chief Catherine Russell. As for the worst place for a child, “there isn’t a super short answer,” one of the report authors, Tom Slaymaker, told Agence France-Presse (AFP). Hot spots “But they’re not all equal,” Slaymaker said. “We do see some hot spots... it’s really concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of South Asia.” Countries with large populations of children — including Bangladesh, India, Nigeria and Pakistan — are at the top of the list for the number of children exposed to at least three hazards. But in sheer percentage terms, countries in Sub-Saharan Africa — particularly the Sahel — have the largest proportion of children affected by hazards. The impacts are often exacerbated by governments inability to cope with climate hazards. Chad, for example, faces a humanitarian crisis with limited access to water, electricity and food. According to the report, more than 95 percent of kids in the country are exposed to at least three hazards — one of the highest proportions in the world. Other particularly vulnerable countries include 39 island states that face challenges such as limited freshwater, import dependence, and inability to easily shelter elsewhere after a disaster such as a hurricane. Nowhere to hide No country is truly spared, the report shows. “In many countries, there will be small pockets of the population which are not exposed to these hazards,” Slaymaker said. “They tend to be in the northern hemisphere, particularly so, parts of Scandinavia.” But that is because the report looks only at the eight most common risks worldwide, he stressed, noting that children in those countries may face other threats not covered in the report, such as melting glaciers or thawing permafrost. AFP

- [Lawmaker seeks probe of violation of Anti-Hospital Deposit law](#) (2026-06-16 16:02)

Bagong Henerasyon partylist Rep. Robert Nazal called for an investigation into an alleged violation of Republic Act 10932 or the Anti-Hospital Deposit Act that resulted in the death of a man who was seeking treatment for brain hematoma. In a statement on Tuesday, Nazal said that there is a need to determine if the provisions of RA 10932 were fully complied with in the case of Marvin Sulit. In a now-viral social media post, Maria Lourdes Sulit, wife of the deceased, said that her husband was brought to a hospital due to brain hematoma. She said that the estimated cost of the procedure was beyond their means, noting they were given an option to transfer to another hospital where the same treatment is available at a lower price. Lourdes said her husband died before he could be transferred to the second hospital; a deposit was required and they did not have the money. Nazal said that no Filipino family "should ever be placed in the position of having to choose between raising money and saving the life of a loved one, particularly where the law expressly guarantees the immediate provision of emergency medical treatment, regardless of financial capacity." He added that it is important to determine if the existing penalties, sanctions, and enforcement mechanisms under the law were sufficient to deter violations and promote full compliance among healthcare providers and institutions. Nazal said it is a must to ensure that PhilHealth's policies, RA 10932 and other related rules and regulations provide adequate protection to patients who incur substantial medical expenses or die shortly after admission due to emergency or life-threatening conditions. He said the purpose of the inquiry is to develop legislative, administrative, regulatory and policy reforms in the country's healthcare system; reinforce patient protection and enhance accountability among healthcare institutions; improve public awareness of patients' rights; and ensure that no Filipino is deprived of timely emergency medical treatment because of financial considerations. He underscored the need to address critical gaps in the policies of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation or PhilHealth, specifically in the Outpatient Emergency Care Benefit. Nazal said that these gaps leave members vulnerable to severe financial distress whenever they are faced with medical emergencies. "PhilHealth contributors just like Marvin Sulit end up falling through the cracks and left without the benefits they rightfully expect after years of paying contributions," Nazal said. "When a patient survives, the family should not be left carrying medical expenses because a case fell through the cracks. When a patient dies, the family should not be left grieving while fighting for benefits they believed would be available when they needed them most," he added. In an earlier statement, PhilHealth said that it has mobilized its team to address the case of Sulit. "We are likewise coordinating with the hospitals to understand the circumstances of the situation, as part of our sustained efforts to improve PhilHealth's responsiveness," it said. RED MENDOZA

- [‘ICC medical exam will not delay Duterte trial’](#) (2026-06-16 16:02)

A LAWYER representing victims in the crimes against humanity case against former president Rodrigo Duterte before the International Criminal Court (ICC) said the court's order for a new medical examination does not automatically mean the trial will be delayed. Gilbert Andres said the assessment is a standard procedure aimed at ensuring that an accused person is fit to stand trial and able to exercise legal rights. "This is part of fair trial rights, or the right of the accused

to a fair proceeding,” Andres said in an interview Tuesday. He said the ICC evaluates whether an accused understands the charges and proceedings, is aware of his rights, and can properly instruct legal counsel. He also noted that under ICC Rule 135, fitness-to-stand-trial determinations are subject to regular review. “Actually, if we look at the rules of procedure itself under Rule 135, the determination can really be done regularly. There is a review every 120 days. Just like in detention, there is also a review every 120 days. The same applies to fitness to stand trial,” he said. Andres said the periodic reviews are part of the ICC’s safeguards to ensure fairness and due process throughout the proceedings. The statement came after ICC Trial Chamber III ordered a fresh medical examination of Duterte on June 12 to determine whether he remains fit to stand trial. The chamber said the updated assessment is necessary to evaluate Duterte’s ability to understand the proceedings, follow the trial, instruct his lawyers, and exercise his fair trial rights. The court directed a three-member panel of experts in forensic psychiatry, neurology, and neuropsychology to conduct the examination and determine whether Duterte’s condition has changed since an earlier assessment conducted during the pre-trial stage. Duterte was surrendered to the ICC in March 2025 following the issuance of an arrest warrant linked to the court’s investigation into alleged crimes connected to his administration’s anti-drug campaign. Trial proceedings are scheduled to begin on Nov. 30, 2026. The ICC emphasized that while medical experts will provide recommendations, the final determination on Duterte’s fitness to stand trial rests with the chamber.

- [Ombudsman launches 2026 internship program](#) (2026-06-16 16:01)

FORTY law students will undergo a three-week training under the 2026 Legal Internship Program that the Office of the Ombudsman has launched. Themed “Strengthening Competence, Instilling Integrity, Upholding Accountability,” the program introduces its first batch of interns to the office’s work, according to a statement issued on Tuesday. “We ask only that you learn as much as you are able, and that you use your talents for the betterment of those not as privileged as yourselves,” said Assistant Ombudsman Maria Janina Hidalgo, chairman of the Legal Internship Program Committee and Selection Board. The Office of the Ombudsman said that Hidalgo “encouraged the interns to see the program not merely as a professional opportunity, but as an invitation to understand the human side of justice and accountability.” It said that the interns would “work closely with mentors and supervising lawyers in investigation, administrative adjudication, prosecution, public assistance and corruption prevention.” It added that they would immerse themselves in its core activities like case buildup and prosecution. “Through the Legal Internship Program, the Office of the Ombudsman seeks to help form young legal minds who understand that the practice of law is not only about knowledge of statutes and procedures,” it said. “The program allows law students to witness how accountability work is carried out with care, from listening to public concerns and gathering evidence, to upholding due process in the pursuit of justice,” it said.

- [Legarda: The Constitution cannot be bent by political convenience](#) (2026-06-16 15:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda on Tuesday said the petition filed before the Supreme Court by the Cayetano-led "old" majority bloc over the June 3 Senate takeover is not a fight over positions but a necessary constitutional stand. Legarda, who insisted that she is still the Senate president pro tempore and not Sen. Win Gatchalian, said no bloc, officer, or temporary number in the room can bend the Constitution to fit political convenience. The senator said the petition asked the Supreme Court to determine whether the actions taken during the June 3 Senate session takeover complied with the Constitution and the Rules of the Senate. "This is exactly why we went to the Court. We are not asking the Court to settle politics. We are asking the Court to interpret the Constitution. Even if political events move forward, the question remains: were the provisions and rules followed or not?" Legarda asked. "The issue is not about who sits in what office. It is about whether the Constitution still means what it says. If we leave this unresolved, the same problem can happen again, in another leadership dispute, another vote, or another constitutional crisis," she said. "Today, it is the Senate leadership. Tomorrow, it can be any constitutional vote. If we allow the numbers required by the Constitution to be adjusted whenever they become inconvenient, then what protection is left? What happens when the issue is martial law, impeachment conviction, or Charter change? This is bigger than one leadership dispute," Legarda said.

• [Teodoro' s role as Defense chief unaffected by China' s ban — Palace](#) (2026-06-16 14:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The ban imposed by China against Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. does not affect the discharge of his duties as chief of the Department of National Defense (DND), Malacañang insisted on Tuesday. Although the Palace defers the issue to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said the Philippine government has its own laws over its officials. "China has its own laws, they have their own policies. The Philippines is the same," Castro said in Filipino. "Secretary Guibo as defense secretary is only performing his duties, according to his mandate which is in accordance with the law, in accordance with the Constitution, and in accordance with the administration's policies," she added. China' s Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently announced the order barring Teodoro and members of his immediate family from entering mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau after he "repeatedly made erroneous remarks concerning China" . "Organizations and individuals in China" were likewise directed not to "engage in any transaction, cooperation or other activities with him and his spouse and child" . Teodoro, in response, said that while he wants the Philippines and China to have harmonious defense relations, he will not agree to the Chinese government' s aggressive and one-sided policies as he deems this treasonous.

• [Palace: It's only right for VP Sara to testify in her own impeachment](#) (2026-06-16 14:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday said it is only right for Vice President Sara Duterte to testify in her own impeachment trial in the Senate to defend herself. In a press briefing in Kazan, Russia, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said Duterte is in the best position to answer the allegations against her and explain her side of the issue. "It is only right that if she is

the one being accused in this kind of impeachment trial, she should be the one to speak and explain," Castro said. "She herself is the one who can give the proper response so she can explain and clear her name," she added. The House of Representatives, voting 257-25 with nine abstentions, impeached Duterte on May 11, 2026 over alleged misuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth, alleged bribery, and the "kill" remark against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. It then sent the impeachment articles to the Senate for trial. Duterte denied the allegations in the two impeachment complaints heard by the House Committee on Justice. This committee on April 29, 2026 found probable cause to impeach Duterte, sending the impeachment articles to the House plenary for action.

- [German president expresses condolences to Mindanao earthquake victims](#) (2026-06-16 13:49)

MANILA, Philippines — German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier expressed his condolences to the victims of the powerful earthquake that struck Mindanao recently. During his visit to Malacañang on Tuesday, Steinmeier said he and his countrymen were saddened by the images of the devastation caused by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that affected many areas of Southern Philippines. He extended his sympathies to the families who lost loved ones and to those whose livelihoods were affected by the disaster. "Many Germans, including me, were deeply saddened by the images of this severe earthquake in the south of your country," Steinmeier said following his meeting with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. "Our thoughts are with all those who lost relatives or their livelihoods in this natural disaster," he added. The German leader also noted that, like Germany, the Philippines shares a commitment to finding ways to mitigate the effects of climate change, which remains a priority for his government. Steinmeier, who is in Manila for a three-day state visit, assured that the partnership and friendship between the Philippines and Germany, as well as between their peoples, will continue and grow even stronger in the years ahead.

- [Duterte intends to present Madriaga, Trillanes as witnesses 'to disprove' allegations in impeachment articles](#) (2026-06-16 13:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte intends to present Ramil Madriaga and former senator Antonio Trillanes 4th as witnesses "to disprove the allegations in the" articles of impeachment. This was contained in a pre-trial brief filed on Monday by her defense team before the Senate sitting as impeachment court. Madriaga is her alleged former bagman. Duterte has denied giving him any instruction. The House of Representatives, voting 257-25 with nine abstentions, impeached Duterte on May 11, 2026 over alleged misuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth, alleged bribery, and the "kill" remark against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. It then sent the impeachment articles to the Senate for trial. Duterte denied the allegations in the two impeachment complaints heard by the House Committee on Justice. This committee on April 29, 2026 found probable cause to impeach Duterte, sending the impeachment articles to the House plenary for action.

- [Estrada to avail legal remedies following his preventive suspension by the Sandiganbayan](#) (2026-06-16 13:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Detained Sen. Jinggoy Estrada on Tuesday said he would "remain open" to availing himself of all legal remedies under the law following the suspension order imposed on him by the Sandiganbayan. The senator was detained in Quezon City to face plunder charges. He was not allowed to post bail. "Even prior to the issuance of the Sandiganbayan's Order today, I have already taken clear and deliberate steps to demonstrate that I will not, and will never, use the powers and privileges of my office to shield myself from the allegations being hurled against me," Estrada said in a statement. He cited his decision not to be placed under Senate custody and voluntarily surrendered to authorities. He also instructed the Senate secretary to temporarily suspend his salary. "I did not think twice about these steps because it's clear to me that personal interests have no place in the midst of the process that aims to determine the truth," Estrada said in Filipino. "Ayokong mabigyan ng anumang bahid ng pagdududa ang aking layunin na igalang ang proseso at patunayan ang aking sarili sa tamang forum (I don't want to cast any doubt on my desire to respect the process and prove myself at the proper forum)," he added.

- [Marcos off to Kazan for Asean-Russia meet](#) (2026-06-16 12:36)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is scheduled to leave for Kazan, Russia today to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean)- Russia Commemorative Summit, where he is expected to engage in high-level discussions on regional cooperation. The President Marcos will be accompanied by First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, Foreign Affairs Secretary Maria Theresa Lazaro and a small delegation from the Department of Trade and Industry. In a recorded statement, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said Marcos, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and other leaders from Southeast Asian nations are expected to discuss possible cooperation in climate change, health, counterterrorism and transnational crimes. Castro said the President's participation in the summit is also important in further deepening the tourism ties between the Philippines and Russia. As this year's Asean chairman, Marcos will co-head the Asean-Russia summit, which will be held on June 17 and 18. The President's schedule in Kazan includes the Asean-Russia plenary session, a working lunch, a business forum, a bilateral meeting with Putin, a gala dinner for leaders, and a joint press conference. The summit will also be the first in-person engagement between Asean and Russia at the leaders' level since a special virtual meeting during the Covid-19 pandemic. The summit is expected to adopt several key outcome documents, including the Kazan Declaration 2026, which will articulate the shared vision of Asean and Russia as they commemorate 35 years of partnership, as well as joint statements on energy and cultural cooperation. Leaders are expected to adopt the Asean-Russia Comprehensive Plan of Action 2026-2030, which will serve as the principal roadmap for advancing cooperation.

- [Comelec, security forces press ahead with preparations for Sept. 14 BARMM elections](#) (2026-06-16 12:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Elections (Comelec), together with government security forces and partner agencies, is continuing full-scale preparations for the first Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections scheduled on Sept. 14, 2026, despite pending legislative measures that could affect the polls. Speaking during a command conference for the upcoming elections, Comelec Chairman George Garcia said the poll body remains committed to ensuring the successful conduct of the Bangsamoro elections as scheduled. “As long as the Comelec is concerned, wala na pong makakapigil sa halalan sa Bangsamoro sa September 14. Tuloy na tuloy po ito (nothing can stop the Bangsamoro election. It’s a go),” Garcia said. He stressed that election preparations would continue while Congress deliberates on pending proposals related to the polls, noting that lawmakers have the final authority on such measures. “Although we are aware that there are pending legislative proposals, that is within the discretion of Congress. They have the final say,” he said. Garcia said the Comelec, security forces, and other government agencies would not suspend preparations while awaiting any legislative action. “Comelec, together with our security forces and other government agencies, continues to carry out our preparations,” he added. The Comelec chief said the conduct of command conferences reflects the government’s readiness not only for the Bangsamoro polls but also for the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections scheduled in November. The Sept. 14 elections will mark a major milestone in the political transition of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, where voters will elect members of the Bangsamoro Parliament under the region’s parliamentary system. Election and security officials have been holding coordination meetings, command conferences, and operational planning activities to strengthen electoral security, logistics, and inter-agency coordination across the region. Officials said preparations remain on track as election day approaches, with government agencies focused on ensuring an orderly, peaceful, and credible electoral exercise in the Bangsamoro region.

- [Debris from Chinese rocket expected in Palawan](#) (2026-06-16 12:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Space Agency identified drop zones where debris from a Chinese rocket launched at 5:45 p.m. is expected to fall. In a statement late Tuesday, the agency said the drop zones are approximately 102 NM away from Puerto Princesa, Palawan, 108 NM away from Quezon, Palawan, and 33 NM away from Rozul Reef. “Details of the rocket drop zone were disclosed through a Notice to Airmen warning of an ‘aerospace flight activity.’ PhilSA disseminated a pre-launch report to relevant government agencies and authorities prior to the launch,” the agency said.

- [PH, Germany ink deal on Clark aircraft maintenance facility](#) (2026-06-16 11:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines and Germany on Tuesday sealed an agreement for the building and development of an aircraft maintenance facility at the Clark International Airport in Pampanga. The ceremonial signing was witnessed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier following their meeting in Malacañang. Steinmeier is in the country for a three-day state visit. Signed by the Bases Conversion and Development

Authority, the Luzon International Premier Airport Development Corporation, and Lufthansa Technik Philippines (LTP), the lease agreement would cover a 157,000-square-meter site within the Clark airport complex. It will be used for the development of a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) support facility for aircraft. The initiative is a big push for Clark's goal of becoming a major aviation and aerospace hub in Southeast Asia and is expected to attract investors and open job opportunities for Filipinos. LTP said it was looking to invest around \$400 million in capital for the Clark MRO complex meant to service big-bodied aircrafts such as the Airbus A380. Germany is the biggest trading and investment partner of the Philippines among European Union (EU) countries with total bilateral trade at about \$5.5 billion and net foreign direct investments amounting to \$10.26 million in 2025.

- [Sara Duterte, husband firearms not listed in 2007-2025 SALNs](#) (2026-06-16 11:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte and husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, owned firearms that were not declared in her Statements of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALNs) from 2007 to 2025, impeachment prosecutor and Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon said in a media interview on Tuesday. He said those were a mix of high-powered and small firearms. He said in Filipino and English, "The Duterte-Carpio spouses have firearms registered with the PNP (Philippine National Police) firearms division which were not listed in her 2007 to 2025 SALNs." The lawmaker said it was the latest list issued this week.

- [Marcos orders faster release of aid, recovery funds for Mindanao quake victims](#) (2026-06-16 10:24)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered the immediate release of emergency aid and recovery funds for families affected by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Mindanao last week, Malacañang said Tuesday. Marcos issued the directive a day after he returned to quake-affected areas in Sarangani Province and General Santos City to check on displaced families and oversee the delivery of government assistance. In a statement, Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said that the President's priority was to save lives, provide immediate relief, restore essential services and infrastructure, and help affected communities bounce back stronger. "The full machinery of government is mobilized," he said. As per the President's directive, we have immediately sent assistance to the affected families and we will continue to expedite the release of additional aid to help them recover as soon as possible," Recto said. At present, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund has an available allocation of P34.23 billion that may be tapped for relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction, repair, recovery and other disaster-related interventions. This included the Quick Response Fund lodged in the allotments of implementing agencies, which has an available allocation of P11.95 billion for rapid deployment. The national government has started releasing financial assistance to local government units (LGUs) affected by the earthquake. As of June 15, a total of P362 million had been released, including P100 million for General Santos City, P140 million for Sarangani and P122 million for South Cotabato through the Local Government Support Fund. The Office of the President also released P278 million in financial assistance under the Socio-Civic Projects Fund

to 19 LGUs across Mindanao, particularly in the provinces of Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, Davao Occidental and South Cotabato, as well as General Santos City. The assistance package included cash aid, burial assistance worth P50,000 for the families of earthquake fatalities, livelihood support, food assistance, medicines, medical supplies and other essential non-food items for nearly 90,000 affected families.

- [Pag-IBIG offers SAFE Loan to members amid effects of Middle East war](#) (2026-06-16 09:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Qualified Pag-IBIG Fund members may now borrow up to P10,000 as cash aid through the Special Assistance for Financial Emergencies or SAFE Loan amid the continuing effects of the Middle East war, its top officials revealed on Tuesday. Pag-IBIG Fund CEO Marilene Acosta said the SAFE Loan would allow qualified members to get quick and affordable cash assistance for urgent needs, giving them a safe alternative to abusive or high-interest loans. Acosta said in a statement that the SAFE Loan was made simple and easy to access for members who can apply with greater convenience and receive their loans quickly once approved. “They may apply through Virtual Pag-IBIG or at any Pag-IBIG Fund branch, and the loan proceeds may be credited directly to their Pag-IBIG Loyalty Card Plus,” she said. “Its low interest rate, flexible payment terms, and three-month grace period before the first payment make it a more affordable option than many other cash loan options available elsewhere,” she added. Payable over three years, the top Pag-IBIG official said the monthly payment for the amount of P10,000 would be as low as P308, giving members a manageable way to address urgent needs without resorting to high-interest loans. In return, she said members could keep the agency’s programs strong and available to other members who may also need assistance if they would pay their loans on time. “Pag-IBIG Fund is built on the savings and trust of its members. When members borrow responsibly and pay on time, they help keep our programs available so we can continue providing affordable assistance to more Filipino workers and their families,” the Pag-IBIG chief executive said. Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling said the government continued to help Filipino families manage the effects of developments abroad and the SAFE Loan was another way for Pag-IBIG Fund to provide practical assistance to its members. Aliling, who also heads Pag-IBIG’s board of trustees, stressed that the assistance forms part of its continuing support for Filipino workers and their families in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s directive to extend help to Filipinos during times of need. “President Marcos has directed government agencies to bring timely and practical help closer to Filipino families, especially in times of need,” Aliling said. The housing czar reiterated that the SAFE Loan would give qualified members access to affordable cash assistance for urgent household needs, among others. The SAFE Loan also forms part of Pag-IBIG Fund’s broader response to the effects of the situation in the Middle East, following the special benefits package extended to repatriated overseas Filipino workers (OFW) members, Aliling said. “Now, we are also providing added support to qualified members here at home who may feel the effects through their daily expenses. Pag-IBIG Fund is here to provide help that is practical, affordable and within reach,” according to the DHSUD chief. Acosta said that under the SAFE Loan, qualified

members, who could file their applications until Sept. 8, 2026, may borrow up to P10,000 or up to 90 percent of their total Pag-IBIG Regular Savings, whichever is lower. The loan carries a low interest rate of 5.95 percent per annum and may be paid over one, two or three years, depending on the member's preferred repayment term, Pag-IBIG said. "The amount they may receive will depend on how much they can still borrow from their Pag-IBIG Regular Savings, so their total Pag-IBIG Short-Term Loans, including the SAFE Loan, remain within the allowed 90 percent limit," she said. Members with an existing Pag-IBIG Multi-Purpose Loan or Calamity Loan may still receive SAFE Loan assistance, she added.

- [Sandiganbayan orders Jinggoy Estrada's 90-day preventive suspension pending graft case](#) (2026-06-16 08:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan has ordered the preventive suspension of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada for 90 days pending litigation of the graft case filed against him. The suspension issued by the anti-graft court's second division starts from receipt of the court's resolution. Last May, the Office of the Ombudsman filed plunder and graft cases against Estrada and several others. Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano said the cases stemmed from "an intricate mechanism involving illegal budgetary insertions and project allocations within the DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) infrastructure portfolio for Fiscal Year 2025." Clavano said case records pointed to "an accumulated sum of illicit payouts" totaling P573 million, "which were systematically delivered to" Estrada. The senator has said in Filipino in a statement, "I am determined to face this case and prove that the accusations against me are not true."

- [Adili's remains to be moved to Arlington from Ateneo](#) (2026-06-16 08:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Ateneo de Manila University on Tuesday announced that the remains of Blue Eagle player Divine Adili would be moved from its campus to the Arlington Memorial Chapels in Quezon City on Wednesday. In a post on Tuesday, the university said it was in accordance with the family's wishes. "As part of the preparations for repatriation and in accordance with the wishes of the Adili family, the venue of the wake for Chukwuemeka Divine Adili, beloved Ateneo student and athlete, will be moved to Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, beginning June 17, 2026," Ateneo said. Adili's wake is open from 12 to 8 p.m. every day, with daily masses celebrated for the player every day at 5 p.m. Arlington also held the wake for Rene Baterbonia, who died alongside Adili in the Aurora training session last week, before his remains were flown to Davao City.

- [Cayetano bloc challenges Senate change in leadership before Supreme Court](#) (2026-06-16 07:59)

MANILA, Philippines--A faction of 10 senators led by ousted Senate president Alan Peter Cayetano has filed a petition before the Supreme Court seeking to nullify the June 3 leadership change in the Senate, labeling it a "rump session" conducted without the constitutionally required quorum. In an 87-page petition for certiorari and prohibition, the group argued that

the session where Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian was installed as Acting Senate President was invalid, as only 12 senators were physically present. The 1987 Constitution requires a majority of 13 senators to constitute a quorum and a majority vote of all 24 members to elect officers. In an 87-page petition for certiorari and prohibition, the group—composed of Cayetano, Sens. Loren Legarda, Pia Cayetano, Jinggoy Estrada, Christopher Lawrence Go, Rodante Marcoleta, Imee Marcos, Robinhood Padilla, and Camille Villar, along with Senate Secretary Jose Luis Montales—argued that the respondents—Sens. Gatchalian, Juan Miguel Zubiri, and others—committed "grave abuse of discretion" by declaring all elective Senate positions vacant and electing new officers with only 12 votes. Legality of the session debated The controversy stemmed from a two-day impasse where the Cayetano-led majority bloc did not hold sessions. On June 3, the minority bloc, joined by Sen. Francis Escudero, convened and declared a quorum based on 12 members, citing the Supreme Court's 1949 ruling in *Avelino v. Cuenco*. The Cayetano faction, however, contended that the *Avelino* ruling, decided under the 1935 Constitution, does not apply. They argued that the doctrine only permits the exclusion of senators who are outside the country or beyond the Senate's coercive powers—circumstances not present during the June 3 session. Legarda, who was unseated as Senate President Pro Tempore, condemned the takeover as "unconstitutional." She emphasized that the Senate's rules require a majority vote of all members to elect officers, a threshold unmet with only 12 votes. Counterarguments and institutional support The Gatchalian bloc maintained that the session was valid. The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) has backed this position, asserting that the *Avelino* doctrine allows a practical interpretation of quorum when members are "unavailable." Supporters of the takeover cited the detention of Sen. Estrada on plunder charges and the absence of Senator Ronald dela Rosa—who is evading an International Criminal Court warrant—as reasons for excluding them from the quorum count, effectively reducing the total membership to 22 and making 12 a majority. The petition seeks a Status Quo Ante Order to revert the Senate to its state before June 3, effectively barring the Gatchalian faction from exercising official functions. It also asks the Court to declare all acts during the contested session null and void. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has called for a special session on June 17 to address legislative backlogs, including confirmation of key appointments, potentially intensifying the standoff as both blocs are expected to assert their leadership.

- [Marcos open to VFA with Germany](#) (2026-06-16 06:56)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday said he was open to the Philippines forging a Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) with Germany. Marcos issued the remark during his joint press conference with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier who is in the country for a three-day state visit. "Why not? In reality we are way off of that but we are actually increasing our engagement especially in the military, defense, and security areas," he said. "Perhaps, when the time comes that would be something the Philippines would be very open to. I cannot see any disadvantage to that," he added. To date, the Philippines currently has five active agreements or equivalent troop-access arrangement, or Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA) with partner countries. These are with the United States, (VFA sealed in

1999); Australia (SOVFA signed in 2012); Japan (a legal framework for military visits and exercises); New Zealand (SOVFA); Canada (SOVFA signed in 2025); and France (SOVFA signed in 2026). “With the volatility that is happening in the geopolitical world right now, the best path to stability is to have partnerships, is to have a wide base of alliances. Not any one country can now influence or change or direct the way the world is working,” Marcos said.

- [ICC trial of Duterte not automatically delayed by medical exam, says lawyer](#) (2026-06-16 06:54)

MANILA, Philippines — A lawyer representing victims in the crimes against humanity case against former president Rodrigo Duterte before the International Criminal Court (ICC) clarified that the proceedings would not be automatically delayed due to a new medical examination to determine Duterte’s fitness to stand trial. Gilbert Andres said such assessments were a standard part of ICC proceedings and intended to uphold an accused person’s right to a fair trial. He said that the court routinely evaluates whether an accused understands the charges and legal proceedings, was aware of his or her rights, and capable of giving instructions to legal counsel. “This is part of fair trial rights, or the right of the accused to a fair proceeding,” Andres said in an interview on Tuesday, stressing that the process was designed to protect both the rights of the accused and the interests of victims. Andres also noted that under ICC procedures, determinations on an accused’s fitness to stand trial were subject to periodic review. “Actually, if we look at the rules of procedure itself under Rule 135, the determination can really be done regularly. There is a review every 120 days. Just like in detention, there is also a review every 120 days. The same applies to fitness to stand trial. So that is already provided in the ICC Rules of Procedure itself,” he said. He emphasized that these periodic reviews were built into the ICC’s procedural framework to ensure that proceedings remain fair, transparent, and consistent with due process standards.

- [Non-resident Filipinos emerging 'vital source' of PH soft power, international influence](#) (2026-06-16 06:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) Secretary Dante Ang II on Tuesday said the non-resident Filipinos (NRFs) have emerged as a “vital source” of the country’s soft power and international influence. Ang pointed this out during the 2026 Filipino Diaspora Summit attended by about 350 NRFs from almost 30 countries. He said the six million NRFs worldwide put the Philippines “in the radar of foreign governments.” “Their professional achievements, community leadership, and success stories have turned them into unofficial ambassadors of the country, exemplifying the Filipino brand of excellence,” Ang said. Ang said the CFO was set to launch a new program where the agency would partner with NRFs more directly. “We have been holding public consultations on the feasibility of designating honorary diaspora representatives or HDRs who will serve as non-diplomatic community-based entities, dedicated to the cause of the diaspora engagement for the Philippine national development,” he said. There are 10.8 million Filipinos overseas, about 60 percent of this total comprises, the NRFs. NRFs include citizens, permanent residents, marriage migrants, professionals,

entrepreneurs, artists, scientists, educators, innovators, public servants, and community leaders across more than 200 countries and territories. "For many years conversations about Filipinos abroad often centered on remittances. However we recognize that our NRFs are more than just economic actors," Ang said. The CFO chairman said that the NRFs were "also active partners in national development bringing invaluable experience Innovation and global innovation to our shores." "They share knowledge, create global networks and build businesses, preserve and promote Filipino heritage, and, and influence, international conversations serving as ambassadors of the Filipino spirit around the world," he added.

- [Former Ateneo Blue Eagles give statements to police on training with Baldwin](#) (2026-06-16 06:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Ten former Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) Blue Eagles arrived at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group headquarters at Camp Crame on Tuesday to shed light on their experience with the yearly team building activity with then coach Tab Baldwin in Dipaculao, Aurora. Only three former Blue Eagles were invited by the CIDG but seven more came. Among them were Anton Asistio (Rain or Shine Elasto Painters), Mike Nieto (TNT Tropang Giga), Geo Chiu (Terrafirma Dyip), Kyle Ong, Tyler Tio (Terrafirma Dyip), Lars Fjellvang (San Beda Red Lions), Kymandi Ladi (Caloocan Batang Kankaloo), Dom Escobar (Caloocan Batang Kankaloo) and two others. Authorities are taking the statements of the players as of posting time. Baldwin resigned as coach of the Ateneo Blue Eagles basketball team following the deaths of two of his players during a recent training in the same resort.

- [Marcos welcomes German President Steinmeier in Malacañang](#) (2026-06-16 04:50)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday hosted in Malacañang German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier who is in the country for a three-day state visit. Steinmeier, accompanied by First Lady Elke Bündenbender and the rest of his delegation, arrived in Manila late Monday night. It is the first time that a sitting German leader has set foot in the country since 1963. The two leaders are expected to discuss issues of mutual interest, including defense, peacebuilding, maritime cooperation, trade and investment, climate change, renewable energy, and people-to-people exchanges, Malacañang said. They are also set to discuss regional and international matters of mutual interest, including the Philippines' ongoing chairship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). Germany is the biggest trading and investment partner of the Philippines among European Union (EU) countries.

- [Six out of 10 Filipinos open to live or work abroad - OCTA](#) (2026-06-16 04:30)

MANILA, Philippines - Nearly six out of 10 Filipinos say that they are willing to live or work abroad if given the opportunity, according to a survey conducted by OCTA Research. In its Tugon ng Masa survey conducted from March 19-25, 2026, 57 percent of respondents said they are willing to migrate overseas to live or work, while 39 percent said that they will not. OCTA said that the finding suggests ghag migration remains a "mainstream aspiration among Filipinos rather than a preference limited to specific sectors of society, and continues to occupy an

important place in how many Filipinos envision economic advancement, career development, and long-term family well-being." Balanced Luzon respondents showed the highest willingness to live or work abroad at 59 percent, while younger Filipinos ages 18-34 were the highest among age groups who want to live or work overseas at a combined 75 percent. The survey had 1,200 respondents and has a margin of error of plus or minus three percent nationwide.

- [BREAKING NEWS: Biazon orders residents to report rude city hall workers to mayor's office](#) (2026-06-16 04:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Muntinlupa City Mayor Ruffy Biazon on Monday ordered residents to directly report city government employees who display rude behavior while providing public services, saying complaints should be brought to the Mayor's Office for proper action. Biazon said he continues to receive reports of city hall workers allegedly showing unfriendly behavior toward residents, reminding employees that serving the public requires proper treatment and concern. He made the remarks during the city's flag raising ceremony while discussing the importance of improving the public's experience when transacting with government offices. "Do not ever do that behavior that you become rude when there is someone you are serving," Biazon said. The mayor urged residents who encounter problems with city government officials or employees to identify the personnel involved and provide details of the incident instead of only posting complaints online. "I advise people, if you have a problem with city government officials or employees, get down the names, list the names. Write them down or list the circumstances so that you can bring them to the Office of the Mayor," Biazon said. Biazon said social media complaints that do not provide specific details make it difficult for the city government to investigate and take action. "If you want something to happen there, take action," he said. The mayor said the city government should focus on delivering a better customer experience, where residents feel that they are being served with sincerity and concern. He added that public servants should go beyond simply completing their required tasks and consider how their actions affect the perception of residents toward the city government.

- [Fishermen, seafarers in Palawan warned against falling debris from 2 Chinese rockets to be launched on June 16, 17](#) (2026-06-16 04:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on Tuesday warned fishermen, seafarers, and other maritime stakeholders in Palawan to avoid designated areas where debris from two Chinese rocket launches may fall over the next two days. In an advisory, the PCG said China's Long March 3B rocket was scheduled for launch on June 16 between 5:40 p.m. and 6:29 p.m., while the Long March 12 rocket is set for liftoff on June 17 between 10:37 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. According to the PCG, portions of the rockets are expected to fall within identified drop zones near Palawan. For the June 16 launch, debris is projected to land about 102 nautical miles from Balabac, 108 nautical miles from Quezon, Palawan, and 33 nautical miles from Rozul Reef. For the June 17 launch, debris is expected to fall within an area approximately 25 nautical miles from Balabac and 19 nautical miles from Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park. The PCG urged all vessels operating in or near the identified areas to exercise caution and take necessary safety

measures to avoid potential hazards from falling rocket debris. The coast guard also advised the public not to approach, retrieve, or handle any suspicious objects that may be found at sea, warning that such materials could pose risks to health and safety. The agency said the advisory was issued to help ensure the safety of fishermen, mariners, and coastal communities that may be affected by the rocket launches.

- [Yellow alert up for Visayas on June 16](#) (2026-06-16 02:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) raised a yellow alert for the Visayas grid on June 16, 2026 due to high demand and the unavailability of some major coal power plants. In its 8 a.m. advisory, the yellow alert will take effect between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. as peak demand was estimated to reach 2,384 megawatts (MW) with an available supply of only 2,587 MW. NGCP said that 24 plants were on forced outage and 12 were running on derated capacities, which meant 947.8 MW were unavailable to the grid. It said the yellow alert was raised due to the non-functioning Therma Visayas Inc. Unit 1 (169 MW), Therma Visayas Inc. Unit 2 (169 MW), Panay Energy Development Corporation Unit 3 (150 MW) and KEPCO SPC Power Corp. Unit 1 (100 MW) and high demand. A yellow alert is issued when the operating margin is insufficient to meet the transmission grid's contingency requirement but does not often lead to power interruptions.

- [Over 300 non-resident Filipinos, govt, civic leaders gather for diaspora summit](#) (2026-06-16 00:55)

MANILA, Philippines — About 350 non-resident Filipinos (NRFs), government officials, private sector leaders, and civil society organizations from almost 30 countries converge today for the 2026 Filipino Diaspora Summit. The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) led the historic gathering with the theme: "Transformation Through Diaspora Engagement: Harnessing Filipino Global Power in Advancing the Philippines' Cultural, Economic, and Political Goals. CFO Secretary Dante Ang II said the summit recognized the over five million NRFs worldwide as "strategic partners" in Philippine national development and strengthen sustained engagement toward shared development goals. Unlike other migrant-serving government agencies, the CFO's constituency comprises Filipino permanent residents abroad, naturalized foreign citizens, dual citizens, and marriage migrants whose sustained engagement represent enduring assets for Philippine development in cultural, economic, and political spheres. The summit provides a platform to harness that potential and translate diaspora commitment into concrete partnerships and transformative action. The CFO, established under Batas Pambansa 79, is dedicated to the welfare and empowerment of expatriates or NRFs.

- [Metro Manila, rest of Luzon to have fair weather within 3 to 5 days](#) (2026-06-15 23:17)

MANILA, Philippines – Fair weather would likely prevail over Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon in the next three to five days, the state-run weather agency said on Tuesday. Weather specialist Veronica Torres of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that isolated rain showers and thunderstorms would affect all of

Luzon, including Metro Manila, late in the afternoon or at night. Citing Pagasa, Torres said that another weather system, the easterlies – warm, humid winds passing through the Pacific Ocean – has been affecting Eastern Visayas, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, and Davao Oriental, bringing partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated downpours or thunderstorms. Pagasa warned that flash floods or landslides could affect these areas during severe thunderstorms. Meanwhile, the weather agency has not monitored any low-pressure area forming inside or outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility in the coming days, Torres said.

- [Marcos greets Trump on US leader's 80th birthday; reaffirms PH-US ties](#) (2026-06-15 16:47)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. extended his birthday greetings to US President Donald Trump, wishing him good health, happiness, and continued success. Marcos likewise reaffirmed the enduring friendship between the Philippines and the United States. “Your leadership continues to shape the direction of the United States at a consequential moment in its history, while influencing developments and discussions on many of the most pressing issues facing the international community today,” he said in his message posted on social media. “I trust you enjoyed your birthday celebration and the company of family and friends. May the enduring friendship between the Philippines and the United States continue to grow stronger in the years ahead,” he added. Trump turned 80 years old.

- [Zubiri: Majority bloc is ready to answer the call to work](#) (2026-06-15 16:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate majority bloc on Monday said it is ready to hold special session called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on June 17 to attend to urgent legislative measures needed for nationbuilding. Senate Majority Leader Migz Zubiri said his fellow senators in the majority “are ready to do our mandate, work hard and help the Senate act on urgent matters before us.” “Walang drama, walang delay, walang dahilan para hindi magtrabaho ([There's] No drama, no delay, no reason not to work,” Zubiri said in a statement. Sen. Panfilo Lacson posted a cryptic message on X, “Wednesday, June 17 special session: Hopefully Delulu pa more becomes no more.” Lacson on Sunday said the majority is “ready for any dirty tricks” that Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, who insisted to be still the Senate president, may attempt during the special session. Zubiri said the special session's agenda is “clear and urgent, touching on health care, education funding and assistance for Filipinos in crisis, matters that can bring real help to Filipino families who need government to act with urgency and compassion.” The Commission on Appointments, he said, also has important work to do on Cabinet, military and foreign service appointments. “We owe it to our institutions to act with diligence and fairness. We should be ready to work and ready to help move forward whatever must be acted upon for the public good,” Zubiri said.

- [Kiko Pangilinan: Majority bloc will have a quorum to hold special session](#) (2026-06-15 16:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the majority bloc will have a quorum to hold special session on June 17 whether Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano and his allies decide to boycott it. The senator cited the intention of Sen. Joel Villanueva to attend the special session. "Since 12 kami as the new majority may quorum na at kung mag a-attend si Sen Joel (Since we are already 12 as the new majority, we already have a quorum and if Sen. Joel will attend) that makes us 13," Pangilinan said. "[We're] More than enough to convene the special session whether their group attends or not," Pangilinan said in a text message. Cayetano refused to recognize the June 3 reorganization which materialized after his former blocmate, Sen. Chiz Escudero, switched to the then 11-member minority bloc led by Sen. Vicente Sotto III. Escudero's move formed the "new" 12-member majority bloc which elected Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian as Senate president pro tempore and simultaneously act as Senate president. Gatchalian needs 13 votes to be installed as Senate chief.

- [Marcos calls Congress to special session on June 17](#) (2026-06-15 16:16)

(UPDATE) PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has called on both chambers of Congress to convene for a special session, setting the stage for an end to the bitter leadership dispute in the Senate that has paralyzed its legislative work. In Proclamation 1318, the president called on the House of Representatives and the Senate to assemble on June 17 and urgently act on priority legislation aimed at strengthening social protection, expanding access to education and health care, and providing greater support to vulnerable Filipinos amid ongoing energy challenges and natural disasters. "The challenges confronting our people demand urgent action. Families affected by the recent earthquake in Mindanao require immediate assistance. Students need continued support to pursue their education. Our senior citizens deserve better health care. Our children must have better nutrition and vulnerable sectors need stronger protection," he said. "The needs of the Filipino people do not pause when Congress is not in session. The government must continue to respond, and the welfare of every Filipino must remain our highest priority," he added. The Palace expressed confidence that lawmakers will set aside political distractions and focus on passing measures that deliver timely and meaningful support to the Filipino people. Section 15, Article VI of the 1987 Constitution gives the president authority to call Congress into a special session at any time to address urgent matters requiring immediate legislative action. Priority bills Among the bills targeted for consideration are the National Center for Geriatric Health; Amendments to the Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education Act; Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations Act; Amendments to the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act; Last Mile and Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged and Conflict-Affected Areas Schools Act; Amendments to the Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act; Anti-Political Dynasty Law; and Presidential Merit Scholarship Program. The special session will also enable the Commission on Appointments to act on pending appointments to key positions in the Cabinet, military, and foreign service while also ensuring continuity and stability across government institutions. Political distractions Despite a power struggle that left the Senate divided between the majority bloc led by Senate President Pro Tempore and Acting Senate President Sherwin

Gatchalian and the minority bloc led by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, senators said they were ready to hold a special session on June 17. Gatchalian called on fellow senators in the Cayetano-led bloc to attend. “I invite my colleagues to attend and take part in the proceedings as we act on measures that matter to the Filipino people,” Gatchalian said in a statement. “The Senate knows its responsibility. The Senate must continue to work, fulfill its mandate, and respond to the needs of our nation,” he added. He said the priority bills listed by the Palace “are measures that directly affect the lives of every Filipino.” Gatchalian said the Senate will also use the special session to act on relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction assistance for the Filipinos affected by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Mindanao on June 8. Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri said his fellow senators in the majority “are ready to do our mandate, work hard and help the Senate act on urgent matters before us.” “There’s no drama, no delay, no reason not to work,” Zubiri said in Filipino, in a clear reference to the recent political turbulence aggravated by the inability of the majority bloc to get 13 votes to elect a new Senate president, and Cayetano’s refusal to give up the position even though he now heads a minority. Cayetano triggered a leadership shakeup when he led a boycott of three consecutive Senate sessions to protest the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada on plunder charges. Sen. Panfilo Lacson posted a cryptic message on X, using a popular internet slang term for “delusional”: “Wednesday, June 17 special session: Hopefully Delulu pa more becomes no more.” Lacson on Sunday said the majority is “ready for any dirty tricks” that Cayetano might attempt during the special session. Zubiri said the special session’s agenda is “clear and urgent, touching on health care, education funding and assistance for Filipinos in crisis, matters that can bring real help to Filipino families who need government to act with urgency and compassion.” The Commission on Appointments, he said, also has important work to do on Cabinet, military and foreign service appointments. “We owe it to our institutions to act with diligence and fairness. We should be ready to work and ready to help move forward whatever must be acted upon for the public good,” Zubiri said. “We will report for work and we will do our duty for the people. The Senate has always had the capacity to rise above difficult moments,” he said. “I trust that we can approach this session with seriousness, respect for our mandate and a clear sense of responsibility to the people. We should be ready to work and ready to help move forward whatever must be acted upon for the public good,” he said. Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the majority bloc will have a quorum to hold special session on June 17 whether or not Cayetano and his allies decide to boycott it. The senator noted that Sen. Joel Villanueva, who belonged to the Cayetano bloc, has said he will attend the special session. “Since we are already 12 as the new majority, we already have a quorum and if Sen. Joel will attend, that makes us 13,” Pangilinan said in English and Filipino. “[We’re] More than enough to convene the special session whether their group attends or not,” Pangilinan said in a text message. Cayetano refused to recognize the June 3 reorganization which materialized after his former bloc mate, Sen. Francis Escudero, switched to the bloc led by Sen. Vicente Sotto III. The new 12-member majority bloc elected Gatchalian as Senate president pro tempore and acting Senate president. In a video message to his family in the Jesus is Lord Church, Villanueva said he was ready to attend the special session, saying the senators need to go back to work. “In the event that we’ll have a special session, we will fulfill our sacred duty

under the Constitution. We will be there,” Villanueva said in Filipino. “As public servants it is our priority to ensure that everyone of us is working for the people,” he added. House Speaker Faustino Dy III welcomed the president’s call for a special congressional session on June 17. “The House of Representatives stands ready to heed the president’s call and continue advancing legislation that directly responds to the needs of our people,” Dy said in a statement. Dy noted that all measures identified in the president’s Proclamation 1318 were already approved by the House. “The House has already laid much of the groundwork for these priority reforms. We stand ready to work with the Senate and the executive branch to complete the legislative process and deliver meaningful benefits to the Filipino people,” Dy said. “The work of the House does not end with the passage of bills. Our responsibility is to help ensure that these measures become law and ultimately translate into better lives, better opportunities, and a more secure future for our people,” he added. House Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte 1st District Rep. Ferdinand Alexander Marcos said the president’s call for a special session underscored “the urgency of legislation that expands educational opportunities, strengthens assistance programs for vulnerable sectors, improves health care services, and promotes greater social protection.” “We welcome the opportunity to continue the work already undertaken by the House and move these priority measures closer to enactment,” Representative Marcos said. “We look forward to working with our colleagues in the Senate and our partners in the executive branch to complete these measures and deliver real, lasting benefits to the Filipino people,” he said.

- [Baldwin out as Ateneo Blue Eagles head coach](#) (2026-06-15 16:14)

(UPDATE) ATENEO de Manila Blue Eagles head coach Tab Baldwin resigned from his position following the drowning of his players Rene Baterbonia, 18, and Divine Adili, 21, in a training activity in Dipaculao Beach, Aurora last week. In a press briefing Monday, Ateneo president Fr. Roberto Yap S.J. said the university accepted Baldwin’s resignation as well as team manager Epok Quimpo. “I also must inform everyone that the university has accepted the resignation of head coach Thomas Anthony ‘Tab’ Baldwin effective immediately. We thank him for the years of service for the Blue Eagles,” Yap said. The announcement came as the police said preliminary investigations suggest that the deaths of the student athletes could qualify as a case of homicide and hazing. The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday presented a timeline of incidents beginning from Baterbonia’s departure from Davao City up to the last activity the group did before the drowning happened. MGen. Robert Alexander Morico II, CIDG director, said the Anti-Hazing Act of 2018 covers not only physical or psychological harm inflicted on recruits as a prerequisite to admission or continuing membership, but also any form of forced physical activity or training. Morico said hazing was indeed “possible” because Baterbonia was an incoming college freshman in Ateneo. Also, the physical activities which border on life-threatening could be covered by the Anti-Hazing Law. Rovelyn Baterbonia, mother of Rene, earlier said her son bore bruises and several contusions but Aurora Police initially ruled out foul play. Morico said the physical harm would be among the questions they would be asking the players who

participated in the team building as well as the coaches who facilitated the training. No-show Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said Baldwin, Quimpo as well as Ateneo professor Nemesio Que, SJ were no-shows at a fact-finding session at Camp Crame to which they had been subpoenaed, but the university sent a lawyer to represent them. Only the university's athletics director Em Fernandez appeared Monday. Remulla said they will issue another subpoena on Friday and warned that nonappearance would bring sanctions. "A second absence will warrant a contempt of court if they do not attend," Remulla said. "It is a fact-finding mission, not fault-finding. We are not here to arrest, we are not here to charge but merely to gather the facts," Remulla said. "We are only after what truly happened. Who authorized the training session, how they went there, and who ordered the training. We will get all of that," he said in Filipino. The CIDG also said it will issue a subpoena Smart Communications Foundation to shed light on the deaths, after they have learned that Ateneo's basketball program is autonomous from the university and is handled by that foundation. NBI probe Meanwhile, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said it expects to complete within the week its fact-finding investigation into the drowning, as it prepares to summon Baldwin, members of the Ateneo basketball team, university officials, and other persons involved in the incident. Speaking at a media briefing on Monday, NBI Director Melvin Matibag said subpoenas would be issued beginning Tuesday to Baldwin, members of the basketball team, and school officials to help investigators establish the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili. The Department of Justice earlier directed the NBI to investigate the June 8 drowning incident in Dipaculao, Aurora. The NBI chief said investigators have already gathered statements from people in the area, including the resort owner and local officials, and will continue to summon other concerned parties and agencies as part of the inquiry. Matibag said the bureau is validating witness accounts, social media posts, and other information collected during the investigation to determine exactly what transpired before, during, and after the incident. Despite growing public scrutiny, he said the probe remains in the fact-finding stage and that investigators have not yet reached any conclusion regarding possible negligence or criminal liability. "All involved parties will be invited and given the opportunity to give their statements," Matibag said, adding that the bureau wants to complete the investigation as quickly as possible so it can submit appropriate recommendations. He said the NBI expects to wrap up its investigation within the week. Matibag also confirmed that investigators would examine allegations raised by Baldwin's estranged wife and daughter, who have publicly claimed that they had warned the university that the longtime coach posed a danger to students and should have been removed from his position. "We will also look into those claims," he said. The NBI director appealed to witnesses and others with information about the incident to cooperate with investigators, saying their testimonies would be crucial in establishing the facts surrounding the deaths. Matibag also addressed reports of an alleged gag order related to the case, saying any such restriction would not apply to investigators carrying out their duties. The deaths of Baterbonia and Adili have drawn national attention and prompted calls for accountability, with authorities seeking to determine whether safety protocols were followed during the team-building activity and whether any parties may be held responsible for the tragedy. Winning coach Baldwin, who also handled the Gilas Pilipinas

program and served as consultant for the TNT franchise in the PBA, led the Blue Eagles to four UAAP men's basketball championships including a three-peat from Season 80 to 82 (2017 to 2019). The 68-year-old renowned international Kiwi American coach started coaching the Blue Eagles in 2016 and just signed a three-year extension last year. That will not be the case anymore as Ateneo looks to overhaul not just the leadership of its basketball program but review its entire sports programs. "But as we enter a period of deep institutional review, a change in leadership is necessary to ensure the full integrity of our sports programs and safety protocols governing them," Yap said. "We must look inward, examine our systems and rebuild the structures of our athletic programs so that our fields and playing courts will be places where dreams are nurtured, not broken." Breaking his silence last Friday, an emotional Baldwin said that the Blue Eagles were doing a "routine training run" in "what we thought was shallow water" in Dipaculao beach. When the players were reportedly swept by the current, Baldwin said everyone on the team did everything they could to bring back everyone to the shore but they lost Baterbonia and Adili. Rescuers found Baterbonia and Adili's bodies but it was all too late. On Wednesday, the Aurora Provincial Police Office, based on a post-mortem examination certificate, said Baterbonia and Adili died of asphyxia by drowning. Still, many people held Baldwin responsible for his players' deaths, as he was the head coach who ordered the training in an uncontrolled environment which was the sea. In his video, Baldwin apologized for the death of his players, saying he failed as a coach, leader, and friend to Baterbonia and Adili. "In that moment (when we lost Baterbonia and Adili), I experienced the descent into the darkest place imaginable. And yet I knew at the same time that good people, people that had done an amazing job raising these two young men, were going to be in an even darker, more horrible place," said Baldwin. "At that moment, I felt I had failed. I failed as a leader. I felt I had failed as a coach. I certainly felt like I had failed as a friend to Divine and Rene. And when later I faced the team to try to be a leader in that moment, I felt that I failed them too."

- [Prosecutors will present over 30 witnesses at VP's impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-15 16:13)

(UPDATE) HOUSE prosecutors will present more than 30 witnesses during the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, their pre-trial brief said. House Secretary General Cheloy Garafil filed the prosecution panel's pre-trial brief before the Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, on Monday afternoon. "Number one, it contains stipulations of facts which will be presented for the other party's either admission or denial," Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro, the lead prosecutor, said in a press conference on Monday. She said that stipulations would reduce the issues that parties would argue about during trial. The pre-trial brief was expected to list the evidence and witnesses that the prosecution intends to present during the trial. Luistro said there would be more than 30 witnesses. At the same time, she said there would be no surprise witnesses, as the impeachment court has ruled that witnesses who are not named and evidence that are not marked in the pre-trial brief will not be presented. "We will not compromise the necessity of presenting vital witnesses just to be able to have some surprises during the trial. No, that will not happen. Because it will compromise our case," Luistro said. During the impeachment trial of former president Joseph Estrada, the

prosecution presented its surprise witness, Clarissa Ocampo, a former executive of Equitable PCI Bank, who testified on the signatures of the “Jose Velarde” account that was proved to be Estrada’s. Luistro said the prosecution aims to explore the use of Filipino and other regional language translations during the trial to make the proceedings easier to understand. They aim to raise the proposal on the pre-trial conference slated for June 18. The prosecution, she added, wants the proceedings to be accessible to the public as they note that impeachment is a constitutional process that affects the Filipino people. House Impeachment spokesman and Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong said discussions are also underway to make the impeachment proceedings more accessible, and said that the trial is expected to involve technical legal arguments and terminology that many Filipinos might find difficult to follow. “Once the impeachment trial begins, the audience will be hearing technical legal terms that are not necessarily quite understandable,” Adiong said. Asked who will preside in the impeachment trial, Luistro said they recognize Acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, but called on the Senate to immediately resolve its leadership crisis to provide clarity on who will lead the chamber, which will constitute itself into an impeachment court. She also said she is open to possibly revisiting the impeachment threshold due to the fact that some senators would either be arrested and suspended during the course of the trial. Under the rules of the impeachment court, two-thirds of all senators are required to convict an impeachable official. The current threshold is at 16, but there are calls to revisit the threshold amid the possible arrests of more senators, citing the Supreme Court decision in *Avelino vs Cuenco*, which established that a quorum should be calculated based on the number of senators currently within the country and able to do their job, rather than the total number of elected seats. “How are we going to consider them for the purpose of determining the threshold or the required number of votes? So in my personal opinion, I believe that the doctrine in *Avellino* should be applied also in determining the number of votes required for the purpose of conviction,” Luistro said.

- [US, Iran reach deal to end Mideast war](#) (2026-06-15 16:12)

THE United States and Iran said they reached a deal to end the Middle East war on all fronts including Lebanon, and reopen the vital Strait of Hormuz, but offered little indication on the thorny question of Tehran’s nuclear program. Washington and Islamabad said the agreement was to be signed on Friday in Switzerland, signaling what would be a major breakthrough to ending months of war that have taken thousands of lives and roiled energy markets. Few of the details were made public, but US President Donald Trump said the Strait of Hormuz — a key conduit for global oil supplies — would reopen after the planned signing of the deal on Friday. “The Deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete,” Trump posted Sunday on social media as he marked his 80th birthday. “Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!” Soon after, Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said in televised comments that the deal put an “immediate end” to the countries’ war and that they would hold talks within two months to seek a “final agreement.” Just hours earlier, Tehran had vowed to retaliate against a strike by Israel against Iranian ally Hezbollah in the suburbs of

Beirut, which threatened to push back an agreement. But later in the day, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made the announcement: “Both sides have declared the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon.” He added thanks to leaders of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey for their support in the mediation effort. Details remain unclear. The content of the agreement, which follows weeks of fraught negotiations and periodic threats from Trump of fresh hostilities unless Iran reached a deal, remained unclear. Iran’s Mehr news agency reported that the US would release \$12 billion in frozen assets to Iran before the start of negotiations. It quoted a 14-point “memorandum of understanding” between the two nations, which it said stipulated “the release of 24 billion dollars in frozen Iranian assets during the 60-day negotiation period” that begins after the MoU is signed. The Trump administration didn’t immediately comment on the details of the agreement, which may prove contentious as the US presses its effort to end Tehran’s nuclear ambitions and deal with its stockpile of highly enriched uranium — believed to have been buried by US strikes last year. In an interview with the New York Times on Sunday, Trump said Washington was still negotiating whether Iran would suspend its enrichment for 20 years. The US leader hinted that he might settle for a 15-year suspension, but said he did not want to negotiate via the press. Seize the moment. The announcement of the deal was greeted with international relief and hope for an enduring end to the conflict. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said it was a “critical step” toward resolving the war in the Middle East. The United Kingdom, France, Germany and Italy said they were prepared to lift sanctions imposed on Iran and will work “with the US, Iran and regional partners to seize this moment, maintain momentum and achieve a long-term diplomatic settlement.” The announcement also brought relief at market opening on Monday. Oil prices plunged more than 4 percent in Tokyo, and Japan’s Nikkei stock index jumped three percent. The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz has had a worldwide economic impact, from inflated gas prices that have fueled inflation in the US and many other countries and congested supply chains for goods like fertilizer key to food production in areas far beyond the Middle East. “What we’re going to be able to do is drive down the cost of energy, not just now but for the long term, and create a real engine of prosperity in the Middle East,” US Vice President JD Vance told Fox News. He said that he planned to attend the signing of the peace deal, which was slated to take place in Geneva, and that it was possible Trump could also go.

- [Hormuz reopening a relief to stranded Filipino seamen](#) (2026-06-15 16:11)

THE planned reopening of the Strait of Hormuz is expected to bring much-needed relief to around 4,000 Filipino seafarers who have been stranded aboard ships in the Persian Gulf for nearly five months. The development follows reports of an agreement between the United States and Iran to cease hostilities, with the deal expected to be formally signed this week. Under the reported arrangement, Iran will reopen the strategic waterway while US President Donald Trump is expected to direct the US Navy to lift its blockade at the entrance of the strait. The breakthrough could finally allow hundreds of vessels trapped in the region to resume operations after months of uncertainty and disruption. For the Filipino crew members

aboard those ships, the reopening signals the possible end of an 18-week ordeal marked by security threats, prolonged isolation, and operational delays. Many vessels remained anchored in the Persian Gulf as shipping companies feared attacks following a series of incidents involving commercial ships in the area. The standoff also took a heavy emotional toll on the families of Filipino seafarers, who spent months worrying about the safety of their loved ones. Communication between seafarers and their families became difficult, with mobile phone access often limited, unreliable, and costly while vessels remained stranded. Migrant rights advocate and seafarer expert Emmanuel Geslani said the reopening of the strait would mark a major step toward restoring normal maritime traffic in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. However, Geslani noted that clearing the backlog of vessels will take time, with around 1,000 ships reportedly waiting to pass through the strategic corridor after months of restricted movement. He added that the resumption of shipping operations would also help stabilize global energy supply chains by allowing large volumes of crude oil cargoes to reach their intended destinations.

- [Mindanao quake death toll hits 65](#) (2026-06-15 16:10)

(UPDATE) THE death toll from the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Mindanao on June 8 has climbed to 65, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said Monday. The number of missing also rose to 36 and the injured to 1,400. Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV, Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Deputy Administrator for Administration, said the deaths were mainly due to earthquake-induced landslides and fallen debris. Most of the missing were from Jose Abad Santos in Davao Occidental and attributed to landslides. Search and rescue operations continue, but Alejandro ruled out finding any more survivors still trapped under the rubble. The earthquake has so far affected 161,000 families or 624,000 individuals from 434 barangay, and 3,200 families remain in 37 evacuation centers. Around 14 local government units have declared a state of calamity, with over 728 public and private infrastructures incurring damage estimated at P1.3 billion. Alejandro said the OCD is working closely with the Department of Education to speed up the repair of classrooms and the establishment of temporary learning facilities. On Monday, the General Santos International Airport (GSIA) was reopened to commercial flights after being closed for six days for earthquake damage assessment and repair. The airport had stayed open for emergency, military, and humanitarian relief flights, while authorities conducted repair work on the control tower and the passenger terminal. The Department of Transportation (DOTr) completed a comprehensive safety assessment and confirmed that the facility is structurally sound. The first commercial flight to land at the reopened airport was Cebu Pacific 5J997 from Manila. On Monday, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. inspected earthquake-damaged infrastructure in Sarangani and General Santos City. The president's first stop was Glan, the hardest hit town in Sarangani. The devastation was especially visible at the Sarangani Provincial Hospital in Alabel, where patients have been temporarily housed in tents set up in the parking area. Hospital staff reported that 23 newborn babies were staying in the temporary shelters, while 25 patients were delivered on June 13 alone despite the difficult conditions. Marcos also inspected the damaged Sapu Masla Bridge in

Malapatan. At Malapatan National High School, school officials showed the President a severely damaged four-story building whose roof also completely collapsed during the earthquake. From Sarangani, Marcos proceeded to General Santos City where he led the distribution of relief goods and financial assistance. Food packs and P5,000 cash aid were distributed to 4,000 workers who lost their jobs. Marcos also inspected damaged schools. It was the second time Marcos went to areas affected by last week's 7.8 magnitude temblor. Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon, who accompanied the president, reported significant progress in restoring roads, bridges, hospitals, and other critical facilities. Dizon said most national road sections and bridges that were temporarily closed due to earthquake damage have been reopened. He said DPWH teams have been conducting assessments and emergency repairs on critical public facilities, including hospitals, health centers, and schools. The agency also helped clear debris from damaged private establishments that blocked major roads and hampered relief and recovery efforts. DPWH delivered electric fans and extension cords and loaned portable toilets to the Glan Medicare Community Hospital in Sarangani. Among the infrastructure restored to full service are the Sapu Masla Bridge in Glan, Sarangani; Bucana Bridge in Davao City; Lampari Bridge in South Cotabato; and Barangay Margus Road in Glan after landslide debris was cleared. Ten of the 15 damaged sections on the Malita-Jose Abad Santos Road have been reopened to traffic. Repair work continues on several heavily damaged structures, including the Butulan Bridge in Davao Occidental, the Glan-Taluyan Road in Sarangani, and the Buayan and Aquino bridges. Authorities also reported that Bolton Bridge 1 in Davao City and portions of the Davao-Sarangani Coastal Road remain passable to light vehicles. Emergency repair work is ongoing at the Sarangani Provincial Hospital and Dr. Jorge Royeca City Hospital in General Santos City.

- [Coastal uplift not alarming – Phivolcs](#) (2026-06-15 16:09)

THE chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Monday said there was no cause for alarm over the coastal uplift which was triggered by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake in the Cotabato Trench last June 8. "On a positive note, the land area has increased including the beachfront," Phivolcs director Teresito Bacolcol told The Manila Times via Viber interview. Bacolcol said it was not necessarily alarming, but it was possible that the marine ecosystem could have been affected when the seabed shifted by as much as two meters (6.6 feet). Coral reefs, seagrass beds, and reef flats that were once underwater could become permanently exposed to air and sunlight, he said. Bacolcol said the shift may also affect ports and fish landing areas, making it more difficult for boats to dock. The Cotabato Trench, located in the Pacific Ocean directly off the southwestern coast of Mindanao, is a highly active fault system capable of generating massive earthquakes and destructive tsunamis, he said. The coastal uplift was not new. In 2013, the magnitude 7.2 earthquake in Bohol exposed previously submerged coral reefs in Maribojoc. Bacolcol said the phenomenon was also part of the long-term geological processes that continue to shape the Philippine archipelago. "That is why we have mountains that are made of limestones. These limestones were previously undersea but were pushed upwards through repeated earthquakes (probably thousands of such events in

a long period of time) such as the Cotabato earthquake,” he said. Residents in Barangay Pangyan in Glan town, Sarangani, and in Jose Abad Santos in Davao Occidental first reported the geological phenomenon two days after the tremor. The residents feared that the shift in the seabed could release toxic fumes from decaying sea life. As of Monday, the National Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council said the number of families affected by the Mindanao earthquake has climbed to more than 176,000, while authorities reported at least 65 deaths and over 1,400 injuries.

- [Kerosene, diesel prices decline](#) (2026-06-15 16:08)

(UPDATE) THE price of diesel and kerosene went down, while that of gasoline increased on June 16 due to recent developments in the Middle East and the availability of supply in the region. Diesel dropped by P3.71 per liter, kerosene by 50 centavos per liter, and gasoline increased by P1.68 per liter. The price shifts were influenced by the confirmation of the United States and Iran that they will sign a peace agreement on Friday, and gasoline supply running short in the Gulf region. The Department of Energy (DOE) welcomed the signing of the peace deal, saying it will help ease local fuel prices. “As far as oil crisis is concerned, we are grateful for the announcement of all the involved countries that there is a real intent to terminate whatever conflict they have, and we are praying that they will finalize the deal this Friday,” Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said in an online media briefing. “Because of our big dependence of oil from the Strait of Hormuz, we are very much affected when something happens. But despite this direction that has been taken, we would rather go with prudence on this and not let our guards go down as something can still happen,” Garin said. Last week, the per-liter price of diesel went up by P4.85 to P5.77 and kerosene by P4.75 to P8.10. Gasoline went down by 30 centavos.

- [Marcos to lead Asean bloc in summit with Putin](#) (2026-06-15 16:07)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will lead the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the 35th Asean-Russia Commemorative Summit set for June 17 and 18 in the city of Kazan. “President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., in his capacity as Asean Chair, will co-chair the summit together with President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation. The meeting will bring together the leaders of Asean and Russia to commemorate 35 years of dialogue relations and to chart the future direction of this partnership,” Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Assistant Secretary Domic Xavier Imperial said in a pre-departure press briefing in Malacañang. The summit also marks Marcos’ first visit to the Russian Federation as a sitting Philippine leader. It also coincides with the commemoration of 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries this year. Leaders of the regional bloc and Putin are expected to review the progress of Asean-Russia strategic partnership and discuss ways to further strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual trust particularly on bio-safety and biosecurity, outer space and satellite applications, energy and food security, science and technology, trade and investment, tourism, education and people-to-people exchanges. The president is also expected to have a meeting with Putin that will “most likely focus on food security and energy security. They will also discuss, among

others, some very important regional and international issues that both would consider important for the relationship,” Imperial said. “We’ re also looking at people-to-people exchanges, tourism, education, cultural cooperation, especially also on science and technology. So, these areas will be discussed or will play a part in the bilateral meeting between the two leaders,” he added. “The summit is likewise expected to adopt several key outcome documents. These will guide Asean-Russia cooperation in the years ahead. This includes the Kazan Declaration 2026 which will articulate the shared vision of Asean and Russia as we commemorate 35 years of partnership as well as joint statements on energy and on cultural cooperation,” the DFA official said. “The leaders are also expected to adopt the Asean-Russia Comprehensive Plan of Action 2026-2030 which will serve as the principal roadmap for advancing cooperation across the political security, economic and sociocultural pillars of the partnership,” he added.

- [Jardeleza backs second PH arbitration case](#) (2026-06-15 16:06)

RETIRED Supreme Court Associate Justice and former solicitor general Francis Jardeleza supported proposals to file a second arbitration case against China over the West Philippine Sea, saying the Philippines stands on solid legal ground following its landmark victory in 2016. Speaking on the proposal to initiate another international legal action, Jardeleza said the country's chances of prevailing are high because the new case would build on the Philippines' earlier arbitral victory. He said that the main issue in a second arbitration would be the question of damages arising from China's actions in the disputed waters. He noted that compensation was not addressed in the original case because the Philippines did not seek damages at that time. "The discussion now would be about damages," he said in an interview, adding that the country's previous legal victory remains its strongest asset in pursuing further action. Jardeleza described China's latest moves in the West Philippine Sea as part of a series of provocations. He questioned the administration's reluctance to file another case against China, saying that pursuing legal remedies should be a straightforward option. Jardeleza revealed that based on information he had received from friends in the administration, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. himself was reportedly not inclined to pursue a new arbitration case against China. However, he suggested that current political conditions could make it an opportune time to revisit the proposal. At the same time, the former solicitor general commended the government's efforts to strengthen the country's defense capabilities amid continuing tensions in the disputed waters. "What the government is doing now is correct. We are strengthening our Armed Forces with whatever resources we have," he said. Jardeleza likewise supported the Philippine government's response to China's sanctions against Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., saying a reciprocal or "tit-for-tat" approach was appropriate. He expressed hope that the response from the Department of Foreign Affairs would go beyond statements and adopt a stronger stance against Beijing's actions. China recently imposed sanctions on Teodoro, one of the Philippine officials who has been vocal in criticizing Beijing's activities in the West Philippine Sea. The move drew condemnation from several Philippine officials and policy groups, who viewed it as an attempt to pressure Manila amid ongoing maritime disputes.

- [IP, anti-poverty chiefs to lead grassroots drive](#) (2026-06-15 16:05)

THE National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) has designated the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) as co-leads of its grassroots development and empowerment cluster, placing Indigenous peoples and basic sectors at the center of the government's peace and development initiatives. The designation of NCIP Chairman Nancy Alaán Catamco and NAPC Lead Convenor Secretary Lope Santos III was formalized during the Sectoral Unification, Capacity Building, Empowerment, and Mobilization Cluster Meeting held at the PSR Compound in Manila. The leadership transition transfers the cluster's stewardship from Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Marlo Iringan to the NCIP and NAPC. NTF-Elcac Executive Director Ernesto Torres Jr. said the move aims to strengthen citizen participation and community ownership in peace-building efforts. "Peace is sustained not only through security interventions but through empowered communities, responsive governance, and meaningful participation by every sector of society," Torres said in a statement. "By designating the NCIP and the NAPC to lead the Sucbem Cluster, we are bringing the voices of Indigenous peoples and the country's basic sectors directly into the center of our peace and development agenda. This strengthens community ownership of the peace process and ensures that government interventions remain inclusive, responsive and sustainable," he added. The expanded leadership structure supports the government's whole-of-nation approach by increasing the participation of grassroots communities, Indigenous peoples and marginalized sectors in sustaining peace and development gains. Catamco, a former governor of North Cotabato and former member of Congress, is expected to strengthen engagement with Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples, particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. Meanwhile, Santos will help integrate anti-poverty and social development programs into peace-building initiatives. As NAPC lead convenor, he represents 14 basic sectors, including farmers, fisherfolk, workers, women, youth, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and Indigenous peoples. The NTF-Elcac Secretariat said the move reflects the government's recognition that lasting peace must be anchored on social justice, inclusive development, citizen empowerment and community participation, alongside security measures. The designation also supports the implementation of Memorandum Circular 83, which adopted the National Action Plan for Unity, Peace and Development (NAP-UPD) 2025-2028 as the country's roadmap for consolidating peace gains and promoting development in conflict-affected communities. Under the NAP-UPD, government agencies, local government units, civil society organizations, faith-based groups, academic institutions and the private sector are aligned under three strategic pillars: Unity, Peace and Security, and Socioeconomic Development. Torres said the appointment of Catamco and Santos reflects the continuing evolution of the whole-of-nation approach from a conflict-management framework into a broader nation-building strategy focused on citizen participation and community resilience. "As we move forward, our goal is not merely to end armed conflict but to build stronger communities, expand opportunities, empower citizens, and ensure that every Filipino sector becomes a stakeholder in peace and development," Torres said.

- [Senate threat concerns based on multiple sources – NBI](#) (2026-06-15 16:04)

THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Monday said concerns over reported Senate security threats were based on an intelligence-led assessment drawn from multiple sources. In a media briefing, NBI Director Melvin Matibag said the security assessment was not anchored on a single trigger such as text messages or cyber activity, but on consolidated intelligence inputs, including online activity, protest movements and prior incidents. He said the assessment was based on what he described as “intelligence warrants,” which combined different streams of information pointing to possible large-scale disruption. Matibag stressed that the matter should not be treated as a stand-alone bomb threat but as a broader security concern involving potential destabilization activities. He added that the NBI continued to closely monitor the situation in the Senate, noting that while the threat level had “subsided,” it remained under observation due to indications of continued organization among identified groups. Authorities, however, declined to disclose operational details to protect intelligence sources and ongoing law enforcement work. Matibag also linked parts of the assessment to developments surrounding the May 13 Senate incident and a related shooting, saying investigators were still exploring possible connections and individuals tagged in the probe. He said some senators were among those being looked into but stressed that no conclusions had been reached. Investigators, he added, were also assessing possible motives behind the reported threats, which he said could be tied to efforts to create instability and exert political pressure, though these remained subject to validation. Cyberattack probe Separately, the NBI confirmed it has identified individuals responsible for the recent defacement of government websites, including those of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Matibag said the suspects had been pinpointed and legal action was being prepared, noting that they belonged to a single group but were composed of different individuals. “We have identified all of them already. We have to make them answer,” he said, adding that authorities were verifying the extent of their involvement. The websites of both chambers were defaced on three separate occasions over the weekend, prompting investigations by cybersecurity and law enforcement agencies. The Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) said no sensitive data or confidential information had been compromised during the attacks. CICC Executive Director Aboy Paraiso said the suspects could face charges for computer-related offenses under existing cybercrime laws, including computer manipulation and malicious mischief. Authorities said monitoring of government systems would continue to prevent similar incidents and strengthen cybersecurity defenses.

- [Austronesian boat sets sail on epic voyage to Philippines](#) (2026-06-15 16:02)

ORCHID ISLAND, Taitung county, Taiwan — Battling huge waves, 20 Austronesian men in orange lifejackets set off on a hand-carved longboat into the western Pacific Ocean, destined for the home of their ancestral kin for the first time in 300 years. The indigenous Tao people, native to the tiny Orchid Island 90 kilometers (56 miles) off the southeast coast, have close cultural, linguistic and historic ties with the Philippines' Batanes islands and its Ivatan communities. AFP journalists saw Tao crew members tying oars onto the "Golden Friendship" narrow watercraft

and doing a test row on Sunday ahead of its 100-nautical-mile (about 185-kilometer) voyage to the neighboring Philippine archipelago. Setting sail on Monday, participants said the odyssey across the Bashi Channel will trace an ancestral sea route to strengthen longstanding traditional ties between the two communities. "I've always wanted to visit the place where my ancestors once went and see what it's like there," oarsman Wu Hsi-lung told Agence France-Presse. "I feel that I carry the blood of this place and want to do something for my community," the 26-year-old stand-up paddleboarding coach said. The tatala — an intricately carved and hand-painted seafaring boat made from living trees — was traditionally built to catch flying fish to feed families and communities on the 45-square-kilometer Orchid Island. It was originally "a tool for survival," said Hsiao Chun-hsiang, a 50-year-old sound engineer and trip participant. At a massive 12 meters (39 feet) long, the newly crafted Golden Friendship is an enlarged version of the tatala that can carry up to 20 people — making it "the biggest we've ever built," Hsiao said. Times have changed, and beyond cultural significance, the tatala has "evolved to meet the needs of tourism as well," he said — becoming a cultural artefact used to attract visitors. But it still carries deep spiritual significance for the Tao, he said, adding the red-and-white-painted vessel was "like a member of the family." Families and onlookers gathered on Monday to see off the seafarers, who expect to row through the night and arrive at their destination on Tuesday afternoon. The voyage is the "first such journey in 300 years," Hsiao noted, adding that many descendants of early Tao seafarers "wanted to take part in this meaningful event." Syaman Maraos, the trip's organizer and chairman of the Indigenous Peoples Cultural Foundation, said that the boat would be put on display upon arriving at its destination. The 54-year-old, who was also joining the trip, hoped the endeavor would "help foster more exchanges with other peoples and countries across the Pacific, allowing us to continue and strengthen this cultural journey." He hoped Ivatan islanders living on Batanes would be able to row the Golden Friendship back to Orchid Island next year. "It would be a major boost for maritime culture," he said. AFP

- [BuCor confirms Palparan remains detained at NBP](#) (2026-06-15 16:02)

THE Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) on Monday confirmed that convicted retired Army Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan remains confined at the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City, amid questions raised in a recent filing before the Supreme Court by the families of desaparecidas Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño, both University of the Philippines students. BuCor Director General Gregorio Pio Catapang Jr. issued the clarification following media inquiries about a manifestation dated June 9, submitted by complainants Erlinda Cadapan and Concepcion Empeño. The complainants were concerned over reports that Palparan may no longer be detained at the NBP and could have been transferred to another facility. Catapang denied the claims, saying no transfer order or movement record had been issued or documented for the retired general. He noted that inmate transfers — particularly for high-profile convicts — require strict procedures and complete documentation. Any movement of persons deprived of liberty within BuCor facilities is governed by established protocols to ensure transparency, accountability, and proper custody tracking, he said. Palparan was convicted in 2018 and

sentenced to reclusion perpetua for his role in the kidnapping and serious illegal detention of Cadapan and Empeño, who disappeared in 2006 in cases widely regarded by human rights groups as enforced disappearances.

- [Supreme Court suspends lawyer for vulgar post](#) (2026-06-15 16:01)

A LAWYER has been suspended for one year by the Supreme Court over a social media post containing vulgar and offensive language. In a decision written by Associate Justice Jhosep Lopez, the court's Second Division found Jesus Nicardo Falcis III guilty of simple misconduct and ruled that he violated the Code of Professional Responsibility and Accountability (CPRA) after posting profane remarks on X (formerly Twitter) while defending his brother in a legal dispute involving Kris Aquino. The post, which included explicit language and political insults directed at Aquino's supporters, was made in connection with a qualified theft complaint filed by the showbiz celebrity Jason Gene Baltao, a former business partner of Aquino, filed an administrative complaint before the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), which initially recommended a fine and reprimand. The Supreme Court, however, imposed a one-year suspension, stressing that lawyers are bound to uphold dignity and restraint in both professional and personal conduct, including online activity. It said the use of abusive language undermines the legal profession and that social media posts can rapidly reach a wide and unintended audience. The court ruled that Falcis could have relied on legal arguments instead of resorting to personal attacks, adding that freedom of expression does not exempt lawyers from ethical obligations under their oath. In a concurring opinion, Senior Associate Justice Marvic Leonen said the post reflected a lack of remorse and characterized it as driven by anger. Falcis accepted the Supreme Court's decision and recognized its authority over members of the Bar. "All lawyers are under the disciplinary power of the Court and I am no exception," he said. Falcis said the period between 2018 and 2019 was marked by a difficult personal struggle involving his brother's legal situation, as well as concerns for his family's safety and reputation. "I felt helpless and powerless except for my small voice on social media. We were nobodies, and I was screaming against the void," he said. He said he recognizes the consequences of his words online and accepts the penalty if it is the price for defending his family. He acknowledged that lawyers must be accountable for their conduct. Falcis also appealed to the Supreme Court to act on pending disbarment cases involving former president Rodrigo Duterte and Vice President Sara Duterte, saying such action would demonstrate that "no one is above the law." He urged accountability across all levels, saying that if a lawyer can be suspended for cursing, then public officials should likewise be held to account for alleged threatening statements. FRANCO JOSE BAROÑA

- [Pagasa launches mobile app for easier access to weather info](#) (2026-06-15 16:01)

THE Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on Monday launched a mobile application that will provide real-time weather data. Nathaniel Servando, Pagasa chief, said in a press conference that through "PANaHON," or the Pagasa National Hydro-Meteorological Observing Network, "users can receive timely notifications

directly on their mobile device including tropical cyclone bulletins, thunderstorm and heavy rainfall warnings, and flood advisories.” With the app’s location feature, alerts are received relevant to the areas of interest, according to the national weather bureau. “Hourly forecasts and five-day weather outlook feature would allow users to check the latest weather in their pinned locations and so they can plan and decide ahead,” Servando said. Top Pagasa officials also led the observance of the Typhoon and Flood Awareness Week from June 14 to 20, with a call for better preparedness against hazards brought by storms and other extreme weather events. “At the same time, let us stay informed about evolving climate conditions and new digital innovations that support resilience,” Servando said. This year’s theme “Bagyo, Baha, Maghanda Tayo!” (Storms and Floods, Let’s Get Ready!) highlights the importance of science-based preparedness, early warning systems, and community action in reducing disaster risks amid a changing climate, the weather agency said. Aside from a series of seminars on community-based typhoon and flood preparedness, Pagasa will launch information campaigns on social media that promote greater understanding of weather and climate hazards and appropriate preparedness measures.

- [Vico Sotto says Pasig reforms must endure beyond his term](#) (2026-06-15 15:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto said reforms implemented under his administration should not depend on his continued presence in government, stressing that the real test of his governance will be whether these changes remain after he leaves office. In an interview, Sotto said transparency should go beyond making government data available to the public, emphasizing the need to involve citizens in decision-making through participatory governance. He said reforms he introduced, such as opening public bidding, removing kickbacks, and allowing civil society observers during bidding processes, could still be reversed by future administrations if public support for transparency and accountability remains weak. Sotto said a future mayor could decide to stop livestreaming government bidding activities or remove citizen observers, bringing back the old system, which is why he believes the public must continue demanding better governance. “That is why we need to raise the demand of the people. If there comes a point that there is a mayor who will try to reverse some of these things, some of the reforms introduced today, someone will complain. Someone will fight back.” Sotto said he supports term limits, saying leaders should avoid building systems that rely heavily on one personality. He said his decision not to seek another term in 2028 would allow him to reassess his politics, life, and future direction after nine years as mayor. The Pasig mayor said the effectiveness of his reforms would be measured by whether they continue even without him in office. “If what I did now and the reforms I made now are good and long-lasting, the true test there is when I am no longer there. We should stop being too personality-based in our politics and in our governance,” he said. Sotto also acknowledged that his family name and public image helped him in politics, but said the country’s reliance on personalities instead of policies remains a weakness of the political system. “Yes, of course, to some extent. That is true. But that is what we are saying. That is the problem. That is not necessarily a good or bad thing if you look at specific scenarios. But that is not good. That is

wrong,” Sotto said. He said Philippine politics often revolves around incumbency, political machinery, money, or personality, instead of platforms and policy-based discussions. Sotto said he is not completely closing the door on returning to politics in the future. “I am not saying never. But I am saying 2028, it is time for me to take a step back. To evaluate everything. My politics, my life. Everything,” he said.

- [Speaker welcomes special session call](#) (2026-06-15 15:26)

MANILA, Philippines — House Speaker Faustino "Bojie" Dy 3rd welcomed President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s call for a special congressional session on June 17. "The House of Representatives stands ready to heed the President's call and continue advancing legislation that directly responds to the needs of our people," Dy said in a statement.

- ['Productive discussion' seen in upcoming meeting between Marcos, Putin](#) (2026-06-15 14:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Hopes are high that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will have a “productive discussion” with President Vladimir Putin when he embarks on his two-day working visit to Russia later this week. In a Palace briefing, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Assistant Dax Ismael said the two leaders’ face-to-face is a side event to the 35th Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Russia Commemorative Summit slated for June 17-18 in the city of Kazan. “The discussions will center on the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Russia. The meeting will likewise provide an opportunity to explore ways to further strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest particularly energy security and food security,” Ismael said. People-to-people exchange, tourism, education, cultural cooperation, and science and technology are also likely to be tackled, the official added. Meanwhile, the commemorative summit would bring together the leaders of Asean and Russia to commemorate 35 years of dialogue relations and to chart the future direction of this partnership. “The summit is likewise expected to adopt several key outcome documents. These will guide Asean-Russia cooperation in the years ahead. This includes the Kazan Declaration 2026 which will articulate the shared vision of ASEAN and Russia as we commemorate 35 years of partnership as well as joint statements on energy and on cultural cooperation,” Ismael said. “The leaders are also expected to adopt the Asean-Russia Comprehensive Plan of Action 2026-2030 which will serve as the principal roadmap for advancing cooperation across the political security, economic and sociocultural pillars of the partnership,” he added.

- [Marcos to lead ASEAN bloc in summit with Putin](#) (2026-06-15 13:53)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., will lead the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, in the 35th ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit slated for June 17 and 18 in the city of Kazan. “President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in his capacity as ASEAN Chair will co-chair the summit together with President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation. The meeting will bring together the leaders of ASEAN and Russia to commemorate 35 years of dialogue relations

and to chart the future direction of this partnership,” Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Assistant Secretary Dax Imperial said in pre-departure press briefing in Malacañang. The summit, the official further noted, also marks Marcos’ first visit to Russian Federation as a sitting Philippine leader. It also coincides with the commemoration of 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries this year. During the summit, leaders of the regional bloc and Putin are expected to review the progress of Asean-Russia strategic partnership and discuss ways to further strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual trust particularly on bio-safety and biosecurity, outer space and satellite applications, energy and food security, science and technology, trade and investment, tourism, education, and people-to-people exchanges. Apart from the summit, the president is also expected to have a meeting with Putin that will “most likely focus on food security and energy security,” “They will also discuss among others some very important regional international issues that both would consider important for the relationship. And, again, I would go back to the impact of the Middle East on energy security and food security so I think that would be the highlight of this meeting,” Imperial said. “We’ re also looking at people-to-people exchanges, tourism, education, cultural cooperation, especially also on science and technology. So, these areas will be discussed or will play a part in the bilateral meeting between the two leaders,” he added.

- [Prosecution assures no 'surprise' witness, evidence in Duterte impeachment trial](#)
(2026-06-15 13:17)

MANILA, Philippines — There will be no surprises. That is the assurance of the House Prosecution Team amid the possibility that there could be surprise witnesses or evidence as it submits its pre-trial brief to the Senate in preparation for Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial starting next month. The pre-trial conference is slated on June 18, Thursday. In a press briefing on Monday, House lead prosecutor and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said that Impeachment Court has ruled that witnesses who are named and evidence that are not marked in the pre-trial will not be presented. “We will not compromise the necessity of presenting vital witnesses just to be able to have some surprises during the trial. No, that will not happen. Because it will compromise our case,” Luistro said. It should be noted that during the impeachment trial of former president Joseph Estrada, the prosecution presented its “surprise witness”, Clarissa Ocampo, a former executive of Equitable PCI Bank, who testified on the signatures of the “Jose Velarde” account that was proved to be signed by Estrada. The prosecution also presented its evidence, a “second envelope” containing additional bank records of Estrada. This was not opened by 11 senator-judges and led to Estrada's downfall through “Edsa Dos”. Meanwhile, Luistro said that the prosecution aims to explore the use of Filipino and other regional language translations during the trial to make the proceedings easier for ordinary Filipinos to understand. They aim to formally raise the proposal on the pre-trial conference slated for June 18. “I wish to formalize as well on this upcoming pre-trial conference, the possibility of us, the prosecutors, and even the defense, to use Filipino language when the same is possible,” Luistro said. The prosecution, she added, wants the proceedings to be accessible to the public as they note that impeachment is a constitutional process that

affects the Filipino people. House Impeachment spokesman and Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong said that discussions are also underway to make the impeachment proceedings more accessible, and said that the trial is expected to involve technical legal arguments and terminology that many Filipinos would find it difficult to follow. "Once the impeachment trial begins, the audience will be hearing technical legal terms that are not necessarily quite understandable, easily to understand by the public," Adiong said.

- [Lawmaker thanks Marcos for prioritizing Nat'l Center for Geriatric Health bill in special session call](#) (2026-06-15 13:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila 6th District Rep. Bienvenido Abante Jr. on Monday thanked President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for including the National Center for Geriatric Health bill among the measures identified for consideration in Proclamation 1318. In the proclamation, Marcos called Congress to a special session this June 17 "to urgently consider the passage of" priority measures enumerated in it. "I would like to thank President Marcos for recognizing the importance of this measure and for making it one of the priorities for the special session," Abante, one of the measure's authors in the House of Representatives, said in a statement. "This sends a clear message that caring for our elderly is a national concern that deserves urgent attention", Abante said. All the measures identified in the proclamation have already been approved by the House before the special session call.

- [Gatchalian: Senate ready to act on special session agenda](#) (2026-06-15 13:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin Gatchalian on Monday called on fellow senators in the "rival" Cayetano-led bloc to attend the special session on June 17. The acting Senate president said the Senate is prepared to convene for a special session on June 17 upon the call of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. "I invite my colleagues to attend and take part in the proceedings as we act on measures that matter to the Filipino people," Gatchalian said in a statement. "The Senate knows its responsibility. The Senate must continue to work, fulfill its mandate, and respond to the needs of our nation," he added. He reaffirmed the Senate's commitment to its constitutional mandate and its duty to the Filipino people. The special session also covers the convening of the Commission on Appointments to act on Cabinet, military, and foreign service appointments. "These are measures that directly affect the lives of every Filipino," Gatchalian said. The President issued Proclamation 1318 which called on Congress to urgently consider several landmark measures including the National Center for Geriatric Health, amendments to the GASTPE Act, the AICS Act, amendments to the UAQTEA, the GIDA Schools Act, amendments to the Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act, the Anti-Political Dynasty Law, and the Presidential Merit Scholarship Program, among other measures aimed at strengthening social protection and uplifting the lives of ordinary Filipinos. Gatchalian said the Senate will also use the special session to act on relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction assistance for the Filipinos affected by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Mindanao on June 8. He also raised the need to pass Senate Bill 1182, or the proposed Agricultural and Fisheries Extension Act, which seeks to enhance the delivery of

technical support, training, and extension services to boost productivity and help revitalize the agriculture and fisheries sectors.

- [VP Duterte's defense team files pre-trial brief before impeachment court](#) (2026-06-15 12:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's defense team filed her pre-trial brief on Monday afternoon. This was confirmed by the defense team in a statement. The House of Representatives' prosecution panel has also filed its pre-trial brief. The House, voting 257-25 with nine abstentions, impeached Duterte on May 11, 2026 over alleged misuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth allegedly amassed, alleged bribery, and the kill remark against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. It then sent the impeachment articles to the Senate for trial. Duterte denied the allegations in the two impeachment complaints heard by the House Committee on Justice. This committee on Apr. 29, 2026 found probable cause to impeach her so it sent the impeachment articles to the House plenary for action.

- [House impeachment prosecutors to present over 30 witnesses](#) (2026-06-15 11:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives' prosecution team will present over 30 witnesses in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro, the lead prosecutor, said on Monday. The panel said there will be no surprise witnesses or evidence. In a press briefing on Monday, Luistro said that the impeachment court has ruled that witnesses who were not named and evidence that were not marked in the pre-trial will not be presented. "We will not compromise the necessity of presenting vital witnesses just to be able to have some surprises during the trial. No, that will not happen. Because it will compromise our case," Luistro said. The pre-trial conference is slated on June 18, Thursday. The House, voting 257-25 with nine abstentions, impeached Duterte on May 11, 2026 over alleged misuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth, alleged bribery, and the kill remark against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

- [Cayetano warns vs impeachment rule bending](#) (2026-06-15 11:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano warned against rule bending in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte as he questioned Sen. Win Gatchalian's vote threshold for conviction. Cayetano, who insisted that he is still Senate president, said Gatchalian affirmed the 16-of-24 vote threshold for conviction but also justified his supposed 12-of-24 election as Senate president pro tempore on June 3. Cayetano said Gatchalian himself said the Constitution "states unequivocally" that two-thirds "of all the members of the Senate" are needed to convict an impeachable officer. He said that because the Senate's membership is "fixed at 24...the conviction threshold is 16 votes, and it will remain 16 votes regardless of how many senators attend the trial." "My instinct was to commend Senator Win Gatchalian when he said that indeed 16 [votes] are needed to convict an impeachable officer," Cayetano said in Filipino in his Facebook livestream on June 12. However, he said that Gatchalian's bloc applied a different standard when it justified his supposed election as Senate president pro tempore

with only 12 votes. He said Rule II of the Senate Rules requires “a majority vote of all its members” to elect Senate officers. Applying the same fixed 24-member Senate logic Gatchalian cited for impeachment conviction, the required majority would be 13 votes, not 12 out of the available 22. Cayetano said the Gatchalian bloc’s shifting voting standards raise a deeper issue of “trust,” particularly on whether it will stand by the 16-vote threshold when the Senate proceeds with Duterte’s impeachment trial in July. “Are we going to really have an impartial trial, or aayusin at luto na (manipulated)? Are we going to tell [people] the truth that it needs 16 [votes] to convict, or six senators would be removed so that it will just need 12?” he asked.

- [Leviste wants P14B in food packs for disaster victims](#) (2026-06-15 11:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste has filed a resolution urging Congress to allocate P14 billion from its maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) budget to fund food packs for disaster victims. Leviste also questioned the “bonuses” allegedly given to House lawmakers amounting to as much as P5 million during the legislative break. He filed House Resolution 1118 on Monday urging Congress to allocate the MOOE for “bonuses” to fund food packs for those who have been affected by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Southern Mindanao. He told reporters the P14 billion of the P23.89 billion MOOE for 2026 could fund food packs or sacks of rice while still leaving Congress with P9.89 million. “We do not need a supplemental budget because we have the budget from the House of Representatives and the Senate that we can give directly to those who need it,” Leviste said. Much of the MOOE given to lawmakers was only “liquidated” by certification by the Commission on Audit, presenting checks showing how members of the House gets a basic MOOE of P1 million per month for office and other operating expenses with no receipts needed to support reimbursements. During his discussions with the House Committee on Accounts, Leviste said at least P10 billion of the P18.58 billion House MOOE budget goes to unidentified uses. He said that some congressmen were not able to receive any bonuses or additional MOOE after they did not go along with the majority’s wishes. “I don’t want to allege that some of them have not received their break bonus. The basic fact is some have received break bonuses, others did not,” Leviste said. He said General Santos Rep. Sherlyn Banas-Nogralles, whose province was badly hit by the earthquake, did not receive any MOOE after she voted against the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [6.2 magnitude earthquake jolts Mindanao](#) (2026-06-15 11:02)

MANILA, Philippines — A magnitude 6.2 earthquake hit several provinces in Mindanao on Monday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said. Phivolcs said the epicenter of the quake was 113 kilometers southeast of Governor Genoroso in Davao Oriental province. Intensity 5 was felt in Governor Genoroso and Jose Abad Santos in Davao Occidental. Intensity 4 was recorded in Alabel Alabel, Glan, Kiamba, and Malapatan in Sarangani Province; Koronadal City, Tampakan and Tupi in South Cotabato; General Santos City and Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat. Mati City in Davao Oriental, meanwhile, experienced Intensity 3, as well as Banga, Norala, Polomolok, Surallah, and T’boli in South Cotabato. Intensity 2 was recorded in

the cities of Davao, Kidapawan and in M'lang, Matalam and President Roxas in Cotabato; Maasim and Maitum in Sarangani; Lake Sebu, Santo Niño and Tantangan in South Cotabato. Phivolcs said there were no reports of injuries or damage to property but aftershocks were expected.

- [Gatchalian: Senate recognizes only one Blue Ribbon Committee](#) (2026-06-15 10:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Win Gatchalian warned that the chamber will not recognize any hearing or investigation conducted outside of the duly constituted Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) chaired by Sen. Erwin Tulfo. Gatchalian on Monday dismissed "any parallel proceedings as carrying no legal weight or institutional authority." He made the remark after former representative Mike Defensor on Facebook invited the public "to support the Blue Ribbon Committee hearing" on Tuesday to be held in Doublegem EDSA Garden Events Place. The BRC of the Cayetano bloc is headed by Sen. Pia Cayetano but she created a subcommittee led by Sen. Rodante Marcoleta to focus on the flood control fund scandal. Defensor sought support for the "Brave 18," or the former aides of resigned party-list representative Zaldy Co who admitted to have delivered "tainted" money in suitcases to several politicians. He also said that 14 more witnesses will come out to share their knowledge about the controversy. Gatchalian said the Senate "recognizes only one Blue Ribbon Committee, the one headed by Senator Erwin Tulfo." "Any hearing or investigation conducted outside of this committee has no legal standing, carries no institutional authority, and will not be recognized by the Senate," he added. Gatchalian said that the work of exposing corruption and holding wrongdoers accountable is serious business and deserves a proper, legitimate, and duly constituted forum. He reiterated his call for all witnesses and resource persons to come forward and testify before official Blue Ribbon committee. "The Senate is focused on the real investigation on corruption under proper procedures and the right forum. That is our promise to the Filipino people," Gatchalian said in Filipino.

- [VP Duterte declares P98.6M net worth in 2025 SALN](#) (2026-06-15 10:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte declared a net worth of P98,656,131.20 in her Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) for 2025. Declared in the SALN were assets of Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, which totaled P122,797,727.20. Their liabilities—totaling P24,141,596—were also declared. Duterte declared a net worth of P88,512,370.22 in her SALN for 2024.

- [Customs personnel foil wildlife smuggling attempt at NAIA](#) (2026-06-15 08:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Customs authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) intercepted 50 live endangered tortoises concealed in the luggage of a Malaysian passenger arriving from Bangkok. The discovery was made after the passenger's baggage was flagged during routine x-ray screening and subsequently marked for further inspection by customs authorities. A physical examination of the luggage revealed dozens of live tortoises carefully hidden inside the baggage in an apparent attempt to evade detection. Authorities identified the

animals as Radiated Tortoises and Indian Star Tortoises, both protected species covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Customs personnel documented and inventoried the animals before they were turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

- [Senate majority bloc recruiting two senators from Cayetano group — Tulfo](#) (2026-06-15 08:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Two members of the group of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano are being wooed to join the Gatchalian bloc, Sen. Erwin Tulfo said on Monday. The senator said the "friendly negotiations" are ongoing to encourage their colleagues to support Senate President Pro Tempore Win Gatchalian. "Aside from Sen. Joel [Villanueva], may dalawa pa isang lalaki, isang babae ang mahihikayat (there's two more - a male and a female [colleague] who can be enticed [to join us]," Tulfo said. Villanueva on Sunday said he will attend the special session called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Tulfo said some members of the majority had dinner with their possible "recruits" in order to discuss things. "Pero wala pa ngang malinaw na resulta sa pag-uusap (But there's no definite results yet from these negotiations)," he said in a radio interview.

- [CIDG eyes homicide, hazing in death of Ateneo student-athletes](#) (2026-06-15 07:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said preliminary investigation suggest that the death of two student-athletes of the Ateneo de Manila University could qualify for a case of homicide and hazing. Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili drowned during a team building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora on June 8. The CIDG presented a timeline of incidents beginning from Baterbonia's departure from Davao City up to the last activity the group did before the drowning happened. Major General Robert Alexander Morico II, CIDG director, said the direction of the possible cases will depend on the results of the interview done on everyone involved including the coaching staff, players present during the activity as well as university executives.

- [Quake death toll hits 65; 36 missing](#) (2026-06-15 07:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The death toll from the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Mindanao on June 8 has climbed to 65, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said Monday. The agency said 36 people are missing, 1,400 were injured, mostly in Regions 11 and 12. More than 3,000 families remain in evacuation centers. Around 14 local government units have declared a state of calamity. Damage to public and private infrastructure was estimated at P1.3 billion.

- [Diesel, kerosene prices to go down this week](#) (2026-06-15 07:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Oil companies are set to lower the prices of diesel and kerosene on Tuesday, June 16, but gasoline prices will go up. Shell and Seaoil on Monday said that they will cut diesel prices by P3.71 per liter and kerosene prices by P0.50 per liter. The cost of gasoline

will be raised by P1.68 per liter.

- [NBI to wrap Ateneo drowning probe this week](#) (2026-06-15 06:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said it expects to complete this week its fact-finding investigation into the drowning of two Ateneo student-athletes, after which it will issue a recommendations on the case. In a media briefing, NBI Director Melvin Matibag said subpoenas will be served to Ateneo men's basketball coach Tab Baldwin, team players, and other school officials as part of efforts to establish the circumstances surrounding the incident. He added that the bureau will also summon the resort owner and other concerned agencies. Matibag said investigators are validating social media posts, witness accounts, and other information gathered to determine what happened. He clarified that the probe remains at the fact-finding stage. "All involved parties will be invited and given the opportunity to give their statements," Matibag said, noting that the bureau aims to complete the investigation swiftly. He urged witnesses and individuals involved in the incident to cooperate with the investigation, emphasizing that their testimonies are crucial in determining the facts of the case.

- [Marcos visits Sarangani, GenSan](#) (2026-06-15 04:58)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday visited Sarangani and General Santos City, as he led the inspection of damaged infrastructure and distribution of aid to residents displaced by the powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake. The President's first stop was the municipality of Glan, the hardest hit in Sarangani province, where he conducted an aerial inspection and visited evacuees. He proceeded to General Santos City where he led the distribution of relief goods and financial assistance. Food packs and ₱5,000 cash aid were distributed to 4,000 workers who lost their jobs. Marcos also inspected damaged schools. It was the second time Marcos went to areas affected by last week's 7.8 magnitude temblor.

- [Marcos calls for Congress special session](#) (2026-06-15 04:27)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has called on both chambers of Congress to convene for a special session, Malacañang announced on Monday. Marcos issued Proclamation No. 1318, signed on the same day, calling on the House of Representatives and the Senate to urgently act on priority legislation aimed at strengthening social protection, expanding access to education and healthcare, and providing greater support to vulnerable Filipinos amid ongoing energy challenges and natural disasters.

- [Baldwin, 3 Ateneo execs no-shows at CIDG probe](#) (2026-06-15 04:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Five members of the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) Blue Eagles basketball team were subpoenaed by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) to appear for a fact-finding investigation on Monday but only the university's Athletics director Em Fernandez appeared. Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said Head Coach Tab Baldwin, team manager Epok Quimpo and ADMU professor Nemesio Que did not appear. The university sent a lawyer to represent them. Remulla said they will issue another subpoena on Friday. "A second

absence will warrant a contempt of court if they do not attend,” Remulla said. The interior chief said the investigation aims to determine the circumstances that led to the death of student athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili who drowned during a team-building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora. “It is a fact-finding mission, not fault-finding. We are not here to arrest, we are not here to charge but merely to gather the facts,” Remulla said. The players are also set to be subpoenaed on Tuesday.

- [Six out of 10 Filipinos willing to live or work abroad — OCTA survey](#) (2026-06-15 03:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly six out of 10 Filipinos are willing to live or work abroad if given the opportunity, a survey conducted by OCTA Research showed. In its Tugon ng Masa survey conducted from March 19-25, 2026, 57 percent of respondents said they are willing to migrate overseas to live or work, while 39 percent said that they will not. OCTA said that the finding suggests migration remains a “mainstream aspiration among Filipinos rather than a preference limited to specific sectors of society, and continues to occupy an important place in how many Filipinos envision economic advancement, career development, and long-term family well-being.” Respondents in Balanced Luzon showed the highest willingness to live or work abroad at 59 percent, while younger Filipinos ages 18-34 were the highest among age groups who want to live or work overseas at a combined 75 percent. The survey had 1,200 respondents and a margin of error of plus or minus three percent nationwide.

- [Report rude city hall employees, Biazon urges Muntinlupa residents](#) (2026-06-15 03:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Muntinlupa City Mayor Ruffy Biazon on Monday urged residents to report rude city employees. He said complaints should be brought to the Mayor’s Office for proper action. Biazon said he continues to receive reports of city hall workers allegedly showing unfriendly behavior. The mayor urged residents who encounter problems with city government officials or employees to identify the personnel involved and provide details of the incident instead of posting complaints online. “I advise people, if you have a problem with city government officials or employees, get down the names, list the names. Write them down or list the circumstances so that you can bring them to the Office of the Mayor,” Biazon said. He called on city employees to serve the public with proper treatment and concern. The mayor said the city government should focus on delivering a better customer experience so that residents can feel that they are being served with sincerity and concern.

- [23 ASF cases reported in Nueva Vizcaya](#) (2026-06-15 02:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Alarm bells are ringing for hog raisers as cases of African Swine Fever (ASF) have been reported in Nueva Vizcaya. The Provincial Veterinary Services Office confirmed 23 new ASF cases so far this year, hitting the municipalities of Kasibu, Bayombong and Villaverde and threatening the province’s struggling swine industry. Provincial Veterinarian Dr. Patricio Moreno said the cases were sporadic. “The ASF did not spread to other localities, as no other cases were reported,” Moreno told officials during Monday’s flag-raising ceremony. The virus that wiped out millions of pesos worth of hogs in past years remains under watch, even as

the provincial government pushed back with recovery efforts. With support from the Department of Agriculture, two Nueva Vizcaya municipalities received P10 million each under the Swine Repopulation Project. The funds will go to gilts, feeds, and veterinary supplies aimed at rebuilding herds through biosecure, science-based farming.

- [Easterlies to bring rain showers in Visayas, Mindanao](#) (2026-06-15 01:50)

MANILA, Philippines—The easterlies will continue to bring rain showers and thunderstorms in Visayas and Mindanao, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said Monday. It said Eastern Visayas, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, and Davao Oriental will have isolated rain showers or thunderstorms. Weather specialist Chenel Dominguez said Metro Manila and the rest of the country would likely have the same weather pattern but due to the localized thunderstorms. She added that the weather agency has not monitored any low pressure area forming inside or outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility.

- [NGCP issues yellow alert for Visayas anew](#) (2026-06-15 01:39)

MANILA, Philippines —The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) issued a Yellow Alert for the Visayas grid on June 15, Monday, as demand is expected to be high while major coal power plants continue to be unavailable. In its 8 a.m. advisory, the NGCP said that the yellow alert will be between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. as peak demand is expected to reach 2,482 megawatts (MW), while available supply is only at 2,581 MW. NGCP said that 26 plants are on forced outage, while 11 others are running on derated capacities, for a total of 953.1 MW unavailable to the grid. Major plants still on shutdown are Therma Visayas Inc. Unit 1 (169 MW), Therma Visayas Inc. Unit 2 (169 MW), and KEPCO SPC Power Corp. Unit 1 (100 MW). A yellow alert is issued when the operating margin is insufficient to meet the transmission grid's contingency requirement but does not often lead to power interruptions.

- [GenSan airport reopens for commercial flights 6 days after magnitude 7.8 quake](#) (2026-06-15 01:33)

MANILA, Philippines—The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) reopened General Santos International Airport (GSIA) on Monday, following a six-day closure due to the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Mindanao. The facility suspended commercial air traffic operations after the powerful earthquake damaged the control tower and passenger terminal building on June 8. Before the reopening, the Department of Transportation completed a comprehensive safety assessment confirming that the facility is structurally sound. Following the clearance, the airport authority welcomed the passengers of Cebu Pacific flight 5J997, the first commercial flight to land, which touched down at 7:08 a.m. CAAP said repairs are ongoing at the GenSan airport, but it has been restored sufficiently to safely resume full commercial operations.

- [Dela Rosa surrenders firearms to PNP](#) (2026-06-15 01:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Ronald dela Rosa has surrendered 20 of his firearms to the Philippine National Police. A lawyer representing dela Rosa surrendered the firearms to the PNP Regional Security Unit 11. Last month, the PNP revoked the firearms licenses of dela Rosa, who has been issued an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court for alleged crimes against humanity. Dela has remains in hiding.