



PHILIPPINES SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: June 20, 2026 - June 27, 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

The Philippines experienced a dynamic security landscape from June 20 to June 27, 2026, marked by intensified military exercises with allies, persistent tensions in the South China Sea, and significant diplomatic engagements. Joint maritime drills with the United States underscored a commitment to maritime domain awareness and interoperability, while the conclusion of Exercise Salaknib 2026 highlighted multinational cooperation with key Indo-Pacific partners. Diplomatic efforts saw President Marcos Jr. engaging Russia and Germany, though an oil deal with Moscow remains pending due to geopolitical considerations. Domestically, cybersecurity threats continued to escalate, prompting new government initiatives and international partnerships, while a naval stand-off near Scarborough Shoal underscored ongoing maritime disputes with China.

Key Security Developments

- Military Activities and Exercises

The Philippines and the United States concluded their fourth bilateral maritime cooperative activity (MCA) in the West Philippine Sea from June 14 to 19, 2026. This six-day exercise involved Philippine naval, air, and marine assets, including the BRP Diego Silang (FFG-7) frigate, alongside forces from the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, focusing on maritime interoperability, search and rescue, and visit, board, search, and seizure drills. This activity aimed to enhance maritime domain awareness and strengthen coordination ahead of a multinational naval exercise in Hawaii.

Exercise Salaknib 2026 concluded on June 18, 2026, at Fort Magsaysay, bringing together thousands of U.S. and Philippine service members, along with international partners from Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. The multi-domain training events included live-fire operations, electronic warfare integration, jungle operations, and command-and-control exercises, designed to improve combined operational capabilities and reinforce allied commitment to regional security.

A naval stand-off occurred near the disputed Scarborough Shoal on June 23, 2026, involving the Philippine Navy's guided-missile frigate BRP Diego Silang and four Chinese warships. The incident, which coincided with the end of Exercise Salaknib 2026, saw an exchange of radio challenges between the naval personnel, highlighting persistent tensions in the area.

- Defense Policy and Strategic Shifts

The Philippines is actively deepening security cooperation with Indo-Pacific Allies and Partners, including Japan, Vietnam, and the United States, to advance its military modernization and deterrence capabilities amidst South China Sea tensions. Manila and Tokyo agreed to upgrade ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership, facilitating classified information sharing and accelerating transfers of defense assets.

Manila is prioritizing the completion of a legally binding South China Sea Code of Conduct (COC) by the end of 2026, with monthly negotiations now underway between ASEAN and China. Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro emphasized the COC's importance for regional trade and energy security, citing lessons from the Strait of Hormuz disruptions.

- Diplomatic Relations

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. undertook a working visit to Kazan, Russia, from June 17-18, 2026, to co-chair the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit. Discussions focused on expanding cooperation in trade, investment, food security, energy, and digital transformation, though a formal oil deal with Russia remains unfinalized due to "geopolitical considerations" and concerns about indirectly funding Russia's war in Ukraine.

Diplomatic relations with China have deteriorated, characterized by "angry press releases" and Beijing's unprecedented ban on Philippine Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. and his immediate family from entering China. This follows strong statements by Teodoro regarding China's actions in the South China Sea.

The Chinese Consulate in Cebu City issued a diplomatic protest on June 27, 2026, opposing the city's declaration of July 12 as "West Philippine Sea Victory Day," reiterating China's stance that the 2016 arbitral ruling is "illegal, null and void." Philippine officials and maritime experts have rejected China's arguments, affirming the ruling's binding nature.

The Philippines and Vietnam elevated their ties to an enhanced strategic partnership on June 1, 2026, signing a memorandum on defense cooperation that includes high-level exchanges, strategic dialogue, information sharing, and joint maritime activities.

- Security Incidents and Threats

A Chinese floating platform was spotted near Scarborough Shoal in early June 2026, measuring approximately 6x6 meters and possibly carrying personnel, before being removed by Beijing this month. This incident prompted diplomatic protests from Manila and Taiwan, raising concerns among Philippine defense officials about China's "salami-slicing" tactics and potential for a more permanent presence.

The Philippine Senate implemented heightened security measures starting June 9, 2026, due to an "evolving security concern" confirmed by intelligence agencies,

including the National Bureau of Investigation and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency. These measures, including security sweeps and stricter screening, were enacted amidst heightened political tensions, ongoing impeachment proceedings, and anticipated mass mobilizations.

- Defense Acquisitions and Arms Deals

The Philippine government is negotiating with Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) for the acquisition of up to 20 KF-21 Boramae multirole fighters through South Korean concessional financing. This acquisition, part of the roughly US\$35 billion Re-Horizon 3 modernization framework, aims to establish a modern multirole combat aircraft capability with deliveries expected between 2027 and 2029.

The Philippines is also interested in acquiring Japanese Type 88 anti-ship missiles to bolster coastal defenses, following a demonstration during Balikatan 2026. Additionally, transfers of Japanese and U.S. vessels are expected to enhance the Philippine Coast Guard and Navy fleets operating in the South China Sea.

- Cybersecurity

The Philippine cybersecurity market is valued at \$780 million in 2026 and faces escalating threats, including state-sponsored attacks, AI-powered cyber attacks, data breaches, and ransomware. In response, the government is implementing initiatives like the National Cybersecurity Council, the DICT-Google Cloud Cybershield partnership (protecting over 90 government agencies by June 2026), and the Digital Bayanihan initiative.

The Republic of Korea (RoK) will support the Philippines in strengthening its national cyber crisis response capabilities through a 39.5 billion KRW (US\$25.6 million) official development assistance project from the second half of 2026 through 2029. This project, implemented by the Korea Internet & Security Agency (KISA), will establish an information security management system, a national cybersecurity center, and a cyber threat response system.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

The Philippines' security developments during this period significantly underscore its pivotal role in the evolving Indo-Pacific strategic landscape. The intensified military exercises with the United States, particularly the fourth bilateral maritime cooperative activity in the West Philippine Sea and the conclusion of Exercise Salaknib 2026 with multinational participation, signal a robust commitment to strengthening alliances and interoperability with like-minded partners. These drills, often conducted in or near disputed waters, serve as a clear demonstration of collective resolve to uphold a rules-based international order and freedom of navigation, directly impacting China's

expansive territorial claims in the South China Sea. The deepening security cooperation with Japan and Vietnam, including agreements for defense asset transfers and enhanced strategic partnerships, further diversifies Manila's security network and bolsters regional deterrence capabilities.

The ongoing tensions with China, exemplified by the naval stand-off near Scarborough Shoal and Beijing's diplomatic protests against Philippine assertions of sovereignty, remain the most critical geopolitical flashpoint for the Philippines. China's deployment of a floating platform near Scarborough Shoal, perceived as a "salami-slicing" tactic, highlights Beijing's persistent efforts to solidify its control over disputed features. The Philippines' firm stance, including its rejection of China's invalidation of the 2016 arbitral ruling and the declaration of "West Philippine Sea Victory Day" by Cebu City, reflects a determined approach to defending its sovereign rights. This confrontational diplomacy, while strengthening ties with allies, has visibly strained relations with China, as evidenced by the travel ban on Defense Secretary Teodoro.

President Marcos Jr.'s diplomatic engagements, including his visit to Russia for the ASEAN-Russia Summit and the earlier state visit by the German President, demonstrate the Philippines' pursuit of an independent and balanced foreign policy. While seeking to expand economic and strategic partnerships beyond traditional allies, the cautious approach to an oil deal with Russia due to "geopolitical considerations" indicates an awareness of the broader international implications of such engagements. The Philippines' active role as ASEAN chair in pushing for a legally binding South China Sea Code of Conduct by year-end also positions it as a key regional player advocating for stability and adherence to international law. These diplomatic initiatives, coupled with enhanced defense ties with Canada and the Republic of Korea's support for cybersecurity, illustrate a multifaceted strategy to bolster national security and influence regional dynamics.

Military and Defense Analysis

The Philippine military is undergoing a significant modernization drive, guided by its Comprehensive Archipelagic Defense Concept, which aims to protect Philippine territory and sovereign rights. This period highlights a continued focus on enhancing maritime and air capabilities, particularly in the context of the South China Sea disputes. The active participation in multiple joint exercises, such as the bilateral maritime cooperative activity with the US and the multinational Salaknib 2026, demonstrates a commitment to improving interoperability and readiness with key allies. These exercises involve a range of assets, including guided-missile frigates, helicopters, fighter aircraft, and coast guard vessels, indicating a push towards a more integrated and capable defense force.

Defense spending trends reflect this modernization push, with the government negotiating for advanced platforms like the KF-21 Boramae multirole fighters from South Korea. This potential acquisition of up to 20 aircraft, expected between 2027 and 2029, is a crucial step in establishing a modern multirole combat air capability and is part of the ambitious US\$35 billion Re-Horizon 3 modernization framework. The interest in Japanese Type 88 anti-ship missiles and the ongoing transfers of Japanese and U.S. vessels further underscore the strategy to bolster coastal defense and maritime patrol capabilities. While significant progress is being made, the country still faces challenges in fully developing its integrated air and missile defense (IAMD) networks, which are crucial for offsetting risks associated with hosting allied forces. The emphasis on acquiring modern fighter jets, interceptors, and medium-range IAMD systems remains a critical area for future development.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, the Philippines is likely to continue its robust engagement in multilateral military exercises with the United States and other Indo-Pacific partners. The upcoming multinational naval exercise in Hawaii, following the recent bilateral maritime cooperative activity, will further solidify these alliances and enhance interoperability. Tensions in the South China Sea, particularly around Scarborough Shoal, are expected to remain elevated, with continued "gray zone" tactics from China and firm responses from the Philippines. Diplomatic exchanges regarding the 2016 arbitral ruling and territorial claims will persist, potentially leading to further verbal confrontations. Domestically, the heightened security posture at the Senate, driven by "evolving security concerns" and political tensions, suggests a continued need for vigilance in the capital. President Marcos Jr.'s anticipated visit to Canada in July will likely further strengthen defense and economic ties.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The South China Sea, especially areas like Scarborough Shoal and the West Philippine Sea, remains the primary flashpoint. Any further attempts by China to establish a permanent presence on disputed features or escalate its "gray zone" activities could lead to direct confrontations with Philippine or allied forces. The ongoing cybersecurity threats, including state-sponsored attacks and ransomware, pose a significant risk to critical infrastructure and government agencies, despite ongoing initiatives. The political climate in Manila, with ongoing impeachment proceedings and "heightened political tensions," presents a risk of internal instability that could divert attention and resources from external security challenges.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of maritime incidents in the West Philippine Sea, particularly around Scarborough Shoal.

Any new construction or deployment of assets by China in disputed areas would be a critical development. Progress in the negotiations for the South China Sea Code of Conduct will indicate the potential for de-escalation or continued diplomatic deadlock. The pace and scope of defense acquisitions, especially for multirole fighters and anti-ship missiles, will reflect the Philippines' commitment to its modernization program. The effectiveness of new cybersecurity initiatives and partnerships in mitigating threats will be crucial for digital resilience. Finally, the stability of the domestic political environment and the resolution of internal security concerns will be important for national cohesion.

Strategic recommendations: The Philippines should continue to strengthen its alliances and partnerships with the United States, Japan, Australia, Canada, and other like-minded nations to enhance its deterrence capabilities and uphold international law in the South China Sea. Accelerating the modernization of its armed forces, particularly in air and maritime assets, and investing in integrated air and missile defense systems, is paramount. Proactive measures to bolster cybersecurity defenses through continued government initiatives, international cooperation, and public awareness campaigns are essential to counter escalating digital threats. Diplomatically, the Philippines should maintain its firm stance on the 2016 arbitral ruling while actively pursuing a legally binding South China Sea Code of Conduct. Internally, addressing political tensions and ensuring the stability of governance will be crucial for maintaining focus on national security priorities.

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: GMA Network

- [House bill seeks expanded maternity coverage for women in informal sector](#) (2026-06-27 03:55)

House Bill seeks expanded maternity coverage for women in informal sector

- [Marcos to visit Canada next week for talks with PM Carney](#) (2026-06-26 15:58)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will visit Canada from July 1 to 4 to meet with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Joseph Carney and discuss the progress of bilateral cooperation in several areas including defense, security, and trade, Malacañang said on Friday.

- [No winners of major lotto draws on Friday, June 26, 2026](#) (2026-06-26 15:18)

There were no winners of either of the major lotto jackpots offered on Friday, June 26, 2026, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) announced.

- [Davao sheriff asks to skip VP Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-26 14:57)

Davao City Sheriff Abe Andres, whom the House prosecution team has listed as one of the witnesses in the Vice President's impeachment trial, requested to be excluded from what he called “partisan political matters” Friday.

- [UP-Mindanao grad tops June 2026 Architects licensure exam](#) (2026-06-26 14:51)

A graduate from the University of the Philippines - Mindanao is the topnotcher of the June 2026 Licensure Examination for Architects, the Philippine Regulation Commission (PRC) announced.

- [Ateneo president answers NBI questions, submits documents in cagers' deaths probe](#) (2026-06-26 14:51)

Father Roberto “Bobby” Yap, president of the Ateneo de Manila University, appeared before the National Bureau of Investigation on Friday in relation to the deaths of student-athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili.

- [Ombudsman Remulla: Gov't working to keep US from becoming haven for ill-gotten wealth](#) (2026-06-26 14:06)

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Friday said the Philippine government is doing everything it can to ensure the United States is no longer used as a haven for ill-gotten wealth.

- [EXPLAINER: Do adopted children have inheritance rights under Philippine law?](#) (2026-06-26 12:49)

Do adopted children have the right to inherit from their adoptive parents under Philippine law? The answer is yes -- but only if the adoption was legally completed.

- [Sara Duterte cites free speech, lack of evidence in reply to impeachment articles](#) (2026-06-26 12:48)

The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte invoked freedom of expression, the confidentiality of bank records and Anti-Money Laundering Council reports, and the lack of sufficient evidence in answering the four articles of impeachment against her point by point.

- [BIR box an 'armory' of evidence vs. VP Sara Duterte, says House prosecutor](#) (2026-06-26 12:47)

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) box containing the tax records of Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband Manases Carpio is an armory of evidence against the official, House impeachment trial spokesperson Zia Adiong of Lanao del Sur said Friday.

- [EXPLAINER: What are the differences between the Venezuela and Mindanao earthquakes?](#) (2026-06-26 11:41)

Venezuela was hit by back-to-back earthquakes on Thursday with a magnitude of above 7.0, drawing comparisons to the massive earthquake that hit Mindanao on June 8, 2026, according to a report in "Saksi."

- [Solon seeks social media regulation, franchise after student violence](#) (2026-06-26 11:23)

Manila 3rd district Representative Joel Chua is pushing for the strict regulation of social media platforms and possibly requiring them to secure a franchise for their operations, following the recent violent incidents involving minors.

- [29 out of 33 pass special professional licensure exam for architects](#) (2026-06-26 11:09)

At least 29 passed the Special Professional Licensure Examination for architects administered in Hong Kong and Singapore last May 2026, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) announced.

- [EXPLAINER: Is the record-low fertility rate good or bad news for the Philippines?](#) (2026-06-26 11:04)

The fertility rate in the Philippines dropped to a record low in 2025, with the total fertility rate (TFR) of Filipinos aged 15 to 49 decreasing over the past three decades, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

- [Impeachment court should tell parties to avoid comments on VP Sara case merits--Lacson](#) (2026-06-26 10:30)

Senator Panfilo “Ping” Lacson on Friday urged the Senate impeachment court to advise the House prosecution panel and the defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte to refrain from commenting on the merits of the case to protect the integrity of the proceedings and prevent a “trial by public opinion” .

- [Pope Leo to bestow the pallium on 3 Filipino archbishops in Rome](#) (2026-06-26 10:12)

Filipino Archbishops Alberto Uy of Cebu, Charlie Inzon of Cotabato, and David William Antonio of Nueva Segovia are set to receive the pallium from Pope Leo XIV in Rome on June 29 during the feast of the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul.

- [Supreme Court decision: Absence alone insufficient to prove work abandonment](#) (2026-06-26 10:03)

As it ruled the dismissal of a production utility worker illegal, the Supreme Court (SC) reiterated that an employee's absence alone is insufficient to prove abandonment or justify dismissal.

- [House prosecution: Everybody wants to know who is Mary Grace Piattos](#) (2026-06-26 09:45)

Everybody wants to know who Mary Grace Piattos really is, the House prosecution panel said Friday following the conclusion of the pre-trial conference on the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [DepEd rolls out tighter school security measures after safety audit in Parañaque school](#) (2026-06-26 09:22)

The Department of Education (DepEd) on Friday outlined tighter security measures for public schools after Education Secretary Sonny Angara led a safety audit and dialogue with teachers, parents, students, and alumni at Parañaque National High School.

- [DOJ receives CIDG referral vs. Tab Baldwin, others](#) (2026-06-26 08:03)

The Department of Justice (DOJ) received Friday the referral filed by the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) for the conduct of a preliminary investigation against current and former coaches of the Ateneo men's basketball team over the deaths of cagers Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili.

- [Who are the critically injured victims in Tacloban shooting?](#) (2026-06-26 07:09)

Who are the critically injured victims in Tacloban shooting?

- [EXPLAINER: What are the warning signs that your child is being bullied?](#) (2026-06-26 06:29)

EXPLAINER: What are the warning signs that your child is being bullied?

- [Pre-trial order for Sara Duterte impeachment case out by Monday -- Bantug](#) (2026-06-26 06:24)

The Senate impeachment court is set to issue the pre-trial order on the impeachment case against Vice President Sara Duterte on Monday, June 29, 2026.

- [Mike Defensor says he is ready to face expected NBI complaint](#) (2026-06-26 06:11)

Former congressman Mike Defensor on Friday said he is ready to face the complaint that the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is set to file against him for alleged involvement in human trafficking.

- [Ateneo team-building used to 'screen' UAAP roster --DILG](#) (2026-06-26 05:01)

Ateneo team-building used to 'screen' UAAP roster --DILG

- [NBI: Strong indication Bato dela Rosa still in PH](#) (2026-06-26 04:40)

There is a strong indication that Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa is still in the Philippines amid the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant against him, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said Friday.

- [Sandiganbayan: Prosecution sufficiently informed Cusi, co-accused about Malampaya case details](#) (2026-06-26 04:25)

Sandiganbayan: Prosecution sufficiently informed Cusi, co-accused in Malapaya case

- [Marcos eyes new NKTi building as 'biggest dialysis center' in Southeast Asia](#) (2026-06-26 04:07)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Friday led the inspection of the construction of the 13-storey National Kidney And Transplant Institute (NKTi) Legacy Building in Quezon City, which he said is poised to be the single largest dialysis center in Southeast Asia.

- [GoreBox declines invite to attend Senate probe on Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-26 02:58)

GoreBox developer Felix Filip, the person behind the mobile game authorities are linking to the deadly Tacloban City school shooting, has declined to attend the Senate probe on the tragic incident.

- [Mary Grace Piattos could be 'smoking gun' in Sara Duterte confi funds issue --Ridon](#) (2026-06-25 15:33)

“Mary Grace Piattos” --if she exists--could be the “smoking gun” in the confidential funds issue against Vice President Sara Duterte, Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon said.

- [What are the past school shootings in PH?](#) (2026-06-25 15:15)

The shooting at a school in Tacloban City - which left three students dead - is considered as the first case of mass school shooting in Philippine history.

- [EXPLAINER: What happens to a youth offender under PH's Juvenile Justice Welfare law?](#) (2026-06-25 14:23)

Under the Republic Act No. 8344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006, as amended by Republic Act. No. 10630, a child of 15 years of age and below, is exempt from criminal liability but must undergo an intervention program as provided by the law.

- [Man who attacked elderly passengers in Muntinlupa jeepney arrested by police](#) (2026-06-25 14:19)

A man, who was caught on video hurting elderly passengers inside a jeepney, has been arrested

by the police in Muntinlupa City.

- [PCSO: No winners of major lotto draws on June 25, 2026](#) (2026-06-25 14:03)

There were no winners of the major lotto jackpots drawn Thursday, June 25, 2025, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

- [EXPLAINER: Is a gun owner liable if someone else uses their weapon in a crime?](#) (2026-06-25 13:41)

The mother of one of the victims in the June 22 shooting at a school in Tacloban City has called for charges to be filed against the owners of the firearms used in the incident. But can a gun owner be held liable if someone else uses their weapon to commit a crime?

- [Convict, accused in crimes committed at 17 show minors face accountability](#) (2026-06-25 13:39)

A convict who was found guilty of murder committed when he was 17, and an accused for rape, allegedly done when he was of the same age, are some examples of how minors are being held accountable for their crimes.

- [VP Sara impeachment pre-trial ends without opening BIR sealed box](#) (2026-06-25 13:27)

The pre-trial conference for the impeachment case of Vice President Sara Duterte concluded on Thursday without the opening of a sealed box from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) that supposedly contains her tax documents. Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon, one of the House prosecutors, said the sealed BIR box was also not marked as evidence for Duterte's impeachment trial.

- [Sheriff punched by Sara Duterte listed as prosecution witness in impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-25 12:49)

The House prosecution team has listed a Davao City official punched by then-mayor Sara Duterte as one of the witnesses in the Vice President's looming impeachment trial.

- [EXPLAINER: What is Bahay Pag-asa and how does it work?](#) (2026-06-25 12:22)

Bahay Pag-asa, or a rehabilitation center for the youth, serves as a facility for children in conflict with the law (CICL), where they undergo proper intervention. How does it work?

- [PHIVOLCS to Filipino families: Prepare for earthquakes on your own](#) (2026-06-25 11:34)

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) on Thursday urged families to make their own preparations for earthquakes, following the magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Mindanao.

- [Marcos orders DOTr to resolve LRT-1 Cavite extension right-of-way issues](#) (2026-06-25 11:11)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has directed Transportation Acting Secretary Giovanni Lopez to immediately resolve the right-of-way issues hounding the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 1 Cavite Extension.

- [Malacañang backs ICC warning vs media comments in Duterte case](#) (2026-06-25 10:02)

Malacañang on Thursday expressed support for the International Criminal Court (ICC) Trial Chamber III's move to warn parties in former President Rodrigo Duterte's case about making comments before the media regarding the proceedings.

- [Palace: Kiko-Aquino Dee not pro-Marcos](#) (2026-06-25 09:41)

Malacañang on Thursday slammed Senator Alan Peter Cayetano for telling civil society leader Francis “Kiko” Aquino-Dee not to get instructions from the Marcos administration.

- [Ombudsman orders Alan, Robin, Aplasca to answer obstruction raps over Senate shooting](#) (2026-06-25 09:39)

The Office of the Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla has ordered Senators Alan Cayetano and Robin Padilla, as well as ex-Senate Sgt. at Arms Mao Aplasca, to answer the obstruction of justice complaint against them over the May 13 shooting incident at the Senate.

- [BuCor allows kin of abducted students to meet Jovito Palparan](#) (2026-06-25 09:22)

The Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) on Thursday announced that it has allowed the families of abducted University of the Philippines (UP) students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan to meet with retired Army general Jovito Palparan.

- [Jinggoy Estrada suspension started June 22, 2026 -- Senate Sec. Bantug](#) (2026-06-25 09:07)

The Senate formally implemented on Monday the 90-day preventive suspension order against Senator Jinggoy Estrada in connection with his pending graft case due to his alleged involvement in the flood control controversy, Senate Secretary Renato Bantug Jr. said Thursday.



- [Japan says temporary visitor visas remain free for Filipinos despite visa fee hike](#) (2026-06-25 08:45)

Temporary visitor visas for Filipinos remain “gratis” or free of charge, the Japanese embassy in Manila announced on Thursday.

- [MARINA to refund admin fines of 89 seafarers with document issues](#) (2026-06-25 08:41)

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) on Thursday said it will refund the administration fines imposed on 89 seafarers who were deemed to have failed to maintain valid identification and record books.

- [Determine cause of school violence, Marcos orders agencies after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-25 08:16)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has directed authorities to immediately determine the cause of the series of recent violent attacks in schools as such incidents are unacceptable.

- [Marcos sympathizes with Venezuela after devastating earthquakes](#) (2026-06-25 08:03)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Thursday extended sympathies to the people of Venezuela, following powerful successive earthquakes that ravaged the country.

- [Trillanes files cyberlibel complaint vs Alan Peter Cayetano, Marcoleta, 18 ex-bodyguards](#) (2026-06-25 07:48)

Former senator Antonio Trillanes IV on Thursday filed a cyberlibel complaint against Senators Alan Peter Cayetano and Rodante Marcoleta with the Department of Justice (DOJ) over the Blue Ribbon Committee hearing held by the Cayetano bloc on June 4, which he called a “rogue” hearing.

- ['Mary Grace Piattos' as impeachment trial witness? Palace says that's prosecution's strategy](#) (2026-06-25 07:11)

Malacañang said Thursday the House of Representatives prosecution team might have a difficult time looking for a certain “Mary Grace Piattos” to present as a witness for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, considering that the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has no records of such a person.

- [Sandiganbayan denies Jinggoy Estrada's bid to consolidate flood control cases](#) (2026-06-25 07:02)

Sandiganbayan denies Jinggoy Estrada's bid to consolidate flood control cases

- [Sara Duterte camp 'optimistic' marking of evidence for impeachment to finish Thursday](#) (2026-06-25 06:35)

The Defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte expressed optimism the pre-trial conference for her impeachment case will be finished on Thursday.

- [EXPLAINER: Why are OTPs being replaced?](#) (2026-06-25 05:41)

EXPLAINER: Why are OTPs being replaced?

- [DepEd: Tacloban shooting, recent school violence remain isolated cases](#) (2026-06-25 05:25)

The Department of Education (DepEd) on Thursday maintained that the Tacloban shooting and other recent incidents of violence involving students remain isolated cases, but acknowledged the need for stricter implementation of school safety policies and closer collaboration with parents to prevent similar episodes in the future.

- [Cabinet officials seek to finalize 2027 priority spending](#) (2026-06-25 04:12)

Executive Secretary Ralph Recto recently led a meeting of key Cabinet officials to review the implementation of their agencies' respective budgets for this year and to finalize priority spending for 2027.

- [Tacloban shooting prompts DILG's Remulla to push for gun owners' liability](#) (2026-06-25 03:50)

Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said Thursday he will recommend changes to the country's firearms laws to impose criminal liability on gun owners whose licensed firearms are used by others to commit crimes, following the deadly school shooting in Tacloban City.

- [DOJ recommends filing of tax cases vs. 'BGC Boys' for P1.68-B tax liabilities](#) (2026-06-25 03:40)

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has recommended the filing of charges against the “BGC Boys” or “Bulacan Group of Contractors” over combined tax liabilities amounting to P1.68 billion, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) said Thursday.

- [Possible school attack in Leyte foiled after tip from Bam Aquino --SILG Remulla](#) (2026-06-25 03:37)

Another alleged school attack in Leyte foiled after tip from Bam Aquino

- ['Mary Grace Piattos' listed as witness for VP Sara impeachment](#) (2026-06-25 01:46)

Mary Grace Piattos listed as 'witness' for VP Sara impeachment

- [LIVE UPDATES: Tacloban school shooting \(June 25, 2026\)](#) (2026-06-24 22:55)

Here are the latest news and updates on the probe into the deadly Tacloban school shooting and related developments.

- [House probe on Tacloban school shooting sought](#) (2026-06-24 17:33)

A lawmaker has sought an investigation in aid of legislation into the recent incidents of violence in schools such as the deadly shooting in Tacloban City and stabbing cases in Cavite.

- [PNP reports 1,275 school-related youth offender incidents from 2022-2025](#) (2026-06-24 15:51)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) recorded a total of 1,275 school-related incidents involving Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) nationwide from 2022 to 2025, according to data from the Women and Children Protection Center (WCPC).

- [No jackpot winners for June 24, 2026 major lotto draws, says PCSO](#) (2026-06-24 14:56)

No one won the jackpot prizes in the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Wednesday, June 24, 2026.

- [Eligible Filipino citizens can avail UAE visa-on-arrival starting June 25, 2026](#) (2026-06-24 14:34)

Filipino citizens traveling to the United Arab Emirates and using Philippine passports with a valid visa, residence permit, or Green Card from certain countries are eligible for visa-on-arrival by the UAE, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) announced.

- [DSWD open to talks on lowering minimum age of criminal responsibility, Rex Gatchalian says](#) (2026-06-24 14:24)

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is open to participating in legislative discussions on the lowering of the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) for minors, Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian said on Wednesday.

- [Tacloban school shooting: 15-year-old shooter asked, 'Makukulong ba 'ko?'](#) (2026-06-24 14:13)

A fireman, who was among the people who arrested the 15-year-old shooter at the San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, said the suspect asked whether he would be jailed after he and a 14-year-old shot up the school, killing three and wounding 20 others.

- [Alan Peter Cayetano: Ping Lacson 'whitewashing' Senate Blue Ribbon Committee direction](#) (2026-06-24 13:47)

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday criticized Senator Panfilo Lacson anew, alleging that the latter is “excellent” in whitewashing by determining the direction of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee.

- [DILG chief Remulla says Manny Pangilinan invited to investigation of Ateneo drowning](#) (2026-06-24 13:42)

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group has invited business leader Manny V. Pangilinan to appear on Thursday in its probe of the drowning incident that killed Ateneo De Manila University basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said on Wednesday.

- [Coach Chot Reyes, sinabing matagal nang ginagawa ang beach training; nanawagang itigil ang espekulasyon](#) (2026-06-24 11:58)

Inihayag ng dating head coach ng Philippine Basketball Team at Ateneo de Manila University Blue Eagles na si Chot Reyes na hindi na bago sa sports ang beach o water training, ngunit nilinaw niyang hindi kasama rito ang aktuwal na paglangoy. Nanawagan din siya na itigil ang mga espekulasyon kaugnay ng pagkamatay ng mga Ateneo student-athlete na sina Rene Clert Baterbonia at Divine Adili.

- [2 Tacloban school shooting victims in critical condition as families demand justice](#) (2026-06-24 11:57)

Two of the 15 high school students who were shot in the Tacloban shooting on Monday are in critical condition - one was hit in the head, the other in the intestines - and their families are

crying for justice.

- [PH keeps one of Asia's highest ages of criminal responsibility](#) (2026-06-24 10:56)

The Philippines maintains one of the highest minimum ages of criminal responsibility in Asia at 15 years old, under existing law and in line with international child rights standards.

- [Lacson urges review of Juvenile Justice Law after Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-24 10:28)

Senator Panfilo “Ping” Lacson on Wednesday called for a review of Republic Act 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act in the wake of the deadly school shooting in Tacloban City, stressing that recent violent crimes involving minors have raised questions anew questions about criminal accountability and age-based exemptions.

- [House prosecutors' spokesperson decries defense team 'lies' about pre-trial process](#) (2026-06-24 10:27)

The legal spokesperson of the House Prosecution panel has decried the "fake news" being proliferated by Vice President Sara Duterte's defense team.

- [DOH workers sue Herbosa, Escolango over alleged graft, grave misconduct](#) (2026-06-24 10:23)

A group of concerned employees of the Department of Health (DOH) has filed graft, grave misconduct, and related complaints against Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa and Undersecretary Randy Escolango before the Ombudsman's office over the alleged unlawful appointment of Escolango to multiple key posts.

- [Vatican grants pontifical coronation of Marian image in Rodriguez, Rizal](#) (2026-06-24 09:43)

Pope Leo XIV has granted the image of Mary, Mother of Peace in Montalban (Rodriguez), Rizal a pontifical coronation, which recognizes its spiritual significance to the faithful.

- [Sara Duterte's impeachment trial set for July 6, 2026, despite tight schedule](#) (2026-06-24 09:14)

The impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte remains on track to begin by July 6 despite ongoing adjustments to the timeline of the pre-trial conference, Senate Secretary Renato Bantug Jr. said Wednesday.

- [Escudero: President called for special session to end Senate leadership dispute](#) (2026-06-24 09:11)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. called for the special session last week to resolve the leadership dispute in the Senate, Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero said Wednesday.

- [DepEd's Angara orders review of learner protection systems after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-24 09:00)

Education Secretary Sonny Angara has ordered a review of learner protection mechanisms in schools following the deadly shooting incident in Tacloban City, saying the tragedy highlights the need for stronger systems to identify and support at-risk learners before problems escalate.

- [Leptospirosis cases in PH climb to 2,177 in 1st half of 2026 -- DOH](#) (2026-06-24 08:30)

The number of leptospirosis cases in the first six months of 2026 in the country has increased compared to the same period the previous year, the Department of Health (DOH) reported Wednesday.

- [Who are the fatalities of the Tacloban school shooting?](#) (2026-06-24 08:13)

Who are the fatalities of the Tacloban school shooting?

- [VP Sara Duterte says 'there is hope' for PH amid public frustrations](#) (2026-06-24 08:00)

Vice President Sara Duterte on Wednesday said there is still hope for the Philippines despite growing frustration among some Filipinos over conditions in their communities and in government.

- [DOLE, TESDA launch 'graduation system' linking skills training to jobs, livelihood](#) (2026-06-24 07:50)

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) have signed a supplemental joint memorandum circular aimed at creating a stronger pathway from skills training to employment and entrepreneurship.

- [Nutritionist pushes for easier access to healthy food amid rising kidney disease cases in PH](#) (2026-06-24 07:32)

Filipinos should demand a healthier food environment where balanced and nutritious meals are accessible to everyone amid the growing prevalence of chronic kidney disease (CKD), a

nutritionist said on Wednesday.

- [Mike Defensor faces NBI raps over alleged human trafficking](#) (2026-06-24 05:45)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will file a complaint against former congressman Mike Defensor over his supposed links to a KTV bar and hotel in Pasig City that were raided for alleged human trafficking activities.

- [Senate impeachment court OKs extended hours, more teams for marking of evidence in VP Sara trial](#) (2026-06-24 05:12)

The Senate impeachment court secretariat has granted the House prosecution panel's request for additional teams for the marking of evidence in the trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [Charges over deaths of Baterbonia, Adili to be filed Friday -- Jonvic Remulla](#) (2026-06-24 05:07)

Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said Wednesday that charges are set to be filed before the Department of Justice (DOJ) on Friday, as authorities are nearing the completion of their investigation into the deaths of Ateneo basketball players Rene Clert Baterbonia and Divine Adili earlier this month.

- [DICT launches digital ID system for delivery riders](#) (2026-06-24 05:05)

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (Department of Information and Communications Technology) on Monday launched a digital identification system for delivery riders aimed at improving security, accountability and consumer trust in the country's growing courier and delivery industry.

- [SP Sherwin Gatchalian renews calls for socmed ban for minors](#) (2026-06-24 04:46)

Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Wednesday renewed his call for a social media ban for minors aged 16 years old and below following the tragic school shooting incident in Tacloban City.

- [SC: GSIS exceeded authority on survivorship benefits for secondary beneficiaries](#) (2026-06-24 04:17)

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) exceeded its authority when it issued a rule excluding secondary beneficiaries from receiving survivorship benefits for members with at least three but less than 15 years of service, the Supreme Court has ruled.

- [No final decision yet on Sara Duterte impeachment trial presiding officer -- Sherwin Gatchalian](#) (2026-06-24 03:34)

Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Wednesday said no final decision has been made on the possible election of a presiding officer for Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial.

- [CHED issues show cause order vs. Ateneo](#) (2026-06-24 03:22)

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) on Wednesday announced the issuance of a show cause order against Ateneo de Manila University following its failure to submit an incident report and documents on the deaths of student athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili.

- [DENR, aDryada ink deal to restore 120,000 hectares of Samar rainforest](#) (2026-06-23 18:57)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and aDryada, a developer of investment-grade natural infrastructure assets, have entered into a partnership to implement the Green Samar Project, a forest restoration program that seeks to rehabilitate 120,000 hectares of degraded rainforest in the Samar Island Natural Park.

- [AFP debunks tension rumors, says case vs. Teodoro a 'joke'](#) (2026-06-23 16:50)

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) refuted rumors that it will be filing a perjury and falsification of public documents complaint against Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., similar to what was filed last week.

- [EXPLAINER: What to do during an active school shooting?](#) (2026-06-23 15:12)

On Monday, a shooting incident occurred at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, Leyte, which led to the deaths of three students and left 20 others injured. What should you do during an actual school shooting?

- [No jackpot winners for June 23, 2026 PCSO major lotto games](#) (2026-06-23 14:37)

No one bagged the jackpot prizes in the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Tuesday, June 23, 2026.

- [Tacloban shooting: Police concerned over teen suspects' chat on avoiding accountability](#) (2026-06-23 14:13)

The top police official in Eastern Visayas expressed concern over the chat exchange between the



two teenage shooters at the San Jose National High School in Tacloban City.

- [Tacloban shooting: Father recalls Chris Fabian's final act in interview](#) (2026-06-23 13:20)

Chris Lorenz Fabian's final act of closing a classroom door to protect his classmates from a teenage shooter reflected the kindness for which he was known, his father told GMA News on Tuesday night.

- [Authorities probing possible Tacloban school shooting, 1999 Columbine incident link](#) (2026-06-23 12:51)

Authorities are investigating if the deadly shooting incident at a school in Tacloban City on Monday is related to the 1999 school shooting in Columbine in Colorado, United States that left 13 dead.

- [Tacloban shooting fatalities remembered as families seek justice](#) (2026-06-23 11:53)

One took the viral cellphone video of the Tacloban National High School shooting, and another closed the door of the classroom to keep one of their armed schoolmates from firing at those inside. The third showed the horror of the deadly shooting spree as she was carried outside the school in an attempt to save her.

- [Palace: Flood control mess not just about Zaldy Co](#) (2026-06-23 11:22)

Malacañang on Tuesday said the investigation into the alleged anomalous flood control projects is not solely focused on former Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co, as many other individuals may also be linked to the controversy.

- [Ilan pang nawalan ng PhilHealth benefits dahil sa 24-hour rule, inilahad ang pagkadismaya](#) (2026-06-23 10:56)

Nag-viral kamakailan ang post ng isang ginang na umabot sa P4 milyon ang gastusin sa ospital matapos magka-brain hematoma umano ang kaniyang asawa, na isang PhilHealth contributor. Ngunit hindi nila nakuha ang benepisyo dahil pumanaw ang kaniyang mister bago pa man umabot sa 24 oras ang paglalagi nito sa ospital.

- [ICC OKs more time for prosecution's observation on expert report on Duterte's fitness](#) (2026-06-23 10:54)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecution on Tuesday requested the Trial Chamber III to extend the deadline of the filing of their observation on the expert report regarding former

President Rodrigo Duterte's fitness for trial.

- [Malacañang: Leni Robredo's eyes open to Marcos admin's efforts, gains](#) (2026-06-23 10:34)

Malacañang on Tuesday praised former Vice President and Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo for recognizing the “aggressive” efforts of the national government for its housing program, despite being a contender of President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. during the 2022 elections.

- [Malacañang scoffs at OVP's accomplishment report: 'Okay, noted'](#) (2026-06-23 10:10)

Malacañang was less than impressed Tuesday with the recently released accomplishment report by the Office of the Vice President (OVP) under the leadership of Sara Duterte.

- [ICC warns lawyers against media comments in Duterte case](#) (2026-06-23 09:56)

Citing the interviews of former President Rodrigo Duterte's legal counsel, the International Criminal Court (ICC) Trial Chamber III on Tuesday warned parties in the case about commenting to the media regarding the proceedings.

- [Bojie Dy files bill to ban political dynasties, contractors from party-list system](#) (2026-06-23 09:20)

Speaker and Isabela 6th District Rep. Faustino “Bojie” Dy III has filed a bill seeking to ban members of political dynasties and contractors from being nominated or serving as a party-list representatives.

- [Malacañang to Sara Duterte: Students are not terrorists](#) (2026-06-23 09:16)

Malacañang on Tuesday hit back at Vice President Sara Duterte for saying that the Tacloban shooting incident exposed the government's supposed failure to recognize the importance of intelligence gathering and identifying threats.

- [Prosecutors seek more time to mark 'voluminous' confi funds evidence](#) (2026-06-23 08:50)

House prosecutors will ask the Senate impeachment court for two more days and additional manpower for the marking of the evidence in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [Tab Baldwin shows up at NBI](#) (2026-06-23 08:33)

Former Ateneo de Manila University men's basketball team head coach Tab Baldwin on Tuesday appeared before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

- [Minors could face prosecution if actions show discernment, lawyers say](#) (2026-06-23 07:57)

Though minors are generally exempt from criminal liability, minors above 15 years old may be held liable if it is proven that they acted with discernment, lawyers said Tuesday.

- [PNP, Palace back lowering age of criminal liability to 12](#) (2026-06-23 07:41)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Tuesday expressed support for calls to amend the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act and lower the age of criminal liability to 12 years old.

- [Marcos calls on Filipinos to build more inclusive society for refugees](#) (2026-06-23 07:20)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday called on Filipinos to help build a society where refugees are respected, welcomed, and given the chance to rebuild their lives.

- [Tacloban shooting Senate probe to begin July 1 -- Hontiveros](#) (2026-06-23 06:32)

The Senate is set to launch an investigation on July 1 into the fatal school shooting in Tacloban City, Leyte, Senator Risa Hontiveros announced on Tuesday.

- [Police reconstruct crime scene where Ateneo players drowned in Aurora](#) (2026-06-23 04:15)

Police investigators and local authorities on Tuesday began reconstructing the crime scene at the beach in Dipaculao, Aurora where Ateneo de Manila University basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili drowned.

- [Sara Duterte camp rejects claim of 'mirroring' prosecution's witnesses](#) (2026-06-23 04:00)

The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte rejected Tuesday claims that it is supposedly copying the House prosecution panel's witnesses list for the upcoming impeachment trial.

- [Erwin Tulfo seeks Senate probe into Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-23 03:42)

Senator Erwin Tulfo on Tuesday called for an immediate Senate investigation into the fatal shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City that left three students dead and several others wounded.

- [Police officer who owned gun used in Tacloban shooting under restrictive custody --PNP](#) (2026-06-23 03:02)

The Philippine National Police on Tuesday said the police officer who owns the firearm used in the deadly Tacloban school shooting has been placed under restrictive custody.

- [Sara Duterte urges gov't to 'act now' to make schools safer](#) (2026-06-23 01:52)

Vice President Sara Duterte on Tuesday called on the national government to implement immediate measures to make schools safer and ensure better protection of students, following the fatal shooting in a Tacloban City school.

- [PNP calls on parents, teachers to monitor minors' online activity after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-23 00:56)

The Philippine National Police on Tuesday urged parents and teachers to monitor children's use of social media and gadgets after a fatal shooting incident in a school in Tacloban City on Monday.

- [CWC calls for stronger school safety, child protection amid Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 20:29)

The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) on Monday called for stronger school safety and child protection mechanisms in the wake of the school shooting incident in Tacloban City and recent stabbing incidents in Cavite.

- [DSWD: Cash aid payout for Mindanao earthquake victims to start on June 23, 2026](#) (2026-06-22 18:50)

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Tuesday, June 23 will roll out its Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) program for families affected by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that hit off the coast of Sarangani earlier this month.

- [Kiko Pangilinan says minors accountable under juvenile justice law](#) (2026-06-22 15:32)

The author of the law that set the age of criminal liability at 15 years old said that, contrary to the views of its critics, the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act doesn't exempt children in conflict with the law from accountability.

- [EXPLAINER: Can impeachment articles be dismissed without trial?](#) (2026-06-22 15:00)

Weeks ahead of the start of her impeachment trial on July 6, Vice President Sara Duterte has maintained that the Articles of Impeachment against her should be dismissed outright.

- [PCSO: No jackpot winners for June 22, 2026 major lotto draws](#) (2026-06-22 14:13)

No one won the jackpot prizes in the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Monday night, June 22, 2026.

- [Lawyer of 18 ex-bodyguards: Let Kiko Pangilinan, Sharon Cuneta file raps](#) (2026-06-22 13:20)

The lawyer of the 18 alleged former bagmen of former lawmaker Zaldy Co on Monday said that Senator Kiko Pangilinan and his wife, megastar Sharon Cuneta, may file a complaint against them after a photo of the couple was included in their presentation.

- [Robin Padilla renews call for lower age of criminal liability after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-22 13:12)

Senator Robin Padilla urged fellow senators to work on amending the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act and lower the age of criminal liability to 10 years old.

- [PCG accosts China Coast Guard ship encroaching near west coast of Luzon](#) (2026-06-22 12:32)

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) issued a radio challenge at a China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel that was spotted encroaching near the coasts of Zambales, Pangasinan, and the Ilocos provinces.

- [Comelec begins printing of computerized voters' lists for BARMM polls](#) (2026-06-22 11:48)

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) on Monday began the printing of computerized voters' lists (CVLs) for the first parliamentary elections in BARMM.

- [DOJ coordinates with prosecutors over Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 11:18)

Justice spokesperson Polo Martinez on Monday said the Department of Justice (DOJ) has coordinated with the Office of the Regional Prosecutor of Region 8 regarding the school shooting incident in Tacloban City that left three individuals dead.

- [Henry Alcantara claims P90M raised for Revilla from Bulacan flood project](#) (2026-06-22 11:06)

Prosecution witness and former Bulacan District Engineer Henry Alcantara on Monday said he raised P90 million worth of commitment or kickback fee for then Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr. on the instructions of his former boss, ex-Public Works Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo.

- [State witness Henry Alcantara vows to return P300M from flood control fund scam](#) (2026-06-22 10:31)

State witness Henry Alcantara has committed to return P300 million to the government by 2027 as part of his admission into the government's Witness Protection Program (WPP), in exchange for his testimony on the alleged flood control fund mess.

- [DepEd to phase out grade transmutation in public schools](#) (2026-06-22 10:26)

The Department of Education (DepEd) will gradually phase out the use of grade transmutation in public schools as part of a new assessment and grading policy aimed at making grades more reflective of students' actual performance.

- [CWC wants regulations on online contents involving minors](#) (2026-06-22 10:08)

The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) said on Monday that it would coordinate with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to craft regulations for online content, such as vlogs, involving minors.

- [PNP: No validated threat behind Senate request for security assistance](#) (2026-06-22 10:04)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday said there is no identified or validated threat behind the Senate's request for security assistance, stressing that the move is part of routine preventive measures for upcoming official activities.

- [How to digitally claim cash gift under Expanded Centenarians Act](#) (2026-06-22 09:43)

The National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) announced that the P10,000 cash gift for Filipino senior citizens aged 80, 85, 90, 95, and 100 under Republic Act No. 11982 or the Expanded Centenarians Act can now be claimed digitally.

- [Robin Padilla calls for opposition to Chiz Escudero as impeachment court presiding officer](#) (2026-06-22 09:40)

The new Senate minority bloc should oppose the possible designation of Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero as presiding officer for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, Senator Robinhood Padilla said Monday.

- [PH fisheries body OKs P1.6-B fish port expansion program](#) (2026-06-22 09:39)

The Department of Agriculture's (DA) Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) approved P1.6 billion worth of infrastructure projects to modernize key fisheries facilities and help improve food security.

- [CBCP backs White Ribbon March vs corruption](#) (2026-06-22 09:04)

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines on Monday expressed support for the "White Ribbon Movement March," a protest against corruption set for June 28.

- [Marcos plans 70-meter dam along Cebu's Mananga River to address flooding](#) (2026-06-22 08:58)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Monday said the government is planning to build a 70-meter dam along Mananga River in Cebu to help mitigate flooding in nearby areas.

- [PNP: No official notice on arrest warrant vs. Marcoleta](#) (2026-06-22 07:48)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday said it has yet to receive an official notice regarding an alleged arrest warrant issued against Senator Rodante Marcoleta.

- [Senate impeachment court to allow 'surprise' witnesses in Sara Duterte trial](#) (2026-06-22 07:36)

The Senate impeachment court will allow both the House prosecution panel and the defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte to present surprise witnesses during the impeachment trial, Senate Secretary Renato Bantug Jr. said on Monday.

- [Who is Jay Tolosa, new House prosecutors spokesperson?](#) (2026-06-22 07:09)

The House prosecution panel on Monday named lawyer Benjamin "Jay" Tolosa Jr. as its new legal spokesperson for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [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).

## Source: PhilStar Global

- [Tricycle driver hurt in Lanao del Sur grenade explosion](#) (2026-06-27 03:24)

A tricycle driver was badly wounded in a grenade explosion that ripped through a predominantly Maranao residential enclave in Barangay Curahab in Malabang, Lanao del Sur on Thursday afternoon, June 25.

- [Gun, knife seized from 2 students in Cagayan school safety inspection](#) (2026-06-27 03:05)

Police recovered an unlicensed firearm and a bladed weapon from two students during a school safety inspection at a public school in Aparri, Cagayan on Friday, June 26.

- [LTFRB probes taxi drivers in transport contracting case](#) (2026-06-26 16:00)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) will be probing the taxi drivers who, instead of using the fare meter, offered a contract to two Thai pageant winners.

- [Sandiganbayan defers Cusi arraignment anew](#) (2026-06-26 16:00)

The Sandiganbayan Third Division has once again deferred the arraignment of former Department of Energy secretary Alfonso Cusi and several other former DOE officials facing graft charges over the Malampaya stake sale.

- [Angara meets Parañaque NHS stakeholders, ensures student safety](#) (2026-06-26 16:00)

Education Secretary Sonny Angara yesterday led a dialogue with learners, parents, teachers and alumni of Parañaque National High School, amid efforts to ensure safety of students following the Tacloban shooting incident that left three students dead and about 20 others injured.

- [President Marcos visits flood control project in Quezon City](#) (2026-06-26 16:00)

President Marcos cited yesterday the improvements in flood-prone areas in Quezon City with the ongoing implementation of the G. Araneta drainage improvement project.

- [NBI sees ‘strong indication’ Bato still in country](#) (2026-06-26 16:00)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) believes there is a “strong indication” that Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa is still in the country, as authorities continue to pursue leads on his whereabouts following the issuance of an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

- [Go extends aid to tricycle drivers in Davao Oriental](#) (2026-06-26 16:00)

Recognizing the challenges brought by high fuel prices, Sen. Bong Go distributed financial assistance to tricycle drivers and operators in San Isidro, Davao Oriental on Wednesday.

- [3 kids drown in Laguna](#) (2026-06-26 16:00)

Three children drowned while swimming in a lake in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna on Thursday night.

- [Tamaraw population in Mindoro park up 12 percent](#) (2026-06-26 16:00)

The number of tamaraws in the Mount Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP) in Mindoro rose by 12 percent this year, according to the office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Mimaropa.

- [President Marcos inspects food security projects in Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato](#) (2026-06-26 16:00)

President Marcos yesterday inspected projects and programs aimed at assisting farmers and ensuring food security in Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato.

- [20 Baguio villages’ drug-free status revoked](#) (2026-06-26 16:00)

Twenty barangays in Baguio City have lost their drug-free status after authorities confirmed the presence of suspected drug traffickers, Mayor Benjamin Magalong said yesterday.

- [Supporters seek reappointment of ex-BARMM chief minister](#) (2026-06-26 08:53)

Thousands of supporters of the former chief minister of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao staged a rally in this city on Thursday, June 25, and together urged Malacañang to reinstate him to the post.

- [PCSO turns over 18 PTVs to Visayas provinces](#) (2026-06-25 16:00)

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office has expanded the coverage of its medical transport distribution program after turning over 18 patient transport vehicles (PTVs) to 10 provinces in the Visayas.

- [NLEX ramps up safety efforts this rainy season](#) (2026-06-25 16:00)

Safety and maintenance efforts along the North Luzon Expressway are being scaled up to enhance traffic flow along NLEX this rainy season.

- [P860 million illegal cigarettes seized in Cebu](#) (2026-06-25 16:00)

Illegal cigarettes valued at P860 million were seized by agents of the Bureau of Customs and the National Bureau of Investigation in separate operations in Cebu on Wednesday.

- [Over 1,200 hogs die as ASF hits Negros](#) (2026-06-25 16:00)

Up to 1,213 hogs in Negros Occidental have died from various illnesses within a month, but authorities have yet to determine if the deaths were caused by African swine fever.

- [Probe eyed on landfill inside Rizal protected area](#) (2026-06-25 16:00)

An investigation will be conducted into the operation of a sanitary landfill inside a protected area in San Mateo, Rizal.

- [Comelec sets gun ban in 5 Parañaque barangays](#) (2026-06-25 16:00)

The Commission on Elections yesterday reminded residents of five coastal barangays in Parañaque City that a gun ban would be enforced ahead of the July 25 plebiscite on the proposed alteration of their territorial boundaries.

- [18 drug informants receive P9.66 million](#) (2026-06-25 16:00)

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency yesterday released P9.66 million in cash rewards to 18 PDEA informants whose tips led to major drug busts across the country.

- [DENR: Tree-cutting permit on Quirino Avenue expires](#) (2026-06-25 16:00)

The permit for tree-cutting and earth-balling along Quirino Avenue in Manila has expired, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said yesterday.

- [Isko forms task force vs school violence](#) (2026-06-25 16:00)

Amid armed violence in schools involving minor students, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno has signed an executive order creating the Safer Schools Initiative.

- [Cayetano, Padilla ordered to explain Bato ‘escape’](#) (2026-06-25 16:00)

The Office of the Ombudsman has ordered Senators Alan Peter Cayetano and Robinhood Padilla to answer the obstruction of justice complaints filed against them in connection with the departure of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa from the Senate premises on May 14.

- [BARMM polls on spotlight as region enters full autonomy](#) (2026-06-25 07:31)

The public’s attention is increasingly shifting to the first-ever Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections (BPE) on September 14.

- [GSIS allocates P69.1 million for quake damage claims](#) (2026-06-24 16:00)

The Government Service Insurance System has earmarked P69.1 million in loss reserves to cover initial claims for government properties damaged by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Mindanao.

- [LGUs to get higher shares from national revenues](#) (2026-06-24 16:00)

The share of local government units from national taxes will increase to P1.32 trillion in 2027 from this year’s P1.19 trillion, Executive Secretary Ralph Recto announced yesterday, noting the administration’s pivot to LGUs as partners in nation-building.

- [Angat Dam nearing critical level](#) (2026-06-24 16:00)

The water level in Angat Dam in this province was only 3.45 meters above its critical level of 160 meters as of yesterday.

- [Expanded village electrification covers 40 remote households](#) (2026-06-24 16:00)

40 households in a remote barangay in this town are now connected to a power grid as the provincial government continues to expand its electrification program.

- [‘Landmasses created by coastal uplift not livable’](#) (2026-06-24 16:00)

New landmasses formed by the coastal uplift following the recent magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Mindanao are not fit to live in and may be declared as geological monuments, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

- [Leptospirosis cases rise by 6%](#) (2026-06-24 16:00)

Up to 2,177 cases of leptospirosis have been reported from Jan. 4 to June 6, marking a six-percent increase compared to the same period last year, according to health officials.

- [DPWH: Roxas Blvd pumping stations repair done by July](#) (2026-06-24 16:00)

Following the completion of repairs at the Padre Faura pumping station, two more facilities along Roxas Boulevard will be fixed by early July, according to the Department of Public Works and Highways.

- [US Marine Corps invites Pinoys to free concert](#) (2026-06-24 16:00)

The US Marine Corps Forces Pacific Band will perform on June 28 at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay as part of the 250th anniversary of American independence.

- [Vice mayor's son charged over road crash](#) (2026-06-24 16:00)

Cases of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and damage to property have been filed against a son of Marikina Vice Mayor Del de Guzman, who figured in a road crash that killed a public school teacher.

- [DTI: More Metro Manila rolling stores fielded soon](#) (2026-06-24 16:00)

To enable consumers to buy basic goods at lower prices, the Department of Trade and Industry is planning to deploy more rolling stores in Metro Manila.

- [Montalban Marian image gets Pope Leo's approval for coronation](#) (2026-06-24 11:00)

The image of Mary, Mother of Peace in Montalban will be crowned.

- [2 traffickers linked to Dawlah Islamiya terrorists nabbed](#) (2026-06-24 10:21)

Anti-narcotics agents seized more than P3 million worth of shabu from two dealers, both known for sharing earnings with remnants of the Dawlah Islamiya, entrapped in separate operations in General Santos City and in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat on Tuesday, June 23.

- [Comelec, police, military expand BARMM polls security plan](#) (2026-06-24 07:17)

The Commission on Elections, the police and military have expanded the parameters of the security preparations for the first-ever September 14 parliamentary elections in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, officials announced on Wednesday.

- [Task force aims to curb illicit cigarette trade in San Ildefonso, Ilocos Sur](#) (2026-06-24 03:00)

The Municipality of San Ildefonso in Ilocos Sur has established a dedicated anti-contraband task force to strengthen local enforcement against illicit and smuggled cigarettes, becoming one of the latest local government units to institutionalize anti-illicit trade measures at the community level.

- [Man from Quezon City found dead in Batangas](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

A man from Quezon City was found dead with a gunshot to the head in Lipa, Batangas on Monday.

- [14 terrorists surrender in Maguindanao del Sur](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

Another batch of 14 former members of the terrorist group Dawlah Islamiya surrendered to government forces in Datu Piang, Maguindanao del Sur over the weekend.

- [28 rescued as boat develops mechanical trouble](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

Twenty-eight people were rescued by members of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) after their motorized boat developed mechanical trouble while sailing in the waters off Glan, Sarangani on Monday.

- [Graft probers to train on forensic accounting](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

Anti-graft investigators are slated to undergo a specialized training on forensic accounting and asset tracing following bilateral talks between Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

- [HIV awareness mural set at BOQ](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

As part of a campaign to prevent the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus, a mural will be painted outside the Bureau of Quarantine in Port Area, Manila.

- [LTFRB summons bus firm over counterflow video](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has summoned a bus company following a viral counterflow video in Quezon City.

- [Cebu town vice mayor facing 2 graft raps](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

A municipal vice mayor in Cebu is facing two graft charges for giving employees a bonus without the approval of the Sangguniang Bayan and for rehiring his doctor-wife as health officer when he was mayor.

- [Transport firm's 8 buses grounded over road crash](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

Eight buses of a transport company serving Northern Luzon have been suspended for 30 days in connection with a fatal road accident in Santiago, Isabela.

- [Benguet town dengue cases up 50 percent](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

The number of dengue cases in this town has increased by 50 percent in the first half of the year, prompting health officials to intensify prevention efforts as the rainy season has started.

- [ASF affects Negros Occidental hogs anew](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

Confirmed cases of African swine fever have been recorded in Negros Occidental, prompting authorities to urge local government units (LGU) and hog raisers to strictly follow ASF-control protocols.

- [14 more Dawlah members surrender to Army in Maguindanao del Sur](#) (2026-06-23 09:48)



Another group from the now-defunct Dawlah Islamiya turned over firearms and improvised explosive devices to an Army unit and pledged allegiance to the government during a symbolic ceremony on Sunday, June 21.

- [Graft raps filed vs suspended Minglanilla mayor over quarry rehab plan](#) (2026-06-23 03:34)

A denied rehabilitation plan led to graft charges against Minglanilla officials.

- [Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for June 23-29](#) (2026-06-23 02:30)

The impact of the Strait of Hormuz disruption is more likely to be reflected in next week's price adjustments.

- [Cop relieved over gun used in Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-23 00:52)

A policewoman whose firearm was allegedly used in the deadly Tacloban school shooting has been relieved from her post.

- [Super Typhoon Francisco slows east of Northern Luzon](#) (2026-06-23 00:15)

Batanes and parts of Cagayan remain under the lowest wind signal due to Super Typhoon Francisco.

- [Police nab suspects in murder of South Korean businessman](#) (2026-06-22 16:00)

The suspects in the murder of a South Korean businessman whose body was found inside an abandoned sport utility vehicle in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija last week have been arrested, the Philippine National Police announced yesterday.

- [Boy, 10, killed in Cotabato explosion](#) (2026-06-22 16:00)

A 10-year-old boy died while two other minors were injured in an explosion that ripped through one side of a river in Arakan, Cotabato yesterday.

- [Angat Dam water continues to recede](#) (2026-06-22 16:00)

Heavy rains in several parts of Bulacan and Metro Manila on Sunday failed to improve the water level at Angat Dam, with officials reporting that yesterday's level was just 4.54 meters above the critical water elevation.

- [Baguio vendor clearing op draws flak](#) (2026-06-22 16:00)

A viral video showing a young ambulant vendor being shoved into a truck by personnel of the city's public order and safety division has triggered criticisms online, with netizens condemning what they described as "heavy-handed enforcement."

- [Ombudsman indicts Cebu town mayor, 12 others for graft](#) (2026-06-22 16:00)

The Office of the Ombudsman has filed graft charges against suspended Mayor Rajiv Enad and Vice Mayor Elanito Peña of Minglanilla, Cebu as well as the town's administrator and 10

council members for deliberately blocking a quarry rehabilitation plan despite clearances from national environmental agencies.

- [Comelec raises BPE ballot-shading threshold](#) (2026-06-22 16:00)

The Commission on Elections has raised to 25 percent the ballot-shading threshold for the Bangsamoro parliamentary election (BPE) on Sept. 14, a move the Comelec said would ensure that all the votes would be counted.

- [4 more Discaya cars up for auction – BIR](#) (2026-06-22 16:00)

Prospective bidders may inspect the four luxury vehicles confiscated from detained contractors Curlee and Sarah Discaya ahead of next week's public auction, the Bureau of Internal Revenue said yesterday.

- [COA submits new docs in P41 billion Pharmally case](#) (2026-06-22 16:00)

The Sandiganbayan accepted yesterday new documentary evidence against former health secretary Francisco Duque III and former budget undersecretary Christopher Lloyd Lao.

- [Baldwin to face NBI today over Ateneo drowning](#) (2026-06-22 16:00)

After failing for the third time to comply with a subpoena in connection with the deaths of two Ateneo de Manila University cagers, resigned ADMU men's basketball head coach Tab Baldwin is expected to appear today at the National Bureau of Investigation.

- [FL launches rice drive in Metro Manila](#) (2026-06-22 16:00)

First Lady Liza Marcos led the rollout of a rice distribution campaign in Quezon City yesterday.

- [Muslim, Christian residents demand reforms in BARMM governance](#) (2026-06-22 10:58)

Thousands of residents from Bangsamoro provinces converged in Cotabato City on Monday, June 22, and vowed support for multi-sector efforts to address corruption, nepotism, and other problems currently besetting the autonomous regional government.

- [10-year-old boy killed, 2 minors injured in Cotabato explosion](#) (2026-06-22 10:27)

A 10-year-old boy died instantly, while two other minors were seriously injured in a powerful explosion that ripped through one side of a river in Sitio Danao in Barangay Ganatan in Arakan town in Cotabato province on Monday morning, June 22.

- [Big fuel price rollback to proceed despite Hormuz disruption – DOE](#) (2026-06-22 09:01)

DOE says latest oil market risks may affect next week's prices instead.

- [Two minors in custody after Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 08:38)

Two Grade 9 students, aged 14 and 15, are in police custody after a school shooting in Tacloban City.

- [Bayombong bishop defends presence among land defenders](#) (2026-06-22 06:19)

Bayombong Bishop Jose Elmer Mangalinao rejected claims that the diocese's role in a Kasibu mining dispute is adversarial.

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

Radio broadcaster Jay Lavapiezu 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.

- [3 teens killed in Tacloban City school shooting](#) (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.

## Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer

- [Family of younger Tacloban school shooter leaves city, neighbors say](#) (2026-06-27 13:53)

TACLOBAN CITY — The family of the 14-year-old boy who, together with a schoolmate staged the deadly San Jose National High School shooting has left their home in Barangay 85, with neighbors saying they apparently relocated to Manila. A neighbor, who requested anonymity but identified himself as a village official, said the boy's parents left

- [Marcoleta cautions against blaming video games in Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-27 13:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Rodante Marcoleta on Friday cautioned against rushing to blame video games for the deadly school shooting in Tacloban City. Marcoleta said some of his colleagues in the Senate were quick to conclude that video games were to blame, without first thoroughly studying the circumstances surrounding the June 22 shooting. “Some of

- [P82.7-M 'smuggled' cigarettes seized in Cauayan City](#) (2026-06-27 12:10)

CAUAYAN CITY, Isabela — The police and personnel from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) seized an estimated P82.713 million worth of allegedly smuggled cigarettes from three traders, including two Chinese nationals, during an operation at a hotel here on Thursday. Isabela police director Col. Manuel Bringas identified the suspects only as “Willy” and two

- [2 Camarines Sur robbery suspects nabbed in Quezon](#) (2026-06-27 11:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Two armed suspects allegedly involved in a robbery incident in Camarines Sur were arrested in Quezon province on Friday, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP). The PNP said that an operation was conducted after the Quezon Police Provincial Office (PPO) received a hot pursuit request from the Libmanan Municipal Police Station

- [Measures to address agri woes pushed to promote peace and order](#) (2026-06-27 10:47)

BACOLOD CITY – Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson on Friday called for stronger coordination to address threats to the agricultural sector and youth violence, warning that economic disruptions and social issues could undermine peace and order in the Negros Island Region. Speaking at the second quarter meeting of the Regional Peace and Order Council

- [Mayon Volcano update: Lava flow continues, Alert Level 3 stays](#) (2026-06-27 10:37)

MANILA, Philippines — An effusive eruption has been recorded at Mayon Volcano in Albay for the 173rd consecutive day as the volcano remains under Alert Level 3, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said on Saturday. According to Phivolcs, the lava effusion from Mayon Volcano's summit crater occurred from 9:41 p.m. to 11:19

- [Baterbonia family receives Davao City condo unit from NHA](#) (2026-06-27 10:17)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — The family of the late Ateneo de Manila University Blue Eagles cager Rene Clert “Bobet” N. Baterbonia has received a condominium unit worth P2.266 million from the National Housing Authority (NHA) as housing assistance. The unit is located at Madayaw Residences along Sierra Madre Road in Bangkal, Davao City.

- [Tamaraw population rises 12% in 2026](#) (2026-06-27 09:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The population of critically endangered tamaraws monitored in Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP) increased by 12 percent this year, with 425 animals recorded during the 2026 Annual Tamaraw Population Count. The count, conducted from April 15 to 20 by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Mimaropa through the Tamaraw Conservation Program

- [2nd part of adjusted SLEx, STAR Tollway rates effective July 1 – TRB](#) (2026-06-27 09:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The second tranche of the toll adjustment at the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR) Tollway and the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) will be implemented starting July 1, 2026, according to the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB). The TRB noted that the toll adjustment was done in two tranches for these tollways “to mitigate

- [Gun, knife confiscated from students at Cagayan school](#) (2026-06-27 09:21)

TUGUEGARAO CITY — Police confiscated a loaded gun and a knife from three Grade 10 students during a security inspection at the Aparri School of Arts and Trades (ASAT) in Aparri, Cagayan, on Friday. Investigators from the Aparri Municipal Police Station recovered a loaded .38 caliber revolver and a knife from the students. The three

- [3 suspects in Davao de Oro graduate's shooting arrested](#) (2026-06-27 08:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Three suspects have been arrested by the police while one remains at large following a shooting of a new college graduate in Pantukan, Davao de Oro last Thursday, the Police Regional Office in Davao Region (PRO-11) said. The PRO-11 reported that Franklin Tagnait Cabatlaog, 35; Raymond Diez Garcia, 34 and Roanna Taoy Colongan,

- [Saturday rain showers seen in parts of PH due to ‘habagat’ , ITCZ](#) (2026-06-27 07:29)

MANILA, Philippines – The southwest monsoon or habagat and intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ) will bring rain showers to parts of the country on Saturday, according to the state

weather bureau. In the 5 a.m. update, of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), weather specialist Veronica Torres said that the southwest monsoon will

- [Gallup: Filipinos most stressed at workplace](#) (2026-06-27 05:48)

Philippine employees remain the most stressed workers in Southeast Asia, according to the latest report by global analytics firm Gallup Inc., as they are also the most psychologically attached to their work across the region. In its State of the Global Workplace 2026 report, the Washington-based firm said 50 percent of Filipino workers experienced stress

- [Antigrift court admits bill of particulars in Udenna gas case](#) (2026-06-27 05:46)

The Sandiganbayan on Friday said the Office of the Ombudsman “sufficiently” informed former Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi and his coaccused of the specific basis in their graft case related to the Malampaya project. Associate Justice Karl Miranda, chairperson of the antigrift court’s Third Division, said the court determined this after state prosecutors submitted the bill

- [Marcos hastens SEA’s largest dialysis center](#) (2026-06-27 05:44)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday directed the immediate completion of the new Hemodialysis Building at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi), which is set to become the largest dialysis center in Southeast Asia. Once completed by the end of 2027, the 13-story HD Legacy Building being built on a 2,900-square-meter lot at the

- [BIR box remains sealed as VP Sara Duterte camp files comment](#) (2026-06-27 05:40)

The sealed box containing Vice President Sara Duterte’s tax records has not been opened or marked during the Senate impeachment court’s pretrial conference—an issue that could become a point of contention and delay the trial proper later. Senate Secretary and Impeachment Clerk of Court Renato Bantug said on Friday that unsealing the box from the

- [DepEd ramps up school security: Metal detectors, etc.](#) (2026-06-27 05:38)

Students, teachers and school visitors should expect thorough bag inspections from guards using handheld metal detectors, as the Department of Education (DepEd) launched a broad safety campaign to avoid a repeat of the June 22 gun attack on a Tacloban City campus that killed three high school students and wounded at least 15 others. The

- [Ateneo president says he met with cager’s kin right away](#) (2026-06-27 05:36)

Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) president Fr. Roberto Yap on Friday disclosed that he personally condoled with the grieving parents of varsity player Rene Baterbonia the day after the athlete and his Nigerian teammate drowned during a team-building activity in Aurora province on June 8. “I was there in the room the first time that

- [SC: Worker’s prolonged absence can’t be sole basis for dismissal](#) (2026-06-27 05:32)



An employee's consecutive absences alone are not grounds for outright dismissal, according to the Supreme Court. A decision by the high court's Third Division, dated Nov. 19 last year but released only recently, found agricultural company Green Era Biotech and its manpower service provider Great Value liable for the illegal dismissal of an employee who

- [Hazing raps pushed vs ateneo ex-coach, staff](#) (2026-06-27 05:30)

Two members of the Ateneo de Manila University men's basketball team drowned after being subjected to "intense physical activity" and hazardous sea conditions, the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) said on Friday, recommending hazing charges against former head coach Thomas Anthony "Tab" Baldwin and 10 members of the coaching and support staff.

- [DepEd helps Tacloban school heal trauma](#) (2026-06-27 05:08)

TACLOBAN CITY – Hoping to help students and teachers recover from the trauma of the June 22 mass shooting at San Jose National High School (SJNHS), the Department of Education (DepEd) has completed a three-day psychological intervention. The initiative forms part of DepEd's immediate response to help the school community cope with the tragedy and

- [Cops rebuild homes after Sarangani quake](#) (2026-06-27 05:06)

KORONADAL CITY – Less than three weeks after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake devastated parts of Sarangani province, police officers on Thursday began building replacement homes for families left homeless by the disaster. Eight personnel from the Regional Mobile Force Battalion (RMFB) started constructing the first permanent housing unit in Riverside, Barangay Poblacion in Glan town,

- [SBMA refutes toxic waste dumping claims by environmental groups](#) (2026-06-27 05:04)

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT – The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) on Thursday denied allegations that the freeport is being used as a dumping ground for toxic electronic waste from the United States, insisting that imported materials are legally brought in for recycling and are subject to strict government monitoring. "There is no dumping of toxic

- [More LGUs in Negros boost ASF biosecurity](#) (2026-06-27 05:02)

BACOLOD CITY – More local government units (LGUs) in Negros Occidental are strengthening biosecurity measures against African swine fever (ASF), rolling out stricter border inspections, pork entry restrictions and tighter monitoring to protect the province's swine industry. READ: Negros Oriental bans hogs, pork products from ASF-hit areas Bacolod, San Carlos, Binalbagan, Isabela and Moises Padilla

- [Cops bust cigarette smuggling ring in Lanao del Norte](#) (2026-06-27 01:06)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Authorities on Friday, June 26, seized over P4 million worth of allegedly smuggled cigarettes and arrested six individuals in Sultan Naga Dimaporo town in

Lanao del Norte. Operatives from the Police Regional Office 10 (PRO-10) and other supporting units intercepted a blue motorized boat named “Likom” anchored off the shores

- [DENR rules out land grant violation by Jesuit-run school in CDO](#) (2026-06-27 00:53)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Northern Mindanao (DENR-10) has ruled that Jesuit-run Xavier University holds the legal right to develop its 64-hectare property in Upper Carmen here into a modern campus alongside a mix of residential and commercial spaces. The ruling, signed by DENR-10 Regional Executive Director

- [Nordeco disputes Davao Light billing claim](#) (2026-06-27 00:47)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur – The Northern Davao Electric Cooperative Inc. (Nordeco) has maintained that it continues to conduct meter reading, billing, and collection in its service areas, saying it still receives billings from the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) and other power providers despite Davao Light and Power Co.’s claim that

- [Authorities end 12-day search for missing trekker in Bukidnon](#) (2026-06-27 00:08)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Search and rescue operations for a 31-year-old hiker who went missing on Mt. Kalatungan in Bukidnon province had been terminated after authorities exhausted all possible search areas without finding any trace of him, an official said. Alkharj Gomez Zamayla, a resident of Jasaan, Misamis Oriental, and a safety officer for a

- [Boy Scouts honor student killed shielding classmates in school shooting](#) (2026-06-26 23:13)

TACLOBAN CITY – The Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP)-Tacloban Council paid tribute to Senior Scout Chris Lorenz T. Fabian, 15, who was among those killed in the shooting incident at San Jose National High School that also claimed the lives of two other people and left at least 20 others injured. In a statement,

- [Chua: Unexplained wealth allegation will stand even without BIR box](#) (2026-06-26 23:07)

MANILA, Philippines — While they want to open the box containing the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) tax documents of Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband, Manila Rep. Joel Chua has maintained that there is enough evidence to convict her over allegations that she amassed unexplained wealth. Chua in an online interview on Friday agreed with

- [3 kids drown in Laguna Lake](#) (2026-06-26 22:45)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Three children who were first playing in the rain drowned in the lake in Santa Rosa City in Laguna province on Thursday, June 25. The Police Regional Office 4A in a belated report on Friday, identified the victims as “LM,” 3, girl; “MM,” 12, girl, and a “special child;” JB,” 7,

- [Negros Oriental bans hogs, pork products from ASF-hit areas](#) (2026-06-26 22:41)

BACOLOD CITY – The Negros Oriental provincial government has imposed a total ban on the entry of hogs and pork products from areas affected by African Swine Fever (ASF). The directive was made through Executive Order No. 46, Series of 2026, signed by Governor Manuel Sagarbarria on Wednesday, June 24, a copy of which was

- [No jackpot winners in June 26 PCSO Ultra, Mega Lotto draws](#) (2026-06-26 22:02)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpots for the Ultra Lotto 6/58 and Mega Lotto 6/45 draws conducted Friday night, June 26, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). The winning combination for Ultra Lotto 6/58 was 53-54-44-57-51-07, with the jackpot prize reaching ₱128 million. No ticket matched all six numbers to claim the top

- [La Mesa Ecopark celebrates World Environment Day with youth ECOmmittments](#) (2026-06-26 21:14)

MANILA, Philippines — In celebration of World Environment Day 2026, Manila Water Foundation and La Mesa Ecopark recently hosted a gathering dedicated to youth-led environmental advocacy. Anchored on this year’ s theme, #NowForClimate, youth leaders and representatives from various youth organizations gathered at the La Mesa Ecopark to engage in a series of targeted eco-activities. The

- [Francis Zamora turns over financial aid to Sarangani](#) (2026-06-26 21:01)

MANILA, Philippines — League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) National President and San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora turned over ₱1 million in financial assistance to Sarangani local government. The funds from the City Government of San Juan was handed to Sarangani Governor Ruel Pacquiao at the Sarangani Provincial Capitol to support the province’ s

- [Police, 3 robbery suspects exchange gunshots along NLEX, says PRO-3](#) (2026-06-26 20:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The police and three suspects exchanged gunshots along the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) on Friday. The suspects were apparently being tracked down for a series of robberies, according to the Philippine National Police Police Regional Office 3 (PRO-3). PRO-3 Regional Director Gen. Jess Mendez said that police officers were backtracking cases of

- [BIR sees conviction of ‘BGC Boys’ given 44 tax-related cases](#) (2026-06-26 20:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) believes that the so-called “BGC Boys” – or former Public Works and Highways (DPWH)–Bulacan engineers Henry Alcantara, Brice Hernandez and Jaypee Mendoza – will be convicted. This optimism comes after the bureau cited the 44 tax-related criminal cases that are set to be filed against them

- [Angara boosts school safety with security, anti-bullying plan](#) (2026-06-26 20:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) unveiled a nationwide School Safety Campaign to strengthen learner protection and campus security measures following the deadly shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City. Education Secretary Sonny

Angara announced the initiative, which brings together schools, parents, local government units(LGUs), law enforcement agencies, and

- [House prosecution panel: Open BIR box ‘in the interest of justice’](#) (2026-06-26 20:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution panel on Friday reiterated its call to open the sealed Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) box containing Vice President Sara Z. Duterte’ s tax documents, saying the impeachment proceedings provide the appropriate opportunity to examine and identify the records before trial. House impeachment trial spokesperson and Lanao del Sur Rep.

- [No tsunami threat after magnitude 6.6 quake hit area off Sarangani town](#) (2026-06-26 20:13)

MANILA, Philippines — There is no tsunami threat in any area after a magnitude 6.6 earthquake hit off the shore of Sarangani municipality in Davao Occidental on Friday evening, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said. READ: Phivolcs detects an earthquake swarm off Bolinao, Pangasinan “No destructive tsunami threat exists based on available

- [Spox: Sheriff witness may show behavioral pattern, culture of impunity](#) (2026-06-26 20:13)

MANILA, Philippines — House trial spokespersons Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong and Atty. Benjamin S. Tolosa Jr. on Friday said the inclusion of former Davao City court sheriff Abe Andres in the prosecution’ s witness list is intended to support evidence that may establish an alleged pattern of behavior by Vice President Sara Duterte. Andres, identified in

- [Magnitude 6.5 quake shakes large swathe of Mindanao](#) (2026-06-26 20:09)

[Updated at 11:45 p.m., June 26, 2026] MANILA, Philippines—A magnitude 6.5 earthquake shook a large swathe of Mindanao after striking waters south-southwest of Balut Island in Sarangani on Friday evening, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said. The quake, which struck at 7:34 p.m. local time, was tectonic in origin and was located 66

- [Marcos opens online platform to make gov’ t budget, spending transparent](#) (2026-06-26 20:02)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday unveiled a digital transparency platform that allows Filipinos to monitor how government funds are allocated and spent. The president also updated Philippines Public Financial Management (PFM) Reforms Roadmap 2024–2028. “On this occasion, we reaffirm a simple but defining belief of this administration: Public funds belong to the

- [Mother, son drown in Biliran while gathering shellfish](#) (2026-06-26 19:54)

TACLOBAN CITY — A 33-year-old woman and her six-year-old son drowned after being swept away by strong currents while gathering shellfish in the coast of Barangay Balaquid, Cabucgayan town in Biliran on Thursday evening, June 25. The victims were identified as Elsa

Esconejos, 33, and her son, Jordan Esconejos, 6, both residents of the barangay.

- [GoreBox developer says Senate hearing ‘separate’ from PH gov’ t probe](#) (2026-06-26 19:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The Germany-based online game developer of GoreBox, F2 Games, said that the Senate hearing, which it had declined to participate in, was “separate” from Philippine authorities’ investigation into its alleged influence in the fatal Tacloban City school shooting. Sen. Risa Hontiveros earlier bared that F2 Games founder Felix Filip had informed the

- [Sara Duterte defense panel files comment on prosecution’ s manifestation](#) (2026-06-26 19:06)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense panel of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment trial on Friday filed its comment to the manifestation of the House prosecution team, including the request to unseal the box of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) which contains her tax records. This was confirmed by Atty. Michael Poa, Duterte’ s defense lawyer,

- [2 minor suspects in Tacloban shooting kept apart in DSWD facility](#) (2026-06-26 18:32)

TACLOBAN CITY — The two minor suspects in the fatal shooting at San Jose National High School are being housed separately at a Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) rehabilitation facility, where they are receiving no special treatment and have at times been observed staring blankly, according to DSWD Regional Director Grace Subong. The

- [DepEd wants tighter security measure in schools after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-26 18:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) on Friday said it will be tightening security measures across all schools in the country following the deadly shooting in Tacloban City that resulted in the deaths of three students. To prevent a repeat of the incident on June 22, the agency said it has launched a

- [Padilla eyes automatic reservist registration amid security risks](#) (2026-06-26 18:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Robinhood Padilla has sought the automatic reservist registration for eligible Filipinos as a preparation for possible security emergencies, cybersecurity threats, and climate-related disasters. Padilla filed Senate Bill No. 2042 which seeks to amend the Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act by automatic military registrations of Filipinos aged between 18

- [NCRPO on full alert for June 28 ‘White Ribbon March’](#) (2026-06-26 17:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) is on full alert as part of security measures for the “White Ribbon March” protest this coming Sunday, June 28. In a statement, the NCRPO said the full alert status took effect at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 26.

“Preparations are reinforced through close coordination

- [Cops recover knife, revolver from Grade 8, Grade 10 students in Aparri](#) (2026-06-26 17:28)

MANILA, Philippines — A knife and a revolver were recovered by the police, allegedly from a Grade 8 student and a Grade 10 student in an Aparri school on Friday morning, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said. The weapons were discovered when cops from the Cagayan Provincial Mobile Force Company, in coordination with the school

- [LTO summons vice mayor' s son over fatal road crash in Marikina City](#) (2026-06-26 17:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) summoned the son of a vice mayor involved in a fatal road crash in Marikina City. It also placed his driver' s license under a 90-day preventive suspension, the agency said on Friday. The LTO issued a show cause order (SCO) against the vice mayor' s son, a driver

- [Adiong: Fear only reason Duterte' s lawyers oppose opening of BIR box](#) (2026-06-26 17:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The only reason that Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong could think of as to why Vice President Sara Duterte' s lawyers opposed the opening of the box containing Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) documents is fear of not being able to counter unexplained wealth allegations. Adiong in an online press briefing on

- [Human trafficking case vs Defensor, others filed before Pasig court](#) (2026-06-26 17:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Friday filed qualified human trafficking charges against former Rep. Mike Defensor and others before the Pasig City Prosecutor' s Office. The case stemmed from allegedly being connected to a KTV bar and hotel where human trafficking activities against over 50 women supposedly took place. Aside from Defensor,

- [Ombudsman promises to recover 'ill-gotten wealth hidden' in US](#) (2026-06-26 16:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Friday said the anti-graft body will do its best to recover ill-gotten wealth “hidden” in the United States. Remulla made the remark in a town hall meeting where he and Philippine Ambassador Jose Manuel Romualdez met with members of the Filipino community officials of the Philippine Embassy

- [Phivolcs detects an earthquake swarm off Bolinao, Pangasinan](#) (2026-06-26 16:00)

MANILA, Philippines — An earthquake swarm off the shore of Bolinao, Pangasinan has been recorded by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) since May 27, 2026. According to Phivolcs, it logged 287 earthquakes as of Friday, 7 a.m. The strength of the tremors ranged from magnitude 1.8 to magnitude 5.8. The depths ranged

- [Remulla: Support for UP has nothing to do with Ateneo probe](#) (2026-06-26 15:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said his support for the University of the Philippines (UP) men's basketball team was not related to his department's investigation into the death of two Ateneo de Manila University student-athletes. "Number one, I'm not the team manager. The team manager is Coach Bo Perasol. I'm

- [Solon: Everyone deserves to know Piatto's real identity](#) (2026-06-26 15:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Everyone, regardless of political leanings, deserves to know the real identity of Mary Grace Piattos, a recipient of confidential funds (CF) from the Office of the Vice President (OVP), Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong said on Friday. During an online press briefing, Alonto Adiong was repeatedly asked if the prosecution is

- [DILG: Baldwin knew 5 Ateneo players can't swim during Aurora activity](#) (2026-06-26 15:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Resigned Ateneo de Manila University men's basketball head coach Thomas Anthony "Tab" Baldwin allegedly knew five of his players can't swim during their Aurora activity earlier this month, according to Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla. "They knew something could happen because Baldwin asked his players who couldn't swim. Five said they couldn't," Remulla

- [Pagasa: Over 60% chance of El Niño intensifying from August onwards](#) (2026-06-26 15:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The state weather bureau has forecast that there is now more than 60% probability that the El Niño condition will intensify during the last months of the year. The condition may go on until early 2027. During the 197th climate forum of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), Climate

- [Prosecution invites 'Mary Grace Piattos' to VP trial to see who's lying](#) (2026-06-26 14:33)

MANILA, Philippines — After it was revealed that the prosecution had listed among its witnesses confidential fund (CF) recipient Mary Grace Piattos for Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial, one question remained: why invite someone whom you claim to be non-existent? The answer, prosecution spokespersons Atty. Jay Tolosa and Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong said

- [BSP-Leyte honors student for heroism during Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-26 14:23)

TACLOBAN CITY – The Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP)-Leyte Council has formally recognized Scout Chris Lorenz Fabian for his extraordinary heroism and selfless courage during the tragic shooting incident at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City. Through Board Resolution No. 2026-06-012, approved at a Special Executive Board Meeting on Wednesday at the BSP



- [Bantug tells prosec, defense moves on BIR box during impeachment pretrial](#) (2026-06-26 14:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Secretary and Impeachment Clerk of Court Renato Bantug on Friday clarified what transpired during the closed-door impeachment court’s pretrial conference over the disputed Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) green box. The box purportedly contained the tax records of Vice President Sara Duterte, her husband Manases Carpio, and their firms. Bantug said

- [Ex-barangay councilman gunned down in Bataan](#) (2026-06-26 14:05)

HERMOSA, Bataan — A former barangay councilman was shot dead by still unidentified gunmen armed with an Armalite rifle outside his residence in Barangay Culis in this town around 9 a.m. on Friday, police said. The victim was identified as Norman Dalit. Initial police reports said the suspects, who arrived in a van, opened fire

- [Court: Cusi ‘sufficiently’ informed of graft case in Malampaya project](#) (2026-06-26 13:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Third Division on Friday said the Office of the Ombudsman “sufficiently” informed former Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi and his co-accused of the specific basis of their graft case related to the Malampaya project. Associate Justice Karl Miranda, chairperson of the anti-graft division, said the court determined this after state prosecutors

- [P18.36-M ‘shabu’ seized in Camarines Norte buy-bust](#) (2026-06-26 13:22)

LEGAZPI CITY — Police arrested a suspected drug personality and seized P18.36 million worth of “shabu” (crystal meth) in a buy-bust operation in Daet town in Camarines Norte on Thursday. In a belated report on Friday, Camarines Norte Police said that the 33-year-old suspect, identified as “Joy,” sold a knot-tied sachet of shabu to an

- [Ateneo president on players’ death: ‘We’ ve been there since Day 1’](#) (2026-06-26 13:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) President Roberto “Bobby” Yap, SJ, said on Friday that he met with the families of Ateneo student-athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili to apologize for what happened, saying that “we have been there since day one.” Yap said this on Friday, shortly after he appeared before the

- [LTFRB launches investigation on taxi drivers in Thai models’ complaint](#) (2026-06-26 13:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has launched an investigation into erring taxi drivers who allegedly victimized two foreign models during their visit in the country, the agency said on Friday. According to the LTFRB, the investigation will also include the operators of the taxis involved in the incident. READ:



- [Lacson urges impeachment parties to avoid discussing case merits](#) (2026-06-26 13:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Panfilo “Ping” Lacson on Friday urged the Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, to advise both the prosecution and defense panels to refrain from publicly discussing the merits of the case against Vice President Sara Duterte before the trial begins. According to Lacson, “(E)ven before the impeachment

- [Ateneo team manager strongly advised vs Aurora activity — Remulla](#) (2026-06-26 12:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Ateneo de Manila University men’s basketball team manager Epok Quimpo “strongly advised against” the Aurora training activity in which two student-athletes drowned, according to Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla. In a press briefing in Quezon City on Friday, Remulla bared that Quimpo had given a statement to the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation

- [Baldwin, ex-Ateneo players clash over past near-drownings — Remulla](#) (2026-06-26 12:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Resigned Ateneo de Manila University men’s basketball head coach Thomas Anthony “Tab” Baldwin and some former players had contradicting testimonies on allegations of past near-drownings during training, according to Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla. Baldwin gave his statement at the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP CIDG) last June 19

- [Thunderstorms, rains forecast in parts of Luzon Friday afternoon](#) (2026-06-26 12:22)

Thunderstorm advisory issued at 11:22 a.m. on June 26, 2026. (Photo by Pagasa/X) MANILA, Philippines — Moderate to heavy rain showers with lightning and strong winds are expected in Metro Manila, and other areas in Luzon within the next two hours on Friday afternoon, the state weather bureau said. READ: Severe Tropical Storm Gardo exits

- [Marcos inspects, hails QC flood control facility](#) (2026-06-26 11:47)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Friday inspected the newly rehabilitated G. Araneta Drainage System in Quezon City. The project is part of the government’s intensified flood mitigation efforts under the “Oplan Kontra Baha” program. Marcos was accompanied during the inspection by Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon and Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa. READ:

- [Extremist groups declared persona non grata in Lanao del Norte](#) (2026-06-26 11:34)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — Two major base commands of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have formally declared extremist and lawless groups unwelcome in their areas of influence, a united stand against terrorism and criminality in the province. Philippine Army’s 1st Infantry Division spokesperson Maj. Noelio Brigole disclosed that the 127th Base Command, led

- [Ateneo, Smart unaware of Aurora activity until after tragedy — Remulla](#) (2026-06-26 11:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University and telecommunications company Smart Communications were unaware of the training activity in Aurora where student-athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili drowned, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said. “Based on all testimonies, the activity was carried out without the knowledge of Ateneo de Manila University,” Remulla said in Filipino in

- [DILG to seek HDO vs ex-Ateneo coach Tab Baldwin](#) (2026-06-26 11:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will recommend that a hold departure order (HDO) be issued against resigned Ateneo de Manila University head coach Tab Baldwin, Secretary Jonvic Remulla said Friday. “We will recommend an HDO,” Remulla said during a press briefing

- [Severe Tropical Storm Gardo exits PAR Friday](#) (2026-06-26 11:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Gardo (international name: Higos) exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) on Friday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. In its 11 a.m. tropical cyclone bulletin, Pagasa said Gardo was last located 1,310 kilometers east northeast of Extreme Northern Luzon, with maximum sustained winds

- [Marcos eyes 2027 completion of Southeast Asia’ s largest dialysis hub](#) (2026-06-26 10:55)

MANILA, Philippines – President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday ordered the immediate completion of the new Hemodialysis Building at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi), which is set to become the largest dialysis center in Southeast Asia. Once completed by the end of 2027, the 13-story facility will be able to accommodate up to

- [Hazing raps recommended vs Tab Baldwin, 10 others over 2 cagers’ death](#) (2026-06-26 10:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police – Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP CIDG) recommended the filing of charges against resigned Ateneo de Manila University men’ s basketball team head coach Thomas Anthony “Tab” Baldwin and 10 others for violating Republic Act No. 11053 or the Anti-Hazing Act. This is in connection with the drowning

- [Metal detectors rolled out in schools in Malolos, Bulacan](#) (2026-06-26 10:27)

MALOLOS CITY — The city government on Thursday began distributing metal detectors to public schools as part of heightened security measures following the deadly shooting at a Tacloban City high school that killed three students. Acting on the directive of Mayor Christian Natividad, the city government, through Security Officer IV Fernando Durupa, made an emergency

- [Ateneo president appears before NBI for probe into 2 cagers’ death](#) (2026-06-26 10:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) President Roberto “Bobby” Yap, SJ, on Friday appeared before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to provide testimonies and documents necessary for the investigation into the drowning incident that killed student-athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. Yap arrived at the NBI – Homicide Division office at around

- [Bacolod solon urges review of school safety policies](#) (2026-06-26 10:07)

BACOLOD CITY — House Deputy Speaker and Bacolod Rep. Alfredo Abelardo Benitez on Thursday announced that he is filing a House resolution seeking an inquiry into the accountability of educational institutions following a series of tragic incidents involving students. The proposed investigation will examine the recent deaths of Ateneo student-athletes, as well as separate incidents

- [Tacloban buy-bust nets high-value suspect, yields P5.78-M shabu](#) (2026-06-26 09:57)

TACLOBAN CITY — A high-value individual (HVI) was arrested, and around 850 grams of suspected “shabu” (crystal meth) worth about P5.78 million were seized during a buy-bust operation conducted by law enforcement authorities in Tacloban City on Thursday. The operation was carried out by the Tacloban City Police Office’ s Drug Enforcement Unit (TCPO-DEU) in coordination

- [Over 9,500 cops to secure White Ribbon March on Sunday](#) (2026-06-26 09:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police – National Capital Region Police Office (PNP-NCRPO) will deploy 9,553 police officers across Metro Manila for the “White Ribbon March” on Sunday, June 28. “There is no threat. This is our proactive deployment,” NCRPO spokesperson Maj. Hazel Asilo said in a text message sent to reporters. READ: Groups

- [GoreBox declines Senate invite on Tacloban shooting probe](#) (2026-06-26 09:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Germany-based developer of the video game GoreBox has declined to attend the Senate inquiry into the fatal Tacloban City school shooting, Senator Risa Hontiveros said Friday. According to Hontiveros, who chairs the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations, and Gender Equality, GoreBox developer Felix Filip informed the committee secretariat through

- [PNP backs review of violent video games, cites copycat behavior risk](#) (2026-06-26 09:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. on Friday expressed support for a government review of violent video games after the fatal shooting incident at a Tacloban City high school. “The PNP recognizes the need to examine the possible effects of violent video games on children and adolescents, particularly

- [Phivolcs monitors increased gas emissions from Taal Volcano](#) (2026-06-26 09:15)

LUCENA CITY — Taal Volcano in Batangas province has shown a slight increase in sulfur dioxide emissions, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported on Friday. In its latest 24-hour monitoring, Phivolcs said the volcano emitted 881 metric tons of sulfur dioxide. The volcano also produced plumes reaching 750 meters high that drifted

- [PNP backing DepEd’ s school safety drive after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-26 08:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. on Friday said the national police force is fully supporting the Department of Education’ s (DepEd) nationwide school safety drive following the fatal shooting incident at a Tacloban City high school. “The police organization will fully support the nationwide school security initiatives being

- [Massive fish kill hits Isabela fish farms](#) (2026-06-26 08:44)

SANTIAGO CITY — Fish cage operators at the Magat Dam in Ramon, Isabela have suffered millions of pesos in losses after a massive fish kill, believed to have been caused by oxygen depletion amid prolonged hot weather. The fish kill, which began on Wednesday and worsened on Thursday, struck just days before many growers were

- [Severe Tropical Storm Gardo to exit PAR Friday; ‘habagat’ persists](#) (2026-06-26 07:32)

(Image from Pagasa / Facebook) MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Gardo (international name: Higod) is expected to exit the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Friday while the southwest monsoon or “habagat” will trigger rain showers over parts of Luzon and the Visayas, according to the state weather bureau. In its latest weather briefing,

- [NBP: Mothers of missing UP students met with Palparan in Bilibid](#) (2026-06-26 05:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The mothers and lawyers of missing University of the Philippines (UP) students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño were allowed to enter the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City on Thursday to determine for themselves if former Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan remains incarcerated there. NBP director Superintendent Gary Garcia said in a

- [Biz groups back probe into shuttered Misamis steel plant](#) (2026-06-26 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Several business organizations have thrown their support behind the government’ s investigation into Philippine Sanjia Steel Corp., the Chinese-run firm whose Misamis Oriental plant was shuttered after radioactive materials were found within the facility. In a joint statement issued on Thursday, the groups, including the Philippine Iron and Steel Institute (Pisi), expressed “serious

- [P860-M illicit cigarettes seized in Mandaue City](#) (2026-06-26 05:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Authorities seized on Wednesday 11 cargo containers loaded with illicit cigarettes worth an estimated P860 million in Cebu, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said. In a statement on Thursday, the BOC said the operation stemmed from intelligence information that

led authorities to intercept two 40-foot containers carrying cigarettes in Mandaue City. It

- [‘That’ s enough,’ Lino tells brother Alan over remark at Aquino kin](#) (2026-06-26 05:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Film director Lino Cayetano on Thursday called out his older brother, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, following the latter’ s remarks against civil society leader Francis “Kiko” Aquino-Dee that referenced the long-standing political feud between the Aquinos and the Marcoses. Lino, who was recently appointed by President Marcos as People’ s Television (PTV) general manager,

- [Leyte student briefly held over threats of campus attack](#) (2026-06-26 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — A 14-year-old student from Tolosa, Leyte province, was released hours after being taken into police custody and turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for allegedly posting online threats of a school attack, with authorities later finding no evidence of an organized plan or immediate danger. Interior Secretary

- [‘Victims’ kin want both teen suspects charged over campus slays](#) (2026-06-26 05:39)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — The mothers of two students killed in the June 22 mass shooting at San Jose National High School are demanding justice for their children, saying both teenage suspects should be held fully accountable for an attack that left three students dead and 20 others injured. Their appeal came as authorities

- [Remains of Ateneo student-athlete Divine Adili back in Nigeria](#) (2026-06-26 05:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The remains of student-athlete Divine Adili are already in Nigeria and have been turned over to his family, Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) announced on Thursday. According to the university, Adili’ s remains were accompanied by Fr. Sigmund de Guzman, SJ, Ateneo college chaplain. “As our community continues to observe the 40-day mourning

- [Gov’ t, civil society groups split on reviewing juvenile justice law](#) (2026-06-26 05:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Stakeholders from the government and civil society remain divided on whether the country’ s juvenile justice law should be reviewed and made more stringent in the wake of the deadly shooting incident that involved teenage suspects in Tacloban City. The human rights watchdog Karapatan expressed concern over proposals to lower the minimum age

- [Trillanes includes Cayetano, Marcoleta in cyber libel raps](#) (2026-06-26 05:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawsuits continue to pile up against the 18 self-proclaimed “former Marines” who had claimed earlier that they delivered suitcases of money to government officials. On Thursday, former Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV filed another set of cyber libel complaints over the men’ s allegations that he received bags of cash worth millions of pesos

- [Assaulted sheriff, VP aide, ‘Piattos’ among witnesses](#) (2026-06-26 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution panel on Thursday firmed up its final list of 57 witnesses in Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment trial next month, including a former court sheriff, who was punched by the then Davao City mayor over a dispute in a court-ordered demolition 15 years ago, and one of her closest

- [Baguio hydros’ revival needs nod of nearby Benguet town](#) (2026-06-26 05:19)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — Tuba town, one of Baguio’ s closest Benguet neighbors, needs to have a say in a public-private partnership (PPP) offer to upgrade the city’ s century-old hydroelectric power plants that were built for the summer capital by the American colonial government. According to a report by a committee of the Baguio City council,

- [Cotabato public hospital starts robotic-assisted surgeries](#) (2026-06-26 05:17)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — The government-run Cotabato Regional and Medical Center (CRMC) has rolled out its state-of-the-art robotic surgery program, making surgical services aided by robotic instruments accessible to patients in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and nearby regions. CRMC is the first public hospital in the Bangsamoro region and the

- [Sugarcane pest attacks other crops in Negros](#) (2026-06-26 05:15)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — Negros Occidental Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson has agreed to create a province-wide task force to prevent the spread of highly destructive red-striped soft-scale insects (RSSI), which have now spread from sugarcane to other crops. According to former Negros Occidental Governor Rafael Coscolluela, the new provincial body, once created, will

- [Woman yields P510,000 shabu in Lucena City buy-bust](#) (2026-06-26 01:22)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — Police arrested an alleged female drug trafficker and seized suspected shabu worth P510,000 in a buy-bust operation in this city on Wednesday night, June 24. Col. Romulo Albacea, Quezon Provincial Police Office director, in a report on Thursday, said that operatives of the Provincial Drug Enforcement Unit (PDEU) arrested the

- [Ceiling panel collapses at Bicol International Airport](#) (2026-06-26 01:18)

MANILA, Philippines — The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (Caap) said a ceiling panel collapsed at Bicol International Airport Terminal on Thursday afternoon. According to Caap in a statement, it was the ceiling panel at the Well-Wishers area of the airport that detached and fell in front of a restaurant at approximately 5:50 p.m.

- [Tricycle driver killed in Quezon road mishap](#) (2026-06-26 01:15)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — A tricycle driver was killed in a vehicular accident in San Antonio town in Quezon province on Wednesday night, police said. A report from Quezon Police Provincial Office said a tricycle being driven by “Tonio,” 57, collided head-on with an

oncoming Mitsubishi Expander driven by “Teo,” 42, along the provincial

- [Marcos orders faster rehabilitation of quake-ravaged areas](#) (2026-06-26 01:06)

KORONADAL CITY, SOUTH COTABATO, Philippines — President Marcos ordered government agencies on Thursday to fast-track the rehabilitation of facilities destroyed by the recent powerful magnitude 7.8 that jolted southern Mindanao. He noted there’s a need for sustained government interventions to help the localities and quake victims bounce back from the disaster. “Kahit wala ng lindol,

- [Capiz bans entry of pigs, pork from Iloilo, Negros over ASF concerns](#) (2026-06-26 00:56)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — The provincial government of Capiz has imposed a ban on the entry of live pigs, pork, pork products, and related livestock shipments originating from or passing through Iloilo Province and Negros Island to protect its swine industry from the threat of African swine fever (ASF). The order was formalized through Executive Order No.

- [Huge Cotabato rally demands Bangsamoro pact’s full execution](#) (2026-06-26 00:47)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Tens of thousands of supporters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and its political party, the United Bangsamoro Justice Party (UBJP), gathered here Thursday to demand the full implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), the landmark peace deal the group inked with the government in 2014

- [Francisco exits PAR; Gardo intensifies into severe tropical storm](#) (2026-06-25 23:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Francisco (international name: “Mekkhala” ) has exited Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Thursday evening, said the state weather bureau. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) in its 11 p.m. typhoon bulletin, Francisco was last located 705 kilometers (km) northeast of Itbayat, Batanes outside PAR.

- [DILG: Up to mayors to create own task forces vs armed violence](#) (2026-06-25 23:21)

MANILA, Philippines — It is up to local chief executives whether to create their own task forces against armed violence in schools and public spaces following the fatal shooting incident in Tacloban City, according to Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla. “That depends on the mayor,” he said in a press briefing in Camp

- [Police eye ‘grudge’ in new graduate slay in Davao de Oro](#) (2026-06-25 23:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Police investigators are looking into whether an alleged grudge stemming from a “love quarrel” led to the killing of a new graduate fresh off his commencement rites in Pantukan town, Davao de Oro. “So far, we have a person of interest already. But, we cannot divulge because of the ongoing hot pursuit



- [Man nabbed for alleged attack vs jeepney passengers in Muntinlupa City](#) (2026-06-25 23:00)

MANILA, Philippines — A man was arrested on Thursday for allegedly assaulting passengers aboard a jeepney in Muntinlupa City, the police said. The incident occurred in the Filinvest area in Barangay Alabang, according to the Muntinlupa City Police Station in a statement. It did not say exactly when and where it took place. A video

- [Parañaque high school teacher faces raps over alleged abuse of minor](#) (2026-06-25 22:41)

MANILA, Philippines — A Parañaque City high school teacher has been charged with acts of lasciviousness and violation of anti-child abuse law for allegedly abusing a student, the Southern Police District (SPD) said on Thursday. In a statement, the SPD noted that the charges stemmed from reports received on their public complaint hotlines and social

- [Zambales police discover arms cache allegedly linked to communist rebels](#) (2026-06-25 22:27)

SAN ANTONIO, ZAMBALES, Philippines — Arms cache believed to have been hidden by members of a communist rebel group in a remote village in Masinloc town in this province was found on Thursday afternoon (June 25), authorities said. The cache, discovered in Sitio Buri, Barangay Inhobol, contained firearms, ammunition, explosives, tactical equipment, and subversive documents

- [Marikina vice mayor' s son faces raps over teacher' s death in road crash](#) (2026-06-25 22:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The son of Marikina City Vice Mayor Del de Guzman is facing a charge for reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and damage to property over the death of a public school teacher during a road crash incident. In a statement, the Marikina City Police Station said it had filed the charges against

- [No jackpot winners in June 25 PCSO Lotto draws](#) (2026-06-25 22:03)

MANILA, Philippines — No bettor won the jackpot prizes in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office' s (PCSO) Lotto 6/42 and SuperLotto 6/49 draws on Thursday, June 25. According to the PCSO, the SuperLotto 6/49 winning combination was 49-19-15-46-25-36, carrying a jackpot of about ₱42.70 million. No ticket matched all six numbers. The Lotto 6/42 draw produced

- [BIR estimates P343.12-M tax on Illicit cigarettes seized in Cebu](#) (2026-06-25 21:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The almost eight million packs of Illicit cigarettes that were seized from 10 40-foot container vans in Cebu City on Wednesday have a total estimated tax liability of P343.12 million, according to a statement released on Thursday by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, whose Central Visayas office led the simultaneous operations. BIR

- [Sandigan junks Estrada' s bid to consolidate plunder, graft cases](#) (2026-06-25 21:10)



MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Fifth Division has junked the bid of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada to consolidate his plunder and two cases of graft in a single division, saying the move would only cause a delay. In an eight-page resolution promulgated on Wednesday, June 24, the anti-graft court division denied Estrada's motions to consolidate or

- [Angara directs nationwide drive to boost school safety measures](#) (2026-06-25 20:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Education Secretary Sonny Angara, following an order from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, has started directing a nationwide, multi-agency effort to strengthen school safety measures following the shooting incident at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City. As part of this urgent push, Angara convened a security briefing on Thursday with officials

- [Illegal cigarettes worth P860M seized in Cebu — BOC](#) (2026-06-25 20:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Illicit cigarettes worth P860 million concealed in 11 40-foot container vans have been seized in Cebu by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and other partner agencies. According to the BOC, the cigarettes were uncovered together with the Philippine Coast Guard, National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine National Police, and Bureau of Internal Revenue

- [Teachers alarmed after youth allegedly ransacked Zambo Sur SPED center](#) (2026-06-25 20:47)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Educators at the Tukuran Special Education (SPED) center in Tukuran town, Zamboanga del Sur have raised the alarm over the alleged recurring ransacking incidents by out-of-school youth in their premises. Teacher Mayet Tubac posted on social media on Wednesday images of classrooms that were forcibly opened by the suspects believed

- [OPAPRU reaffirms support for Bangsamoro peace deal amid rallies](#) (2026-06-25 20:38)

COTABATO CITY — The Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) reaffirmed on Thursday the government's "strong commitment" to the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) following peace rallies organized by supporters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Cotabato City and Lanao del Sur, where participants called for the

- [Several solons file resolutions seeking Tacloban shooting probe](#) (2026-06-25 20:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Different lawmakers from the House of Representatives have filed a resolution seeking a congressional inquiry into the Tacloban school shooting last Monday, as solons want to address the root cause of school-based violence in the country. In a statement, ACT Teachers party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio said that he and fellow Makabayan bloc lawmakers

- [House prosecutors thank Senate after VP Duterte pretrial completion](#) (2026-06-25 20:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution panel thanked the Senate impeachment court on Thursday night for helping complete the pretrial proceedings in the case against Vice President Sara Duterte despite the thousands of documentary exhibits involved. The five-day pretrial conference, held on June 18 and June 22 to 25, closed with the marking of documentary evidence

- [Luistro: If trial will have longer hours, 2 witnesses daily possible](#) (2026-06-25 19:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The prosecution may be able to present two witnesses on a single day for Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial if the court adopts longer operating hours, lead public prosecutor and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said on Thursday. In a press briefing at the Senate after the end of the pretrial conference, Luistro

- [Remulla: Manny Pangilinan sent affidavit in Ateneo probe](#) (2026-06-25 19:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan on Thursday submitted an affidavit to the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP CIDG) in connection with the fatal drownings of two Ateneo de Manila University student-athletes.

"[CIDG director Maj. Gen. Robert] Morico informed the lawyers of MVP (Pangilinan) that his presence is no longer

- [Baterbonia death raises concern on athlete protection gaps](#) (2026-06-25 19:47)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — The death of Agusan del Sur basketball standout Rene Clert Baterbonia has raised concerns over athlete protection in local sports development programs, particularly when athletes transition from local government unit (LGU)-supported initiatives to school or collegiate teams. Baterbonia's mother, Rovelyn, brought the issue after publicly claiming that their family

- [Mayon Volcano records minor lava burst](#) (2026-06-25 19:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Mayon Volcano recorded a minor explosive activity involving bursts of lava on Thursday evening, according to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD). The OCD said the minor strombolian activity began at 6:58 p.m. This activity came after two lava effusions were recorded on Wednesday evening, as Mayon entered its 170th day of

- [Approved voucher program bill to expand access to education — Dy](#) (2026-06-25 19:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The bicameral conference committee's approval of the proposed Private Basic Education Voucher Program brings the government a step closer to expanding access to quality basic education, House Speaker Faustino "Bojie" G. Dy III said in a statement on Thursday. "Education remains the best investment we can make for our country's future. By

- [Child justice council rejects lowering age of criminal responsibility](#) (2026-06-25 19:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC), the policy-making body mandated to implement the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, opposed proposals to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility, saying studies have not shown that harsher laws necessarily deter youth violence. “If we look at the drivers of violence, lowering the age

- [Zamboanga del Sur schools tighten security after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-25 18:54)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — The Schools Division of Zamboanga del Sur has placed all public schools under heightened alert, mandating stricter security and emergency preparedness measures in the wake of the deadly school shooting in Tacloban City. The Tacloban school rampage on Monday involving two minor students left three students dead and 20

- [DepEd to hire more counselors to stem school violence](#) (2026-06-25 18:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) will hire more guidance counselors to deter violence in school premises following a series of crimes committed by minor students in different parts of the country. DepEd Undersecretary Malcolm Garma on Thursday said school counselors serve as a crucial intervention, giving students the confidence to talk about their thoughts,

- [DSWD to boost parenting lessons after Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-25 18:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) wants to intensify and expand parenting lessons following the Tacloban City school shooting involving gunmen aged 14 and 15. “As we say, the first teachers of our children are our parents. So we’ re looking at strengthening our parenting effectiveness sessions,” DSWD Assistant Secretary Irene

- [Army says NPA fighters in Northern Mindanao ‘down to 16’](#) (2026-06-25 18:34)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – The New People’ s Army’ s (NPA) North Central Mindanao Regional Committee (NCMRC) has been reduced to just 16 armed guerrillas, the military said, signaling what could be the government’ s final push to end the communist insurgency in the region. In an interview on Thursday afternoon, Lieutenant Col. Joe Patrick Martinez, the

- [Gov’ t ramps up infrastructure spending to revive economy, Palace says](#) (2026-06-25 18:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The government will speed up infrastructure spending in the second half of the year, after cautious fund releases linked to questionable flood control projects contributed to slower economic growth, according to Malacañang. Palace press officer Claire Castro said on Thursday that public spending had been restrained as government agencies, especially the Department of

- [Bangsamoro chief welcomes peace rally staged by MILF supporters](#) (2026-06-25 18:21)

COTABATO CITY — Bangsamoro Interim Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua on Thursday described the peace rally organized by Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) supporters and its political party as a “healthy sign of democracy.” “As long as it is peaceful and participants do not use profane language, that’s okay with me,” Macacua told reporters after visiting

- [Agriculture chief bans feedstock imports for bioethanol production](#) (2026-06-25 18:07)

BACOLOD CITY — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has ordered a halt to the importation of feedstock — including molasses, sugar, sugarcane, and sugar syrups — for bioethanol production to protect the domestic sugar industry and local farmers. Laurel, in Sugar Order No. 4, Series of 2025-2026 dated May 22 this year but released to the media

- [Ateneo drowning probe: PNP CIDG takes statements from Baterbonia’s mom](#) (2026-06-25 17:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP CIDG) has taken a statement from the mother of late Ateneo de Manila University student-athlete Rene Clert Baterbonia. In a statement, the CIDG said its investigators visited the Baterbonia family in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur, on Thursday. “The CIDG obtained the official

- [Palace: ‘Mary Grace Piattos’ as impeachment witness a ‘strategy’](#) (2026-06-25 17:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Palace Press Officer Claire Castro on Thursday described as a “strategy” the confidential payment recipient Mary Grace Piattos’ inclusion among the 57 witnesses listed by the prosecution panel for Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial. Piattos, whose identity was confirmed nonexistent by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), is among the names used to sign acknowledgment

- [Cayetano, Padilla ordered to respond to obstruction of justice raps](#) (2026-06-25 17:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman has directed Senators Alan Peter Cayetano and Robin Padilla, as well as suspended Senate sergeant-at-arms (SAA) Ma O. Aplasca, to answer the complaint against them in connection with Sen. Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa’s escape from the Senate premises last month. In an order dated June 23 (Tuesday), but was only furnished

- [Man shot after graduation ceremony in Davao de Oro](#) (2026-06-25 17:43)

[Updated June 25, 2026, 7:10 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — A man was wounded after unidentified gunmen opened fire on him shortly after attending a graduation ceremony in Pantukan, Davao de Oro, on Thursday afternoon, police said. The shooting happened along the National Highway in Purok Gemelina, Barangay Kingking, according to a report from the Police

- [Lustro: Piattos as potential witness may help prove prosecution’s claim](#) (2026-06-25 17:41)

MANILA, Philippines — While she refused to confirm if confidential payment recipient Mary Grace Piattos was among the 57 witnesses to be presented by the prosecution panel, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said that such an inclusion may be significant in proving allegations against Vice President Sara Duterte. In an online interview on Thursday, Luistro, who is

- [Dave Ildefonso: Ateneo tragedy ‘accidental but avoidable’](#) (2026-06-25 17:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Ateneo de Manila University basketball player Dave Ildefonso said the fatal drowning of student-athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili was “accidental but avoidable.” Ildefonso appeared before the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP CIDG) at their headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City on Thursday as part of the

- [VP impeachment pretrial wraps up on 5th day; BIR box not opened](#) (2026-06-25 17:35)

[Updated June 25, 2026, 7:34 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — The impeachment pretrial of Vice President Sara Duterte finished on its fifth day on Thursday. During the pretrial conference, which began on June 18, the House prosecution panel, Duterte’s defense team, and the impeachment clerk of court marked evidence and identified witnesses for the impeachment trial.

- [STS Francisco to exit PAR Thursday evening, says Pagasa](#) (2026-06-25 17:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Francisco (international name: “Mekkhala”) is forecast to exit the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) within the next six hours, the state weather bureau said. This as the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), in its latest typhoon bulletin, last located Francisco 625 kilometers (km) northeast of Itbayat,

- [MMDA taps 10,000 Tupad workers for flood mitigation efforts](#) (2026-06-25 17:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will source 10,000 beneficiaries of the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (Tupad) program under the Department of Labor and Employment to help clean waterways and creeks as part of flood mitigation efforts, MMDA General Manager Nicolas Torre III said Thursday. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino held

- [Palace: Impeachment trial won’t cause division, affect gov’t work](#) (2026-06-25 17:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Thursday dismissed concerns that the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte would result in division among Filipinos, noting that such thing would only arise from the spread of fake news and attempts to evade accountability. The pre-trial proceedings on Duterte’s impeachment case resumed on June 22 and are set to

- [GoreBox developer vows cooperation with PH gov’t after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-25 17:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The developer of the game GoreBox, F2 Games, has pledged to cooperate with the Philippine government in its investigation into the fatal shooting at a high school in Tacloban City. “When children have been harmed, I understand authorities wanting to act cautiously, and they have my full cooperation,” F2 Games founder Felix

- [Castro hits Cayetano’ s ‘selective justice’ remark: Always on FB](#) (2026-06-25 17:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Palace Press Officer Claire Castro on Thursday shot down Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano’ s claim that the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte could overshadow the investigation into the flood control scandal. At a briefing, Castro advised members of the media to ask Cayetano where he obtained such information. However, she quickly

- [Trillanes sues Cayetano, Marcoleta over ‘sham’ Senate hearing, ICC lies](#) (2026-06-25 16:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Sen. Antonio “Sonny” Trillanes IV has filed a cyberlibel case before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against Sens. Alan Peter Cayetano and Rodante Marcoleta, along with 18 “bodyguards” of former congressman Zaldy Co. The complaint stemmed from what Trillanes describes as a “rogue” Senate blue ribbon committee hearing held last June

- [Presentation of evidence may take 92 trial days, impeachment court told](#) (2026-06-25 16:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The presentation of evidence in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte could take 92 trial days, based on projections made by both the prosecution and defense teams. For the prosecution team, their projection was that they could finish the presentation in 62 trial days while it would take 30 trial days for the

- [Matibag: Human trafficking evidence vs. Defensor ‘strong’](#) (2026-06-25 16:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has “strong” evidence that would indict former lawmaker Mike Defensor in the qualified human trafficking charges that will be filed against him, according to NBI Director Melvin Matibag. Matibag earlier announced that the NBI will file qualified human trafficking complaints against Defensor, his wife Julie, their

- [Tropical Storm Higos enters PAR; given local name ‘Gardo’](#) (2026-06-25 16:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Tropical Storm Higos entered the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Thursday afternoon and was given the local name “Gardo,” the state weather bureau said. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), Gardo entered PAR around 3 p.m. Gardo was last recorded carrying maximum sustained winds of 85

- [Gawad Kalinga founder moved to Bulacan jail](#) (2026-06-25 16:22)

CITY OF MALOLOS, Bulacan—Gawad Kalinga founder Antonio Meloto, 76, is now at the Bulacan Provincial Jail here after a local court denied his petition for hospital arrest in connection with qualified trafficking charges. Bulacan Provincial Jail Warden Enrico Vargas said Meloto was brought to the facility on June 17 after the Bulacan Regional Trial Court Branch

- [Poa says he has no problem being listed as prosecution's witness](#) (2026-06-25 16:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Michael Poa, defense lawyer of Vice President Sara Duterte, said on Thursday that he does not have a problem with being among the prosecution panel's list of witnesses for the impeachment trial against the vice president. "Yes, I think the prosecution listed me and I don't have any problems with that," Poa

- [Motorcyclist killed, 13 hurt in 3-vehicle crash in Bohol town](#) (2026-06-25 16:03)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — A motorcycle driver was killed, and 13 others were injured in a tragic three-vehicle collision involving a bus, a tourist van, and a motorcycle in the town of Alicia in Bohol on Thursday morning. The fatality was identified as Alberto Muring, of Barangay Bulawan, Mabini town. Initial investigation of Alicia Police Station

- [Solon seeks probe into alleged US e-waste shipments to Subic](#) (2026-06-25 15:54)

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — Kabataan Rep. Renee Co on Thursday said she would push for a comprehensive congressional inquiry into alleged illegal shipments of electronic waste (e-waste) from the United States to this freeport, including possible complicity by government officials and agencies. During a press conference in Manila organized by environmental groups seeking to expose

- [‘Unacceptable:’ Marcos ‘heartbroken’ by Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-25 15:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Thursday condemned the recent incidents of school violence involving students as “unacceptable,” adding President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is “heartbroken” by the Tacloban school shooting. The Department of the Interior and Local Government earlier said it had foiled another potential school attack allegedly planned by a student in Tolosa, Leyte, just three days after two

- [81,000 seedlings planted in Zamboanga Peninsula for Arbor Day](#) (2026-06-25 15:41)

TUKURAN, Zamboanga Del Sur – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Region 9 (DENR-9) joined the Arbor Day celebrations on Thursday, kicking off the tree planting activities of 81,000 seedlings for Zamboanga Peninsula in this town. The initiative sought to rally collective action in building greener and climate-resilient communities under the national theme

- [Senate enforces suspension order against Jinggoy Estrada](#) (2026-06-25 15:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate has implemented the 30-day preventive suspension order issued by the Sandiganbayan against Sen. Jose “Jinggoy” Estrada, who has been detained in a



Quezon City jail in connection with the flood control scandal. He was suspended starting June 22, according to Senate Secretary Renato Bantug. [READ: Court orders Jinggoy Estrada suspended for 90 days](#) “The

- [Duterte impeachment: Prosecutors to insist on opening VP tax records](#) (2026-06-25 15:30)

MANILA, Philippines – The House prosecution panel will insist on opening Vice President Sara Duterte’s tax records, which are currently encased in a sealed box also known as the “Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) box,” during pretrial on Thursday, June 25, Rep. Terry Ridon said. Ridon divulged the prosecution’s plans on the supposed last day

- [Batanes bans cogon-roofed trikes on roads amid ‘Francisco’ rains](#) (2026-06-25 15:16)

SANTIAGO CITY, Isabela — The Batanes Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO Batanes) issued an emergency advisory on Thursday, banning cogon-roofed tricycles from plying open roads due to strong winds and rains from Typhoon Francisco and the southwest monsoon or habagat. The disaster response office noted that the cogon-roofed tricycle has been a

- [Atimonan, Quezon heat index hits 42°C](#) (2026-06-25 14:56)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – The heat index level in the coastal town of Atimonan in Quezon province reached a dangerous 42 degrees Celsius on Thursday amid stormy weather. [READ: ‘Francisco’ weakens further; wind signal over Batanes lifted](#) In a public advisory posted on Facebook, the Atimonan Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) said the 42°C heat index was recorded at 11:46 a.m.

- [Hontiveros opens P10-M adult day center in Tabaco City](#) (2026-06-25 14:40)

TABACO CITY, Albay — Sen. Risa Hontiveros led the blessing and inauguration of a P10-million adult day center at Hiraya Manawari Nature Park in Barangay San Vicente here on Wednesday. The facility is designed as a one-stop center offering health care services, lifelong learning training, livelihood opportunities, and recreational activities for the elderly. [READ: Barangay](#)

- [EXPLAINER: Why child offender law prioritizes rehabilitation over punishment](#) (2026-06-25 14:32)

MANILA, Philippines — For a clinical and forensic psychologist, crime should not be viewed simply as a characterological flaw, but as the product of a myriad of personal, historical, sociopolitical and psychological factors. Adrian Rigor, a faculty member of the Ateneo de Manila University Department of Psychology, told the Inquirer that “there is rarely a

- [PNP orders gun regulation review after Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-25 14:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. ordered the agency to review its implementation of gun regulations following the fatal school shooting in Tacloban City. “The instruction is to look deeper into this and find out other



possible loopholes in the existing firearms regulations that are possibly being taken

- [Marcos opens dam in Sultan Kudarat, gives aid in South Cotabato](#) (2026-06-25 13:52)

KORONADAL CITY – President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. visited Region 12 or the Soccsksargen region anew on Thursday, swinging over the provinces of Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato to lead the launch of government projects. The President first went to Barangay Manili in Lutayan, Sultan Kudarat, to launch the Antong Dam and Irrigation System at around

- [Duterte impeachment: Defense ‘optimistic’ pretrial ends on June 25](#) (2026-06-25 13:39)

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte’s defense team is “optimistic” that the impeachment pretrial may end on Thursday, June 25, the fifth day of the conference. Defense spokesperson and lawyer Michael Poa told the media this halfway through the fifth day of the pretrial. “We are very optimistic that we will be able to

- [Legazpi bishop urges faithful to back White Ribbon Movement](#) (2026-06-25 13:30)

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay — Bishop Joel Z. Baylon of the Diocese of Legazpi has called on the faithful to support the White Ribbon Movement, which is a faith-based, nonpartisan initiative that seeks to promote truth, justice, and national renewal. In a pastoral appeal issued on Wednesday, Baylon said the diocese was joining the Catholic Bishops’

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of June 25, 2026](#) (2026-06-25 13:23)

MANILA, Philippines – Oil firms on June 23 implemented hefty price cuts, reducing gasoline prices by P4 to P5 per liter, diesel by P8 to P10 per liter, and kerosene by P9 to P11 per liter. The adjustments reflected movements in global oil prices amid easing geopolitical tensions and improving supply conditions in the international

- [Cotabato peace ralliers call for Lagdameo’s resignation](#) (2026-06-25 13:08)

COTABATO CITY – Supporters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and its political party, the Bangsamoro Justice Party (UBJP), sought the resignation of Special Assistant to the President (SAP) Anton Lagdameo during the peace rally here on Thursday. Held in front of the Bangsamoro Government Center here, rally participants accused Lagdameo of meddling in

- [Magnitude 5.3 earthquake jolts waters off Sarangani Thursday](#) (2026-06-25 12:55)

MANILA, Philippines – A magnitude 5.3 earthquake struck off the coast of Sarangani town on Thursday noon, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). In its earthquake bulletin, Phivolcs said the epicenter of the earthquake was located west of Balut Island in Sarangani, Davao

- [Bataan solon nixes ‘costly’ nuclear energy](#) (2026-06-25 12:48)

DINALUPIHAN, Bataan – Bataan Third District Rep. Maria Angela Garcia has rejected calls to refurbish the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) and have it produce power for the

grid. Garcia said she does not consider nuclear energy to be cheap “because putting up a nuclear plant is too costly.” On the sidelines of this town’ s

- [DENR extends ecotourism hours in Taal Lake](#) (2026-06-25 12:42)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Ecotourism activities in Taal Lake in Batangas province will now be allowed for longer hours after the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape (TVPL) approved an amendment to its existing operating schedule. In a report, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Calabarzon said the PAMB, during

- [‘Francisco’ weakens further; wind signal over Batanes lifted](#) (2026-06-25 12:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Francisco (international name: Mekkhala) weakened further on Thursday as it moved away from the country, prompting the lifting of all Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 1 warnings, including Batanes, the state weather bureau said. In its 11 a.m. bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services

- [More comprehensive juvenile justice law sought after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-25 12:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Thursday called on Congress to revise the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act to make it more comprehensive. Remulla made the proposal following the Tacloban City school shooting, which resulted in the death of three students. At least 20 others were wounded. “I recommend strongly to Congress that

- [Bohol gov orders probe into newly inaugurated irrigation facility](#) (2026-06-25 12:24)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol— Days after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. inaugurated the P833.37-million Mabini-Cayacay Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP), Bohol Gov. Erico Aristotle Aumentado has called for an investigation into allegations of substandard construction following the circulation of a viral social media video showing damage to portions of the project’ s concrete irrigation canal. Aumentado said he

- [Duterte impeachment: Lopez, ‘Mary Grace Piattos’ among witnesses sought](#) (2026-06-25 12:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The chief of staff of the Office of the Vice President (OVP), Undersecretary Zuleika Lopez, and confidential payment recipient Mary Grace Piattos were among the 57 witnesses listed by the prosecution panel for Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment trial. Copies of the prosecution’ s pre-trial brief shared by sources with reporters on Thursday

- [‘Francisco,’ habagat keep flood threat over parts of Western Visayas](#) (2026-06-25 12:05)

ILOILO CITY — Several river systems in Western Visayas remain under close monitoring for possible flooding and landslides as Typhoon Francisco (international name: Mekkhala)

continues to enhance the southwest monsoon or habagat, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). In General Flood Advisory No. 7 for Region 6, issued at 6 p.m.

- [Catholic education group backs June 28 ‘White Ribbon March’](#) (2026-06-25 11:55)

ILOILO CITY — The Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) has called on its member schools to take part in a nationwide day of prayer on June 28, expressing support for a faith-led campaign that organizers say seeks national renewal through peaceful and prayerful action. In a statement titled “A Call for National Spiritual Renewal,” CEAP endorsed

- [LRT-2 shortens operating hours on July 25 for track repairs](#) (2026-06-25 11:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Shortened operations will be implemented on the Light Rail Transit 2 on July 25, 2026 due to repair works for V. Maps and J. Ruiz stations, the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) announced. Under the adjusted schedule, the first trip from both Antipolo and Recto stations will depart at

- [Permanent ban on violent video games pressed after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-25 11:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Thursday said the government should permanently ban “violent” video games following the fatal shooting at a Tacloban City school. “Games espousing violence like GoreBox should be permanently banned from the Philippines. I believe that it desensitizes young people into the elements of death, violence

- [DILG chief prods Congress on gun owner liability after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-25 11:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla urged Congress to amend the country’s gun laws by imposing more criminal liabilities on owners of firearms used by other individuals to commit crimes. “I recommend to Congress that they rewrite the IRR of gun ownership and the responsibility for holding firearms and to put

- [Man tagged in illegal drug trade killed in Cavite](#) (2026-06-25 10:57)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – A man allegedly involved in illegal drug activities was shot dead by an unidentified gunman in General Trias City, Cavite, on Wednesday afternoon. In a report, the Police Regional Office 4A identified the victim only by his alias “Jomarie,” 32, who was fatally shot in Barangay San Francisco at around 3:22

- [Leyte student held for online school attack threat](#) (2026-06-25 10:50)

MANILA, Philippines — A 14-year-old student was taken into police custody for allegedly posting on social media a threat to launch a new attack on another Leyte school following the Tacloban City shooting, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said on Thursday. In a press briefing in Camp Crame, Remulla bared that Philippine National Police – Criminal

- [DENR sets 44 Calabarzon tree-planting sites for Arbor Day](#) (2026-06-25 10:50)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has lined up tree-planting activities in 44 sites across the Calabarzon region in observance of Arbor Day on Wednesday. In a report, DENR-Calabarzon said the planting sites are distributed across the region, with Cavite having 8, Laguna 2, Batangas 9, Rizal 3, and

- [PNP urges review of training camp safety standards after Ateneo tragedy](#) (2026-06-25 10:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. on Thursday recommended a review of safety standards for school training camps and similar activities following the deaths of Ateneo de Manila University student-athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili in Aurora earlier this month. In a statement, Nartatez said the police are

- [Bukidnon ramps up fight against sugarcane pest](#) (2026-06-25 10:17)

MALAYBALAY CITY, Bukidnon — The provincial government of Bukidnon, in coordination with national agencies, cooperatives, private companies, and local government units, has intensified efforts to prevent the spread of the Red-Striped Soft Scale Insect (RSSI) following infestations in parts of the province. During an emergency meeting on Tuesday, stakeholders, led by the League of Municipalities

- [Phivolcs to public: No to complacency, be prepared for strong quakes](#) (2026-06-25 10:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Many Filipinos should not be complacent and think that they will be spared from a powerful earthquake like the one that recently struck parts of Mindanao, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) Director Teresito Bacolcol said on Thursday. READ: Mindanao quake altered rivers, ruined P2.3-B infra “Since it happened in Mindanao,

- [Peace rally held in Lanao del Sur simultaneous with Cotabato](#) (2026-06-25 09:45)

COTABATO CITY – Thousands of Bangsamoro stakeholders gathered in Binidayan, Lanao del Sur, on Thursday in support of the mass action in this city. Supporters from various sectors in Lanao del Sur gathered for “A People’s Peace Rally” in Barangay Madaya, Binidayan town, to demonstrate their strong support for peace and unity in the Bangsamoro

- [UP researchers identify new Mayon bacteria with antibiotic potential](#) (2026-06-25 09:43)

Found in volcanic soil in Albay, the newly classified organism belongs to a bacterial group responsible for producing many of today’s antibiotics, underscoring the Philippines’ potential role in the global search for new treatments against drug-resistant infections. MANILA, Philippines — University of the Philippines researchers have officially identified a new bacterial species from the slopes

- [Dave Ildefonso, lawyers appear before PNP-CIDG for Ateneo drowning probe](#) (2026-06-25 09:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Ateneo de Manila University basketball player Dave Ildefonso and several of the school's lawyers on Thursday morning appeared before the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP CIDG) which is investigating the death of two ADMU cagers in Aurora earlier this month. READ: PNP: At least 10 face raps over

- [How families, communities and digital platforms shape school violence](#) (2026-06-25 09:30)

School violence has escalated from isolated bullying into systemic crises involving firearms, knives and organized assaults. The immediate root causes lie in the erosion of the family unit, the weakening of values systems, the lack of social and community accountability, and the normalization of violence through digital algorithms. This report argues that addressing these immediate

- [Day 5 of Sara Duterte impeachment pretrial commences](#) (2026-06-25 09:02)

MANILA, Philippines – The fifth day of the pretrial for Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment began on Thursday, continuing what's left of the documents that need marking. Still on the table after four days are the documents for impeachment Articles I and II, referring to Duterte's alleged misuse of confidential funds, and supposed accumulation of

- [Cotabato peace rally: Bangsamoro pact's full implementation sought](#) (2026-06-25 08:42)

COTABATO CITY – Participants of a multi-sectoral Bangsamoro peace rally here started to gather as early as Wednesday evening for a mass demonstration in front of the Bangsamoro Government Complex (BGC) on Thursday. Thousands filled the streets along Gov. Gutierrez Avenue, the road leading to the main entrance of the BGC, the seat of government

- [PNP mulls cop participation in school activities after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-25 08:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday said it is looking at coordinating with the Department of Education (DepEd) to allow police officers to participate in school activities in a bid to bolster campus security. The idea was raised after the fatal shooting incident in a Tacloban City high school carried out

- [Francisco weakens into severe tropical storm; rain showers expected](#) (2026-06-25 07:33)

(Image from Pagasa / Facebook) MANILA, Philippines — Francisco has weakened from a typhoon to a severe tropical storm as it continues to move away from the country on Thursday, the state weather bureau said. In its latest briefing, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the center of Francisco was last

- [Army stops 12 trainees from graduating as assault probe continues](#) (2026-06-25 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Army has held back 12 trainees from graduating and becoming the newest members of the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (Cafgu) Active Auxiliary (CAA) following allegations some members of the batch were assaulted by an instructor on Monday night. The 12 were among 200 civilian volunteers who were set to

- [Palace: LGUs to get tax share of P1.32T in 2027](#) (2026-06-25 05:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The share of local government units (LGUs) from national tax collections in 2027 will increase by 11 percent to P1.32 trillion, with President Marcos expected to highlight the “nonpartisan, formula-based” basis of this allotment in his fifth State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 27. “As a former local executive official

- [SC: Secondary beneficiaries can claim GSIS benefits](#) (2026-06-25 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has nullified a Government Service Insurance Corp. (GSIS) resolution that stripped secondary beneficiaries of survivorship benefits on behalf of members who died with less than 15 years of service in government. In a decision on Feb. 24 and made public only recently, the high tribunal’s Third Division declared ultra

- [Criminal raps vs 15-year-old; rehab for younger suspect](#) (2026-06-25 05:34)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — Police authorities said they have built what they consider a strong and airtight case against one of the two students accused of carrying out the deadly shooting at San Jose National High School on Monday, citing witness testimonies, forensic evidence and digital communications allegedly detailing plans for the attack. The

- [PNP: At least 10 face raps over Ateneo cagers’ death](#) (2026-06-25 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police will recommend the filing of charges against at least 10 personnel of the Ateneo de Manila University over the drowning deaths of two of its student-athletes, its chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said on Wednesday. But before it wraps up its investigation this week, the Philippine National

- [House prosecutors: Open box of VP’s tax records](#) (2026-06-25 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution panel has formally called for the unsealing of the box containing Vice President Sara Duterte’s tax records so that these can already be marked at the pretrial stage of her impeachment case. The team maintained that its request, addressed to the Senate impeachment court, was reasonable since it would

- [Amid corruption issues hounding gov’t, P-Noy missed even more – Aquino](#) (2026-06-25 05:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino paid tribute to his cousin, former President Benigno “Noy” Aquino III, on Wednesday, which marked the fifth anniversary of his passing, reflecting on his unwavering commitment to good governance, the fight against corruption, and public service. “Now that our country is facing so many corruption issues, we

- [Is it time to revisit juvenile justice law?](#) (2026-06-25 05:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The fatal school shooting in Tacloban City that left three students dead and 20 others injured has reignited a long-running debate over whether the country's Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act should be amended, with lawmakers, rights advocates, and government officials sharply divided on the issue. Sen. Panfilo Lacson on Wednesday said the

- [Leptospirosis cases up by 6 percent this year](#) (2026-06-25 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) said on Wednesday that it recorded 2,177 cases of leptospirosis nationwide from Jan. 4 to June 6 this year, higher by 6 percent compared to the 2,046 cases during the same period in 2025. Most of the victims, the DOH said in a statement, were farmers in

- [Baterbonia given hero's burial in Agusan del Sur](#) (2026-06-25 05:06)

TALACOGON, AGUSAN DEL SUR, Philippines — Thousands of mourners joined the final sendoff on Wednesday for Rene Clert “Bobet” Baterbonia, the Ateneo de Manila University rookie and rising basketball star from Mindanao whose life was cut short by drowning during a team-building activity in Aurora province. Many from the huge crowd in the funeral Mass

- [Mindanao quake altered rivers, ruined P2.3-B infra](#) (2026-06-25 05:04)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY, Philippines — Over two weeks after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Mindanao, authorities in Sarangani and Davao Occidental provinces are dealing with several rivers whose natural course was altered by landslides and shifts in land surface, forming artificial dams or lakes. Aside from changing river courses, the strong quake on June 8

- [Rains dumped by typhoon not enough to raise Magat level](#) (2026-06-25 05:02)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — Super typhoon “Francisco” (international name: Mekkhala) might have brought rains to northern Luzon, but the downpour hardly made a dent to fill the receding water level at Magat Dam in Ramon, Isabela. “Negative so far as we even have an average of 80-centimeter recession of water daily due to lack

- [From classrooms to climate action](#) (2026-06-25 04:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Earth continues to send clear signals about the need for urgent climate action through rising seas, higher temperatures, and increasingly frequent extreme weather. As these global challenges are debated in international summits, a quiet but critical response is also emerging in classrooms along Philippine coasts. Through the Junior Sea Guardian Project

- [Why we need ‘storm chasers’ during typhoons](#) (2026-06-25 04:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Many Filipinos rely on weather forecasts either directly from the country's weather agency or through newscasts on television, radio, and even online. Data



and information like the location and current track of typhoon, landfall area, hoisted tropical cyclone wind signals, maximum sustained winds, gustiness, expected damage to properties, and a lot more

- [Ateneo scientists propose generating power from Visayas tides](#) (2026-06-25 04:30)

MANILA, Philippines — With its vast coastlines, the Philippines is no stranger to the unrelenting power of waves and tides. Being able to tap even just one-fifth of this power would already be equivalent to the nation's current total energy capacity, said Justin Kyle Ricafort and King Harold Recto of the Ateneo de Manila University

- [Police assures 'airtight' case vs Tacloban shooting suspect](#) (2026-06-25 01:32)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — Police authorities said they have built what they consider a strong and airtight case against a 15-year-old student accused of carrying out the deadly shooting at San Jose National High School on Monday, citing witness testimonies, forensic examination results, and online conversations allegedly detailing plans for the attack. The Philippine

- [Mayon continues effusive eruption](#) (2026-06-25 01:23)

MANILA, Philippines — More lava flowed from Mayon Volcano on Thursday evening as the most active volcano in the country entered its 170th day of effusive eruption, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said Thursday. Based on footage posted by Phivolcs, fresh lava effusions were seen and recorded at Mayon from 8:53 p.m.

- [BIR renews multi-sectoral consultative mechanism, expands BIR-PMSG](#) (2026-06-25 01:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) renewed its multi-sectoral consultative mechanism with business groups, professional organizations, foreign chambers, and industry groups through the signing of a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the BIR Partnership with Multi-Sectoral Group (BIR-PMSG) on June 23, 2026. Established in 2023, the BIR-PMSG serves as a

- [Makati replicates 'LAB for All' after successful city stop](#) (2026-06-25 00:35)

MAKATI, Philippines — Hundreds of Makati residents received free medical consultations, laboratory tests, health screenings, and medicines at the Makati Coliseum on June 23, as the national government's Lab for All: Laboratoryo, Konsulta, at Gamot Para sa Lahat program made its stop in the city. The program is under the initiative of First Lady

- [DENR to plant, distribute 1.6M seedlings in Central Luzon for Arbor Day](#) (2026-06-25 00:19)

SAN ANTONIO, ZAMBALES, Philippines — Stepping up efforts to restore forests and strengthen Central Luzon's resilience to climate change, more than 1.6 million tree seedlings will be planted and distributed across the region as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) marks Philippine Arbor Day on Thursday, June 25. In a statement on



Wednesday,

- [MGB: 516 Western Visayas villages prone to flood, landslide](#) (2026-06-25 00:07)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — A total of 516 barangays in Western Visayas were identified by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Region 6 as susceptible to rain-induced landslides and flooding during the period of June 22 to 25, when Tropical Cyclone Francisco and the enhanced southwest monsoon (Habagat) brought heavy rains across parts of the

- [Leachon seeks court order vs six-month suspension as PCP member](#) (2026-06-24 23:51)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — Dr. Anthony C. Leachon, past president of the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) and an independent health reform advocate, has filed a petition before the Regional Trial Court in Pasig City seeking to nullify the six-month suspension imposed on him by the PCP. In a statement on Tuesday, June

- [Francisco forecast to weaken further within next 12 hours – Pagasa](#) (2026-06-24 23:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Francisco (international name: “Mekkhala”) continued to weaken on Wednesday evening, said the state weather bureau, as it continued to head northward away from the country’s landmass. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) in its latest typhoon bulletin, Francisco was last spotted 235 kilometers (km) northeast of

- [ACT flags ‘deep-rooted’ issues facing education sector](#) (2026-06-24 23:18)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) Cordillera on Tuesday, June 23, said the fatal shooting of students inside a school in Tacloban City exposed deep-rooted problems in the country’s education system, as the Department of Education in the Cordillera assured the public that schools in the region continue to strengthen safety

- [Manila creates task force vs armed violence in schools, public places](#) (2026-06-24 22:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso on Wednesday signed an order creating a task force in charge of preventing armed violence and mass-casualty events in schools and public places. Under Executive Order No. 29, Series of 2026, or the “Manila Schools Safety Initiative,” the Manila School and Community Safety Task Force was

- [Dole, Tesda ink ties to strengthen pathways for more job opportunities](#) (2026-06-24 22:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) have partnered to provide seamless pathways for job opportunities and entrepreneurship for beneficiaries. Dole and Tesda signed a joint memorandum circular (JMC) on Wednesday as the agencies committed to establish a framework to strengthen employment facilitation, livelihood

- [Ex-Comelec Commissioner Armando Velasco, 69](#) (2026-06-24 22:00)

SANTIAGO CITY, Isabela — Former Commission on Elections (Comelec) Commissioner Armando Velasco died on Wednesday morning. He was 69. “I am saddened to share that my uncle passed away today. Rest in peace Uncle Mando,” a social media post by Velasco’s niece, Suzette Velasco Clarke, read. Several family members said Velasco succumbed to cardiac arrest

- [No jackpot winner in Grand Lotto 6/55, MegaLotto 6/45 on June 24](#) (2026-06-24 21:50)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpots of Grand Lotto 6/55 and MegaLotto 6/45 during the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draws held Wednesday, June 24. According to the PCSO, the winning combination for Grand Lotto 6/55 was 22-51-17-23-54-29, carrying a jackpot prize of about ₱47.24 million. No ticket matched all six numbers. MegaLotto 6/45 yielded

- [Hontiveros backs juvenile justice law review amid school shooting probe](#) (2026-06-24 21:40)

TABACO CITY, Albay — Sen. Risa Hontiveros has expressed support for reviewing and potentially amending the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act in light of the recent school shooting in Tacloban City, even as she stressed the importance of properly enforcing the current law. Hontiveros said the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations, and Gender

- [Laguna Water remits P82-million concession fee to provincial gov’t](#) (2026-06-24 21:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Laguna Water, a unit of Manila Water Non-East Zone subsidiary Manila Water Philippine Ventures, has officially remitted its P82-million concession fee to the Laguna provincial government, according to a statement issued by the firm. “This milestone highlights the company’s sustained commitment to environmental protection, proper health and sanitation, and community development,” the

- [Oriental Mindanao electric co-op seeks ERC nod on June rate increase](#) (2026-06-24 21:13)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (ORMECO) is requesting the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to approve a power adjustment in its generation charge. In a letter dated June 19, 2026 addressed to ERC Chairman Francisco Saturnino Juan, General Manager Engr. Humphrey Dolor notified the regulator of the proposed adjustment covering the June 2026 billing

- [DAR orders revalidation of Bukidnon university land](#) (2026-06-24 20:41)

MARAMAG, Bukidnon — The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has ordered a revalidation of lands held by the Central Mindanao University (CMU) here, reopening a long-running dispute between the state university and a local farmers’ group. DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III reversed an earlier ruling of the DAR Validation Committee that exempted CMU lands from

- [Dy files party-list reform bill to ensure genuine representation](#) (2026-06-24 20:33)

MANILA, Philippines — House Speaker Faustino Dy III has filed a party-list reform bill so that the system will reflect genuine representation of marginalized sectors in the House of Representatives. The proposed New Party-List System Act, or House Bill (HB) No. 9906, which Dy filed on Monday, seeks to replace Republic Act No. 7941, introducing reforms

- [House assistance desk facilitates P171-M aid to 3,500 beneficiaries](#) (2026-06-24 20:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives' assistance desk was able to deliver aid worth P171.5 million to over 3,500 Filipinos who made requests in just the first 50 days, the chamber said on Wednesday. According to reports from the House, the Suporta sa Bayan Desk (SBD) was able to approve 3,592 requests from March 18

- [Another peace rally slated in Cotabato City](#) (2026-06-24 20:23)

COTABATO CITY – Three days after a group of Bangsamoro stakeholders staged a huge rally in Cotabato City, another group will hold its own in the same venue on Thursday, June 25. The Recover BARMM Now!, a broad coalition of Bangsamoro stakeholders composed of peace advocates, civil society organizations, religious and traditional leaders, youth and

- [Opening VP Duterte' s BIR docs before trial is for transparency – House](#) (2026-06-24 19:57)

MANILA, Philippines — House prosecutors have asked the Senate impeachment court to authorize the opening of a sealed Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) records box transmitted to the Senate as part of the impeachment records in the case against Vice President Sara Duterte. The prosecutors sent the Senate a Manifestation with Proposal on Certain Additional Pre-Trial

- [DOH sees 6% rise in leptospirosis; over 2,000 cases logged in last 5 months](#) (2026-06-24 19:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) saw a 6% rise in leptospirosis cases from January to June 6 this year compared to the same period last year. Leptospirosis is a disease caused by leptospira bacteria, which is commonly found in contaminated urine of infected animals, such as rats. “From January 4 until June

- [Nightly water interruptions to hit parts of Metro Manila, Cavite](#) (2026-06-24 19:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Several areas in Metro Manila and Cavite will face nighttime water interruptions until June 30, due to urgent maintenance activities. According to Maynilad Water Services Inc., customers in parts of Bacoor City, Caloocan City, Imus City, Kawit, Cavite, Las Pinas City, Makati City, Manila, Malabon City, Muntinlupa City, Navotas City, Parañaque City,

- [Teacher nabbed in Zamboanga del Sur drug raid](#) (2026-06-24 19:48)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — A 40-year-old male teacher was arrested in a dawn operation over drug charges. Operatives enforced a search warrant at Purok Anonang, Barangay Upper Bag-ong Tudela, Josefina town in Zamboanga del Sur at around 5:30 a.m. on

Wednesday. Members of the Josefina Municipal Police Station and other law enforcement agencies

- [Prosecutor: Sara Duterte counsel lying, House reps present at pretrial](#) (2026-06-24 18:57)

MANILA, Philippines — A private lawyer has disputed allegations from Vice President Sara Duterte’s counsel that public prosecutors have been skipping the Senate impeachment court’s pretrial conference, noting that their presence was well-documented. In an online interview on Wednesday, lawyer Jay Tolosa — member and legal spokesperson of the private prosecution team — was asked about

- [Cebu town vice mayor charged over unauthorized bonus, hiring wife](#) (2026-06-24 18:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman has filed two separate graft charges against Cebu’s Borbon town Vice Mayor Noel Dotillos over unauthorized release of P570,000 anniversary bonus and the hiring of his wife when he was still a mayor. State prosecutors on Tuesday said they filed the cases before the Cebu Regional Trial

- [NBI probes Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-24 18:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is investigating the Monday’s shooting inside a Tacloban City high school that killed three students. NBI Director Melvin Matibag said this in an ambush interview with reporters at the bureau’s headquarters on Wednesday. “We assigned our Tacloban office to investigate so we will also have a

- [NCRPO: 8 injured, arrested in land dispute clash in Taguig](#) (2026-06-24 18:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Eight people were injured, including five who were hit by shotgun pellets, after a land dispute turned violent in Taguig City, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said Wednesday. According to the NCRPO, the incident occurred at 1:49 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, in Sitio Pusawan, Barangay Ususan, Taguig City, when

- [Signal No. 1 still up in Batanes, Cagayan as Typhoon Francisco weakens](#) (2026-06-24 17:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Francisco (international name: Mekkhala) further weakened on Wednesday afternoon as it continued to head away from the country, the state weather bureau said. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) in its latest typhoon bulletin, Francisco was last spotted 320 kilometers (km) east northeast of Itbayat, Batanes.

- [Ateneo baller Baterbonia laid to rest in Agusan hometown](#) (2026-06-24 17:52)

TALACOGON, Agusan del Sur — Rene Clert “Bobet” Baterbonia, the rising Ateneo basketball star whose life was cut short after he drowned during a team-building session in Aurora province, was finally laid to rest here Wednesday morning by an estimated crowd of 5,000. The 18-year-old cager, whose death stirred national grief and calls for accountability,

- [Duterte team: Objection to SALNs before VP term separate from BIR box](#) (2026-06-24 17:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte’s defense team on Wednesday clarified its objection to the inclusion of documents predating Duterte’s term as vice president. It explains that this position is separate from any response it may give to a House prosecution’s request to open the sealed Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) box in the

- [Dy bats for wider Asean anti-drug council vs transnational crimes](#) (2026-06-24 17:44)

MANILA, Philippines — House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III has proposed expanding the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) body focused on dangerous drugs, saying it is needed to fight the drug trade that has become “increasingly interconnected and transnational.” In his speech during the 9th AIPA Advisory Council on Dangerous Drugs (AIPACODD) meeting, Dy said the

- [Herbosa, DOH undersecretary face raps over alleged fiscal lapses](#) (2026-06-24 17:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Department of Health (DOH) chief Teodoro Herbosa and Undersecretary Randy Escolango face a complaint in the Office of the Ombudsman over their alleged “blatant disregard of standard fiscal checkpoints,” which ensures checks and balances, when the latter was appointed in a key position. The complainants, identified only as concerned DOH personnel, lodged their complaint

- [Tacloban shooting sparks debate on lowering age of criminal liability](#) (2026-06-24 17:40)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — The recent school shooting in Tacloban City has reignited debates here regarding the age of criminal responsibility, drawing sharp reactions from government officials, religious leaders, and law enforcement officials in Northern Mindanao. The Tacloban school rampage on Monday involving two minor students left three students dead and 20 wounded. The

- [South Cotabato under state of calamity due to magnitude 7.8 quake](#) (2026-06-24 17:11)

COTABATO CITY – South Cotabato has been placed under a state of calamity to access emergency funds and implement recovery measures following the devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake in southern Mindanao on June 8. In a special session on Tuesday, the Provincial Board of South Cotabato unanimously approved a resolution putting the entire province under a

- [Manila cop in online video relieved over alleged traffic violation](#) (2026-06-24 17:02)

MANILA, Philippines — A police corporal under the Manila Police District (MPD) was relieved from post because of alleged traffic violation as seen in a video now circulating on social media, the agency said on Wednesday. “The video allegedly shows [the] police officer… carrying a young female back-rider without a helmet while proceeding through a

- [PTV-4 general manager Lino Cayetano orders network-wide reforms](#) (2026-06-24 16:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The newly appointed head of state-run People’s Television Network Inc. (PTV-4) is planning a revamp of the network toward digital expansion, wider regional presence, and better pay. PTV-4 general manager and former Taguig City Mayor Lino Cayetano said he has issued orders guided by a mandate to “bring PTV and its services closer

- [Roxas City officials condemn slay try on broadcaster](#) (2026-06-24 16:57)

ILOILO CITY – Roxas City officials and the Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFOMS) have condemned the June 22 shooting attack against broadcaster Jay Lavapie, as police intensified efforts to identify and arrest the perpetrators. In a statement, Roxas City Mayor Ronnie T. Dadivas denounced the attempted killing of Lavapie, popularly known as “Papang

- [Slain Tacloban shooting victim hailed as ‘pride of Pampanga’](#) (2026-06-24 16:45)

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—One of the three students who was killed in the June 22 Tacloban school shooting incident has been hailed a “pride of Pampanga” for saving the lives of many of his classmates by shutting the door and blocking it with his body. Through Resolution No. 10319, which was proposed by 4th

- [Escudero says he turned down Senate’ s second-top post: ‘I don’ t need it’](#) (2026-06-24 16:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis Escudero confirmed that he was offered the second-highest post in the Senate, but he turned it down. According to him, a member of the majority bloc led by Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian made the offer to him. “I told them I wasn’ t interested. I don’ t need it. Who wants it? Whoever wants

- [NCRPO: ‘Drug courier’ nabbed, P6.8-M shabu seized in Manila](#) (2026-06-24 16:41)

MANILA, Philippines — A suspected drug courier was arrested, and P6.8 million worth of suspected shabu (crystal meth) was confiscated in Manila on Wednesday morning, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said. The suspect, identified only as a 36-year-old male, was intercepted by the police in a buy-bust operation along Rizal Avenue near Bustos

- [PNP says working to recover dela Rosa’ s remaining guns](#) (2026-06-24 16:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) maintained that it was working to recover the rest of the firearms registered to Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa. “While the surrender of these 26 firearms is a positive development, it remains a partial fulfillment of the total requirement,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said

- [Western Visayas braces for rains, rough seas over next 5 days](#) (2026-06-24 16:34)

ILOILO CITY — Residents in Western Visayas can expect generally cloudy skies with rain showers and thunderstorms over the next five days as the southwest monsoon or habagat continues to influence weather conditions across the region, according to the latest five-day regional outlook issued by the state weather bureau in the Visayas on Wednesday. The forecast,

released at

- [Dole asks Aurora resort for safety papers after Ateneo athletes' deaths](#) (2026-06-24 16:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) has ordered the resort in Aurora where two student-athletes from Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) reportedly drowned to submit documents on their safety protocols to the agency, Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino said on Wednesday. Tolentino earlier said that the Dole Region 3 Office conducted an

- [Capiz town bans entry of pork products amid ASF threat](#) (2026-06-24 16:18)

ILOILO CITY — The municipal government of Dumarao in Capiz imposed on Tuesday a temporary total ban on the entry and passage of pork products and other swine-related items as a precautionary measure against the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) following the detection of cases in nearby towns. The restriction was ordered through Executive Order

- [Escudero refutes delivery claims against him: They got my address wrong](#) (2026-06-24 15:59)

MANILA, Philippines — They got my address wrong. This was how Sen. Francis Escudero debunked claims that he had received money from former lawmaker Zaldy Co through his aides. READ: Escudero received money from Co — ex-bagmen “To answer you directly, I was no longer surprised. But let me say this plainly: it is not

- [Tight security enforced as Tacloban schools reopen after shooting](#) (2026-06-24 15:53)

TACLOBAN CITY — Public schools in Tacloban City reopened Wednesday under heightened security measures as education officials, police, and local government units moved to reassure parents and students following the deadly shooting at San Jose National High School that killed three students and injured 20 others. The Department of Education (DepEd)-Tacloban Division ordered stricter security

- [NBI has not received an arrest warrant for Marcoleta – Matibag](#) (2026-06-24 15:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has not yet received any arrest warrant for Sen. Rodante Marcoleta, according to Director Melvin Matibag on Wednesday. Nevertheless, the NBI chief said his agency, as a law enforcement agency, will enforce the warrant as soon as it receives any arrest order. “The job of the

- [PNP logs 1,275 school-related incidents from 2022 to 2025](#) (2026-06-24 15:42)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 1,275 school-related incidents involving children in conflict with the law (CICLs) were recorded by the Philippine National Police – Women and Children Protection Center (PNP – WCPC) from 2022 to 2025, the agency said on Wednesday. Of the 1,275 school-related incidents, 210 incidents took place in 2022; 395 incidents



- [Halfway through pretrial Day 4, 1,300 of 8,000 confi fund docs marked](#) (2026-06-24 15:40)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 1,300 exhibits in relation to Vice President Sara Duterte’ s alleged misuse of confidential funds were marked for half of the fourth impeachment pretrial day, clerk of court Renato Bantug said on Wednesday. Bantug reminded that there are 8,000 exhibits altogether from the defense and the House prosecution for impeachment

- [Bantug: Pretrial order in impeach trial must be out by Monday or Tuesday](#) (2026-06-24 15:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Secretary Renato Bantug, who will also serve as the clerk of court, said Wednesday that the July 6 start of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment trial remains achievable, although the pretrial order must be out by Monday or Tuesday. According to Bantug, the schedule has become increasingly tight as the pretrial

- [PH Army holds 12 Cafgu trainees from graduation amid assault probe](#) (2026-06-24 15:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Army has withheld the graduation of 12 Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (Cafgu) Active Auxiliary (CAA) trainees while investigating allegations that an instructor physically assaulted recruits during training at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal. Col. Michael Aquino, public affairs chief of the Army’ s 2nd Infantry Division, said on Wednesday that

- [Dole: Tab Baldwin yet to submit verified answer on work permit validity](#) (2026-06-24 15:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Resigned Ateneo de Manila University men’ s basketball team head coach Tab Baldwin is yet to submit his verified explanation on the validity of his employment in the country to the Department of Labor and Employment, according to the agency’ s secretary Francis Tolentino on Wednesday. Tolentino earlier subpoenaed Baldwin to prove his valid

- [Tacloban shooting renews push for CCTV coverage in campuses](#) (2026-06-24 15:22)

MANILA, Philippines – The deadly shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City has renewed calls in the Senate to expand the use of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and strengthen school safety measures, with lawmakers stressing that protecting children requires both stronger campus safeguards and community-wide support systems. Sen. Raffy Tulfo on Wednesday said

- [GenSan drug bust nets P3.4-M shabu](#) (2026-06-24 15:21)

COTABATO CITY – Anti-narcotics agents arrested a suspected illegal drug peddler from Marawi City during a drug buy-bust operation in General Santos City (GenSan) on Tuesday night, seizing from him P3.4 million worth of suspected shabu. Charlene Magdurulang, regional director of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA-12), said joint operatives of PDEA-12, GenSan police, and the

- [Bicol solon seeks review of juvenile justice law, gun-owner liability](#) (2026-06-24 15:13)



LEGAZPI CITY, Albay — Ako Bicol Party-list Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. on Tuesday called for an urgent review of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act and tougher penalties for negligent firearm owners following the fatal shooting at San Jose Tacloban High School that claimed the lives of three students and injured several others. READ: School shooting

- [NHA grants condo unit to family of late Ateneo cager Baterbonia](#) (2026-06-24 14:55)

DAVAO CITY—The National Housing Authority (NHA) has granted a condo unit to the family of the late Ateneo rookie cager Rene Baterbonia. In a social media post, Agusan del Sur Governor Santiago Cane Jr. said that NHA has reached out to him regarding the housing assistance for the Baterbonia family. READ: Rene Baterbonia laid to

- [More lawmakers back pursuit of justice for Tacloban shooting victims](#) (2026-06-24 14:47)

MANILA, Philippines — More lawmakers, including former House of Representatives Speaker and Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, reiterated the need to pursue justice for the victims of the Tacloban school shooting incident, as authorities try to resolve the matter and prevent similar cases in the future. In a statement on Wednesday, Romualdez’ s office said that the

- [‘Purely speculation,’ says Escudero on talks he may preside over Duterte trial](#) (2026-06-24 14:30)

MANILA, Philippines—Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero branded reports that he would preside over the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte as “purely speculation.” “No such decision has been made yet. That will be decided by the impeachment court once proceedings begin on July 6,” Escudero said in his “Chiz Wiz” podcast aired on Wednesday. “Whatever is

- [PNP to study link between online violence, minors’ behavior](#) (2026-06-24 14:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Wednesday said it will study whether there was a connection between minors’ exposure to violence online and their behavior in school. This came after the fatal shooting incident at a Tacloban City high school in which three students were killed, while several others were injured. Police

- [LOOK: Sara Duterte visits wake of Tacloban shooting victims](#) (2026-06-24 14:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte on Wednesday visited the wake of the three students killed in the school shooting incident in Tacloban City. According to the Office of the Vice President, Duterte extended her condolences to the families and offered prayers for the victims. READ: VP Duterte visits wake of student killed in

- [Misamis Occidental cop in viral gun video faces criminal, admin raps](#) (2026-06-24 14:21)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – The drunk police officer who pointed his gun at a man in a viral video will be facing a criminal charge for grave threat, the National Police Commission-9 (NAPOLCOM-9) said Wednesday. Atty. Pablito Abad Jr., NAPOLCOM-9 director, said that a grave

threat complaint against the erring police corporal, whose

- [Lowering criminal liability age won't curb juvenile crime – Manila solon](#) (2026-06-24 13:49)

MANILA, Philippines – Lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility is not the answer to addressing the juvenile crimes committed by young offenders, Manila Rep. Joel Chua said on Wednesday, amid calls to reduce it. In a statement, he said the solution to crimes involving minors lies in proper family guidance and access to mental

- [DSWD chief assures aid, justice for Tacloban shooting victims](#) (2026-06-24 13:47)

TACLOBAN CITY— As the nation continues to grapple with the aftermath of the deadly shooting at San Jose National High School that claimed the lives of three students and injured 20 others, Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian on Wednesday visited the wake of one of the victims and assured grieving families of government support and

- [Bacolod City mayor reconstitutes task force to prevent ASF](#) (2026-06-24 13:30)

BACOLOD CITY—Mayor Greg Gasataya here has issued an executive order on Tuesday reconstituting a task force to formulate a comprehensive contingency plan to prevent the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the city. This proactive step is part of the city's continued effort to protect local farmers, hog raisers, vendors, consumers, and the entire swine

- [Dole urges construction sector to adopt progressive wage model](#) (2026-06-24 13:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on Wednesday called on the construction industry to adopt the agency's model that promotes competitive and sustainable salaries for lower-wage workers while improving their skills. According to Dole, the advisory signed by Dole secretary Francis Tolentino last June 16 serves as a guide for the

- [Classes halted in Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro due to heavy rains](#) (2026-06-24 13:16)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Classes at all levels in Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro, were suspended on Wednesday morning amid continuous heavy rains affecting the municipality. Mamburao Mayor Glicerio Almero III announced the class suspensions through his official social media page following the recommendation of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO). READ: Typhoon Francisco

- [Cavite school urges public: Stop sharing classroom stabbing footage](#) (2026-06-24 13:07)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – A private school in General Trias City, Cavite, has appealed to the public to stop sharing and circulating CCTV footage of a recent stabbing incident on campus that left seven students injured. READ: Cavite school shifts to online classes after student stabbing incident In a statement posted on social media on

- [Duterte impeachment: More teams, pretrial hours granted](#) (2026-06-24 13:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution team for Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment case has confirmed that its requests for longer pre-trial conference hours and additional evidence-marking teams have been granted. In separate interviews on Wednesday, Mamamayang Liberal party-list Rep. Leila de Lima and private lawyer Jay Tolosa said the Senate Impeachment Court granted the

- [Stop spreading videos of Tacloban, Cavite school violence – PNP](#) (2026-06-24 12:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Wednesday appealed to the public to refrain from spreading videos of the recent violent incidents at schools in Tacloban City and Cavite. “The reckless circulation of graphic videos depicting these school tragedies is not just a digital nuisance, it is a profound act of cruelty that

- [Communities, businesses plant 834 trees in Subic Bay for Arbor Day](#) (2026-06-24 12:47)

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — Forest conservation, local products, and community participation take center stage in this year’ s Subic Bay Arbor Day, which is a weeklong celebration that brings together government workers, locators, and residents through tree-planting activities, cleanup drives, exhibits, and discussions on environmental sustainability. The annual celebration, spearheaded by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority

- [Ateneo drowning probe: Student managers, utility men appear before NBI](#) (2026-06-24 12:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Two student managers and two utility workers of the Ateneo De Manila University (ADMU) appeared before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Wednesday to comply with a subpoena issued to them. Their appearance came amidst the bureau’ s ongoing investigation into the death of ADMU men’ s basketball team players Rene Baterbonia and

- [PNP: 10 or 11 Ateneo staff eyed for raps over cagers’ drowning](#) (2026-06-24 12:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said 10 or 11 personnel of the Ateneo de Manila University may face complaints over the fatal drowning of basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. “If there’ s a death, is there criminal liability, whether negligence or leading to a violation of

- [ICYMI: Family, friends bid final farewell to Ateneo cager Baterbonia](#) (2026-06-24 12:29)

MANILA, Philippines – Family members, friends, teammates, and supporters gathered to pay their final respects to Ateneo de Manila University student-athlete Rene Baterbonia, who was laid to rest days after his tragic death in a drowning incident in Dipaculao, Aurora./dp

- [Arraignment of accused in 2009 PDAF case reset to Aug. 6](#) (2026-06-24 12:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The arraignment of a P2.9-million graft case of two former National Livelihood Development Corp. officials related to Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) scam was reset to August 6. The Sandiganbayan Fifth Division made the order on Wednesday as

the court took into consideration the respective motion to quash filed by Gondelina Amata

- [Typhoon Francisco weakens further, but rains expected across Luzon](#) (2026-06-24 12:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Francisco (international name: Mekkhala) continued to weaken as it maintained a northward track as of 11 a.m. on Wednesday, according to the state weather bureau. In its latest bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the center of Francisco was last located 295 kilometers (km) east-northeast of

- [Repeat drug offender nabbed with P450,000 worth of shabu in CDO](#) (2026-06-24 12:01)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Anti-narcotics operatives arrested a high-value suspect, seizing from him alleged shabu worth around P450,000 during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Balulang here late Monday night. The 28-year-old suspect, identified by his alias “Habibi,” a resident of Barangay Carmen, was apprehended at 11:04 p.m. READ: Cops seize shabu worth P374,000, nab

- [Lava flow from Mayon Volcano continues on 170th day — Phivolcs](#) (2026-06-24 11:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Lava continues to spill out of Mayon Volcano in Albay for the 170th consecutive day on Wednesday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said. According to state seismologists, lava effusion with lava flow was again recorded early Wednesday from 2:20 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. “Effusive eruption of Mayon Volcano continues

- [Tacloban shooting: Gun’ s serial number traced to another firearm](#) (2026-06-24 11:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The serial number of the .38 caliber revolver allegedly used by the 15-year-old suspect in the fatal shooting at a Tacloban City high school was traced to another gun in Bohol, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP). “Through the serial number, it was traced to a security agency in Cebu,” PNP

- [House wants Duterte’ s tax records unveiled in impeachment pretrial](#) (2026-06-24 11:49)

MANILA, Philippines – The House prosecution panel requested the unveiling of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s sealed tax records during the ongoing pretrial conference, public prosecutor and Mamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima said on Wednesday. De Lima confirmed that the prosecution panel requested the opening of the sealed Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) box, which

- [NBI to file human trafficking complaint vs Mike Defensor Friday](#) (2026-06-24 11:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is set to file a human trafficking complaint against former Rep. Mike Defensor in connection with a KTV bar in Pasig City that was previously raided over alleged sexual exploitation activities involving dozens of women. In a press conference on Wednesday, NBI Director Melvin Matibag said

- [Cop in viral firearm video relieved; probe underway](#) (2026-06-24 11:07)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – The Misamis Occidental Police Provincial Office (MOCPPPO) has launched an investigation into a viral video showing a police officer allegedly mishandling and pointing his firearm at a civilian in Barangay Antipolo, Dapitan City, on Sunday night. A video shared with the Inquirer showed the police officer pointing his gun and

- [Murder raps filed vs 15-year-old Tacloban school shooter](#) (2026-06-24 11:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Three murder complaints have been filed against the 15-year-old suspect in the Tacloban City school shooting. Philippine National Police (PNP) public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co confirmed this while speaking to reporters at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City on Wednesday morning. Co added

- [Sara Duterte jokes about finally finding a ‘Marcos’ in Lanao del Norte](#) (2026-06-24 11:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte took several jabs at President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday during a visit to Nunungan, Lanao del Norte, where she joked about finally finding “Marcos” in the area, referring to Vice Mayor Marcos Mamay. Addressing local officials during the town’s 60th Araw ng Nunungan celebration on June 23,

- [Recto: Marcos to highlight higher LGU tax shares in 5th Sona](#) (2026-06-24 11:00)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is expected to highlight the increase in the share of local government units (LGUs) from national tax collections in his fifth State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 27, according to Executive Secretary Ralph Recto. The National Tax Allotment (NTA) for LGUs is set to rise to 1.32

- [Dizon on meeting with Robredo: Just work, no politics](#) (2026-06-24 10:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Public Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon on Wednesday dismissed claims that a political agenda was included in his recent meeting with Naga City Mayor and former vice president Leni Robredo, saying that he visited the city for work purposes only. “It’s just work. We have to support all of our mayors,

- [Pampanga town honors heroism of slain Tacloban shooting victim](#) (2026-06-24 10:47)

MABALACAT CITY, Pampanga — The municipal government of Minalin in Pampanga has recognized the heroism of a student of San Jose National High School in Tacloban City who was killed trying to protect his classmates from two shooters on Monday. During the Minalin municipal council’s session on Tuesday, formally acknowledged 15-year-old Chris Lorenz Tanglao Fabian’s

- [No request yet for pretrial extension, says Bantug](#) (2026-06-24 10:34)

MANILA, Philippines – Senate Secretary and impeachment court clerk Renato Bantug said Wednesday that he has yet to receive a formal request from the House prosecution panel to

extend the pretrial proceedings in the impeachment case against Vice President Sara Duterte. “I have not received a request,” Bantug said in a text message to the

- [VP Duterte visits wake of student killed in Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-24 10:15)

TACLOBAN CITY — Vice President Sara Duterte paid her respects early on Wednesday to the three students slain in the shooting incident inside the San Jose National High School here on Monday. Some 20 other students were injured due to the gun attack by two minor suspects.  
READ: Number of wounded due to Tacloban school

- [Repair of 2 pumping stations along Roxas Blvd completed by July](#) (2026-06-24 10:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The repair of two of the three pumping stations in Roxas Boulevard in Manila is expected to be completed by the first week of July after being stalled for a year, Public Works and Highways secretary Vince Dizon said on Wednesday. Dizon made the assurance when he inspected the Padre Faura pumping

- [PNP to summon Manny V. Pangilinan in Ateneo drowning probe](#) (2026-06-24 10:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is set to summon businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan on Thursday, in connection with the ongoing investigation into the drowning of two Ateneo de Manila University student-athletes in Aurora province. Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Wednesday said investigators are now gathering statements from remaining individuals connected to the

- [DILG chief backs lowering age of criminal responsibility](#) (2026-06-24 10:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla is supporting calls to lower of the age of criminal responsibility. “Yes, I am. The Juvenile Justice law, the defect we see in our analysis, is that juveniles are now being used to be drug couriers so that, if they get caught, they cannot be

- [PNP to submit Ateneo drowning case findings to DOJ on Friday — Remulla](#) (2026-06-24 09:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) will submit its findings on the death of Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) student-athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili to the Department of Justice (DOJ) on Friday, according to Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said. “Our investigation is nearly complete. It’s rather conclusive,” Remulla told reporters in Filipino

- [Tacloban shooting: Romualdez visits families of slain, hurt students](#) (2026-06-24 09:32)

TACLOBAN CITY— Leyte 1st District Rep. Martin Romualdez on Tuesday visited the families of students killed in a shooting at San Jose National High School that left several dead and at least 20 others injured, as authorities filed charges against a 15-year-old suspect. The students were killed following a shooting incident at San Jose National

- [CHR seeks swift passage of bills creating detention monitoring body](#) (2026-06-24 09:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Human Rights is urging Congress to swiftly pass a long-delayed law establishing a National Preventive Mechanism, saying the Philippines continues to fall short of its international obligations more than 15 years after acceding to a treaty aimed at preventing torture. In a statement, the CHR called for the immediate

- [Tacloban school shooting a case of ‘bullying gone wrong’ – Remulla](#) (2026-06-24 09:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Wednesday said the deadly Tacloban City school shooting was a case of “bullying gone wrong.” “When it comes to the Tacloban case, I’m just now about to get the full report,” Remulla told reporters in a chance interview in Camp Crame. “But, it appears

- [Ateneo president, ex-players attend CIDG probe into Aurora tragedy](#) (2026-06-24 09:21)

MANILA, Philippines – Ateneo de Manila University president Fr. Roberto Yap, SJ, and several former ADMU players arrived at the Philippine National Police – Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP CIDG) headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City on Wednesday for the investigation on the death of men’s basketball team players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili

- [Sara Duterte impeachment pretrial enters fourth day](#) (2026-06-24 09:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The fourth day of the pretrial conference for Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial commenced on Wednesday as both the House prosecution panel and the vice president’s defense team continued the marking of evidence. The proceedings entered a fourth day despite expectations from both camps that the pretrial conference would conclude on

- [‘Food Nationalism’ : The politics of what Filipinos eat](#) (2026-06-24 09:02)

At a time when the Philippines remains deeply exposed to food imports, climate shocks, nutrition insecurity and the cultural pull of fast food and ultraprocessed diets, Dr. Teodoro C. Mendoza’s “Food Nationalism: Nourishing the Nation” arrives as both an argument and a challenge. It asks Filipinos to rethink food not merely as a commodity or

- [From Duterte’s 1972 shooting story to Tacloban: School violence in PH](#) (2026-06-24 09:00)

Long before he became president, Rodrigo Duterte was linked to one of the earliest and most controversial school shooting incidents in the Philippines. The account came from Duterte himself, who said during a campaign speech in Iloilo City in 2016 that he shot a fraternity brother at San Beda College in Manila in 1972 after

- [Rainy Wednesday in parts of Luzon, Visayas as typhoon moves away](#) (2026-06-24 07:19)

(Image from Pagasa / Facebook) MANILA, Philippines — It will be a rainy Wednesday in parts of Luzon and the Visayas due to the southwest monsoon or “habagat” that is being enhanced by Typhoon Francisco (international name: Mekkhala) which is moving away from the country, the



state weather bureau said. “The rains we are currently

- [Owners of guns in campus shooting also face raps](#) (2026-06-24 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — How did the two suspects—both minors—in the deadly shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, which left three students dead and 20 others injured, end up with guns in their possession? The suspects, identified only by their aliases “Rod,” 15, and “Nash,” 14, were tagged by police as the

- [Gov’t blocks violent online game after Tacloban school slays](#) (2026-06-24 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The government on Tuesday ordered the temporary blocking of the online shooting game GoreBox as authorities intensified their investigation into whether exposure to the platform may have influenced one of the teenage suspects in the school shooting in Tacloban City that left three students dead and at least 20 others wounded. The

- [Army instructor probed for allegedly assaulting National Guard trainees](#) (2026-06-24 05:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Army is investigating allegations that several graduating National Guard trainees were physically assaulted by an instructor during a sanctioned activity at a military training school in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal, on Monday night. Col. Michael Aquino, public affairs chief of the Army’s 2nd Infantry Division (2ID), said on Tuesday that

- [14-year-old gunman in Tacloban shooting fired at least 33 shots – PNP](#) (2026-06-24 05:31)

MANILA, Philippines — One of the two teenage gunmen in the Tacloban City school shooting was able to fire at least 33 gunshots and even reload his pistol, resulting in the killing of three of their schoolmates, and wounding of at least 20 others. In a briefing in Malacañang on Tuesday, Philippine National Police (PNP)

- [NBI hears from Tab Baldwin; CIDG checks out drowning site](#) (2026-06-24 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation intends to finish this week its probe of the deaths of Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) student-athletes Rene Clert “Bobet” Baterbonia and Chukwuemeka Divine Adili, as summoned school officials and other persons are expected to appear before the agency in the next few days. On Tuesday afternoon,

- [IN THE KNOW: GoreBox, Roblox and why the concern](#) (2026-06-24 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Authorities and online safety experts have noted that GoreBox shares certain similarities with Roblox, one of the world’s largest gaming platforms, but differs significantly in its content and focus. Both platforms allow players to create their own virtual worlds, design custom scenarios and interact with other users in user-generated environments. In both

- [Palace: Flood control budget back in 2027](#) (2026-06-24 05:20)



MANILA, Philippines — Funding for local flood control projects, which has been at the center of the massive corruption scandal that led to the filing of cases against lawmakers and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials, will be restored in the executive branch's proposed national budget for 2027 after getting zero allocation last

- [Over 500 pigs dead as new ASF outbreak reported in Negros Occidental](#) (2026-06-24 05:10)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — More than 500 pigs have died in San Enrique town in Negros Occidental following a resurgence of African swine fever (ASF), three years after the disease killed thousands of swine in the province. “We already have confirmed cases,” Lacson said in an interview. San Enrique Mayor Jilson Tubillara confirmed

- [Bus firm sanctioned after Isabela accident](#) (2026-06-24 05:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said on Tuesday it has issued a show cause order to the operator of Pangasinan Five Star Bus Inc. after one of its buses was involved in an accident that killed a pedestrian. Eight other buses were also slapped a 30-day suspension as the

- [AFP: No truth to claim generals suing Teodoro](#) (2026-06-24 05:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines on Tuesday brushed aside claims that many of its generals were preparing to file complaints against Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. amid supposed tension between the two. “On the claim that the majority of generals of the AFP would be filing a similar case, that is

- [Bohol, Leyte farmers get ‘ube’ planting materials](#) (2026-06-24 04:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), in partnership with the Philippine Root Crop Research and Training Center, has distributed more than 60,000 purple yam planting materials worth P2.6 million to over 900 farmers in Leyte and Bohol. According to BPI, the recipients came from the towns of Dagohoy, San Isidro, Lila, Cortes

- [P1.7-B smuggled cigarettes seized at private Cebu port](#) (2026-06-24 04:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Suspected smuggled cigarettes worth over P1.7 billion, concealed in 24 containers from Cebu, were seized by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and other government agencies. The BOC, National Bureau of Investigation, and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) conducted the operation after the NBI provided intelligence information. According to the BOC, the cigarettes

- [Calamity state to stay in Negros Occidental amid infestation](#) (2026-06-24 04:40)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — The state of calamity in Negros Occidental will remain in effect as Red Striped Soft-Scale Insects (RSSI) have infested 32.18 percent of the province's sugarcane fields, Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson said Tuesday. Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) chief Pablo Luis Azcona and United Sugar Producers Federation president

Manuel Lamata briefed

- [Baguio water truckers adjust supply ahead of El Niño](#) (2026-06-24 04:35)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — Commercial water truckers in Baguio City have confirmed a reduction in water extraction from private deep wells as the city braces for a possible “Super El Niño” that could bring rainfall shortages and drought conditions by year’s end. Owen Dagdagen, secretary of a local association of water distributors, said water delivery

- [Gov’t, MILF troops tapped to pacify warring Bangsamoro clans](#) (2026-06-24 04:30)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — A peacekeeping force has been deployed in Pahamuddin town in the Special Geographic Area (SGA) of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) to prevent the escalation of a “rido,” or clan feud, that left two people dead. Members of the Joint Peace and Security Team (JPST), a peacekeeping

- [UN rapporteur should also talk to ex-rebels, says NTF-Elcac](#) (2026-06-24 03:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Task Force to End Local Communist Conflict (NTF-Elcac) has urged a United Nations special rapporteur to hear the testimonies of former rebels after she flagged the use of counterterrorism laws to prosecute journalists and human rights advocates. NTF-Elcac executive director Ernesto Torres said Irene Khan, the UN special rapporteur on

- [PDEA agents nab farmer in Sulu drug bust](#) (2026-06-24 00:06)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — A joint anti-drug operation led by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA)–Sulu Provincial Office, backed by various law enforcement, military, and intelligence units, arrested a farmer for selling meth to an undercover agent in Barangay Lianutan of Luuk, Sulu on Sunday morning. Authorities identified the suspect as alias

- [PNP: Both suspects in Tacloban shooting test positive for gunpowder](#) (2026-06-23 23:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Both suspects in the fatal shooting incident at a Tacloban City high school tested positive for gunpowder in the paraffin test, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP). A paraffin test determines the presence of gunpowder residue on a person’s hands, which may indicate if they had recently fired a gun. “The

- [PNP says students may report bullying to police assistance desks](#) (2026-06-23 23:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) said students may report bullying incidents to police assistance desks stationed near schools. “That’s possible. We have existing laws against bullying,” PNP public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co said in an interview on DZMM on Tuesday night. “We can sometimes say that our vigilance against bullying

- [Francisco weakens; Signal No. 1 still up Batanes, parts of Cagayan](#) (2026-06-23 23:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Francisco (international name: “Mekkhala” ) slightly weakened as it continued to move northward above the Philippine Sea, the state weather bureau said. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) in its latest typhoon bulletin, Francisco was last spotted 320 kilometers (km) east of Calayan, Cagayan. READ: Francisco weakens

- [10 nabbed over alleged ‘paihi’ scheme in Navotas City, P12-M fuel seized](#) (2026-06-23 22:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Ten individuals were arrested for an alleged “paihi” scheme in Navotas City, resulting in the confiscation of P12 million worth of diesel fuel, the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP CIDG) said on Tuesday. “Paihi” refers to an illegal fuel pilferage scheme in which individuals secretly transfer fuel from

- [2 nabbed for fuel transfer sans DOE permit, P2.62-M fuel seized](#) (2026-06-23 22:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Two men were arrested for allegedly transferring fuel worth P2.62 million without a Department of Energy permit in Marinduque, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Tuesday. The arrested suspects, identified only as Tiaong, Quezon residents aged 28 and 30, were caught last Wednesday in Barangay Amoingon in Boac town, allegedly delivering

- [CHED issues show cause order vs Ateneo](#) (2026-06-23 22:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) on Tuesday said it has issued a show cause order (SCO) against Ateneo de Manila University for failing to submit documents requested as part of its investigation into the deaths of two of its student-athletes in Aurora province. In a statement, CHED said it had directed

- [Student stabbed in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental due to old grudge](#) (2026-06-23 22:50)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — A Grade 9 student was stabbed by a Grade 10 student in Teachers Village, Barangay 2 of San Carlos City, Negros Occidental, on Tuesday afternoon, June 23. The incident happened around 3:40 p.m., just outside the Julio Ledesma National High School (JLNHS). Both teenagers are 17 years old, the

- [PNP urges calm amid response measures after Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-23 22:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. urged the public to remain calm as the law enforcement agency implements response measures following the fatal shooting incident at a Tacloban City high school. “We extend our deepest sympathy to the families affected by these unfortunate incidents. The PNP is here,

- [PNP chief urges journos to report threats after Capiz broadcaster attack](#) (2026-06-23 22:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. urged journalists to report threats against them to the law enforcement agency after Capiz-based broadcaster Jay Lavapiezu survived a gun attack. “We will not allow any form of violence to silence the truth or threaten those who uphold our democracy,” Nartatez said

- [PCSO: No jackpot winners in June 23 lotto draws](#) (2026-06-23 21:50)

MANILA, Philippines — No bettor won the jackpot prizes in the Ultra Lotto 6/58, Super Lotto 6/49 and Lotto 6/42 draws held Tuesday, June 23, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). The Ultra Lotto 6/58 winning combination was 04-21-41-40-39-52 for a jackpot prize of approximately ₱128 million. No ticket matched all six numbers

- [Dole: P55.3M worth of assistance released to transport workers so far](#) (2026-06-23 21:23)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 15,044 transport workers have so far received over P55.3 million worth of assistance as part of efforts to cushion the effects of oil prices, the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) said Tuesday. According to Dole, the financial assistance was provided through the TUPAD-Tuloy Pasada Program, which began in

- [CHR starts motu proprio probe into Tacloban, Cavite school incidents](#) (2026-06-23 20:55)

MANILA, Philippines—The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on Tuesday said it launched motu proprio investigations into the fatal shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, Leyte, as well as separate incidents in Cavite schools. In a statement on Tuesday, the CHR said its Regional Office VIII deployed a team to conduct a

- [Camille Villar urges better school security after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-23 20:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Camille Villar expressed deep sorrow and concern over the shooting incident at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, where three students were killed and several others were injured, calling for urgent and coordinated action to better protect Filipino children inside schools. “As a mother and as a senator, I

- [Tacloban school shooting spurs call to review juvenile justice law – solon](#) (2026-06-23 20:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The school shooting in Leyte should trigger an “urgent and thorough” review of the law prescribing the minimum age of criminal responsibility, Ako Bicol Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. said on Tuesday. In a statement, he said while the 2006 Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act was crafted with the “noblest of intentions,” its

- [Palace: Tacloban school shooting victims’ families to get P150,000 aid](#) (2026-06-23 20:07)

MANILA, Philippines – Families of those who died in the Tacloban City school shooting will each receive P150,000 in financial assistance, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro announced on Tuesday. She also said the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department

of Health will also provide psychosocial services to everyone affected by the incident.

- [Amnesty PH opposes lowering liability age after Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-23 19:35)

MANILA, Philippines – Amnesty International Philippines on Tuesday opposed calls to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) following the Tacloban school shooting, saying it does not address the root causes of child-related violence. Ritz Lee Santos III, Amnesty International Philippines section director, warned against using the tragedy to push what he described as

- [Not just bullying? DOJ probes nihilistic extremism in Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-23 18:54)

MANILA, Philippines —The Department of Justice (DOJ) is exploring the possibility that the shooting in Tacloban City may have stemmed from a pattern of Nihilistic Violent Extremism (NVE) rather than a simple case of school bullying. DOJ spokesperson Polo Martinez explained that children can be easily radicalized by the content they encounter online. Martinez said

- [Flood control funds to be restored in proposed 2027 budget — Palace](#) (2026-06-23 18:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Funding for flood control projects will be restored in the proposed national budget for 2027 after receiving zero funding last year due to a corruption scandal, Malacañang said. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro on Tuesday confirmed that previously halted flood control projects may still be included in the National Expenditure Program (NEP)

- [Luistro: Pre-trial could've been faster had defense OK'd joint marking](#) (2026-06-23 18:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The pre-trial conference in Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings could have been completed in half the time had the defense panel agreed to the prosecution's request for the joint marking of common evidence, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said on Tuesday. In a press briefing, Luistro — the lead public prosecutor for

- [Castro says VP Duterte good at criticizing but won't offer solution](#) (2026-06-23 18:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Palace Press Officer Claire Castro on Tuesday shut down Vice President Sara Duterte's statement regarding the Tacloban City shooting, saying the latter is good at pointing out problems but does not offer any solutions. In her statement, Duterte said the tragedy “exposes” the alleged failure of the government to recognize the importance of

- [Angara leads DepEd response to Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-23 18:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Education Secretary Sonny Angara on Tuesday led the quick response of the Department of Education (DepEd) to the shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, Leyte, where three students were killed and 20 others were wounded. Angara went to Tacloban to check on the affected students and personnel of

- [Duterte impeachment pretrial: Extra team tapped for document marking](#) (2026-06-23 18:26)

MANILA, Philippines – The pretrial for the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte will reach a fourth day as documents related to the alleged misuse of confidential funds and the accumulation of unexplained wealth have yet to be marked. To speed up the process, the marking of evidence on Wednesday will be divided into five

- [TIMELINE: PNP details how Tacloban school shooting unfolded](#) (2026-06-23 18:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Tuesday released a timeline of the Tacloban City school shooting that left three people dead and 20 others injured. Here are the series of events before, during, and after the school shooting established by authorities during their investigation, as presented by PNP Public Information Office Chief Col.

- [ASF kills over 500 pigs in Negros Occidental](#) (2026-06-23 18:23)

BACOLOD CITY — More than 500 pigs have died in San Enrique, Negros Occidental, following a resurgence of African Swine Fever (ASF), Mayor Jilson Tubillara confirmed on Tuesday. In a statement, Tubillara said all 10 barangays in the town have been affected, with laboratory tests confirming the outbreak on Monday. Local authorities have imposed border

- [Typhoon Francisco keeps strength; Signal No. 1 remains in 2 areas](#) (2026-06-23 18:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Francisco (international name: Mekkhala) maintained its strength on Tuesday afternoon as it continued to move northwestward over the Philippine Sea, the state weather bureau said. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), Francisco was last spotted 330 kilometers (km) east of Calayan, Cagayan. READ: Francisco weakens into

- [Juvenile Justice Law: What many Filipinos often misunderstand](#) (2026-06-23 18:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The fatal shooting at a public school in Tacloban City has reignited calls to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the Philippines. However, amid public outrage and renewed debate over the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, lawyer, educator, and human rights officer Amlan-Najar Namla said Tuesday that many Filipinos misunderstand

- [Barangay chairman nabbed in Zamboanga del Norte drug bust](#) (2026-06-23 17:33)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – An incumbent barangay chairperson was arrested in a joint anti-drug operation in Barangay Marapong, Sibutad, Zamboanga del Norte on Monday. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) 9–Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Office, the Sibutad Municipal Police Station–Municipal Drug Enforcement Team (MDET), and the 1st Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Mobile Force

- [Daraga mayor orders tighter school security, more police presence](#) (2026-06-23 17:28)

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay — Daraga Mayor Victor Perete has ordered all schools to strengthen security measures and directed police to increase visibility around educational institutions following reports of violent incidents in schools elsewhere in the country. In Executive Order No. 47, signed on June 22, Perete said the directive aims to ensure the safety and

- [Palace: Marcos open to lowering age of criminal responsibility](#) (2026-06-23 17:27)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is open to lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility as investigations into the deadly school shooting in Tacloban City continue, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said on Tuesday. Castro did not specify what age it could be lowered to, but said Marcos would review any proposal that Congress

- [Marcos receptive to violent game ban for minors after school shooting](#) (2026-06-23 17:26)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is open to proposals that would seek to ban violent online games that may negatively influence the youth, according to Palace press officer Claire Castro. The remark comes after reports that one of the suspects in the deadly school shooting in Tacloban City was a frequent player of the

- [Duterte' s team: Our number is enough; it' s prosecutors who leave early](#) (2026-06-23 17:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte asserted on Tuesday that it has enough manpower for the marking of evidence in the pretrial conference for the vice president' s impeachment trial. It also observed that it is the prosecution who 'lack personnel.' These statements come after the House prosecution panel requested the

- [Motorcyclist dies after falling into pit in Benguet](#) (2026-06-23 16:59)

BAGUIO CITY — A motorcycle rider died after sustaining severe head injuries when his vehicle fell into a pit in the early hours of Tuesday in Tuba, Benguet. The victim, 29, a native of Bokod, Benguet, was residing in Camp 4, Tuba. Police said a construction worker discovered the rider and his motorcycle at the

- [Zubiri joins debates on social media access for minors](#) (2026-06-23 16:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri on Tuesday backed a serious discussion on proposals banning or strictly limiting social media use for minors in light of the fatal shooting at a school in Tacloban City involving young learners there. "This tragedy should push us to confront a hard truth: the influence of social

- [BARMM cops beef up school security after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-23 16:48)

COTABATO CITY – Uniformed police personnel have been deployed to public schools across the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) as part of heightened security measures following the deadly school shooting in Tacloban City. The fatal shooting at the San Jose National High School on Monday in Tacloban City left three dead and 20 wounded.



- [Cayetano exit skips Senate customary show of civility](#) (2026-06-23 16:41)

When Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano stood on May 11, he began the attempt to oust Sen. Vicente “Tito” Sotto III as Senate president with these words: “There are now at least 13 members of the Senate who wish to have a leadership change.” A few minutes later, as Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, who has

- [Alcantara’ s driver tells court he delivers boxes for 2 ex-solons](#) (2026-06-23 16:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The former driver of Henry Alcantara, ex Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) district engineer in Bulacan, on Tuesday said he delivered boxes which he suspected to contain cash to two former lawmakers. Edrick San Diego, former driver in DPWH Bulacan, made the revelation as he took the witness stand at

- [DA distributes 60,000 ube planting materials in Leyte, Bohol](#) (2026-06-23 16:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Tuesday said it has distributed 60,000 ube planting materials to farmers in Leyte and Bohol as part of efforts to expand the country’ s purple yam industry. Led by the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), the DA said this initiative aims to increase production of the root

- [Solar-powered water system serves 700 households in Pangasinan](#) (2026-06-23 16:36)

MALASIQUI, Pangasinan — A solar-powered water system with reverse osmosis capacity has been benefiting some 700 households in Barangay Lepa and neighboring villages, providing potable drinking water for just P5 per gallon. Barangay Captain Mark Escat said the water system has been the source of potable drinking water for residents. “It is very helpful to all

- [Cop who owns gun used in Tacloban shooting will be fired – PNP](#) (2026-06-23 16:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The policewoman who owns one of the guns used in the Tacloban City school shooting will face summary dismissal proceedings, Philippine National Police (PNP) public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co said on Tuesday. The policewoman from Police Regional Office 8 owns the 9mm Glock 17 used by the 14-year-old suspect identified as

- [Duterte impeachment: Prosecution seeks more pre-trial days](#) (2026-06-23 16:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The prosecution team for Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment trial has asked for additional days to finish the pre-trial conference—extending work to Friday and Saturday—so the parties can finish marking evidence. Public prosecutors Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro and Manila Rep. Joel Chua said in a press briefing on Tuesday afternoon that they

- [Northern Mindanao schools’ security boosted after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-23 16:25)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — In the wake of the recent school shooting in Tacloban City, the Police Regional Office 10 (PRO-10) has ordered heightened security measures and increased police



visibility across schools in Northern Mindanao to ensure students' safety. Police Brig. Gen. Christopher Abrahamo, PRO-10 director, said the regional police force is strengthening its coordination

- [CICC steps up monitoring after deadly Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-23 16:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) on Tuesday said it has intensified its surveillance on online activities, including a gaming application it temporarily blocked following the fatal shooting incident in a school in Tacloban City. According to the CICC, its Threat Monitoring Center collaborated with the Council for the Welfare of

- [CICC temporarily blocks GoreBox after Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-23 15:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) on Tuesday imposed a temporary ban on the gaming app GoreBox following the Tacloban City school shooting that killed three students and injured 20 others. The decision came after initial police findings indicated that one of the Grade 9 students allegedly involved in the incident

- [Alfred Vargas eyes CCTVs in QC public schools amid violence concerns](#) (2026-06-23 15:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Quezon City Councilor Alfred Vargas on Tuesday said he would push for the installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in public schools across the city amid growing concerns over school violence. The proposal comes after a deadly school shooting in Tacloban City that left at least three students dead and 13 others

- [Army probes alleged assault of Nat' l Guard trainees at Camp Capinpin](#) (2026-06-23 15:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Army is investigating allegations that several graduating National Guard trainees were physically assaulted by an instructor during a sanctioned activity at a military training school in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal. Col. Michael Aquino, public affairs chief of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division (2ID), said on Tuesday that an investigation is

- [Angara orders psychosocial aid, tighter school security](#) (2026-06-23 15:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Following a school shooting in Tacloban City that left three students dead and 20 injured, Education Secretary Sonny Angara on Tuesday ordered stricter school security protocols and urgent psychosocial care. Police earlier said that the number of injured students in the San Jose National High School shooting climbed to 20, including 15

- [Iloilo City turns plastic bottles into free WiFi via recycling drive](#) (2026-06-23 15:31)

ILOILO CITY — This highly urbanized city launched on Monday its “Eco-nnect Bottle to WiFi Vendo” project that will provide free internet connectivity in exchange for polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles. “We encourage that instead of throwing them away, they can exchange them for free WiFi,” said Mayor Raisa Treñas, who led the launch of the

- [PNP favors lowering of minimum age of criminal responsibility to 12](#) (2026-06-23 15:28)

[Updated June 23, 2026, 7:22 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) supports the lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 12 years old from the current 15, according to PNP public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co. “The PNP is supporting lowering the age of criminal responsibility,” Co said at a Palace

- [Juvenile council clarifies minors still accountable under law](#) (2026-06-23 15:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Contrary to common misconceptions, children in conflict with the law (CICL) are not automatically released or exempt from accountability under the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act. This clarification came Tuesday from Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC) Executive Director Tricia Clare Oco and Senator Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan amid public discussion surrounding the

- [Man stabs his mother to death in Cotabato town](#) (2026-06-23 15:23)

KIDAPAWAN CITY, Cotabato—A man believed to be under the influence of illegal drugs killed his mother following a heated argument inside their home in the town of Kabacan, Cotabato province, early on Monday, police said. Police Col. Ramel Hojilla, Cotabato police director, identified the victim as Floresma Mesmis Mamari, 59, a widower, of Purok Mabuhay,

- [Duterte’ s legal team: Some witnesses not identified for their safety](#) (2026-06-23 15:16)

MANILA, Philippines—Some witnesses of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s defense team were not named during the impeachment pre-trial conference for their security, according to one of her lawyers, Michael Poa. Poa said both parties have reserve witnesses for the impeachment trial of the vice president, which is set to start on July 6. “We, in the

- [Human settlements dept tells public ‘installment’ lots for sale are illegal](#) (2026-06-23 15:14)

COTABATO CITY — The Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development – Soccsksargen Region (DHSUD-12) warned the public on Tuesday against “hulugan” or “installment” lots for sale on social media platforms. “Selling, offering for sale, or advertising subdivision lots or ‘raw lots’ on Facebook or other online platforms without a valid certificate of registration and license

- [ASF kills 500 pigs in Negros Occidental town](#) (2026-06-23 15:06)

BACOLOD CITY — A resurgence of African Swine Fever (ASF) has killed more than 500 pigs in San Enrique, Negros Occidental, Mayor Jilson Tubillara confirmed Tuesday. Tubillara said all 10 barangays in the town have been affected, with laboratory tests confirming the outbreak on Monday. Authorities have imposed border controls and strengthened biosecurity measures to

- [Tacloban shooting: Slain student who shielded peers hailed a hero](#) (2026-06-23 14:50)

TACLOBAN CITY — A 15-year-old student is being hailed as a hero after sacrificing his life while trying to stop an armed suspect from entering their classroom during the deadly shooting at San Jose National High School on Monday. Chris Lorenz Fabian was among the three students killed in the attack that also injured 20

- [Are gun owners liable for crimes committed with their firearms?](#) (2026-06-23 14:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The firearms that the two male Grade 9 students, aged 14 and 15, allegedly used to shoot up a school in Tacloban City last Monday belonged to the former's aunt, a police staff sergeant, and a security agency where the latter's grandfather previously worked. In a statement on Tuesday, Philippine National Police

- [Tab Baldwin mum after appearing at NBI for Ateneo athletes death probe](#) (2026-06-23 14:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Resigned Ateneo de Manila University men's basketball team head coach Tab Baldwin has refused to provide any statement after appearing before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Tuesday in connection with the ongoing probe into the deaths of his former student-athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. Baldwin arrived at the NBI

- [Tacloban shooting: Western Visayas steps up anti-bullying push](#) (2026-06-23 14:01)

ILOILO CITY — The Department of Education (DepEd) Region 6 (Western Visayas) has issued an urgent directive to all Schools Division superintendents to heighten campus security measures and strictly enforce anti-bullying campaigns. The directive follows a deadly shooting on Monday morning at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City. According to the latest police

- [Capiz broadcaster shooting probe widens as cops form task force](#) (2026-06-23 13:42)

ILOILO CITY — Police investigators have obtained closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage that could help identify the suspects behind the shooting attack on broadcaster Jay Lavapiez in Roxas City on Monday, authorities said. Police Lt. Col. Rogelio Tomagtang Jr., officer-in-charge of the Roxas Component City Police Station, said investigators were reviewing footage from cameras in Barangay

- [BOC seizes over P1.17-B suspected smuggled cigarettes in Cebu port](#) (2026-06-23 13:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) and other government agencies seized suspected smuggled cigarettes worth over P1.7 billion concealed in 24 containers from Cebu. The BOC, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) conducted the operation after the NBI provided intelligence information. The BOC said the cigarettes were

- [Sandiganbayan rejects anew bid to drop P289-M flood scam case](#) (2026-06-23 13:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Sixth Division on Tuesday again denied the motion of former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials to dismiss the

P289-million malversation case filed against them over alleged irregularities in flood control projects. The malversation of funds through falsification of public documents stemmed from a P289.4 million Sunwest project,

- [Mimaropa cops boost presence in schools after Cavite stabbings](#) (2026-06-23 13:06)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The Police Regional Office (PRO) Mimaropa has ordered heightened police visibility in and around schools across the region following recent stabbing incidents in separate schools in Cavite and rising concerns about campus safety. Acting regional director Brig. Gen. Christopher R. Dela Cruz on Monday directed all provincial and municipal police

- [AFP dismisses claims of rift with Teodoro, generals' complaint](#) (2026-06-23 13:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Tuesday brushed aside claims that a majority of its generals were preparing to file complaints against Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., describing the allegation as a “joke” and denying reports of tensions between the military and the country’s top defense official. AFP spokesperson for

- [Senate panel to probe into Tacloban school shooting on July 1](#) (2026-06-23 13:01)

MANILA, Philippines – The fatal school shooting in Tacloban City will be investigated by the Senate committee on women, children, family relations and gender equality on July 1. Panel chairperson Sen. Risa Hontiveros made the announcement on Tuesday, a day after two minors opened fire inside San Jose National High School, leaving three students dead

- [PNP vows cases vs owners of guns used in Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-23 13:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) vowed to pursue cases against the owners of the guns allegedly used in the Tacloban City school shooting. “With all the pieces of evidence available, I expect a solid case that can stand in court,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said in a statement on

- [Francisco weakens into typhoon, enhances ‘habagat’](#) (2026-06-23 12:41)

(Image screengrabbed from Pagasa’s latest press briefing) MANILA, Philippines – Super Typhoon Francisco (international name: Mekkhala) has weakened into a typhoon over the Philippine Sea and is enhancing the southwest monsoon or “habagat” on Tuesday, according to the state weather bureau. In its latest press briefing, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa)

- [PH tops Southeast Asia in budget transparency — survey](#) (2026-06-23 12:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines remained the most transparent country in Southeast Asia in terms of budget openness, according to the results of the 2025 Open Budget Survey (OBS). The independent global assessment of government budget transparency, public participation, and oversight conducted by the International Budget Partnership (IBP) gave the

Philippines a transparency score of

- [Liza Marcos leads rice aid initiative for Tondo families](#) (2026-06-23 12:24)

MANILA, Philippines — First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos on Tuesday led the second day of the rice aid initiative in Tondo, Manila, where five kilos of rice were distributed to vulnerable families, the Presidential Communications Office said. The initiative, Mula sa Puso Para sa Pamilya (From the Heart to the Family), funded by the Local Government

- [NBI intends to finish probe on Ateneo athletes' deaths this week](#) (2026-06-23 12:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) intends to finish its probe into the deaths of Ateneo players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili this week, according to Director Melvin Matibag. In an ambush interview on Tuesday, Matibag said the NBI originally targeted to finalized the investigation last Friday, but the other personalities being

- [Sea travel in Cagayan suspended due to Super Typhoon Francisco](#) (2026-06-23 12:13)

TUGUEGARAO CITY — Sea travel in Cagayan, as well as in Batanes waters, has been temporarily suspended due to Super Typhoon “Francisco” (international name: Mekkhala), which is expected to bring strong winds and heavy rains on Tuesday. Lt. Junior Grade Mark Ian Gazzingan, commander of the Philippine Coast Guard in Cagayan, said the suspension issued

- [PNP probes if parents liable for Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-23 12:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Tuesday said it was investigating whether the parents or guardians of the two suspects in the Tacloban City school shooting may also be held liable for the incident. The PNP previously identified the suspects as two male Grade 9 students aged 14 and 15. “Part of

- [Tagbilaran orders audit of police firearms after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-23 11:56)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — Mayor Jane Yap on Tuesday ordered an immediate and comprehensive audit of all firearms under the custody of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Tagbilaran City following the school shooting in Tacloban City that left several students dead and wounded. Yap instructed Tagbilaran City Police Chief Lt. Col. Joey Bicoy to

- [Tacloban school shooting: Cop linked to gun relieved from post](#) (2026-06-23 11:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The police officer who owned the 9mm pistol allegedly used in the Tacloban City school shooting has been placed under restrictive custody and relieved from her post, the Police Regional Office Eastern Visayas (PRO 8) said on Tuesday. “Yesterday, she was placed under restrictive custody by her immediate superior,” PRO 8 director

- [Angara seeks accountability over firearms used in Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-23 11:43)

TACLOBAN CITY — Education Secretary Edgardo “Sonny” Angara on Tuesday called for accountability from those responsible for providing the firearms used in the deadly shooting at

San Jose National High School, as he visited the campus a day after the attack that left three students dead and 20 others wounded. The shooting, which occurred at

- [Tacloban shooting: Suspect's grandpa worked at agency linked to gun](#) (2026-06-23 11:32)

MANILA, Philippines — One of the suspects in the Tacloban City school shooting has a grandfather who is a former security guard of an agency where one of the guns used in the attack was registered to, the Police Regional Office Eastern Visayas (PRO-8) said. The Philippine National Police (PNP) previously said it traced the

- [Teachers tapped in cervical cancer prevention drive](#) (2026-06-23 11:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Teachers are being tapped to help address one of the Philippines' most persistent but largely preventable health threats: cervical cancer. The Department of Education and Jhpiego, a global health nonprofit affiliated with Johns Hopkins University, have launched a new resource booklet to equip teachers and education support personnel with evidence-based information on

- [Luistro, Poa admit: Pre-trial not yet near its ending](#) (2026-06-23 11:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawyers from both the public prosecution panel and the defense panel have separately admitted that the pre-trial stage for Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings might not yet end on Tuesday, as both camps have to mark a voluminous amount of documents. In an ambush interview at the Senate, before the third day

- [GenSan public schools stay suspended after strong aftershock](#) (2026-06-23 11:13)

COTABATO CITY – Classes in public elementary and high schools across General Santos City remained suspended on Tuesday after a magnitude 6.2 earthquake struck the city on June 15. That quake was one of the aftershocks of the June 8 powerful magnitude 7.8 earthquake that rocked the Soccsksargen region (Region 12) and devastated GenSan and

- [Iloilo City schools tighten security after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-23 11:00)

ILOILO CITY — Public schools in Iloilo City have tightened security measures, while police and education officials are pushing for additional safeguards following Monday's deadly shooting inside a school in Tacloban City that left three students dead. READ: School shooting kills three students At least two public schools in Iloilo City have stepped up inspections

- [Police: Tacloban school shooting suspect played 'violent' game](#) (2026-06-23 10:59)

MANILA, Philippines — One of the suspects behind the Tacloban City school shooting previously played a “violent” game prior to the incident, the Police Regional Office Eastern Visayas (PRO 8) said on Tuesday. In a phone interview with reporters, PRO 8 director Brig. Gen. Jason Capoy said, “As per our investigation, it was GoreBox.” “It

- [Tacloban City school shooters had target, according to the police](#) (2026-06-23 10:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The two suspects in the shooting incident at a Tacloban City high school allegedly had a target, according to the Police Regional Office Eastern Visayas (PRO 8). In a phone interview with reporters, PRO 8 director Brig. Gen. Jason Capoy said police investigators were investigating whether bullying had motivated the two suspects—male

- [Dy: Tacloban shooting highlights need to strengthen youth support](#) (2026-06-23 10:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The shooting incident in a Tacloban City public high school highlights the need for stronger mechanisms regarding support to youth and protection of schools, House of Representatives Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III said on Tuesday. In a statement, Dy said the House supports a thorough and impartial investigation on the shooting incident, to prevent

- [Tacloban City school shooting planned weeks before, say police](#) (2026-06-23 10:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The shooting incident inside a Tacloban City high school was planned by the assailants weeks prior to the incident, according to the Police Regional Office Eastern Visayas (PRO 8). The perpetrators, two male Grade 9 students aged 14 and 15, opened fire inside the San Jose National High School premises on Monday

- [DepEd chief pushes stronger school safeguards after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-23 10:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Education Secretary Sonny Angara on Tuesday said the Department of Education (DepEd) would review school safety measures and strengthen coordination with law enforcement following the shooting incident at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City. His visit to Tacloban comes as authorities continue investigating the said incident, where two minor Grade

- [Oriental Mindoro’ s most wanted nabbed in manhunt operation](#) (2026-06-23 10:36)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Authorities arrested Oriental Mindoro’ s top provincial most wanted person during a joint manhunt operation in Barangay Zone 1, Pinamalayan town, on Monday. The suspect, a 32-year-old fast-food restaurant supervisor from Puerto Galera, was apprehended by operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) Oriental Mindoro Provincial Field Unit, which

- [Quezon prov’ l gov’ t, 15 public hospitals recognized as ‘drug-free’](#) (2026-06-23 09:58)

LUCENA CITY — The provincial government of Quezon, including the 15 public hospitals under the Quezon Provincial Hospital Network (QPHN), has been recognized by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) as “drug-free workplaces.” Gov. Angelina Tan, a physician, said the recognition reflects the provincial government’ s commitment to maintaining a

- [Defense refuses House prosecutors’ ‘common markings’ request in pretrial](#) (2026-06-23 09:50)



MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte’ s defense team has denied the request of the House prosecution panel for common markings during the pretrial of Duterte’ s impeachment. In an interview on Tuesday with defense lawyer and spokesperson Michael Poa, he shared that their camp refused common markings of similar documents, as they will be using

- [P77-M ‘shabu’ seized, 173 nabbed in Western Visayas](#) (2026-06-23 09:45)

ILOILO CITY – Police in Western Visayas seized over 11 kilos of suspected “shabu” (crystal meth) worth P77.07 million and arrested 173 drug suspects in 138 anti-illegal drug operations conducted from May 22 to June 21, the Police Regional Office 6 (PRO-6) reported. The month-long crackdown resulted in the arrest of 55 High-Value Individuals (HVIs)

- [School shooting sparks talks on tighter social media use for minors](#) (2026-06-23 09:45)

MANILA, Philippines— Proposals to restrict social media access for children below 15 years old have resurfaced following the June 22 fatal shooting incident at the San Jose National High School in Tacloban City. The incident, which left three students dead and several others injured, allegedly involved two students aged 14 and 15, prompting lawmakers to

- [Ateneo observes 40-day mourning period for Baterbonia, Adili](#) (2026-06-23 09:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) is observing a 40-day period of mourning for student-athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili, who died in a drowning incident during a reported team-building activity of the men’ s basketball team in Dipaculao, Aurora last June 8. In a memorandum dated June 22, Ateneo President Fr. Roberto C.

- [DepEd places schools on alert due to Super typhoon Francisco](#) (2026-06-23 09:34)

ILOILO CITY — The Department of Education (DepEd) has directed schools and field offices nationwide to intensify preparedness measures as Super Typhoon Francisco (international name: Mekkhala) remains inside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). According to the 5 a.m. bulletin issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on Tuesday, Francisco maintained

- [Ateneo drowning case: PNP-CIDG reconstructs ‘crime scene’ in Aurora](#) (2026-06-23 09:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police – Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) on Tuesday morning visited the Dipaculao, Aurora resort to reconstruct the “crime scene” in the fatal drowning of two Ateneo de Manila University student-athletes. In a statement, the CIDG said its personnel, along with those of the PNP Forensic Group, the

- [LTFRB suspends operations of bus firm’ s 8 units over fatal Isabela crash](#) (2026-06-23 09:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The operations of eight passenger buses of a bus firm were suspended for 30 days following a fatal road crash in front of a hospital in Isabela, the Land Transportation



Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said on Tuesday. According to the LTFRB, a showcause order was issued to the operator of

- [Tacloban school shooting a wake-up call for gov' t – Sara Duterte](#) (2026-06-23 09:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte on Tuesday said the deadly campus shooting in Tacloban City should serve as a wake-up call to the current administration, saying the tragedy exposed serious gaps in the government's ability to protect young people. "No parent sends a child to school expecting that child to become a victim

- [Number of wounded due to Tacloban school shooting now at 20](#) (2026-06-23 09:23)

TACLOBAN CITY — The number of students wounded in the shooting incident at San Jose National High School has risen to 20, with 15 suffering gunshot wounds and five others sustaining injuries during the panic and commotion that followed the attack, police said Tuesday. Lt. Col. Analiza Armeza, spokesperson for the Police Regional Office-8 (PRO-8),

- [Duterte impeachment: Pretrial Day 3 to mark evidence on funds, wealth](#) (2026-06-23 09:20)

MANILA, Philippines – The unexpected third day of the pretrial conference for Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment case commenced on Tuesday morning. Although Duterte's defense team and the House of Representatives' prosecution panel had previously expected the pretrial to conclude on Monday, the volume of documents from both sides prompted an additional day for the

- [Bataan town passes non-nuclear zone ordinance](#) (2026-06-23 09:14)

MORONG, Bataan — The Municipal Council of this town approved a Non-Nuclear Zone Ordinance that prohibits the construction, operation, and storage of nuclear power facilities and radioactive materials within the municipality. The measure was passed on Monday in the town that hosts the 620-megawatt mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. READ: Anti-nuclear groups oppose Bataan nuke

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of June 23, 2026](#) (2026-06-23 09:11)

MANILA, Philippines – Big-time fuel price rollback takes effect this week, bringing relief to motorists after weeks of adjustments driven by global oil market volatility. Oil companies implemented price slash on gasoline by P4 to P5 per liter, while diesel prices by P8 to P10 per liter, and kerosene by P9 to P11 per liter.

- [Tacloban tightens curfew, security after deadly school shooting](#) (2026-06-23 07:56)

TACLOBAN CITY — The Tacloban City government has ordered the strict enforcement of its curfew ordinance for minors and heightened security measures across the city following the June 22 shooting incident at San Jose National High School that left three students dead and 13 others wounded. In a statement, city officials said the 10 p.m.

- [Super typhoon Francisco moves slowly near Cagayan; Signal No. 1 still up](#) (2026-06-23 07:40)

Photo from Pagasa MANILA, Philippines — Super Typhoon Francisco slowed down over the Philippine Sea east of Cagayan while maintaining its strength Tuesday, prompting the continued implementation of Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) No. 1 in parts of Northern Luzon. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa),

- [School shooting kills 3 students in Tacloban](#) (2026-06-23 05:55)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — “I just ran for my life.” That was how a 16-year-old student described the chaos inside San Jose National High School here on Monday morning, when what began as a routine school day turned into a deadly shooting that left three students dead and 13 others wounded. The incident marked

- [Prosecutors’ goal: VP’ s conviction regardless of vote limit](#) (2026-06-23 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The goal of the private prosecution team in Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment trial is to build a case with overwhelming evidence, regardless of how the constitutional provision on the vote threshold is interpreted, lawyer Benjamin Tolosa Jr. said on Monday. Tolosa, the newest member of the private legal team helping prosecuting

- [Marcos wants campus security tightened after Leyte attack](#) (2026-06-23 05:45)

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos on Monday ordered authorities to conduct an in-depth probe while strengthening security measures, especially in schools, following the shooting in Tacloban City, the provincial capital of Leyte, where two teens shot and killed three of their schoolmates and injured 13 others. “The President is saddened by the incident. He [has]

- [Witness reveals DPWH ‘in-house’ contractors](#) (2026-06-23 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) district engineer Henry Alcantara of the Bulacan First District Engineering Office on Monday testified about the existence of “in-house” contractors in his former office. Alcantara, a key figure in the multibillion-peso flood control anomaly who is now a state witness, took the witness stand

- [PNP: No arrest warrant out for Marcoleta](#) (2026-06-23 05:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Despite Sen. Rodante Marcoleta’ s earlier claim, no warrant has been issued for his arrest, the Philippine National Police said on Monday. “As of now, the Philippine National Police has not received any official communication regarding a said warrant,” PNP public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co said at a press briefing in

- [PH braces for severe El Niño seen to last until 2027](#) (2026-06-23 04:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Marcos administration is ramping up measures to protect the country's food, water, and energy supplies amid warnings that a potentially severe El Niño phenomenon could persist until 2027, threatening agricultural production and economic activity nationwide. President Marcos on Monday said government agencies were intensifying preparations as forecasts pointed to prolonged dry

- [Army: Deaths of rebel leaders 'weaken' NPA forces in Bukidnon](#) (2026-06-23 04:40)

MALAYBALAY CITY, BUKIDNON, Philippines — Two key leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines' North Central Mindanao Regional Committee (NCMRC) were killed in separate clashes with government troops in Bukidnon, "further weakening" the forces of New People's Army (NPA) rebels in the area, the military said. Brig. Gen. Seigfred Tubalado, commander of the 403rd

- [Groups rally for good governance in Cotabato](#) (2026-06-23 04:35)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Thousands joined a peaceful rally here on Monday, demanding good governance, stronger accountability, institutional reforms and continued investigations into alleged corruption within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Abu Hamza, spokesperson for rally organizer Movement to Support Moral Governance and Fight Against Corruption, said the gathering aimed to

- [95 villages in Cagayan, Batanes at risk due to Francisco](#) (2026-06-23 04:30)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN, Philippines — At least 95 villages in Batanes and Cagayan provinces are at risk of flooding and landslides as Typhoon Francisco (international name: Mekkhalá) moves closer to Northern Luzon, prompting government agencies to intensify disaster preparedness measures. The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)-Cagayan Valley said 29 barangays in the Batanes towns of

- [PNP eyes tighter ties with barangay tanods for school security](#) (2026-06-22 23:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday said it was looking into closer coordination with barangay watchmen (tanod) as part of measures to bolster school security after a series of violent incidents. At a press briefing in Camp Crame, PNP public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co said the national police force

- [Francisco now a super typhoon](#) (2026-06-22 23:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Weather disturbance Francisco (international name: "Mekkhalá") intensified into a super typhoon on Monday evening, said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). According to Pagasa, Francisco developed into a super typhoon around 8 p.m. as it reached maximum sustained winds of 185 kilometers per hour (km/h) and gustiness of up

- [Dela Rosa's camp turns over 6 more firearms to PNP in Cavite](#) (2026-06-22 22:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of fugitive Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa turned over six more of his firearms to the police in Cavite on Monday, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said. “The turnover was facilitated by personnel of the PNP Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO) and the Regional Civil Security Unit 4A in coordination

- [BIR, NBI seize 22 containers of illicit cigarettes in Manila North Harbor](#) (2026-06-22 22:39)

MANILA, Philippines — In a joint operation with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), through the Revenue Region No. 6-City of Manila and Palawan province, and its Regional Investigation Division (RID), moved against a large shipment of illicit cigarettes at the container yard of Carlos A. Gothong Lines, Inc.

- [DSWD releases P378M worth of aid to Mindanao after magnitude 7.8 quake](#) (2026-06-22 22:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Monday said it has already released P378 million worth of relief aid to Mindanao following the magnitude 7.8 earthquake on June 8. According to the DSWD, the released humanitarian relief is meant to provide assistance to communities severely affected by the earthquake in

- [Ombudsman files graft vs Cebu town mayor, vice mayor, 11 others](#) (2026-06-22 22:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman filed graft charges against a mayor, vice mayor, 10 Sangguniang Bayan members, and the municipal administrator of Minglanilla town in Cebu for allegedly blocking a rehabilitation bid to a quarry site, a move the charged chief executive said was done to “protect” the town residents. State prosecutors

- [No jackpot winners in Grand Lotto 6/55, Mega Lotto 6/45 on June 22](#) (2026-06-22 21:47)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpot prizes for Grand Lotto 6/55 and Mega Lotto 6/45 during the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draws held Monday, June 22, 2026. According to PCSO, the winning combination for Grand Lotto 6/55 was 37-32-23-35-53-18, carrying a jackpot prize of ₱45 million. No ticket matched all six numbers. Mega Lotto

- [Flood control: Alcantara vows to return P300M, but only has P18M in SALN](#) (2026-06-22 21:40)

MANILA, Philippines — State witness and former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) district engineer Henry Alcantara on Monday vowed to return P300 million to the government despite declaring only up to P18 million in his statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth (SALN). READ: Revilla case witness returns P130M to gov’ t despite only

- [Water service interruptions to affect NCR, Rizal from June 25 to 27](#) (2026-06-22 21:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Water service interruptions will affect some areas in Metro Manila and Rizal from June 25 to 27 due to emergency repair and maintenance activities. In an advisory, Manila Water said the maintenance activities will help maintain the supply of potable water,

while emergency repairs are being undertaken to restore normal water supply

- [Soldier rescues vulnerable hornbill in Zamboanga del Norte](#) (2026-06-22 20:59)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — A soldier rescued a hornbill and turned it over to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO)-Liloy in Zamboanga del Norte on Monday. Roserverico Tan, chief of the Regional Strategic Communication and Initiatives Group (RSCIG) of DENR-IX, told the Inquirer that Sgt. Junelo Bongcawel of the Philippine Army's

- [Cop placed in custody after gun linked to Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 20:54)

TACLOBAN CITY — A police officer has been placed under restrictive custody after authorities confirmed that one of the firearms used in the deadly shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City was linked to her family, the Police Regional Office 8 (PRO-8) said on Monday, June 22. PRO-8 spokesperson Lt. Col.

- [14 BIFF members surrender, yield 39 firearms in Maguindanao del Sur](#) (2026-06-22 20:44)

CAMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao del Norte — Fourteen members of the Islamic State-inspired Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) have surrendered to government authorities, turning over 39 loose firearms, including two 60 mm mortar tubes, in Maguindanao del Sur on Sunday, June 21. The turnover ceremony was held at the headquarters of the 38th Infantry Battalion (38IB)

- [Legarda: Tacloban school shooting highlights youth issues needing action](#) (2026-06-22 20:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Following a fatal shooting at a high school in Tacloban City, Sen. Loren Legarda on Monday called for intensified efforts to address youth challenges, including violence, mental health, and access to firearms. READ: Gatchalian outraged by shooting in Tacloban school: Unacceptable In a statement, Legarda expressed her condolences to the families of

- [PNP: Hunt on for gunman who killed cop in Lanao del Sur mosque](#) (2026-06-22 19:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. ordered the agency to hunt down the gunman who allegedly killed a police officer inside a mosque in Lanao del Sur. In a statement on Monday, Nartatez said the law enforcement agency “strongly condemns this brutal attack on one of our personnel,

- [Pangilinan: Tacloban shooting suspects can't be released even if minors](#) (2026-06-22 19:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Francis Pangilinan on Monday said the two suspects involved in the fatal school shooting incident in Tacloban City should not be released even if they are minors, citing the Juvenile Justice Law. He made the pronouncement as he expressed

condolences to the families of the victims of the shooting incident at

- [DILG backs early intervention, community measures to prevent violence](#) (2026-06-22 19:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) pushed to bolster early interventions and community-based measures in the wake of a shooting incident at a Tacloban City high school on Monday. “The DILG strongly condemns the shooting incident at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City. We extend our deepest

- [Tacloban shooting suspect posted gun-related videos online](#) (2026-06-22 18:59)

MANILA, Philippines — One of the suspects in the shooting at the San Jose National High School in Tacloban City on Monday posted gun-related videos on his social media account, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said. “Upon verification of the social media accounts of one of the suspects, we saw that he had posted violent

- [Francisco may intensify into a super typhoon within 12 hours — Pagasa](#) (2026-06-22 18:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Francisco (international name: Mekkhala) may further intensify into a super typhoon over the next 12 hours, said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on Monday. Pagasa issued the warning in its latest typhoon bulletin as Francisco was last located 625 kilometers (km) east of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan. READ:

- [CWC urges stronger school safety after Cavite, Tacloban incidents](#) (2026-06-22 18:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) has called for the urgent strengthening of school safety systems nationwide following a series of school violence in Cavite and Tacloban City. “These incidents have resulted in injuries, the loss of young lives, and deep emotional distress among learners, families, school communities, and the

- [Guns in Tacloban shooting belong to suspect’s cop aunt, security agency](#) (2026-06-22 18:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The firearms used in the shooting incident at a Tacloban City high school on Monday allegedly belonged to a policewoman who was one of the suspects’ aunt and a security agency, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP). Earlier, the Police Regional Office Eastern Visayas (PRO 8) said it recovered a caliber

- [Impeachment court asked to compel Duterte defense to specify witnesses](#) (2026-06-22 18:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The prosecution panel for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte has asked the Senate Impeachment Court to compel the defense to specify who their witnesses are and the purpose of their testimony, instead of providing general reasons and lists. In a press briefing on Monday, prosecution spokesperson and Lanao del

- [WATCH: Students heard crying during Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-22 18:23)

A video shows students inside a classroom as one of the suspects goes on a shooting rampage at San Jose National High School, leaving three students dead and 13 others wounded. (Contributed Video)/coa

- [Child stunting surge highlights urgency of House nutrition bill – Dy](#) (2026-06-22 18:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The surge in child stunting stresses the urgency of enacting the House-approved National Nutrition Program, Speaker Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III said in a statement on Monday. The program, under House Bill No. 9466, seeks to expand nutrition interventions for Filipino children, mothers, and vulnerable sectors, Dy pointed out. “The House prioritized

- [WATCH: Tacloban shooting suspect surrenders](#) (2026-06-22 18:13)

One of the minor suspects in the San Jose National High School shooting is being urged by his neighbors to surrender. He was then escorted to the police station, where he later reportedly admitted involvement in the incident, authorities said. (Video courtesy of Aldin Bacus)

- [CWC to Dole: Regulate child vloggers, influencers amid exploitation risk](#) (2026-06-22 18:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) has urged the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) to regulate vlogs and online content featuring children over concerns of child abuse and exploitation. In an interview on state-run PTV on Monday, CWC executive director Undersecretary Angelo Tapales said there is currently no regulation

- [Cotabato explosion kills boy, injures 2 minors](#) (2026-06-22 17:57)

KIDAPAWAN CITY – A 10-year-old boy died while two of his companions were injured when a 40mm mortar projectile they found at a river in Arakan, Cotabato, before noon on Monday exploded, an official said. Col. Ramel Hojilla, Cotabato provincial police director, said one of the victims played with the 40mm mortar projectile by pounding

- [Sara Duterte impeachment: Defense seeks ‘at least’ 30 trial days](#) (2026-06-22 17:34)

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte’s defense team for her impeachment trial clarified on Monday that it sought “at least 30 trial dates” for the proceedings, contrary to the claim of the House prosecution panel. Earlier, the new private prosecutor and team spokesman, Benjamin Tolosa Jr., questioned the defense’s request for 30 trial dates,

- [NUJP slams slay try on Capiz broadcaster, urges swift probe](#) (2026-06-22 17:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) condemned the attempted killing of Capiz-based radio broadcaster Jay Lavapiez, calling on authorities to swiftly identify and hold those behind the attack accountable. “The NUJP urges authorities to



promptly identify the perpetrators and the mastermind behind the recent attack,” said the group in

- [Alcantara bares ‘in-house’ contractors in DPWH Bulacan](#) (2026-06-22 17:15)

MANILA, Philippines — A former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) district engineer in Bulacan 1st District Engineering Office on Monday revealed the existence of the so-called “in-house” contractors in his district. State witness Henry Alcantara made the revelation when he took the witness stand in the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division during the graft trial

- [10,000 teaching positions still vacant in BARMM— official](#) (2026-06-22 17:14)

COTABATO CITY — At least 10,000 teaching positions across the Bangsamoro region need to be filled, while some 30,000 teachers have been serving for years, allegedly without formal appointment papers from the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education, a member of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) revealed. Member of Parliament Baintan Ampatuan dropped the “bombshell”

- [Padilla: Gatchalian not Escudero should preside over Duterte trial](#) (2026-06-22 17:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Robin Padilla said on Monday that Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, not Sen. Francis Escudero, should preside over the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. Members of the Senate majority said they would elect Escudero to preside over the impeachment trial. Asked whether he was in favor of Escudero presiding over

- [Tolosa, new prosecution member in VP Duterte trial, is top litigator](#) (2026-06-22 17:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Top litigator Benjamin S. Tolosa Jr., a founding and managing partner of Tolosa Lim & Chua Law Firm, has joined the private prosecution team in the Senate impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte and will serve as the team’s legal spokesperson. Rep. Gerville “Jinky Bitrics” Luistro, chair of the House committee

- [Romualdez orders immediate aid for Tacloban shooting victims](#) (2026-06-22 16:55)

TACLOBAN CITY – Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez has directed the immediate delivery of financial, medical, and psychosocial assistance to students and families affected by an incident at San Jose National High School. The Office of Rep. Romualdez said it coordinated directly with hospitals treating the wounded, informing medical personnel that it would cover all

- [Sugarcane killer spreads across Bukidnon](#) (2026-06-22 16:45)

MARAMAG, Bukidnon — Sugarcane farmers in Bukidnon and neighboring provinces are on heightened alert as a rapidly spreading infestation of the red-striped soft scale insect (RSSI) threatens to ravage the region’s sugar industry. The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) reported that RSSI-infested sugarcane areas in Bukidnon increased from 30 hectares in Kitaotao on June 17 to



- [Wounded students in deadly Tacloban school shooting climb to 13](#) (2026-06-22 16:36)

TACLOBAN CITY—The number of people wounded in the shooting at San Jose National High School in this city has climbed to 13, as authorities continue to account for victims and investigate the incident that sent panic across the campus on Monday. Police said the wounded, all students, were brought to several hospitals: seven were confined

- [Tacloban shooting suspect ‘quiet, socially withdrawn’ — teacher](#) (2026-06-22 16:24)

TACLOBAN CITY—A teacher at San Jose National High School in this city, where a deadly shooting incident involving two students has sparked public alarm, described one of the suspects as “quiet, socially withdrawn,” and academically behind his expected grade level. “He is a loner. He does not mingle much with his classmates. He was also

- [Subpoena for Ateneo president moved to June 26 in drowning probe — PNP](#) (2026-06-22 16:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University President Fr. Roberto Yap’ s scheduled appearance before the Philippine National Police–Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP–CIDG) has been moved to Friday, June 26. This is in connection with the CIDG’ s investigation into the fatal drowning of Ateneo basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili during a training exercise

- [2 suspects in Tacloban school shooting went on rampage — witnesses](#) (2026-06-22 16:05)

TACLOBAN CITY, Philippines — The two juvenile suspects in the deadly shooting at the San Jose National High School here went on a rampage before killing three fellow students on Monday morning, witnesses said. According to some teachers and students, the two suspects opened fire on the campus, sending the school into chaos and forcing

- [Lawmakers call for probe into Tacloban City school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 16:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Several lawmakers from the House of Representatives have called on authorities to conduct a swift and thorough investigation into the shooting at a high school in Tacloban City so that those affected can obtain justice. According to initial reports from the police, three students were killed and five others were wounded when

- [PNP eyes DepEd coordination after Tacloban, Cavite school attacks](#) (2026-06-22 15:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) said it will coordinate with the Department of Education (DepEd) after a fatal shooting in a Tacloban City school and two knife attacks in Cavite schools. The knife attack incidents occurred in General Trias City and Cavite City last June 16 and 18, while the shooting incident

- [Liza Marcos leads rice aid drive for 1,200 vulnerable families in QC](#) (2026-06-22 15:44)

MANILA, Philippines — First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos on Monday led a rice distribution drive for about 1,200 families in Quezon City as part of her weeklong initiative to assist vulnerable communities in Metro Manila. “As a mother, it is important that there is food on our table. Even if this is just a small amount

- [Marcos pushes climate-smart farming as Bohol irrigation project opens](#) (2026-06-22 15:42)

MABINI, Bohol — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday reiterated the government’s push for science-based agriculture and climate-resilient farming technologies to strengthen food security and rural economic growth amid the looming threat of El Niño later this year. Speaking during the inauguration of the P833.37-million Mabini-Cayacay Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP) in Barangay Abaca, Mabini

- [Pre-trial to extend to Day 3 due to volume of documents — Bantug](#) (2026-06-22 15:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The pre-trial conference for the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte will be extended another day due to the volume of documents, impeachment clerk of court Rey Bantug said on Monday. According to Bantug, the documents requiring marking for Article I regarding the alleged misuse of confidential funds numbered around 4,000. “This

- [Officials assure tighter security in schools after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-22 15:13)

TACLOBAN CITY – City officials have pledged to strengthen security measures in schools following the deadly shooting at San Jose National High School on Monday that left three students dead and five others wounded. Vice Mayor Raymund Romualdez said he was shocked by the incident, describing it as an unprecedented tragedy that has deeply affected

- [PNP chief orders ‘all-out’ probe into Tacloban City school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 15:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. ordered the agency to launch an “all-out” investigation into a shooting at a school in Tacloban City that killed at least three students on Monday. “On behalf of the men and women of the PNP, I extend my sincerest condolences to the

- [LOOK: Police secure crime scene after Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 14:55)

- [Police: Only one security guard at Tacloban City school during shooting](#) (2026-06-22 14:51)

MANILA, Philippines — There was only one security guard at the Tacloban City school where a shooting incident occurred and left three students dead on Monday, according to the Police Regional Office Eastern Visayas (PRO 8). The shooting occurred sometime around 9 a.m. on Monday when two male Grade 9 students, a 14-year-old and a

- [Prosecution goal: Convict Duterte regardless of threshold interpretation](#) (2026-06-22 14:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The prosecution team’s goal is to build a case with overwhelming evidence that can convict Vice President Sara Duterte, regardless of how the constitutional provision on the threshold is interpreted, lawyer Jay Tolosa said on Monday. During a press

briefing at the Senate, Tolosa — the newest member of the private prosecution

- [Teachers, students help stop suspect in Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 14:32)

TACLOBAN CITY — Teachers, students, and parents helped prevent one of the suspects in the deadly shooting at San Jose National High School from fleeing, as the second suspect later surrendered to authorities, bringing both alleged perpetrators under police custody. Tacloban City Police Director Col. Noelito Getigan said the first suspect, a minor, was restrained

- [Marcos orders thorough probe of Tacloban City school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 14:28)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has expressed sympathies to the victims of a shooting incident at a school in Tacloban City and has ordered a thorough investigation into the matter. The shooting occurred at San Jose National High School at around 9 a.m. on Monday. It left three people dead and five others wounded.

- [Military kills key NPA leader in Bukidnon](#) (2026-06-22 14:20)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — A key leader of the New People's Army rebels' North Central Mindanao Regional Committee (NCMRC) was killed in a five-minute clash with government troops in Bukidnon, on Sunday, the military confirmed Monday. Lt. Col. Joe Patrick Martinez, spokesman for the 4th Infantry Division, identified the slain NPA leader as Romeo

- [Gatchalian outraged by shooting in Tacloban school: Unacceptable](#) (2026-06-22 14:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Alarmed and outraged by the shooting at a school in Tacloban City, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Monday called on authorities to tighten security measures in all campuses. “I am deeply alarmed and outraged by the school shooting incident this morning at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, which claimed

- [Trauma counseling prioritized after deadly Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 14:08)

TACLOBAN CITY — Psychological debriefing and counseling sessions will be immediately provided to students, teachers, and school personnel of San Jose National High School following a deadly shooting incident that left three students dead and five others injured on Monday morning, education officials said. READ: 3 dead, 5 wounded in shooting inside school in Tacloban

- [Senate taps PNP for ‘security assistance’ for upcoming activities](#) (2026-06-22 13:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate has requested the Philippine National Police (PNP) for “security assistance” amid the chamber's upcoming activities, the latter agency said on Monday. Tensions in the Senate escalated recently after the ouster of Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III last May, followed by the ouster of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano last

- [Leachon: PhilHealth benefit expansion for paying members betrays UHC law](#) (2026-06-22 13:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Public health reform advocate Dr. Tony Leachon has opposed Executive Secretary Ralph Recto's proposal to provide expanded benefits for paying members of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth), saying it "violates" the Universal Health Care (UHC) law. According to Leachon, implementing a two-tiered health care system — where separate benefit packages would be

- [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 9 a.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 Lavapie by unidentified motorcycle-riding suspects in Roxas City, Capiz, on Monday. Lavapie 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. Lavapiezu 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 (SO<sub>2</sub>) 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

## Source: The Manila Times

- [PRC announces new architects; UP Mindanao passer tops licensure exam](#) (2026-06-27 05:14)

MANILA, Philippines —The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) late on Friday announced that 2,799 out of 3,290 (85.08 percent) passed the Licensure Examination for Architects (LEA), taken this month. It is the highest overall passing rate in recent years. Results were released two working days after the examinations. The top 10 are: Eloisa Marie Tan Plana - University of the Philippines-Mindanao (90.60 percent) Michael Bryan Barredo Gacer - University of San Agustin (89.70 percent) Krystyn Isabelle Bacig Remedios - Notre Dame of Dadiangas University Inc. (89.10 percent) Katrina Isabel Muriel Hingpit Templa - University of Mindanao-Davao City; Jessie Jave Gorgonio Wahing - Mapúa Malayan Colleges-Mindanao (89 percent) Khurtz Herbert Quiñones Gatus - Mapúa Malayan Colleges-Mindanao (88.60 percent) Peter Zanjao Zarriz - Iloilo Science and Technology University (88.50 percent) Joash John Gasmin Montealegre - UP Mindanao (88.40 percent) Chriza Maye Devero Peñaflor - University of Mindanao-Davao City (88.30 percent) Glynry Lozano Tubidan - UP Mindanao (88.20 percent) Hans Icasiano Tubiola - Saint Louis University; Krisha Angeli Potente Raquiz - Iloilo Science and Technology University (87.70 percent) The LEA was taken from June 8 to 10 in testing centers in the National Capital Region, Baguio, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Legazpi, Lucena, Palawan, Pampanga, Rosales, Tacloban, Tuguegarao, and Zamboanga.

- [Bangsamoro polls to introduce first-ever ballots with candidate photos, party logos — Comelec](#) (2026-06-27 04:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The upcoming Bangsamoro Parliamentary Election will introduce a first in Philippine elections as ballots will carry the photos of candidates and logos of political parties to help voters identify their choices, Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chairman George Erwin Garcia said Saturday. Garcia said the inclusion of candidate images and party symbols were among the innovations being introduced for the September 14 polls, which will be the first parliamentary election in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). “This is the first election in our country where, here in Bangsamoro, the candidates’ pictures will appear on the ballot, and the logos of political parties will also be included on the ballot,” Garcia said. He said the measure was intended to make voting easier for the electorate, particularly in a new electoral system where voters will choose district representatives, regional political parties, and sectoral representatives. Garcia said Comelec was currently finalizing the ballot design and the official list of candidates, which will also be made available through the poll body’s website. He added that the election would require voters to familiarize themselves with a wider range of choices compared with previous elections. For the parliamentary party vote, voters will choose one among 13 regional political parties. Garcia explained that parties must secure at least 2.5 percent of the total votes to qualify for parliamentary seats. The Comelec chief said the innovations being introduced in the Bangsamoro election were part of efforts to improve voter experience and strengthen the conduct of the historic polls.

- [Duterte ally Lorraine Badoy suspended over ethics violations](#) (2026-06-27 04:15)

MANILA, Philippines — A known supporter of former president Rodrigo Duterte was suspended for six months by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Board of Medicine after she was found guilty of violating the Revised Code of Ethics of the Medical Profession. The PRC also suspended Lorraine Badoy’s certificate of registration for six months, effective upon finality. According to a Facebook statement by the Movement Against Disinformation (MAD) on Saturday, the cases against Badoy, a doctor, came from her public statements linking the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW), its members, and community physician Dr. Ma. Natividad Castro to the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People’s Army and the National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF). As early as 2022, the AHW requested for the revocation of Badoy’s medical license for alleged red-tagging, with 17 doctors seeking her suspension because of her “deeply unprofessional” remarks. Badoy was the former spokesman of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) under the Duterte administration.

- [Nartatez mulls review of safeguards for police-issued firearms following Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-27 02:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said the investigation into the Tacloban City school shooting could prompt a review of existing

safeguards on police-issued firearms, as authorities examine how a service weapon ended up being used by a minor in the deadly attack. This came after police traced one of the firearms used in the shooting — a 9mm Glock pistol — to a police officer assigned to Police Regional Office 8. The weapon was allegedly used by a 14-year-old suspect, while a second firearm, a .38 caliber revolver, was linked to a security agency in Cebu. Nartatez said the probe would determine whether there were lapses in the custody, safekeeping, and accountability of the police-issued firearm, and whether existing policies are sufficient to prevent unauthorized access to service weapons. "The investigation will follow the evidence wherever it leads. Accountability will be based on facts, not rank," Nartatez said. He said the findings of the investigation would help determine whether additional safeguards and stricter control measures should be adopted to ensure that police-issued firearms cannot be accessed, taken, or used by unauthorized persons, particularly minors and civilians. The PNP is also looking into the accountability of individuals responsible for the firearms after investigators found that the weapons used in the shooting came from sources with existing firearm holders — a police officer in the case of the Glock pistol and a security agency for the revolver. "If the evidence shows that existing policies on the safekeeping and accountability of service firearms were violated, those responsible will be held accountable in accordance with the law and PNP regulations," Nartatez said. The PNP chief directed police units to coordinate with the Department of Education, local government units, and school officials to strengthen security measures in schools following the attack, which left three students dead and several others injured.

- [Marcos commends security command for keeping him, family, country safe](#) (2026-06-27 02:24)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. commended the Presidential Security Command (PSC), saying they are not only protecting the First Family but also the stability of the country. The President, together with First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, led the celebration of 128th anniversary of the PSC at Malacañan Park in Manila on Friday. In his speech, Marcos recognized the PSC's role and sacrifices in keeping not only the safety of the First Family but of the country's institutions. "On a personal note, I can say that not once from the first day that I stepped into Malacañang have I felt anything but safe in your hands," Marcos said. "Of course, I want to acknowledge what that presence cost you. While we sleep soundly in our beds at night, you are awake, missing precious time with your loved ones, working to ensure that my family and I remain safe. And that is a sacrifice that I take seriously, and one that I carry with deep gratitude," he added. The President also honored the PSC's dedication to protecting the stability of the Republic and the Filipino people. "For over the century, the PSC has now served as a security arm of the presidency, protecting not only the Office of the President, but also the institutions that keep our democracy strong and our Republic stable," Marcos said. "So, thank you for not only protecting me, but protecting the institution I represent, and in doing so, the Filipino people that we all serve. So, you are not only protecting the physical being of the First Family. You are protecting the stability of the Republic," he added.

- [Duterte defense raises privacy concerns over ICC prosecutor' s request for seized personal items](#) (2026-06-27 02:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense team of former president Rodrigo Duterte raised privacy concerns over a request by the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecution seeking access to keys and other personal items seized from him after his arrest, warning that the materials may involve private belongings of his family members. In a filing dated June 26, 2026, lead defense counsel Peter Haynes opposed the prosecution' s second request for access to materials held by the ICC Registry, describing it as a “fishing expedition” that came “far too late” in the proceedings. The dispute involves items taken from Duterte following his arrest and transfer to the ICC on March 12, 2025. The prosecution' s request, filed on June 9, 2026, seeks access to several materials, including “all keys in the Registry' s custody,” according to the public redacted version of the Registry' s observations submitted on June 25. \*Defense cites family privacy rights\* The defense argued that granting access to the items could affect the privacy rights of third parties, particularly Duterte' s relatives, because the keys were seized while the former president was traveling with his family. The lawyers said the keys “may provide access to material belonging to, or concerning, his relatives,” raising concerns that the prosecution could examine personal items unrelated to the charges against Duterte. The defense maintained that the prosecution had already been aware of the seized materials since March 14, 2025, when the ICC Registry submitted its initial report on Duterte' s arrest. It argued that the existing chain-of-custody documentation already provides an official inventory of the items, making the additional request unnecessary. \*Registry prepared to release items if ordered\* The ICC Registry said that if Trial Chamber III approved the request, the seized materials would be transferred from the Detention Section to the Court Management Section and secured in the Registry vault before being made available to the Prosecution for consultation or as otherwise directed by the Chamber. The Registry' s observations were filed confidentially and ex parte, meaning they were accessible only to the Prosecution, Defense, and Registry. A public version released on June 26 contained redactions to protect sensitive information. \*Defense seeks cutoff for additional requests\* The defense asked Trial Chamber III to impose a June 30 deadline for any further Prosecution requests involving Registry-held materials, arguing that continued requests could cause unnecessary delays in the proceedings. The ICC case against Duterte stemmed from an arrest warrant issued over allegations of crimes against humanity linked to his administration' s anti-drug campaign. The trial is scheduled to begin on Nov. 30, 2026, before Trial Chamber III, composed of Presiding Judge Joanna Korner, Judge Keebong Paek, and Judge Nicolas Guillou. The proceedings marked the first time a former Philippine president has faced trial before the ICC and the first case involving a former Southeast Asian head of state before the international tribunal.

- [Govt launches campaign to boost tourism via more travel deals](#) (2026-06-27 02:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Tourism (DOT) has launched the "Discover More to Love" campaign, offering more than 3,000 travel deals from hotels, airlines, tour operators, and online travel platforms to encourage Filipinos to explore local destinations while supporting

community-based tourism and businesses. The campaign, which runs from July to November 2026, features discounts of up to 70 percent, value-for-money travel packages, and a newly improved DOT website that connects travelers with accredited tourism enterprises and direct booking options. “True to its mandate, the DOT will promote destinations, provide tourism information, and connect travelers with accredited tourism enterprises,” Tourism Secretary Bernardita Angara-Mathay said. “Our job is to make it easier for travelers to discover legitimate destinations and tourism providers, while remaining faithful to the principles of transparency, accountability, and good governance,” she added. The initiative, launched during the Central Philippines Tourism Expo 2026 in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, complements the “Love the Philippines” brand and has gained strong backing from tourism industry leaders seeking to strengthen domestic travel and economic activity.

- [Cloudy skies, scattered rains over Metro Manila, other parts of Luzon, Visayas — Pagasa](#) (2026-06-27 01:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Parts of Luzon, including Metro Manila, and the Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms on Saturday due to the southwest monsoon or “habagat,” the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. Affected are La Union, Pangasinan, Batanes, Babuyan Islands, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite, Batangas, Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Antique, Iloilo, and Guimaras, Pagasa said. The rest of Luzon and Visayas are expected to have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms. Meanwhile, Eastern Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Caraga, and Davao Region are expected to have cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms because of the intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ). The rest of Mindanao are expected to have localized thunderstorms. Two storms, “Francisco” and “Gardo” left the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Thursday and Friday.

- [LTFRB probes EV taxi operator over viral robbery prank following suspension](#) (2026-06-27 01:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has suspended the operations of an electric vehicle (EV) taxi after its driver was linked to a viral “robbery prank” involving two vloggers, as the agency launched an investigation into the incident. LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said the 30-day suspension was imposed pending the result of the agency’s investigation. The suspension covers the unit operated by Green and Smart Mobility Philippines Inc., whose driver was accused of participating in a staged robbery prank with vloggers who acted as criminals. “This is not something to be laughed at. Instead, it creates fear among our fellow Filipinos who regularly ride taxis and transport network vehicle services (TNVS). We will look into this, and we assure the public that appropriate disciplinary measures will be carried out,” Mendoza said in a statement. The LTFRB chief said a show cause order would be issued against Green and Smart Mobility Philippines Inc. to require the operator to explain why it should not be penalized over the incident. In the viral video, the driver was seen announcing the supposed robbery before being joined by two vloggers who portrayed

robbers. Mendoza said the incident sent the wrong message to the riding public and could affect efforts to restore trust and confidence in public transportation. The investigation comes as the LTRB is also looking into reports involving two taxi drivers allegedly accused of robbing two foreign male models who were in the country on June 13 for a fashion show. Mendoza said the incidents constituted a possible violation of the conditions for operating public utility vehicles, particularly the requirement to provide safe and convenient public land transportation services. He urged public utility vehicle operators and drivers to work with the government in improving the country's transport system and regaining the confidence of commuters. "Public transportation should provide safety and security, not fear, to our riding public," Mendoza said.

- [Several players including Adili joined sea drills despite admitting they could not swim - Remulla](#) (2026-06-26 19:49)

MANILA, Philippines — At least five student players of the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) including victim Divine Adili participated in the tragic sea drills despite admitting that they could not swim, a key information that strengthened the recommendation of the Philippine National Police - Criminal Investigation and Detection Group's (PNP-CIDG) for filing of charges for violation of anti-hazing law, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said on Friday. In a press briefing on Friday, Remulla said investigators found that Baldwin, before the water activity, even asked the players who could not swim. Five players admitted they were non-swimmers, including Adili but instead of excluding them from the activity, Remulla said they were merely instructed on how to deal with rip currents. "Alam niya na hindi marunong lumangoy, pero tinuruan niya pa rin paano mag-handle ng rip currents," Remulla told reporters at the Camp Crame. Remulla was firm that Baldwin "was of full knowledge that this could possibly happen." Remulla went on to question the Ateneo's coaching staff decision of having allowed non-swimmers to participate in open-water training. "Paano mo tuturuan ang hindi marunong lumangoy na mag-handle ng rip currents?" he said. Remulla said Rene Baterbonia, the other fatality, was the only one among those who drowned who knew how to swim. He identified the other players who admitted they could not swim as Kiefer Alas, Ian Espinosa, and two others. DILG Assistant Secretary Brian Mey Tomas said the CIDG's investigation found that the supposed team-building activity met the elements of hazing under the Expanded Anti-Hazing Act. Meanwhile, PNP CIDG director P/MGen. Robert Morico II debunked claims circulating online that players were forced to wear weights on their legs during the sea exercise. "There was none. That's not true," Morico said when asked about the matter.

- [First Lady distributes rice to 3.3K Novaliches residents](#) (2026-06-26 18:18)

MANILA, Philippines — First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos on Friday distributed 10-kilo rice each to 3,300 beneficiaries in Novaliches, Quezon City, capping the five-day rollout of her "Mula sa Puso Para sa Pamilya" initiative in Metro Manila. The ceremonial distribution was held at the District Center inside Jordan Plains Subdivision in Barangay Sta. Monica, one of the 14 villages in Quezon City's fifth district. Under the initiative, beneficiaries receive 10 kilos of quality rice per



distribution as part of the government's continuing effort to ease the burden on vulnerable families while promoting the purchase of rice from local farmers. The event also featured raffle draws where beneficiaries won additional prizes, including sacks of rice, rice cookers, and a television set. The Novaliches leg concluded a week-long series of rice distributions that brought the first lady to communities in Quezon City and Manila, providing assistance to vulnerable families through the initiative.

- [Erwin Tulfo seeks review of juvenile justice law following Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-26 18:11)

SEN. Erwin Tulfo has called for a comprehensive review of Republic Act 9344, or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, saying recent incidents involving minors have reignited debate over the country's juvenile justice system. In a statement on Friday, Tulfo, chairman of the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development, said discussions surrounding the law have intensified in the wake of the shooting incident in Tacloban, Leyte, where minors were reportedly involved. "It has become clear to us that the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act needs to be reviewed and examined in more depth — not only its provisions, but also its implementation and on-ground application that affect the lives and freedoms of young people," Tulfo said. He noted that public opinion remains divided on whether the minimum age of criminal responsibility should be lowered. Some sectors believe it is time to reduce the age of criminal liability for young offenders, particularly in light of serious crimes allegedly committed by minors, he said. However, child psychologists, social workers and child welfare advocates argue that the primary issue lies in the law's implementation, as well as the family and community environments that shape children's behavior. To ensure a balanced approach, Tulfo said the Senate continues to consult with criminal law experts, law enforcement officials, juvenile justice specialists, social welfare agencies and other stakeholders. Among the key questions are whether the age of criminal responsibility should be lowered, whether the law is being effectively implemented to balance rehabilitation and public safety, and whether the government has sufficient rehabilitation facilities and intervention programs to achieve the law's objectives.

- [PNP recommends hazing raps against Baldwin, 10 others](#) (2026-06-26 16:45)

THE Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) has recommended that Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) men's basketball head coach Tab Baldwin and 10 others be charged for violation of the Anti-Hazing Act. The charges are in connection with the drowning of team members Rene Clert Baterbonia and Divine Adili during a team-building event at a beach resort in Aurora organized and supervised by Baldwin. In a press briefing on Friday, Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla revealed the recommendation of the CIDG, which has finished its two-week investigation into the incident. Charged with Baldwin are:— Strength and conditioning coaches Grant Dearn and Cesar Vincent Javellana Elumba.— Assistant coaches Dean Caesar Castaño, Sandro Nicholas Romero Soriano and Reynaldo Jacinto.— Student managers Paolo Manuel Maceda Adevos and Andrew Lorenzo "Drew"

Bondoc Salud.– Physical therapist John Eric Quiambao Rueca.– Utility personnel Aris Ramos Ponce and Joel “Boy” Palmiano Rapa. The Department of Justice confirmed that it received on Friday CIDG’s recommendation. It said it would determine whether the evidence the CIDG submitted is sufficient for further proceedings. Former Ateneo players had described the team-building activity as “boot camp” training, but denied that there was any form of hazing. Remulla noted that the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili fell under the new definition of the 2018 version of Republic Act (RA) 11053, or the Anti-Hazing Law. Remulla said the original concept of hazing was limited to initiation rites, where physical and violence humiliation was inflicted by fraternities or similar organizations on a recruit, neophyte or applicant. Under RA 11053, hazing could now occur during team-building and training activities, where new recruits go through forced calisthenics, exposure to weather, Remulla said. Department of Interior and Local Government Assistant Secretary Brian Mey Tomas said evidence gathered by the CIDG shows that the team-building activity in Aurora was “precisely made to determine which members of that team will make it to the final list submitted by Coach Tab Baldwin to the UAAP (University Athletic Association of the Philippines) board.” The fact that 20 athletes were present but only 17 would eventually make the list reinforces that perception, Tomas said. “In this case, the CIDG found that the water-based activity constitutes hazing because there is a deliberate intent to cause suffering among the players,” Tomas said. Remulla reiterated that this precedent is “not [just] about training or hazing. This is also about the rights of the players.” Remulla also said the government will seek a hold departure order against Baldwin once hazing charges are filed. He said he had earlier advised Baldwin not to leave the Philippines while the investigation was ongoing. Remulla said Baldwin assured him he had no intention of leaving the country. During the briefing, Remulla also revealed that five players who joined the team-building exercise previously admitted they could not swim. Among them was Adili. Remulla said the athletes were merely briefed on how to deal with rip currents. Also on Friday, ADMU President Fr. Roberto Yap appeared before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) as part of the agency’s own investigation into the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili. Following his appearance, Yap told reporters Ateneo had stood by the victims’ families from the beginning, offering condolences, apologies and continuing assistance. “We have been since day one with the Baterbonia and Adili families. We have condoled with them, we have apologized, we continue to condole with them, we continue to apologize,” Yap said. “We have offered and have given support and assistance to them and we will continue to do so over several years,” he said. Yap said he met with Baterbonia’s parents when they arrived in Manila after the tragedy. He said he accompanied them at the funeral home when they first viewed their son’s body, prayed with the family, blessed Baterbonia’s remains, attended the succeeding Mass and later met with them privately. In the case of Adili’s family, Yap said the university coordinated closely with the Nigerian athlete’s relatives, since his father was unable to travel to the Philippines because of passport issues. He said Adili’s uncle traveled to the Philippines to claim the body and that he personally apologized to him while assuring the family of Ateneo’s continued support. Yap also said Ateneo sent representatives to accompany Baterbonia’s remains during the wake in Davao and his burial in Agusan. He added that a Filipino Jesuit traveled to Nigeria on his behalf to accompany



Adili's family during the athlete's funeral. He declined to discuss details of the NBI investigation, saying he wanted to respect the privacy of his conversations with the victims' families. In a statement on Friday, the ADMU acknowledged the CIDG recommendation to press charges against Baldwin. "We also recognize that other investigations remain ongoing, and we will continue to cooperate fully with all competent authorities as they complete their respective inquiries, while the CIDG's recommendation will now be reviewed by the Department of Justice, as provided under the law. We are confident that the facts will be fully and fairly evaluated through the proper process," Ateneo spokesman Fr. RB Hizon said in a statement. "Throughout this process, Ateneo remains steadfast in its commitment to accountability, student welfare and the highest standards of safety and institutional responsibility. The University will continue to support the families of those involved, care for its students and community, and strengthen the reforms already under way to help ensure that such a tragedy is never repeated," Hizon said.

- [DepEd launches school safety campaign to prevent school violence](#) (2026-06-26 16:35)

THE Department of Education (DepEd) has launched a comprehensive campaign for school safety amid the rise of school-related violence across the country. The initiative, according to DepEd, engages schools, parents, local government units, law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders in a unified approach to curb bullying, improve campus safety, and ensure timely support for learners and personnel. The directive comes after the shooting last June 22 at the San Jose National High School in Tacloban City that led to the death of three students and injuring at least 12 others. Education Secretary Sonny Angara said on Friday he will meet with all DepEd regional directors to discuss the swift and uniform implementation of the updated security protocols. Angara called for strict monitoring by school divisions to guarantee compliance with the new security directives. The department is also deploying a multilayered safety strategy through the newly launched School Safety Campaign to prevent future incidents. The security upgrade includes providing public schools with handheld metal detectors, establishing strict visitor management systems, conducting regular bag inspections, installing closed-circuit television (CCTV) networks and strategically deploying security personnel. Tacloban City Mayor Alfred Romualdez on Friday vowed to strengthen security measures in schools following the fatal shooting at San Jose National High School. "We will do everything we can to ensure that our schools remain safe spaces for learning, growth and opportunity," Romualdez said. He said he inspected the school along with department heads and police officials to reassure parents that students can safely return to their classrooms. Among the measures being considered are the deployment of additional security personnel, construction of secure perimeter fencing, installation of more CCTV cameras and a panic-button system directly linked to law enforcement agencies for faster response. Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian said the 14-year-old suspect in the Tacloban school shooting will undergo a long-term rehabilitation program, while the 15-year-old suspect will face legal proceedings to determine discernment. The Department of Social Welfare and Development also cited data from the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council showing a steady decline in

reported cases involving children in conflict with the law over the past eight years. The Commission on Population and Development (CPD) called for stronger school-based child protection mechanisms, recognizing that adolescence is a critical stage marked by rapid emotional, psychological and social changes that can make young people more vulnerable. “By investing in stronger families and healthier adolescents today, we build safer schools, more peaceful communities and a more resilient nation tomorrow,” the CPD said in a statement. The agency said the challenges faced by adolescents are further intensified by the influence of peers, digital platforms and their surrounding environment. It noted that recent school violence shows the need to invest in adolescent health and development programs that equip young people with critical life skills, emotional resilience, sound decision-making abilities and healthy relationship practices. In a related development, the developer of the video game GoreBox, based in Germany, has declined to participate in the Senate inquiry into the June 22 school shooting in Tacloban. Sen. Risa Hontiveros, chairman of the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality, confirmed that GoreBox developer Felix Filip informed the committee through email that he would not attend the hearing, either in person or via videoconference.

• [Duterte lawyers dread ‘green box’ – prosecution](#) (2026-06-26 16:27)

THE House of Representatives’ prosecution team believes that the defense lawyers of Vice President Sara Duterte are “scared” of the so-called green box that supposedly contains her income tax returns and that of her husband, Manases Carpio. The box is sealed in compliance with confidentiality rules set by the National Internal Revenue Code, and could only be opened during a congressional executive session. Duterte’s defense team has objected to the prosecution’s manifestation to reveal the contents, which were presented as evidence by the Bureau of Internal Revenue during the House Justice Committee confirmation hearings. The manifestation was presented before the pretrial hearings concluded on Thursday. In a virtual press briefing on Friday, the House impeachment spokesman, Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong, said marking the income tax returns as evidence is the only way to confirm if Duterte truthfully declared her statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) and that her tax records are consistent with her SALN. The defense’s hesitance to open the box “only speaks of their unwillingness to face the charges head on,” Adiong said. Adiong said the prosecution’s request for the supervised opening of the box is “legally permissible,” since impeachment proceedings fall under the recognized exceptions to the confidentiality of tax information. Prosecution legal spokesman Benjamin Tolosa Jr. said opening the sealed box will allow both prosecution and defense to mark the contents of the box, so it is “highly unusual” for the Defense to oppose the marking of the contents as evidence. Marking exhibits identifies potential evidence for easier reference during trial, Tolosa said. The impeachment court can decide on questions of admissibility later. Defense spokesman Michael Wesley Poa said it has filed its opposition to the prosecution’s manifestation before the impeachment court. “In keeping with the Senate Rules on Impeachment, we will refrain from discussing the merits of our filing in public,” Poa said. Adiong also defended the inclusion of “Mary Grace Piattos” as

a prosecution witnesses, saying taxpayers need to know the identity of the person who allegedly received confidential funds from the Office of the Vice President. “The only way to establish that is through a proper forum, which is being agreed by both sides, and the proper forum is the court. Let the court find out who really is Mary Grace Piattos,” Adiong said. He said the prosecution included Piattos in its witness list to give anyone claiming that identity to personally appear before the court. Duterte’s impeachment trial is scheduled to begin on July 6. On Friday, Sen. Panfilo Lacson urged the impeachment court to advise the prosecution and defense panels to refrain from publicly discussing the merits of the case. Lacson, who will be as one of the senator-judges in the trial, said public pronouncements by either side on the substance of the case could undermine the integrity of the proceedings. “Even before the impeachment trial begins on July 6, a separate trial before the bar of public opinion is already ongoing. The impeachment court should advise both the prosecution and defense panels to refrain from openly commenting on the merits of the case at bar,” Lacson said in a post on X. He said his concern is confined to statements regarding the merits of the case and does not extend to discussions explaining the legal process or other procedural matters that could help the public better understand the proceedings. Senate Secretary and Impeachment Clerk of Court Renato Bantug Jr. said the presentation of evidence alone could take as many as 92 trial days. Under the proposed schedule, the prosecution panel is expected to complete the presentation of its evidence in 62 trial days, while the defense panel has 30 trial days to present its case. Bantug said the court is expected to convene every Monday through Wednesday. Conviction requires a yes vote from at least two-thirds of the members of the Senate. If convicted, the vice president would be removed from office and could be disqualified from holding any public office in the future. An acquittal will allow Duterte to stay in office. Lacson has emphasized that the senator-judges decide the case solely on the basis of the evidence presented, not on public sentiment or political considerations.

- [Prosecution in impeach trial says defense scared of 'green box'](#) (2026-06-26 16:27)

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- [PNP recommends hazing raps against Baldwin, 10 others](#) (2026-06-26 16:21)

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briefing on Friday, Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla revealed the recommendation of the CIDG, which has finished its two-week investigation into the incident. Charged with Baldwin are:– Strength and conditioning coaches Grant Dearn and Ceasar Vincent Javellana Elumba.– Assistant coaches Dean Caesar Castaño, Sandro Nicholas Romero Soriano and Reynaldo Jacinto.– Student managers Paolo Manuel Maceda Adevos and Andrew Lorenzo “Drew” Bondoc Salud.– Physical therapist John Eric Quiambao Rueca.– Utility personnel Aris Ramos Ponce and Joel “Boy” Palmiano Rapa. The Department of Justice confirmed that it received on Friday CIDG’s recommendation. It said it would determine whether the evidence the CIDG submitted is sufficient for further proceedings. Former Ateneo players had described the team-building activity as “boot camp” training, but denied that there was any form of hazing. Remulla noted that the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili fell under the new definition of the 2018 version of Republic Act (RA) 11053, or the Anti-Hazing Law. Remulla said the original concept of hazing was limited to initiation rites, where physical and violence humiliation was inflicted by fraternities or similar organizations on a recruit, neophyte or applicant. Under RA 11053, hazing could now occur during team-building and training activities, where new recruits go through forced calisthenics, exposure to weather, Remulla said. Department of Interior and Local Government Assistant Secretary Brian Mey Tomas said evidence gathered by the CIDG shows that the team-building activity in Aurora was “precisely made to determine which members of that team will make it to the final list submitted by Coach Tab Baldwin to the UAAP (University Athletic Association of the Philippines) board.” The fact that 20 athletes were present but only 17 would eventually make the list reinforces that perception, Tomas said. “In this case, the CIDG found that the water-based activity constitutes hazing because there is a deliberate intent to cause suffering among the players,” Tomas said. Remulla reiterated that this precedent is “not [just] about training or hazing. This is also about the rights of the players.” Remulla also said the government will seek a hold departure order against Baldwin once hazing charges are filed. He said he had earlier advised Baldwin not to leave the Philippines while the investigation was ongoing. Remulla said Baldwin assured him he had no intention of leaving the country. During the briefing, Remulla also revealed that five players who joined the team-building exercise previously admitted they could not swim. Among them was Adili. Remulla said the athletes were merely briefed on how to deal with rip currents. Also on Friday, ADMU President Fr. Roberto Yap appeared before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) as part of the agency’s own investigation into the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili. Following his appearance, Yap told reporters Ateneo had stood by the victims’ families from the beginning, offering condolences, apologies and continuing assistance. “We have been since day one with the Baterbonia and Adili families. We have condoled with them, we have apologized, we continue to condole with them, we continue to apologize,” Yap said. “We have offered and have given support and assistance to them and we will continue to do so over several years,” he said. Yap said he met with Baterbonia’s parents when they arrived in Manila after the tragedy. He said he accompanied them at the funeral home when they first viewed their son’s body, prayed with the family, blessed Baterbonia’s remains, attended the succeeding Mass and later met with them privately. In the case of Adili’s family, Yap said the university coordinated closely with the Nigerian athlete’s relatives, since

his father was unable to travel to the Philippines because of passport issues. He said Adili's uncle traveled to the Philippines to claim the body and that he personally apologized to him while assuring the family of Ateneo's continued support. Yap also said Ateneo sent representatives to accompany Baterbonia's remains during the wake in Davao and his burial in Agusan. He added that a Filipino Jesuit traveled to Nigeria on his behalf to accompany Adili's family during the athlete's funeral. He declined to discuss details of the NBI investigation, saying he wanted to respect the privacy of his conversations with the victims' families. In a statement on Friday, the ADMU acknowledged the CIDG recommendation to press charges against Baldwin. "We also recognize that other investigations remain ongoing, and we will continue to cooperate fully with all competent authorities as they complete their respective inquiries, while the CIDG's recommendation will now be reviewed by the Department of Justice, as provided under the law. We are confident that the facts will be fully and fairly evaluated through the proper process," Ateneo spokesman Fr. RB Hizon said in a statement. "Throughout this process, Ateneo remains steadfast in its commitment to accountability, student welfare and the highest standards of safety and institutional responsibility. The University will continue to support the families of those involved, care for its students and community, and strengthen the reforms already under way to help ensure that such a tragedy is never repeated," Hizon said.

- [For Venus Williams, Eala is 'best partner'](#) (2026-06-26 16:14)

FILIPINO tennis sensation Alexandra "Alex" Eala cherished the moment she teamed up with the legendary Venus Williams of the United States in the doubles event of the 2026 Bad Homburg Open in Germany. Pairing for the first time, the 21-year-old Eala and the 46-year-old Williams reached the quarterfinal round of the tournament where they lost to Tereza Mihalikova of Slovakia and Olivia Nicholls of Great Britain, 6-3, 6-2, Thursday night. "Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought that I'd have the privilege of competing alongside you on court, Venus Williams! Immensely grateful to learn from you," Eala wrote on her Instagram account. Despite the exit, Williams called Eala her "best partner." "The best ride, the best tournament. The best partner!" Williams wrote on Instagram. Williams and Eala defeated Alexandra Osborne and Catherine Harrison in the first round before facing the second-seeded Nicholls and Mihalikova. Williams has 22 Grand Slam double titles in her career, sharing 14 of them with her sister Serena. In her 25-year singles career, Williams won seven Grand Slam championships: the 2000, 2001, 2005, 2007 and 2008 editions of the Wimbledon Open, and 2001 and 2001 US Open. She's also the most decorated tennis player in Olympic history, having won the singles gold medal in 2000 Sydney Games, and sharing three gold medals in doubles event with Serena in the 2000 Sydney, 2008 Beijing and 2012 London Olympics. After a hiatus in March 2024, she was back in competition, with high-profile partnerships with Hailey Baptiste in the 2025 Washington Open (round of 16 exit) and Leylah Fernandez in the 2025 US Open (quarterfinals). Eala, meanwhile, is gearing up for the Wimbledon Open, which starts on June 30, and where she is seeded 29th.



- [Fil-Am nurse indicted in US for \\$906M insurance fraud](#) (2026-06-26 16:13)

A FILIPINO American nurse is under house arrest, after she was indicted by a grand jury in Texas, USA, for conspiracy to commit wire fraud and health care fraud. According to a ruling by the United States District Court in the Southern District of Texas, Marizel Yukee and her co-conspirators “targeted elderly Medicare beneficiaries, many of whom were terminally ill in hospice care and caused medically unnecessary amniotic wound allografts to be applied to these vulnerable individuals.” An allograft is a human tissue transplant procedure where the donor and recipient are genetically dissimilar. Yukee “also paid illegal kickbacks and bribes to providers to induce patient referrals for allograft applications and received illegal kickbacks and bribes from allograft distributors in exchange for purchasing allografts billed to federal health care programs,” the June 18 ruling read. The court found that Yukee and her co-conspirators submitted more than \$906 million in “false and fraudulent claims to Medicare and TRICARE for these medically unnecessary allografts and associated services” from October 2023 to April 2026. “Medicare and TRICARE paid more than approximately \$297 million based on these claims. Through her four clinics, the Defendant submitted an average of over \$1 million in claims per Medicare beneficiary for allografts,” it said. Yukee profited from tens of millions of dollars, \$4.6 million of which funded the construction of a beach resort in the Philippines, the court ruled. She also was able to buy several high-end vehicles including a \$594,000 Ferrari 296 GTS and a \$158,000 Cadillac Escalade, luxury jewelry, including a \$865,000 Bulgari necklace; and real estate, including a million-dollar home in Hawaii. The indictment said Yukee and her co-conspirators amassed a fortune by, among other things, submitting and causing the submission of false and fraudulent claims to Medicare and TRICARE for items and services that were “medically unreasonable and unnecessary, ineligible for reimbursement and procured through illegal kickbacks.” They also submitted fraudulent claims to Medicare that falsely represented the provider’s actual acquisition cost of allografts. According to Houston Public Media, Yukee, a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, was arrested in Houston, Texas. She pleaded not guilty to all charges and was sent to home detention. US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services administrator Mehmet Oz said his agency and the US Department of Justice ended her “lavish lifestyle and defrauding of beneficiaries.”

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care programs,” the June 18 ruling read. The court found that Yukee and her co-conspirators submitted more than \$906 million in “false and fraudulent claims to Medicare and TRICARE for these medically unnecessary allografts and associated services” from October 2023 to April 2026. “Medicare and TRICARE paid more than approximately \$297 million based on these claims. Through her four clinics, the Defendant submitted an average of over \$1 million in claims per Medicare beneficiary for allografts,” it said. Yukee profited from tens of millions of dollars, \$4.6 million of which funded the construction of a beach resort in the Philippines, the court ruled. She also was able to buy several high-end vehicles including a \$594,000 Ferrari 296 GT and a \$158,000 Cadillac Escalade, luxury jewelry, including a \$865,000 Bulgari necklace; and real estate, including a million-dollar home in Hawaii. The indictment said Yukee and her co-conspirators amassed a fortune by, among other things, submitting and causing the submission of false and fraudulent claims to Medicare and TRICARE for items and services that were “medically unreasonable and unnecessary, ineligible for reimbursement and procured through illegal kickbacks.” They also submitted fraudulent claims to Medicare that falsely represented the provider’s actual acquisition cost of allografts. According to Houston Public Media, Yukee, a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, was arrested in Houston, Texas. She pleaded not guilty to all charges and was sent to home detention. US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services administrator Mehmet Oz said his agency and the US Department of Justice ended her “lavish lifestyle and defrauding of beneficiaries.”

- [Marcos vows more open, trustworthy govt by 2028](#) (2026-06-26 16:12)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday promised a more open, disciplined, responsive and trusted government by the end of his term in 2028. The president made the promise as he led the endorsement of the updated Philippine Public Financial Management (PFM) Reform Roadmap 2024–2028. In his speech during a ceremony in Malacañang, Marcos said strengthening the country’s fiscal systems would ensure that “every peso is carefully spent and accounted for.” “Many of our citizens see government budgets as complex, inaccessible and removed from their daily lives. This should not be the case. We need to make the government budget and spending easily accessible and understandable for any Filipino who has any interest whatsoever in finding out where their money is going,” he said. “By 2028, we must be able to say that the government has become more open, more disciplined, more responsive and more trusted by the Filipino people,” he added. Prepared by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) under the leadership of Acting Secretary Kim Robert de Leon, the updated PFM Roadmap streamlines the original 41 reform interventions into 18 priority measures. Fourteen of the 18 are considered mission-critical reforms, while the remaining four are viewed as “quick wins,” with all targeted for completion by 2028. The road map aims to develop an integrated financial management information system, and synchronize planning and budgeting across government levels, ensuring improved public services and greater public trust. During the ceremony, the DBM also introduced its Centralized Open Monitoring Platform for Appropriations and Spending Statistics (Compass), an online tracker to enhance transparency, accountability and access to data on government expenditures and

appropriations. Compass consolidates thousands of budget release records and trillions of pesos in government spending data into a single platform, making budget information more accessible and understandable to the public. The president said a digital platform will allow the people to track where their hard-earned money goes. “By making budget and financial information more accessible, understandable and actionable, we invite citizens to become active partners in governance,” he said. Marcos said accountability must be integrated into every stage of governance, from planning and budgeting, to procurement, implementation and the eventual evaluation. “Every public office must be prepared to show where the funds went, and what they have achieved in improving the lives of every Filipino family,” he said. De Leon said that making budget information more accessible and understandable empowers citizens as active partners in governance. “Transparency is among the strongest safeguards against corruption. When information is open, accountability becomes stronger. When actions can be seen and scrutinized, public resources are better protected and public trust is reinforced,” he said.

- [BARMM Fund Challenged in Supreme Court Petition](#) (2026-06-26 16:10)

A PETITION was filed before the Supreme Court seeking to halt the use of the P22 billion Local Government Support Fund (LGSF) of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), allocated under the 2025 General Appropriations Act. The petitioner, Norhamin Manial Hadji Akmad, asked the high court to declare certain provisions of the Bangsamoro budget unconstitutional and to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO), writ of preliminary injunction, or status quo ante order while the case is being heard. The petition, which seeks certiorari and prohibition under Rule 65 of the Rules of Court, names as respondents the Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament, Interim Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua, and other BARMM officials. According to the petitioner, the assailed LGSF provisions suffer from "excessive executive discretion in the release of public funds, insufficient safeguards and accountability mechanisms, and ongoing violations of the Constitution and the Bangsamoro Organic Law." If granted, the requested relief could temporarily delay the implementation of various development projects in the Bangsamoro region pending the Court's final ruling. The petitioner called for the conduct of a special raffle so the Court could immediately address the alleged constitutional and statutory violations. A separate petition was also filed before the Supreme Court challenging the P114 billion BARMM budget for 2026, with petitioners arguing that the allocation violated the Constitution and the Bangsamoro Organic Law by not giving the highest priority to education.

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- [Marcos orders immediate completion of NKTi Legacy Building dialysis center](#) (2026-06-26 16:09)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered Friday the immediate completion of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute's (NKTi) Legacy Building in Quezon City, a 13-story facility poised to become the largest dialysis center in Southeast Asia. The president said the facility is designed to address the prevalence of chronic kidney disease (CKD) in the Philippines, which affects over 11 percent of the population. "By the beginning of 2027, we will start bringing in the equipment here. And when will you think it will start operation? A year after that, it will be completed and will be ready to accept patients," Marcos said during his inspection of the center's construction. "Here are the images showing what the facility will look like once it is completed, and that is likely the timeline we are looking at — that this dialysis center will be operational by early 2028," he added. The 13-story Legacy Building will house 200 modern dialysis machines and is designed to serve as a one-stop health care facility complete with a Malasakit Center, operating rooms, a pharmacy, and training facilities for health care professionals. Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon said the project is intended not only to increase the country's dialysis capacity but also to improve medical training and strengthen NKTi's role as the country's premier center for kidney care and transplantation. The first phase of the project was completed on July 26, 2025, covering construction from the ground to the fourth floor and establishing the foundation and structural framework. As of June 24, 2026, the second phase of the project, covering the fifth and sixth floors, was 70.5-percent complete, further enhancing the facility's capacity to deliver quality health care. "We hope to reduce the number of people with chronic kidney disease. But until that happens, we're continuing to build hospitals so we can better serve patients, particularly those with CKD," he said. Marcos said that the government is looking at ways to prevent kidney disease through stronger public health interventions instead of focusing solely on treatment. "We are also discussing what we can do to help our fellow Filipinos avoid chronic kidney disease," he said. Marcos highlighted the expanded benefits for kidney disease patients under the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

(PhilHealth), including coverage for up to 156 hemodialysis sessions annually. He cited the increased Z Benefit Package for peritoneal dialysis, which now ranges from P389,640 to P500,140 per year for adults and from P510,000 to P1.2 million for pediatric patients. The PhilHealth Z Benefit Package covers catastrophic and prolonged illnesses requiring expensive treatments, such as certain cancers, open-heart surgeries, and kidney transplants. It aims to provide comprehensive financial risk protection by covering the entire course of treatment, including hospital fees, medication, and professional fees. Currently, Marcos said there are 904 PhilHealth-accredited dialysis centers serving patients nationwide. Health Secretary Ted Herbosa said that based on data, one Filipino develops CKD every hour, with hypertension, diabetes, and smoking among the leading risk factors. The World Health Organization recommends consuming less than 2 grams of sodium per day, equivalent to about 5 grams of salt. However, Filipinos consume an average of 4 grams of sodium, or about 10 grams of salt, daily, increasing their risk of developing CKD. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, early-stage CKD often has no signs or symptoms, making regular screening important, especially for people at risk. It recommends maintaining a healthy weight, staying physically active, quitting smoking, limiting alcohol consumption, and managing conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure to help prevent kidney disease.

- [Pediatricians recommend guided socmed use for under-16s](#) (2026-06-26 16:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Children below the age of 16 should not use social media without supervision, according to the Philippine Pediatrics Society (PPS). "The PPS does not recommend social media use among children aged 16 and below. If access is permitted, it should not be independent; accounts should be co-managed by a parent or guardian, with active supervision, clear boundaries, and age-appropriate guidance, particularly for individuals with developmental and psychosocial vulnerabilities," the PPS said in its position paper published on Friday. It also said that parents and caregivers play a "central and irreplaceable role" and are "best position" to assess each child's developmental readiness. "PPS regards 16 years as a population-level protective threshold, consistent with emerging international policy directions for platform-level protections for minors. Age thresholds are useful public health safeguards, but they do not replace individualized assessment of readiness and risk. Developmental capacity, vulnerability, and the quality of caregiver supervision remain important considerations even beyond this age," the group said. "Children and adolescents are in a sensitive and critical periods of neurodevelopment. Impulse control, emotional regulation, judgment, and social functioning are still maturing. Critically, this process does not end at 18 years of age. Brain systems governing regulation, decision-making, and long-term planning continue to develop into the mid-20s. Because reward and emotional reactivity systems mature earlier than prefrontal inhibitory systems, younger users are more susceptible to highly stimulating, attention-capturing, and commercially driven digital environments. They need meaningful adult guidance and structural protection to navigate these spaces safely," it added. It cited that protecting children online is a shared responsibility among parents, guardians, schools and the government. "PPS recommends restricting unsupervised social media access for children and adolescents aged 16

years and below. This position reflects the documented developmental vulnerability of young people in digital environments and the clear need for stronger protection from harmful content, compulsive platform design, sleep disruption, and associated online risks," "Keeping Filipino children safe online is a shared responsibility. Families, schools, pediatricians, platforms, and policymakers each have a role to play. PPS is committed to education, prevention, early intervention, and advocacy as the core pillars of a child-protective digital health agenda," it added. The publishing of the position paper came amid the recent trend of incidents in schools across the nation, including a school shooting in Tacloban City that killed three students.

- [Govt vows more QC anti-flood measures](#) (2026-06-26 16:08)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said Friday that the government would implement more initiatives to reduce flooding in Quezon City. The president made the remark as he inspected the newly rehabilitated drainage system along G. Araneta Avenue. The project is under the government's "Oplan Kontra Baha" program. "So far, it appears to be effective. I spoke with several residents, and they said that in the past, floodwaters would rise above the second floor of buildings here even during relatively light rainfall," Marcos said, noting the area is more vulnerable to flooding because of its location. "If you look around, every road leading out of this area is uphill. Everywhere you go from here is uphill, so all the water naturally flows into this place," Marcos said. "That is why proper drainage is so important. The water collected here is now being directed to the San Juan River. That is our plan," he added. Marcos said sustained declogging is needed to further mitigate the flooding in the place. He added that another issue to be tackled is the garbage collection in the area. "The next problem we need to address is garbage collection. What happens is that when floodwater comes in, it carries trash with it, which ends up clogging the drainage system again," Marcos said. "So we will ask for help from the local government. We will request assistance from Mayor Joy Belmonte and see if we can create a system for continuous declogging," he added. The president acknowledged the declogging efforts of the residents but said it's only on a small scale. He said that considering the volume of garbage, a proper system is needed to ensure that all the trash is collected whenever heavy rains are expected. "Once we fix that, I believe people will really feel the difference. In fact, residents say they are already noticing that the floodwaters no longer rise as they used to," Marcos said. Marcos said anti-flood measures are also beneficial to small business owners in the area whose goods are damaged every time there is a flood. "That's why it is so important that we fix this. That's what we have done, and we will continue doing it," he said. The president said that the drainage project is only halfway complete, with similar installations planned for the opposite side of the road. "What has been completed so far covers only one side — about half of the project. We will also carry out the same work on the other side to ensure water flows out more quickly and to prevent flooding along G. Araneta Avenue here in Tatalon," he said. The Department of Public Works and Highways completed the upgrade of the drainage system along G. Araneta Avenue in February 2026. The rehabilitation project, which costs P500 million, involves the installation of two 1.50-meter-diameter high-density polyethylene pipes as part of the upgrading and rehabilitation of the existing drainage system. It aims to address

recurring flooding along G. Araneta Avenue, from Kaliraya Street to E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, with the drainage system ultimately discharging into the San Juan River.

- [Agro-Industrialization, Food Nationalism Key to Philippine Food Security, Says Expert](#)  
(2026-06-26 16:07)

RETIRED University of the Philippines Los Baños professor and agricultural scientist Teodoro Mendoza said that the country's food security cannot be achieved by increasing farm production alone but requires food nationalism, rural transformation, and agro-industrialization. Mendoza said the Philippines must rebuild its food system by prioritizing local production, strengthening rural communities, and developing industries that enable farmers to earn beyond primary agricultural production. "Food nationalism is the engine, rural transformation is the road, and industrialization is the vehicle" toward national self-reliance and sovereign development, Mendoza said during the Frank Pascual Annual Memorial Lecture. He defined food nationalism as "growing, eating, and protecting local food" to lessen the country's dependence on imported agricultural products and foreign control over the food supply. Mendoza said food security is inseparable from national security, noting that a nation unable to feed its own people cannot achieve genuine sovereignty. He disputed the notion that the sector's declining share of the country's gross domestic product reflects its actual economic value. Mendoza said agriculture's contribution becomes significantly larger when the entire food system — including food processing, distribution, and related industries — is taken into account. Mendoza warned that excessive reliance on food imports deprives farmers of economic opportunities throughout the agricultural value chain, affecting not only producers but also rural families and businesses that depend on farming-related livelihoods. He criticized the country's heavy dependence on monocropping, particularly rice cultivation, saying it limits farmers' earning potential. "You will remain poor forever if you are a monocrop farmer," Mendoza said, adding the better options are integrated and diversified farming systems that provide multiple sources of income. Citing the industry's structural problems, Mendoza noted that the average rice farm in the Philippines measures only about 0.8 hectares and generates roughly P48,000 in annual income, leaving many farming households below the poverty threshold. He said rural transformation should extend beyond agriculture by improving infrastructure, education, and employment opportunities so rural communities can become economically sustainable. Mendoza expounded on the merits of agro-industrialization, where farmers participate in food processing, packaging, and manufacturing instead of remaining suppliers of raw agricultural products. He said community-based industries would allow more income and jobs to remain in rural areas. He expressed concern over the country's limited investment in science and technology, urging the government to support Filipino researchers and innovators so the Philippines can become a technology developer rather than merely a technology user. Mendoza said that many Filipino farmers are already in their late 50s and 60s. He called for greater participation of young people in agriculture through education, technological innovation, and expanded livelihood opportunities. He said the country should prioritize local harvests, protect farmers from unfair import competition, promote indigenous



food consumption, and reduce dependence on imported food to build a more secure, self-reliant, and resilient agricultural sector.

- [LTFRB probes taxi drivers ‘victimizing’ Thai models](#) (2026-06-26 16:06)

THE Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has launched an investigation into taxi drivers allegedly overcharging and stealing from two foreign models during their visit to the Philippines, as the agency vowed to hold both drivers and taxi operators accountable. LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said the agency would coordinate with the Philippine National Police (PNP) to identify the drivers involved and gather information that could lead to administrative action against the taxi operators. “We will be coordinating with the Philippine National Police to get all the necessary information that could lead to the identification of the taxi drivers involved. On the part of the LTFRB, we will be providing the information needed for the identification of the operators and eventually holding all of them accountable,” Mendoza said. The incident reportedly happened on June 13 while the two Thai models were in the country for an event. According to the LTFRB, the victims hailed a taxi, but the driver demanded a fixed rate and refused to use the meter. Later, the driver allegedly stopped the vehicle, claiming the taxi had broken down. The LTFRB said the driver was also accused of conspiring with another taxi driver in taking the foreign model’s mobile phone. “This is not acceptable. We assure the victims that we will exhaust all legal means to hold these drivers accountable. And even their operators will not be spared,” Mendoza said. The LTFRB said it would issue show-cause orders for all those involved in the incident once the investigation is completed. Mendoza also appealed to witnesses who may have information about the incident to assist authorities in the ongoing investigation.

- [Manila announces closed roads for Pride Parade 2026](#) (2026-06-26 16:05)

THE Manila Public Information Office (MPIO) has issued several road closures for the upcoming Pride parade in the city on Saturday. In a Facebook post, the MPIO said the road closures and rerouting schemes will start at 8 a.m. on Saturday, covering Remedios Circle; the stretch of Jorge Bocobo Street, from San Andres Street to Remedios Circle; and the stretch of Remedios Street, from Jorge Bocobo Street to Guerrero Street. The city government also said “stop-and-go” traffic management will be implemented at several key intersections to help ease traffic flow during the event. These include:– San Andres Street corner Maria Orosa Street– San Andres Street corner Adriatico Street– A. Mabini Street corner San Andres Street– A. Mabini Street corner Alonzo Street– A. Mabini Street corner Quintos Street– A. Mabini Street corner Pedro Gil Street– A. Mabini Street corner Salas Street– A. Mabini Street corner Sta. Monica Street– A. Mabini Street corner P. Faura Street– Adriatico Street corner P. Faura Street– Adriatico Street corner Pedro Gil Street– Pedro Gil Street corner Maria Orosa Street– Gen. Malvar Street corner Maria Orosa Street. Motorists are advised to take note of the affected areas and plan their travel accordingly to avoid inconvenience.

- [Cadapan, Empeño Families Personally Verify Jovito Palparan's Detention at NBP Minimum Security Compound](#) (2026-06-26 16:04)



THE Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) said it has allowed the families of missing persons Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño to personally verify if convicted retired Army major general Jovito Palparan remains detained at the New Bilibid Prison (NBP). Palparan was convicted in 2018 and sentenced to reclusion perpetua for his role in the kidnapping and serious illegal detention of the two University of the Philippines students who disappeared in 2006, in cases regarded by human rights groups as enforced disappearances. The meeting was granted by BuCor following a request from complainants Erlinda Cadapan and Concepcion Empeño, amid concerns raised over Palparan's reported whereabouts. NBP Superintendent Gary Garcia, in a report to BuCor Director General Gregorio Pio Catapang Jr., said the request was acted upon on the same day it was received. He said the complainants were allowed to meet Palparan for more than an hour. "I wish they had made the request earlier so there would have been no confusion, because BuCor has always been willing to accommodate such requests and our agency is transparent when it comes to matters like this," Garcia said.

- [Anti-corruption rally to affect Sunday traffic](#) (2026-06-26 16:03)

MOTORISTS are advised to expect traffic slowdown and road adjustments around the EDSA People Power Monument area on Sunday, June 28, as the White Ribbon Movement (WRM) holds a prayer and indignation rally calling for accountability, justice, and reforms in public governance. The Quezon City government said traffic may slow down on EDSA, Katipunan Avenue, Ortigas Avenue, White Plains Avenue, and Temple Drive from 12 noon to 6 p.m. due to the expected gathering. A zipper lane scheme will be implemented on White Plains Avenue between EDSA and Katipunan Avenue from 6 a.m. to 12 noon as part of traffic preparations. White Plains Avenue from Katipunan Avenue to EDSA on the Camp Aguinaldo side will also be temporarily closed during the rally. The city government said personnel from the Traffic and Transport Management Department, Department of Public Order and Safety, Task Force Disiplina, Quezon City Police District, and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority will be deployed to manage traffic conditions. Motorists were advised to take alternate routes to avoid possible delays. The rally, organized by religious and civil society groups, is a faith-based, non-partisan activity that seeks to raise concerns over corruption and push for greater accountability in government.

- [Fuel prices likely to increase next week](#) (2026-06-26 16:02)

DIESEL and gasoline prices are expected to increase slightly next week as the global market reacts to uncertainty in the Middle East, amid recent developments in the US-Iran peace deal, local oil industry sources said on Friday. Sources said diesel prices could increase by P1.20 per liter, while gasoline prices could go up by P1.50 per liter. These estimates are based on 4-day trading of Mean of Platts, Singapore, the pricing basis for refined goods in Southeast Asia. A source said global prices could still be volatile despite the peace deal, amid rumors of recent attacks on a cargo vessel in the Strait of Hormuz. "World crude oil prices have eased, despite tempered optimism over the US-Iran interim peace deal and ongoing negotiations. Sanctions waiver on Iranian oil, which will allow Iran-origin crude oil and other petroleum products into

the market, is also influencing these prices,” a local oil industry source said. “Asian diesel and middle distillates prices are relatively lower as the market expects a gradual rise in regional availability. Meanwhile, gasoline prices are expected to remain high due to increasing seasonal demand despite the prospect of recovering crude and product flows,” the source added. “But despite the current market situation and amid the political agreement between the US and Iran, physical flows through the Strait and shipping activity have yet to normalize. Uncertainty remains over the durability of the US-Iran accord, with a recent incident of a suspected attack on a cargo vessel in the Strait of Hormuz,” the source said. This week, local oil companies that released their price bulletins had the same adjustments, after cutting diesel prices by P9.04 per liter and gasoline prices by P3.90 per liter.

- [Tropical Storms Francisco, Gardo Exit PAR, Pagasa Says](#) (2026-06-26 16:01)

THE Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that both storms “Francisco” and “Gardo” have left the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). In the first bulletin at 11 p.m. on Thursday, Pagasa said “Francisco” had maximum sustained winds of 95 kilometers per hour and gustiness of up to 115 kph. “Francisco has exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) and will continue moving generally northeastward towards Ryukyu Islands and sea south of mainland Japan throughout the forecast period,” the weather bureau said. In its 11 a.m. bulletin on Friday, the Pagasa said that “Gardo” left the PAR at 9:30 a.m., with maximum sustained winds of 95 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 115 kph. Gardo, now a severe tropical storm, was last spotted 1,310 km east-northeast of Extreme Northern Luzon. Both storms did not make landfall while inside the PAR. ARIC JOHN SY CUA “Gardo has exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) at 9:30 a.m. [on Friday]. It is forecast to move north northeastward and maintain its strength for the next 12 hours as it moves towards southern Japan,” the weather bureau said. The country, however, will continue to have rainy weather because of the southwest monsoon, Pagasa said.

- [Marcos to visit Canada for official visit](#) (2026-06-26 15:54)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is set to embark on an official visit to Canada from July 1 to 4, 2026, upon the invitation of Prime Minister Mark Joseph Carney, Malacañang announced Friday. In a statement, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said that Marcos and Carney would hold bilateral discussions aimed at further deepening Philippines-Canada partnership and advancing cooperation in key strategic sectors. “The two leaders are expected to assess progress in defense and security engagements and efforts to expand trade and investment, and explore avenues to bolster cooperation in enhancing economic resilience, strengthening collaboration in energy and critical minerals, and reinforce people-to-people linkages,” the PCO said. “They will also discuss the Philippines’ Asean Chairship and strategic priorities for the region. Canada has been an Asean Dialogue Partner since 1977 and has maintained a Strategic Partnership with Asean since 2023,” it added. During his visit, Marcos would also lead engagements with Canadian business leaders and investors in sectors critical to the Philippines’ economic agenda, including information technology,

business process management, artificial intelligence and critical infrastructure, critical minerals, and other high-growth industries, the PCO said. The President will be accompanied by First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos during engagements with the Filipino community in Vancouver, British Columbia, in recognition of the vital contributions of overseas Filipinos to both countries and to the enduring ties between the Philippines and Canada. The visit marks the first official visit of a Philippine President to Canada in more than a decade, following the visit of former president Benigno Simeon Aquino III in 2015. Former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau last visited the Philippines in 2017. The Philippines and Canada celebrated the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2024, reflecting a longstanding partnership founded on shared values, especially in promoting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific, strong economic ties, and vibrant people-to-people connections.

- [Marcos launches updated PFM roadmap to boost fiscal discipline](#) (2026-06-26 13:50)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday led the launch of the updated roadmap and a new digital platform aimed at strengthening the government's fiscal reform agenda to promote transparency, accountability, and prudent use of public funds. The President led the endorsement of the updated Philippine Public Financial Management (PFM) Reform Roadmap 2024-2028 and the unveiling of the Department of Budget and Management's Centralized Open Monitoring Platform for Appropriations and Spending Statistics (COMPASS) during a ceremony in Malacañang. In his speech, the President reaffirmed his administration's belief that "public funds belong to the people and must always be spent for their benefit." "Every department must align its budget with national priorities. Every agency must strengthen procurement, reporting, and implementation. Every public office must be prepared to show where the funds went, and what they have achieved in improving the lives of every Filipino family," Marcos said. "So as we move forward, let us carry this work with resolve, integrity, and a shared sense of purpose. By 2028, we must be able to say that government has become more open, more disciplined, more responsive, and more trusted by the Filipinos," he added. Prepared by the DBM under the leadership of Acting Secretary Kim Robert De Leon, the updated PFM Roadmap streamlines the original 41 reform interventions to 18 priority measures — 14 mission-critical reforms and four quick wins, all targeted for completion by 2028. The remaining 23 long-term interventions will continue to be pursued based on institutional readiness, available resources and support from development partners. On the other hand, COMPASS consolidates thousands of budget release records and trillions of pesos in government spending data into a single platform, making budget information more accessible, understandable and actionable for the public.

- [Magnitude 6.5 quake hits off southern Philippines](#) (2026-06-26 13:29)

MANILA, Philippines — A 6.5-magnitude earthquake struck off the southern Philippines on Friday, the United States Geological Survey said, less than three weeks after a major tremor in the same area left more than 80 people dead. The quake struck at 7:42 pm (1142 GMT) at a depth of 52.4 kilometers (33 miles) in the waters about 35 kilometers southwest of Mindanao

island's Jose Abad Santos town, according to the USGS, which revised the magnitude from an initial 6.7. No tsunami alert was issued. Santa Maria town rescue official Jerson Talahig told AFP there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. "It was kind of strong, but it was quick. We saw the table and some of the lights shaking," he said. The 7.8-magnitude tremor that hit Mindanao on June 8 brought down buildings, triggered landslides and displaced thousands on the southern island, while also setting off tsunami warnings across the region. The powerful quake forced the seabed upwards by two meters (6.6 feet) on a long stretch of the coast, pushing previously submerged coral above the water and extending the shoreline by as much as 200 meters in a geological phenomenon known as "coastal uplift". A series of strong aftershocks rocked the area from about two hours after the first quake, including a 6.5 magnitude tremor. As of Friday, the June 8 quake had killed 81 people and injured more than 1,300. Earthquakes are a near-daily occurrence in the Philippines, which is situated on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an arc of intense seismic activity stretching from Japan through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin. The Cotabato Trench, which lies as close as 50 kilometers (31 miles) off the coast of southern Mindanao, is the site of frequent seismic activity, including a "swarm" of thousands of mostly small earthquakes recorded in January.

- [Roads closed for the Manila Pride Parade 2026](#) (2026-06-26 13:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The Manila Public Information Office (MPIO) has issued several road closures for the upcoming Pride parade in the city on Saturday. In a Facebook post, the MPIO said the road closures and rerouting schemes will start at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, which covers Remedios Circle; the stretch of Jorge Bocobo Street, from San Andres Street to Remedios Circle; and the stretch of Remedios Street, from Jorge Bocobo Street to Guerrero Street. Motorists are advised to take note of the affected areas and plan their travel accordingly to avoid inconvenience.

- [Gorebox ban 'not good' for PH](#) (2026-06-26 12:54)

The general manager of the Philippine national esports team said the reply of the game developer for the game Gorebox regarding the minimum age for the game is not a good look for the country. Philippine National Esports Team general manager Leo Andrew "Jab" Escutin said on Friday in his Facebook page that the reply of Gorebox developer Felix Filip that the game is only for those aged 18 and above is a proof of political grandstanding that makes the country "look stupid." "As the General Manager of the Philippine National Esports Team, I have spent years working with individuals who are deeply passionate about video games and Esports. Most of them have the opportunity to provide for their families, brought immense glory to the Philippines, bringing home gold medals and proving that we have what it takes to excel on the global stage. Through our athletes, the Philippines continues to earn the respect and admiration of our international peers," Escutin wrote. "Now, because of the tragedy in Tacloban, politicians are quick to jump on the bandwagon and blame a video game for the incident, pulling back our progress and putting our standing as a progressive video game country at risk in the eyes of the world. It is a quick way to get their names into the headlines because the

media knows it will earn clicks and eyeballs, going so far as to immediately ban the said video game from being accessed in our country. I would applaud that action if the same urgency was applied to other ‘games’ that have negatively affected our citizens’ finances. But sadly, it is not the headline worthy thing to do today,” he added. Escutin also pointed out that he has not seen any politician inviting the gun manufacturers invited to the Senate. “As far as the Tacloban school shooting is concerned, I have not seen or read of any politician pushing to have the gun manufacturer invited to the Senate or any investigation. So why is that? Because it doesn’t make sense, and it doesn’t get as many clicks and eyeballs for the politicians,” he said.

- [Ateneo president attends NBI probe into deaths of basketball players](#) (2026-06-26 04:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Ateneo de Manila University President Fr. Roberto Yap went to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Friday as part of the continuing investigation into the deaths of the school's basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. Yap was expected to submit to the NBI-Homicide Division the documents requested from him after investigators issued him a subpoena ad testificandum and a subpoena duces tecum. The Ateneo president’s lawyers went to the NBI on June 19 to inform investigators that Yap would appear and cooperate with the ongoing probe. The NBI has been investigating the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili, both members of the Ateneo basketball program.

- [Hazing raps recommended against Tab Baldwin, 10 others over 2 cagers' deaths](#) (2026-06-26 04:19)

(UPDATE) MANILA, Philippines — After a two-week investigation, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) recommended the filing of charges against Tab Baldwin, the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) Blue Eagles former head coach and 10 others for violation of the Republic Act 11053 or the Anti-Hazing Act. In a media briefing on Friday, Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said that under the amended 2018 version of the law, hazing now refers to “any act that would result in physical or psychological suffering, harm, or injury inflicted on a recruit, neophyte, applicant, or member that applies to the basketball team as a prerequisite for admission or requirement or continuing membership in an organization. These include forced calisthenics and exposure to weather, or other brutal treatment forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical and psychological health of such recruit.” Speaking in Filipino, Remulla said hazing used to be just part of initiations. “We used to think of hazing as paddling, shaming and inflicting pain.” “But in this case, team-building and training crossed over to hazing,” he said, referring to the drowning of Rene Clert Baterbonia and Divine Adili during a team-building activity in a beach resort in Dipaculao, Aurora organized and supervised by Baldwin on June 8. In past interviews, some of the players described the team building activity as a “bootcamp” or “military-style” training but denied that there was any form of hazing. Earlier in the day, Ateneo de Manila University President Fr. Roberto Yap went to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) as part of its continuing investigation into the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili. Yap was expected to submit to

the NBI-Homicide Division the documents requested from him after investigators issued him a subpoena ad testificandum and a subpoena duces tecum. The Ateneo president's lawyers went to the NBI on June 19 to inform investigators that Yap would appear and cooperate with the ongoing probe.

- [Filipino American nurse arrested for \\$906M healthcare insurance fraud in US](#) (2026-06-26 04:04)

MANILA, Philippines — A Filipino American nurse accused of allegedly masterminding the biggest healthcare insurance fraud in US history is now under house arrest after she was indicted by a grand jury, according to US-based media websites and court documents posted online. Marizel Yukee, a resident of Las Vegas, was indicted by a grand jury for conspiracy to commit wire fraud and healthcare fraud amounting to \$906 million and was placed under home detention, the Houston Public Media reported. According to a ruling issued by the US District Court in the Southern District of Texas, Yukee and her co-conspirators, “targeted elderly Medicare beneficiaries, many of whom were terminally ill in hospice care, and caused medically unnecessary amniotic wound allografts to be applied to these vulnerable individuals.” “[Yukee] also paid illegal kickbacks and bribes to providers to induce patient referrals for allograft applications and received illegal kickbacks and bribes from allograft distributors in exchange for purchasing allografts billed to federal health care programs,” the ruling dated June 18 read. It also read that Yukee and her co-conspirators submitted more than \$906 million in “false and fraudulent claims to Medicare and Tricare “for these medically unnecessary allografts and associated services.” “Medicare and TRICARE paid more than approximately \$297 million based on these claims. Through her four clinics, the Defendant submitted an average of over \$1 million in claims per Medicare beneficiary for allografts,” it added. She pleaded not guilty to all charges.

- [Motorists advised on traffic delays over EDSA anti-corruption rally on Sunday; police on alert](#) (2026-06-26 03:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorists are advised to expect traffic slowdown and road adjustments around the EDSA People Power Monument area on Sunday, as the White Ribbon Movement (WRM) holds a Prayer and Indignation Rally calling for accountability, justice, and reforms in public governance. The Quezon City government said traffic may slow down along EDSA, Katipunan Avenue, Ortigas Avenue, White Plains Avenue, and Temple Drive from 12 noon to 6 p.m. due to the expected gathering. A zipper lane scheme will be implemented along White Plains Avenue between EDSA and Katipunan Avenue from 6 a.m. to 12 noon as part of traffic preparations. White Plains Avenue from Katipunan Avenue to EDSA on the Camp Aguinaldo side will also be temporarily closed during the rally. The city government said personnel from the Traffic and Transport Management Department, Department of Public Order and Safety, Task Force Disiplina, Quezon City Police District, and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority will be deployed to manage traffic conditions. Motorists are advised to take alternate routes to avoid possible delays. The rally, organized by religious and civil society groups, is a faith-based and



non-partisan activity that seeks to raise concerns over corruption and push for greater accountability in government. Meanwhile, the Eastern Police District (EPD) will deploy personnel from its headquarters and the Pasig, Mandaluyong, Marikina, and San Juan police stations, Brig. Gen Melecio M Buslig, Jr., acting district director, said. The EPD will also intensify anti-criminality operations across Metro East, particularly in places of convergence, transport terminals, major thoroughfares, commercial establishments, and other strategic areas to prevent criminal activities and ensure the safety and security of the public before, during, and after the activity. The EPD assures all participants and the general public that all deployed personnel have been directed to strictly observe the principles of maximum tolerance and uphold the respect for and protection of human rights in the performance of their duties. Likewise, extensive coordination and collaboration with concerned government agencies, local government units (LGUs), force multipliers, emergency response units, and other stakeholders have been undertaken to facilitate the peaceful, orderly, and successful conduct of the event. The EPD encourages the public to remain vigilant, cooperate with law enforcement authorities, and immediately report any suspicious activities to the nearest police station or EPD hotline.

- [Ceiling collapses at Bicol International Airport, investigation underway](#) (2026-06-26 02:35)

MANILA, Philippines — A portion of the ceiling at the Bicol International Airport (BIA) collapsed, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) on Friday. No injuries were reported after the panel in the well wishers area fell in front of a restaurant at around 5:50 p.m. on Thursday. First responders from the CAAP Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS) Landside Unit and the Airport Medical Team immediately secured the scene. The area was restricted for public and staff safety. CAAP engineering teams have assessed the damage, with repair and restoration works to commence upon completion of safety clearance procedures. "We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience and concern this incident may have caused. We assure the public that immediate preventive measures are already being undertaken to address the issue and to ensure that similar incidents do not happen again," CAAP Director General Raul del Rosario said. Airport authorities and CAAP are investigating the structural failure. CAAP reiterates its commitment to passenger safety and operational integrity.

- [Pride protest held in Manila despite delays in issuance of permit](#) (2026-06-26 01:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Members of the LGBTQ+ organization Stonewall Philippines staged their annual Pride protest at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila on Friday morning, even as the Manila Police District (MPD) has yet to approve their rally permit. In a statement, the group called on the MPD and the Bureau of Permits to "immediately heed our call to approve the venue request of Stonewall Philippines." The Manila Times sought comment from the MPD but has yet to receive a response as of posting time.

- [Erice warns LP on possible alliance with Marcos administration](#) (2026-06-25 18:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Caloocan Rep. Edgar Erice said any proposal for the Liberal Party to enter into an alliance with the Marcos administration is inconsistent with the party's core



principles unless the administration first addresses what he described as the largest alleged corruption scandal in the history of the Philippine national budget and infrastructure program. Erice, a former ranking member of the party, stressed in a statement on Thursday that LP has always stood for "transparency, accountability, and good governance," "We cannot abandon these principles for the sake of political convenience," Erice added. He also said that there are "serious questions" remain unanswered regarding alleged large-scale budget manipulations involving flood control and other infrastructure projects, which he believes resulted in the loss of trillions of pesos in public funds through ghost projects, substandard infrastructure, and questionable budget reallocations. "What makes this issue even more compelling is that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. himself was the first to publicly raise concerns about irregularities in flood control projects," Erice said. "He promised to determine the truth and hold accountable those responsible. Unfortunately, despite those commitments, the Filipino people have yet to see a comprehensive accounting of what actually happened or who has been held responsible," He added. Erice noted that instead of full transparency, the public witnessed political infighting, finger-pointing, and efforts that, in his view, have weakened public confidence in democratic institutions, including Congress, as well as using government institutions to suppress dissent. Erice said the LP's identity has always been rooted in the defense of democracy and the rule of law. "The leaders of the Liberal Party, including the late Senator Benigno 'Ninoy' Aquino Jr., sacrificed their freedom—and in Ninoy's case, his life—in the struggle against authoritarianism, corruption, and abuse of power. Those sacrifices should never be diminished by political expediency," Erice said.

- [Bicam panel okays Basic Education Voucher Assistance Bill](#) (2026-06-25 18:06)

MANILA, Philippines — A bicameral committee on Thursday approved the proposed Basic Education Voucher Assistance Act. Akbayan Rep. Jose Manuel Diokno announced the approval on his Facebook page. The panel harmonized House Bill 4744 and Senate Bill 10981. It was led by Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) co-chairmen Sen. Paolo Benigno Aquino 4th, Pasig Rep. Roman Romulo, and Tingog Rep. Jude Acidre, the Edcom 2 said in its Facebook page.

- [Comelec assures that the BARMM polls will be secure, credible, and peaceful](#) (2026-06-25 17:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has vowed to use to the fullest its power and constitutional duty to enforce and administer election laws to ensure that the upcoming first-ever Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) parliamentary elections will be clean, honest and peaceful. Comelec Chairman George Erwin Garcia made the assurance as he confirmed the deployment of additional security forces to the BARMM to bolster safety for the upcoming regional elections, saying that coordination has already been made with the military and police leadership, and other concerned agencies of the government to deploy additional personnel to the autonomous region. "Through a coordinated effort with the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the

Philippine Coast Guard, authorities are readying reinforcements to ensure a secure electoral process," added Garcia even as he pointed out that specific troop numbers remain classified for tactical and operational reasons/.Addressing potential threats, the election chief issued a stern warning to groups that may attempt to intimidate the electoral board members or interfere with their access to polling precincts, stating that contingency measures—including the availability of replacement personnel from the PNP—are ready to step in if necessary to ensure that election operations will continue despite any threats.At the same time, Garcia assured teachers and election workers that they will not be abandoned and that security measures are in place to protect them throughout the electoral process, saying that "this commitment is designed to foster a clean, orderly, and credible atmosphere for the first-ever BARMM parliamentary elections."He said the Comelec and the concerned security agencies of the government will be coming up with new security protocols from lessons learned in the last May 2025 midterm elections which, he pointed out, was generally peaceful even in hotly-contested areas."Issues in the last elections gave us an opportunity to adjust our preparations. We' ll consider these lessons to avoid committing the same mistakes in the Bangsamoro elections," Garcia added,Preparations are now entering a crucial phase. Following successful voting simulations and election-related adjustments in Tawi-Tawi and Maguindanao del Norte, the printing of ballots for approximately 2.3 million registered voters is scheduled to begin during the first week of July.Among the key reforms for the BARMM elections are changes introduced in response to issues raised during the 2025 elections. Comelec has increased the ballot shading threshold from 15 percent to 25 percent and will use oil-based marking pens instead of water-based ones.Garcia explained that the adjustments are designed to improve ballot readability and voter confidence in the automated election system, saying that the enhancements are part of the continuing effort to improve future elections, including the 2028 polls.The regional election will be held on September 14 with a total of 80 parliamentary seats up for grabs. Aside from 32 district representatives, here are 40 seats for Party Representatives and 8 seats for Sectoral Representatives.

- [Marcos expresses solidarity with Venezuela following devastating earthquakes](#)  
(2026-06-25 16:59)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday expressed sympathy and solidarity with the people of Venezuela following a series of devastating earthquakes that struck the South American nation.In a statement, Marcos said he was deeply saddened by the disaster and extended the Philippines' heartfelt condolences to those affected. "On behalf of the Filipino people, I extend our heartfelt sympathies," he said in a statement posted online. "The Philippines stands in solidarity with the Venezuelan people during this difficult time and hopes for the safety and swift recovery of all communities affected," he added.The temblors which had magnitudes of 7.2 and 7.5, hit an area west of the capital of Caracas, and could be felt as far away as Bogota, Colombia. At least 32 people were killed while hundreds were injured.According to the Department of Foreign Affairs, it is yet to receive reports of injuries or casualties among Filipinos there.There was no immediate announcement on whether the

Philippine government would extend humanitarian assistance to Venezuela.

- [LP condemns spread of AI videos vs. Kiko Pangilinan](#) (2026-06-25 16:34)

The Liberal Party (LP) of the Philippines on Thursday condemned the spread of artificial intelligence (AI) videos on social media surrounding the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, particularly involving its principal author, Senator Francis Pangilnan. In a statement, the party said the “irresponsible and malicious” actions on social media do nothing in achieving justice and called on social media platforms to strengthen their mechanisms against the manipulation of young people. “We call on social media platforms that profit from operating in the Philippines to strengthen their mechanisms against the manipulation of young people and against the erasure and distortion of the truth. There is no doubt that what you are currently doing is far from sufficient to monitor and reduce the deliberate manipulation of algorithms through troll operations,” the party said. “As a result, social media feeds repeatedly favor content that is clearly harmful but highly profitable. Reporting mechanisms for deceptive content must also be strengthened and made more effective, especially when such content targets young people,” they added. Meanwhile, in a Messenger chat to The Manila Times on Thursday, Tindig Pilipinas co-convenor Kiko Aquino-Dee said while he supports the current juvenile laws, there are some reasons to question it. “I support the current juvenile justice law passed by Sen. Kiko, but I think there are good faith reasons to question it. Fake news though just makes it much harder to have that good faith conversation,” he said. “I think the law is satisfactory as it is. I just think it's understandable that some people would support lowering the age of criminal responsibility after a heinous crime committed by minors. I hope though that those advocating that present their case reasonably so it can be debated rather than spread fake news,” he added. Debates on the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act grew, following the school shooting in Tacloban City that saw two teenagers kill three students in the incident.

- [Manila forms task force vs violence in schools](#) (2026-06-25 16:20)

IN the wake of the deadly Tacloban school shooting, Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso has created a school and community safety task force mandated to prevent violence in the city’s schools. Domagoso made the announcement during his State of the City Address on Wednesday. The Manila School and Community Safety Task Force aims to prevent armed violence and mass-casualty incidents in schools and public spaces through a “prevention-first approach” built on three principles: eliminating illegal firearms and armed threats, acting on every credible warning sign of violence, and preparing every school and community for emergency response. “Our policy is simple: Remove illegal guns. Act on every warning sign. Prepare every school. Manila will not wait for a tragedy before taking action,” said Domagoso. “The Task Force shall serve as the city’s coordinating body for violence prevention, threat assessment, school safety and emergency preparedness,” Executive Order 29 stated. Domagoso will head the task force, which shall be composed of other city government offices, police officers and representatives from private schools, parent associations and youth organizations. The order mandates the Manila Police District (MPD) to “intensify operations

against loose firearms, illegal gun trafficking, gun-for-hire groups and armed criminal networks.” The MPD is also tasked with communicating with all public school clusters and villages by designating a school and youth safety coordinator, and submitting monthly reports on illegal firearm operations and preventive interventions undertaken. School Safety and Threat Assessment Teams will also be established by the Schools Division Office of Manila (SDO-Manila) in each school district. The SDO-Manila will implement standardized procedures for reporting threats and weapons possession, strengthen counseling and behavioral intervention programs, and conduct at least two emergency preparedness exercises and one lockdown drill per academic year. Along with the MPD, the SDO-Manila will conduct a “School Safety Audit” of all public schools within 90 days of the order’s effectivity, covering physical security, access control, evacuation routes, communications capability and existing emergency response plans. It will then be submitted to the mayor’s office for “immediate action.” All villages are directed to “support violence prevention initiatives, encourage responsible reporting of threats and illegal firearms, and maintain coordination with local police and school authorities.”

• [Trillanes sues Cayetano, Marcoleta, 18 bagmen for cyberlibel](#) (2026-06-25 16:19)

FORMER senator Antonio Trillanes IV on Thursday filed a cyber libel complaint before the Department of Justice against Senators Alan Peter Cayetano and Rodante Marcoleta, and 18 individuals claiming to be former Marines, over statements made during a June 4 Senate hearing that he described as “manufactured lies.” The 25-page complaint-affidavit, dated June 25, 2026, accuses the respondents of violating Section 4(c)(4) of Republic Act 10175, or the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, in relation to Articles 353 to 358 of the Revised Penal Code. The complaint stemmed from testimonies during a hearing conducted by the Cayetano-led bloc on June 4, which Trillanes labeled a “sham” and “bogus hearing” following the Senate leadership reorganization the previous day. During the proceedings, respondent Bernard Gumban claimed he delivered cash to Trillanes on two occasions — first a paper bag containing an estimated P5 million to P10 million, and later six suitcases — to the former senator’s office in Quezon City. Another respondent, Belnard Tube, alleged involvement in currency exchange transactions and deliveries of dollars allegedly intended for International Criminal Court (ICC) investigators. “I categorically deny receiving money from Zaldy Co to give to the ICC or for any other purpose,” Trillanes said in a text message in English and Filipino. He argued that the statements constitute libel as they publicly impute crimes, vices or defects tending to cause dishonor, discredit or contempt. Trillanes pointed to remarks by Cayetano, who stated during the hearing that “iba ‘yung male-maleta kasi male-maleta implies bribery (it’s different when it’s suitcases because suitcases imply bribery),” and “it is also bad to pay people to make it appear na meron EJK kung wala (there are extrajudicial killings if there are none).” Marcoleta, according to the complaint, insinuated that Trillanes acted treacherously by helping ICC investigators, asking: “Sino nagkanulo ngayon sa ating pangulo? (Who betrayed our president now?)” and “bakit tayo pa ang tumulong sa kanila para usigin ang kapwa natin Pilipino? (Why did we help them prosecute our fellow

Filipinos?).” Trillanes said that the June 4 hearing was not an official Senate proceeding, as it followed the June 3 reorganization where Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian was elected acting Senate president and Sen. Erwin Tulfo was named Blue Ribbon Committee chairman. “At most, it can be considered an ordinary or regular press conference, dressed in the guise of a public hearing,” the complaint states. Sen. Panfilo Lacson earlier warned that participants in the Cayetano-led probe “may face legal consequences” as the hearing was not in official Senate records, meaning parliamentary immunity cannot be invoked. The complaint highlights contradictions in the respondents’ testimonies. Gumban allegedly claimed deliveries were made to Trillanes’ residence in one interview but to his office during the June 4 hearing. His reference to “Security Ojeda” instead of “Scout Ojeda” was cited as evidence he was unfamiliar with the location. The ICC Office of the Prosecutor has reportedly clarified that “all of its activities, including investigations, are fully covered by The Hague-based tribunal’s budget and managed independently,” directly contradicting claims of bribery, according to the complaint. Trillanes argued that the respondents acted in conspiracy, pointing to their “unity of action, design and purpose” in executing a “clearly malicious and dubious” joint affidavit and attending the hearing together. “The act of one should be considered as the act of all,” the complaint stated, citing the law on conspiracy.

- [Remulla recommends stronger gun laws](#) (2026-06-25 16:18)

LOCAL Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Thursday urged Congress to enact stronger sanctions against the improper handling of firearms, after two Grade 9 boys killed three of their classmates and 20 others in a school shooting in Tacloban City, Leyte, on Monday. While there are millions of gun owners in the Philippines, Remulla pointed out that the law only provides very low culpability in case they are mishandled. In the fatal school shooting in Tacloban, the two minor suspects obtained guns from an aunt who is a member of the police force and a security guard. The two went on a shooting rampage, killing three classmates and injuring 20. The police woman aunt of the 14-year-old suspect was already relieved from her post and is set to face malversation and administrative sanctions for negligence, while the security agency may face the revocation of its license to operate for failing to report a lost firearm. Remulla said the responsibility of securing firearms rests on the adults to prevent young family members from gaining access to them. “I firmly believe that all gun owners must be responsible for their safekeeping. The firearm should be kept safe under lock and key. One hundred percent of the time, the owner must be responsible,” he said in Filipino. Report threats immediately Remulla also urged the public to immediately report threats of violence, including planned attacks shared online, through the Unified 911 emergency hotline following the swift response of authorities to an alleged threat against students of Tolosa National High School in Tolosa, Leyte. Remulla said early reporting could help law enforcement prevent possible incidents, stressing that any warning of violence must be treated seriously until authorities verify and neutralize the threat. “Any threat is considered live until it is neutralized,” Remulla said. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) chief appealed to internet and social media users to alert authorities if they encounter posts, messages or online discussions

involving possible mass shootings or other violent acts. “If you see any threat, imminent threat or chatter in group discussions about someone planning a mass shooting or violence, please call 911 and inform us right away,” he said. Authorities acted after a threatening social media post circulated online warning of a possible shooting or stabbing incident at Tolosa National High School, alarming students, parents, school officials and residents. Remulla said Sen. Bam Aquino called him Wednesday night to report the chatter about a student’s plan to carry out another mass shooting or stabbing aimed at fellow students at Tolosa National High School. Aquino got the tip from an informant in Tacloban when he went there after the shooting at San Jose National High School to check on the situation. The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group later traced the post to a 14-year-old Grade 10 student from the same school who allegedly created multiple social media accounts to spread the threat. Authorities said the threat was eventually declared neutralized after their investigation found no evidence of an organized plan, accomplices or access to firearms. Remulla said the incident showed the importance of immediate coordination between the public and law enforcement, especially following the recent school shooting in Tacloban City. The DILG secretary said the Unified 911 system could help prevent similar incidents by allowing authorities to quickly respond to reports of potential violence. “It will go a long way in stopping a repeat of what happened last Monday,” Remulla said. No jail time for shooter Remulla also reiterated his call to Congress to amend the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, saying the law should place greater emphasis on an offender’s intent and level of discernment rather than age alone. During a press conference at Camp Crame, Remulla said the deadly shooting in Tacloban City, Leyte, underscores the need to revisit the current law governing juvenile offenders. Leaked conversation showed the attack was planned, and the shooters looked into the juvenile justice law, which gave them assurance that they would be spared from jail time. Under Republic Act 9344, or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006, a child 15 years of age or under at the time of the commission of the offense shall be exempt from criminal liability. However, the child shall be subjected to an intervention program. Whereas a child above 15 years but below 18 shall likewise be exempt from criminal liability and subject to intervention program, unless he/she has acted with discernment. In such a case, a child shall be subjected to appropriate proceedings as dictated by law. Initial investigation established that the 14-year-old suspect used a Glock 17 pistol owned by his aunt, a police officer in Police Regional Office in Eastern Visayas, while the 15-year-old suspect was armed with a .38-caliber revolver registered in a security agency in Cebu. Investigation also showed that the 14-year-old suspect was the one who fired more, because the 40 slugs recovered in the crime scene all came from the Glock pistol and only one came from the revolver, establishing the fact that the younger suspect did most of the shooting. Yet, only the 15-year-old suspect was charged and the 14-year-old, because of his age, will only undergo intervention provided by law. “I think age is not important. But cognizance and intent are the most important factors,” he said. “I strongly recommend to Congress that we work together to come up with a more comprehensive law on juvenile justice,” he said. As to the exact age, he said he would have to study it with Congress. In related developments, two House lawmakers have filed separate resolutions calling for a probe in the school shooting in Tacloban City, pushing for stronger child protection and school safety measures. Navotas Rep.



Toby Tiangco and ACT Teachers Party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio filed separate resolutions on Thursday urging several House committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the shooting at San Jose National High School on June 23 that led to the deaths of three students. The Liberal Party of the Philippines on Thursday condemned the spread of artificial intelligence videos surrounding the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, particularly involving its principal author, Sen. Francis Pangilnan. In a statement, the party said the “irresponsible and malicious” actions on social media do nothing to achieve justice and called on social media platforms to strengthen their mechanisms against the manipulation of young people.

- [PNP eyes enhanced visibility in schools](#) (2026-06-25 16:17)

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday said it is looking to enhance collaboration with the Department of Education (DepEd) by encouraging weekly police participation in school flag-raising ceremonies and educational activities as part of efforts to promote safer campuses. “Our goal is not to police the classroom but to build trust and provide a sense of security,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said in a statement on Thursday. “When students regularly see police officers during flag ceremonies and school activities, they are reminded that law enforcement is part of the community, and that police are always ready to help,” he said. The proposal came after the June 22 shooting incident inside a school in Tacloban City that resulted in the deaths of three students and the wounding of 20 more. Nartatez said regular police visibility can serve as both a deterrent and a bridge between law enforcers and the youth. Police officers who participate in flag ceremonies often help lead students in reciting the “Pangatang Makabayan” and engage with learners before returning to their regular assignments, he said. Nartatez clarified that the initiative does not involve routine patrols inside school grounds. Instead, the PNP is looking to strengthen coordination with DepEd officials, school administrators and local government units to institutionalize voluntary police participation in school safety activities while respecting the learning environment and the authority of school officials. “Visibility can discourage criminal acts but more importantly, it encourages students to approach us, report concerns early and become partners in keeping their schools safe,” Nartatez said. Nartatez said the PNP will continue discussions with DepEd and other stakeholders to explore practical measures for improving campus safety. The Philippine Army (PA), meanwhile, expressed willingness to support the PNP in police security efforts when called upon by proper authorities. “The PA’s role, if required, will be in support of the PNP and other civilian agencies, in accordance with the existing laws,” Army spokesman Col. Louie Dema-ala said. Dema-ala acknowledged that the primary responsibility for maintaining peace and order, including securing schools against threats, rests with the PNP.

- [NBI files human trafficking case vs Mike Defensor’s wife](#) (2026-06-25 16:17)

THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Thursday filed qualified human trafficking charges against the wife of former lawmaker Mike Defensor, Julie Rose Defensor, and other personalities linked to a KTV bar in Pasig City that was raided over alleged sexual exploitation activities. NBI Director Melvin Matibag said during a media briefing the case was based on



evidence gathered during the April raid, including documents, corporate records and findings from the rescue operation involving more than 50 alleged victims. Matibag presented photos and other evidence recovered from the establishment, including pregnancy test kits that he said were allegedly used to determine whether female workers had become pregnant. He said the NBI considered the women vulnerable because many were single mothers seeking employment and income, making them susceptible to exploitation. He rejected claims that no trafficking occurred because the women were not physically forced, saying exploitation could also happen through economic vulnerability and the circumstances surrounding their employment. “They are not just numbers. They are the reason why we are here,” Matibag said, referring to the alleged victims. The NBI also presented its findings that the Defensor family maintained control of the establishment through ownership interests and corporate positions. Matibag said records from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) showed that control of CliffPoint Development Corp. was linked to Pax Libera Mining, which the NBI claimed was also controlled by the Defensor family. He said members of the Defensor family held key positions in the companies, describing the arrangement as an “interlocking directorate” where ownership and management remained within the family. According to Matibag, Defensor’s ownership of CliffPoint may have waned over the years, but the NBI found that control remained through related corporations. “The form and structure may have changed, but control remained with the Defensor couple and their family,” he said. He also responded to accusations from Defensor that the investigation was politically motivated, saying the bureau relied on official documents and evidence gathered during the investigation. Regarding reports of illegal drugs found during the raid, Matibag said individuals allegedly caught using prohibited substances had already been charged, while other possible liabilities connected to the establishment were being investigated.

- [DOLE, Tesda to make Tupad more sustainable](#) (2026-06-25 16:16)

TO boost workforce competitiveness and reduce dependency on short-term assistance, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) have linked skills training directly to employment and livelihood opportunities. The agreement establishes a structured “graduation system” that will help beneficiaries move from government assistance toward sustainable jobs, entrepreneurship and self-employment. Under the Supplemental Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC), beneficiaries will be directed to either an Employment Track or a Livelihood Track, depending on their skills, socioeconomic condition and career goals. The initiative supports the administration’s whole-of-government approach to improving workforce competitiveness through upskilling and reskilling programs. It also seeks to bring opportunities closer to the people through coordinated interventions that promote long-term employment and livelihood outcomes. The Supplemental JMC was signed by Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino and Tesda Director General Jose Francisco “Kiko” Benitez during a ceremony at the Tesda Central Office. Tolentino described the partnership as a convergence of government agencies working together to create broader opportunities particularly for young people seeking training and future business

prospects. He said the initiative forms part of DOLE's effort to transform the traditional Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers (Tupad) program from a short-term emergency employment scheme into a platform that promotes economic self-sufficiency. WILLIAM DEPASUPIL Under the enhanced framework, beneficiaries may undergo Tesda's training programs and receive support that can help them start their own businesses. The move advances Tolentino's vision of integrating entrepreneurship and livelihood development into Tupad, making the program more sustainable and empowering for disadvantaged workers. Benitez said the partnership will ensure that learners and workers are not left on their own after completing their training, emphasizing the need to provide a clear pathway toward employment. Under the agreement, beneficiaries of Tupad and the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program who need additional skills development may be referred to Tesda training programs to improve their employability and entrepreneurial capabilities. Among the available interventions is the Special Training for Employment Program, which provides free skills training, competency assessments, starter toolkits and daily training allowances while equipping participants with industry-relevant competencies. The partnership also establishes a two-way referral system, allowing Tesda graduates to access DOLE livelihood assistance, career counseling, job referrals and employment matching services, creating a seamless pathway from training and temporary assistance to sustainable livelihoods and decent work.

- [Govt execs review 2027 spending plan](#) (2026-06-25 16:14)

EXECUTIVE Secretary Ralph Recto convened key Cabinet officials to review the implementation of their agencies' respective budgets for this year and to finalize priority spending for 2027 as the government works to accelerate service delivery, Malacañang said Thursday. Recto led the budget review meeting on Monday, in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to regularly monitor national budget utilization. The meeting was also held to address implementation delays and ensure that public funds are used effectively to deliver the greatest benefits to the people, the Office of the Executive Secretary said in a statement. "We need to closely track the execution of the 2026 budget and finalize the 2027 national budget," Recto said during the meeting. Recto also assessed the status of agency budget implementation and urged departments to accelerate the delivery of government services. He emphasized the need to ensure the immediate implementation of priority programs and projects in the second half of 2026. "Let us get our act together and ensure that our programs and projects are delivered faster in the second half of the year," he added. The executive secretary also reviewed the progress of the government's Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food, and Transport (Uplift) interventions, stressing the importance of prioritizing initiatives that provide immediate assistance to vulnerable sectors. The Uplift Committee, established under Executive Order 110, coordinates government efforts to ensure the uninterrupted flow of fuel and other essential goods, as well as to protect vulnerable sectors from rising costs amid the war in the Middle East. Among those who attended the meeting were Budget Secretary Kim de Leon, Energy Secretary Sharon Garin, Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa, Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez, Education Secretary Sonny Angara, and Economy, Planning, and Development Secretary

Arsenio Balisan. Senior officials of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Agriculture also participated in the discussions.

- [67% of Pinoys OK to donate kidneys](#) (2026-06-25 16:13)

A STUDY found that 67 percent of adult Filipinos are willing to donate their kidney to help a family member recover. This was revealed by a study conducted by Octa Research and commissioned by the National Transplant Ethics Committee (NTEC) and the Philippine Organ Donation and Transplantation Program-Philippine Network for Organ Sharing, released Thursday in line with National Organ and Blood Donation Awareness Week. The survey was conducted in December 2025 with about 1,200 respondents across the country. The study noted that willingness to donate their kidney was highest among individuals from socioeconomic class ABC at 78 percent, and those aged 35 to 44, at 79 percent. Even among the lower-income Class E group, 66 percent expressed their willingness to donate. However, 21 percent of the respondents said they were unwilling to donate a kidney to a family member, and 11 percent remained undecided or ambivalent. Despite these reservations, the majority sentiment reflects a deep-seated willingness to help loved ones in life-threatening situations. Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., chairman of NTEC, said this “suggests that a majority is still open to sharing their organs with their sick kababayan in need.” The survey also tackled Filipinos’ attitudes towards organ donation after death. While 24 percent of respondents said they were unwilling to donate any of their organs after passing away, the remaining 65 percent expressed openness to helping others through organ donation. Kidneys, hearts, and corneas were the top organs respondents were most willing to donate. Despite the encouraging willingness to donate kidneys to family members, challenges remain in educating the public about organ donation and addressing misconceptions about clinical death. Austriaco emphasized that organ donation awareness has increased significantly in the past two decades. He pointed out that a previous National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) survey indicated that only 33 percent of Filipinos were aware of organ donation, compared to the 66 percent recorded in the latest study. However, there is still a pressing need to improve organ donation systems and processes, particularly in rural areas where access to health care services may be limited. “Not only will we have to continue to educate and encourage our fellow Filipinos to donate their organs upon their death, but we will also have to improve our processes and policies to make it easier for citizens to donate not only in the cities but also in the provinces as well,” Austriaco said.

- [Ex-DPWH execs face 44 tax cases](#) (2026-06-25 16:11)

THREE former officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) are facing criminal tax charges after the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) uncovered years of unfiled tax returns, underreported income and tax liabilities amounting to more than P1.68 billion. The bureau on Thursday said the Department of Justice (DOJ) approved the filing of criminal tax cases against former DPWH officials Jaypee De Leon Mendoza, Henry Alcantara, and Brice Ericson Hernandez after separate investigations showed significant discrepancies between their declared income and actual expenditures, as well as instances of non-filing and underreporting

of tax returns. The cases involve combined tax liabilities amounting to P1.687 billion, and are expected to be brought before the Court of Tax Appeals following the DOJ's finding of probable cause. "The DOJ's finding of probable cause is an important milestone in the enforcement process," Tax chief Charlito Martin Mendoza said. "These cases demonstrate the Bureau's continuing commitment to enforce the tax laws based on evidence and in accordance with the law." Mendoza said that through the expenditure method, investigators discovered substantial gaps between reported income and actual spending patterns. Of the three cases, the largest involved Alcantara, whose tax liabilities reached P913.83 million. In a resolution last May 30, the DOJ recommended the filing of 18 cases against Alcantara covering taxable years 2022, 2023 and 2024. The BIR found a significant disparity between Alcantara's reported income and his acquisitions during the period. It also established that no income tax returns were filed for the covered taxable years. Mendoza faces 16 criminal cases covering taxable years 2021 to 2024, involving total tax liabilities of P179.79 million. In its March 26 resolution, the DOJ found probable cause to charge Mendoza with tax evasion and related violations after the BIR uncovered what it described as significant underdeclarations of income. The agency said the findings constituted prima facie evidence of false or fraudulent tax returns under the National Internal Revenue Code. Hernandez faces 10 criminal cases involving tax liabilities of P593.78 million. The DOJ recommended the filing of charges covering taxable years 2020 to 2024 after BIR investigators found that Hernandez's expenditures substantially exceeded his reported income for five consecutive years. The DOJ resolutions cited probable cause to charge the three former officials with tax evasion under Section 254 of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended, along with related violations under Section 255. Section 254 penalizes willful attempts to evade taxes, while Section 255 covers failures to file returns, supply correct information, or comply with other requirements under the Tax Code.

- [Erice warns LP against alliance with Marcos administration](#) (2026-06-25 16:10)

CALOOCAN Rep. Edgar Erice said any proposal for the Liberal Party (LP) to strike an alliance with the Marcos administration is inconsistent with the party's core principles unless the administration first addresses what he described as the largest alleged corruption scandal in the history of the national budget and infrastructure program. Erice, a party member and former ranking executive, stressed in a statement on Thursday the LP has always stood for "transparency, accountability, and good governance." "We cannot abandon these principles for the sake of political convenience," he said. Serious questions remain unanswered regarding large-scale budget manipulations involving flood control and other infrastructure projects, which Erice believes resulted in the loss of trillions of pesos in public funds through ghost projects, substandard infrastructure, and questionable budget reallocations. "What makes this issue even more compelling is that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. himself was the first to publicly raise concerns about irregularities in flood control projects," he said. "He promised to determine the truth and hold accountable those responsible. Unfortunately, despite those commitments, the Filipino people have yet to see a comprehensive accounting of what actually happened or who has been held responsible," Erice said. He noted that instead of full

transparency, the public witnessed political infighting, finger-pointing, and efforts that, in his view, weakened public confidence in democratic institutions, including Congress, as well as using government institutions to suppress dissent. “There is a growing perception that institutions such as the Ombudsman and the National Bureau of Investigation have been used not only to conceal the truth but also to harass critics of the administration. Whether these concerns are justified can only be answered through independent, impartial, and credible investigations,” Erice said. He said the LP’s identity has always been rooted in the defense of democracy and the rule of law. “The leaders of the Liberal Party, including the late senator Benigno ‘Ninoy’ Aquino Jr., sacrificed their freedom — and in Ninoy’s case, his life — in the struggle against authoritarianism, corruption, and abuse of power. Those sacrifices should never be diminished by political expediency,” Erice said. He warned that joining the administration without resolving the accountability issues would undermine the very principles upon the LP was built. Erice also likened any premature political alliance to “the temptation of the forbidden fruit offered to Adam and Eve” — appealing in the short term but potentially destructive to the party’s moral credibility and long-term future. He stressed that until the people are given the truth, those responsible are held accountable, and public confidence in institutions are restored, “any alliance with the Marcos administration would not simply be a political decision — it would be a test of the Liberal Party’s integrity, principles, and fidelity to the values it has always professed.”

- [Marcos vows to protect Filipino seafarers’ rights](#) (2026-06-25 16:09)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. promised Thursday to uphold the welfare of Filipino mariners, as the country observed the International Day of the Seafarer. “On this International Day of the Seafarer, we honor your service, recognize your sacrifices, and express our gratitude for all that you do for our country,” Marcos said. The president commended seafarers for their vital role in ensuring the safe transport of passengers and goods around the world. “Filipino seafarers perform vital work that promotes the movement of people and keeps global trade moving and economies connected with great skill and dedication,” he said. “They ensure that passengers and economically imported goods reach their destinations safely, while supporting the livelihoods of millions of Filipino families,” Marcos added. Marcos said Filipino seafarers remain faithful to their duties despite heightened security risks in key shipping routes, including those in the Middle East. “Amid geopolitical tensions and uncertainties affecting international shipping, our seafarers continue to carry out their duties with courage and resolve that reach beyond the vessel that they serve,” he said. Marcos said that the seafarers’ contributions help strengthen the Philippine economy and uphold the reputation of Filipino workers across the world. He acknowledged the sacrifices made by the families of seafarers, many of whom spend months away from their loved ones. “As the maritime industry continues to evolve through technological innovation and changing global standards, we must ensure that Filipino seafarers remain equipped with the knowledge and the skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world,” he said. Observed every June 25, the Day of the Seafarer is an annual celebration led by the International Maritime Organization to recognize the contribution of seafarers to

international trade and the global economy. The observance was established through a resolution adopted during the 2010 Diplomatic Conference in Manila, which approved amendments to the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Convention. The Philippines remains one of the world's largest suppliers of maritime labor, with nearly 600,000 Filipino seafarers and crew members deployed worldwide.

- [Expert says PH agriculture stagnant](#) (2026-06-25 16:08)

THE Integrated Rural Development Foundation (IRDF) said that Philippine agriculture is trapped in a “four-decade stagnation” characterized by shrinking farm sizes, chronic underinvestment, and the stranglehold of traders and middlemen over farmers. In a memorial lecture honoring the late agrarian reform advocate Frank Pascual, IRDF Executive Director Arze Glipo said that the sector's decline is evident in the fact that agriculture contributes only nine percent of GDP while still employing 24 percent of the labor force, with growth averaging just 1 to 2 percent annually since the 1980s. Crop yields, he added, have stagnated dramatically compared to regional neighbors. Palay yields remain at 3.5 to 4 metric tons per hectare, far below Vietnam's 6 to 6.5 tons per hectare, while average coconut yields persist at 40 to 50 nuts per tree annually. “If a farmer loses money on one planting season, they wait for two more seasons to recover. But now, losses come one after another — palay prices drop, coconut prices drop, and then suddenly a super typhoon hits. It takes three harvests for them to get back on their feet,” Glipo said, illustrating the devastating cycle that keeps farmers perpetually in debt. Citing IRDF's analysis, Glipo identified interconnected barriers preventing agricultural transformation. After nearly four decades, Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) implementation remains unfinished, with average farm size shrinking from 3.0 hectares in 1980 to just 1.1 hectares in 2025. Market liberalization has seen the agricultural trade deficit balloon from \$42 million in the 1980s to \$11.06 billion in 2025, while the Rice Tariffication Act allowed imports that drove farm gate palay prices to P12 per kilogram. Agriculture receives only 2.5 to 3 percent of the national budget compared to the Food and Agriculture Organization-recommended 10 percent, and rural areas remain “nothing but rice fields, nothing but coconut farms” without processing facilities. With 56 percent of farms under 0.5 hectares, mechanization remains impossible, while farmers borrow from traders at 20 to 30 percent monthly interest, creating a cycle of debt dependency. “As we have been saying, why is it that the farmers who saved and paid to build the Coco Levy fund are not the ones benefiting, but rather corporations and government agencies — it never went directly to them,” Glipo said, referring to the decades-old coconut levy issue. The IRDF noted that many agrarian reform beneficiaries received land but lacked irrigation, farm-to-market roads, extension services, and post harvest facilities — producing what scholars call “land reform without rural transformation.” “We refuse to accept the status quo where our farmers have been suffering for four decades. Yet nothing seems to change in their situation. We do not want this to continue,” Glipo said. The IRDF proposed a comprehensive reform agenda to break the cycle, including farmer-controlled marketing systems with public floor-price procurement, completion of agrarian reform through a “Land-to-Enterprise Program” bundling land with irrigation,



credit, and market contracts, and massive investment in climate-resilient irrigation systems. The foundation also called for amending the Rice Tariffication Act, building provincial processing clusters, establishing a National Small Farmer Credit Facility offering 2 to 3 percent annual interest, and strengthening cooperatives with professional management. Comparing the Philippines with Vietnam, Glipo noted a sequential pattern in successful Asian economies: land reform, productivity growth, agro-processing, and rural industrialization. Vietnam combined land redistribution with massive irrigation investment and strong extension systems, seeing rice yields rise dramatically and rural poverty fall sharply. “We see it — there are scattered seeds of hope,” Glipo said. “We experience it, we do it. That is where we place ourselves — on the side of hope.” The forum gathered farmers, advocates, and experts, including National Scientist Professor Ted Mendoza and PKMP National President Ka Ed Mora. The IRDF emphasized the need to attract youth to farming, making it a profitable business, not just labor, with a proposed Magna Carta for Young Farmers. “The next generation of farmers should no longer have to endure this kind of suffering,” Glipo said.

- [Hiring of school counselors pushed](#) (2026-06-25 16:07)

SENATE President Sherwin “Win” Gatchalian has called for the accelerated hiring of School Counselor Associates in public schools as concerns grow over increasing incidents of violence and behavioral issues among students. Gatchalian emphasized the need to strengthen mental health support systems in schools through the immediate implementation of the Basic Education Mental Health and Well-Being Promotion Act (Republic Act 12080), a landmark measure that institutionalizes mental health programs in the basic education sector. Under the 2026 national budget, P2 billion was allocated for the hiring of 10,000 School Counselor Associate I positions nationwide. The initiative aims to address the longstanding shortage of guidance counselors in public schools and ensure that learners have access to mental health and psychosocial support services. “We have allocated funds for the hiring of School Counselor Associates to guide students in developing good behavior and ensure their sound mental and emotional well-being,” Gatchalian said. Republic Act 12080 mandates the establishment of a School-Based Mental Health Program designed to promote the mental health, emotional resilience, and overall well-being of learners. The law also seeks to strengthen preventive interventions, early detection of mental health concerns, and the provision of appropriate support services in school communities.

- [Pro-poor housing program popular](#) (2026-06-25 16:06)

THE Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) said that the government housing program for the poor was a top drawer of public satisfaction based on the results of the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey. Housing Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling said that the administration’s housing programs for the poor improved by seven points, earning a “good” net satisfaction rating of +45 amid the continued rollout of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s expanded “Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino” (4PH) program. He added that the results of the SWS national survey for the first quarter of 2026 revealed that the



housing sector’ s rating has increased from the moderate +38 in November 2025 to +45, making it one of the administration’ s programs that posted huge gains during the period. Aliling said it reflects the government’ s continuing efforts to expand housing opportunities for more Filipino families through the implementation of the expanded 4PH.” We welcome the positive feedback from our fellow Filipinos. This motivates us more to continue improving our programs to accelerate the delivery of housing units across the country in compliance with the instruction of President Marcos Jr.,” he added. Since his appointment in May 2025, Aliling has worked to expand the administration’ s flagship housing program into a more people-centric approach. From a single modality, which was the vertical or condominium-type housing, he included rental housing, horizontal housing developments and revived the Enhanced Community Mortgage Program. Last week, the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor conferred the Bayani ng Urban Poor Award 2026 on Aliling in recognition of his contributions to advancing the welfare of urban poor communities and promoting sustainable human settlements, the DHSUD said. Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo cited the national housing program as an aggressive initiative for homeless and underserved families.

- [Asean-China forum fights disinformation](#) (2026-06-25 16:05)

SHENYANG, China — Media leaders, digital content creators and government officials from the Southeast Asian region and China are calling for solidarity and collaboration in fighting disinformation. The call to action was made at the 2026 Asean-China Media Cooperation Forum held on June 9 in Shenyang, the capital of China’ s Liaoning Province. Themed “Media Convergence for Shared Growth: Opening a New Chapter in Asean-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership,” the forum brought together more than 150 delegates from China and Southeast Asian nations. The event also marked the 35th anniversary of Asean-China Dialogue Relations and the 5th anniversary of the Asean-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. First launched in 2018, the annual forum is co-organized by the China International Communications Group (CICG) and the Asean-China Centre (ACC). As the global information landscape undergoes rapid transformation driven by artificial intelligence or AI, speakers emphasized that media organizations must seize digital opportunities while aggressively protecting public trust. Prak Thaveak Amida, Cambodia’ s Ministry of Information and Undersecretary of State, outlined three priorities for the region moving forward. First is to strengthen information integrity by building regional frameworks for sharing experiences, exchanging early warnings on misinformation, and coordinating responses to cross-border falsehoods through fact-checking. Second is inclusive capacity building by training content creators in digital safety and the ethical use of AI. Third is using human-centered narratives that focuses on stories that are tangible and promote subjects like green innovation, trade, tourism and culture. Chang Bo, president of CICG, reiterated these priorities, stating that media organizations must embrace technological convergence to support the upgrading of the regional media sector. He noted that China’ s rapid digital and intelligent transformation aligns seamlessly with the objectives of the Asean Digital Master Plan 2025 to establish the region as a leading digital community. Bilateral trade data, meanwhile, highlighted the economic gravity that pulls China and Asean

together. Nararya Soeprapto, Asean deputy secretary general, said China has remained the Asean's largest trading partner for 17 consecutive years, while Asean has ranked as China's top trading partner for the past six years. However, delegates said economic ties must be anchored on mutual and cultural connections. "People-to-people connectivity is one of the most important elements in building a comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Asean," Soeprapto said. "People want to learn about one another through news and stories, and media serves as a crucial channel to spread these stories." Khammone Chanthachith, deputy head of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee's Propaganda and Training Committee, noted that media cooperation is the foundation of trust among communities, and a bridge for sustainable regional development. To ensure that the friendship between China and the Southeast Asian nations reach the younger audience, the ACC and the CICG jointly launched two major initiatives during the event. These are the Asean-China Social Media Content Creators Programme and the 2026 Asean-China Youth Cultural Heritage Tour Series. The initiatives aim to use the power of digital influencers who shape public opinion online. Buji Babiera, a popular Filipino content creator with 3.8 million followers on TikTok, expressed his admiration for China's rapid technological advancement and the efficiency of its AI ecosystem. Babiera said he hopes that his vlogs will help his followers form an objective and rational perception that AI can be used productively and proficiently. The event also featured two roundtable dialogues covering "Social Responsibility and the Media's Mission in Our Times" and "Innovative Practice and Diverse Development in the Digital Age." Participants pledged to collectively advance sound public opinion, improve the global media ecosystem and respect the unique cultural perspective of each and every country. The forum was flanked by several parallel practical initiatives, including the Asean-China Media Professionals Capacity Building Training Program, a specialized Media Dialogue, and an exhibition showcasing Liaoning Province's rich intangible cultural heritage. Following the main program, the international delegation attended the opening ceremony of the concurrent 2026 Liaoning International Friendship Cities Conference. They concluded their visit with a series of field trips exploring municipal governance, sci-tech hubs and cultural tourism projects across the key industrial cities of Shenyang and Dalian.

- [First lady brings more rice aid to Manila](#) (2026-06-25 16:05)

FIRST lady Liza Araneta-Marcos on Thursday continued her weeklong rice aid distribution under the "Mula sa Puso Para sa Pamilya" initiative, with 500 families as recipients in Sta. Cruz, Manila. The program is part of the national government's ongoing support for local communities to provide essential relief to vulnerable sectors who are affected by the rising cost of everyday goods. The first lady told the residents that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. asked her to personally thank them for their continued support of the administration. "We cannot eradicate poverty 100 percent, but we can at least do a bit to lessen the burden in the days to come," she said. She reaffirmed the administration's unceasing efforts to ease the hardships faced by low-income families. The first lady was accompanied during the activity by Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso and Vice Mayor Angela Lei Atienza. The rice

distributed to beneficiaries was procured by the City Government of Manila from local farmers through the Local Government Support Fund.

- [180 candidates pass airmen licensure test](#) (2026-06-25 16:04)

THE Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) announced the culmination of a five-day airmen licensure examination in Clark. A total of 180 candidates passed the test for critical pilot and maintenance roles. Held from June 15 to 19, the rigorous exams are part of a nationwide push by the Airmen Examination Board (AEB) to bolster aviation safety and operational excellence by certifying new private pilots, commercial pilots and aircraft technicians. The regular conduct of these theoretical tests aligns with CAAP's legal mandate under Republic Act 9497 to evaluate the technical knowledge of aspiring aviation professionals. CAAP Director General Raul del Rosario said that these standardized examinations are critical in ensuring a highly skilled workforce, upholding the safety and excellence of the Philippine aviation industry. "Developing a strong and capable aviation workforce is essential to ensuring the continued safety, efficiency and growth of the Philippine aviation industry. Through rigorous and standardized licensure examinations, we aim to produce professionals who will uphold the highest standards of aviation excellence," del Rosario said. These evaluations are a routine part of CAAP's regulatory mandate to ensure that all local flight crews and maintenance personnel meet strict international safety and competency standards before operating in Philippine airspace. By enforcing these benchmarks, the agency maintains international safety standards across Philippine skies. The June 2026 examination at Clark is part of a broader, multiyear strategy by the AEB to make licensing accessible outside of the primary Manila and Cebu examination centers.

- [Manila health workers to get P184M in benefits](#) (2026-06-25 16:03)

MANILA Mayor Isko Moreno announced the release of P184 million in benefits to the city's health care workers on Thursday. Moreno said benefits cover members of the Manila Health Department, barangay health workers, as well as employees of city hospitals and health centers. He noted that the initiative is part of his administration's efforts to ensure that health workers receive due benefits despite the city's financial challenges. Moreno said that through improved fiscal management, the city was able to provide all benefits the city's health care workers are entitled to. "The P14.6 billion we inherited [from the previous administration] was not enough to disrupt the distribution of PhilHealth shares for our health workers," Moreno said in Filipino during his State of the City Address on Wednesday. The city government, he said, continues to distribute various benefit shares from real property tax collections and business clearances. "Long live the taxpayers of the city of Manila; because of you, many lives were saved," Moreno said. The mayor thanked the city's health care workers for their role in delivering health services to residents. "As I have said many, many times, I will fix things and I will give what is due to you," Moreno said.

- [Repairing pumping stations to ease floods – DPWH](#) (2026-06-25 16:02)

WITH the onset of the rainy season, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is moving to rehabilitate all pumping stations in the country to help ease flooding. Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon said on Thursday the move follows the directive of the president to modernize drainage in Metro Manila and other areas by rehabilitating and upgrading the 36 existing pumping stations. Dizon first inspected the Padre Faura Pumping Station along Roxas Boulevard, which has not been operational for nearly a year, limiting its ability to drain floodwaters during heavy rains. At present, the station relies on two temporary pumps to manage water buildup in surrounding communities. The station's limited pumping capacity has slowed the recession of floodwaters during storms and monsoon rains, which inconvenienced students, residents, motorists, and commuters who pass through the affected areas. He said restoring the station will significantly improve drainage in the areas stretching to Taft Avenue and P. Ocampo Street. Communities in Malate, Kalaw, and Padre Faura are also expected to see improvements once the station resumes full operations. Dizon said the goal is not only to reduce flooding but to ensure that floodwaters recede much faster after heavy rainfall. "Even if flooding occurs, the restored pumping system should be able to quickly draw out accumulated water and minimize disruption," he said. The Padre Faura Pumping Station is expected to become fully operational by the first week of July. Dizon also said three of the four pumping stations in Sunog Apog in Tondo, Manila, are expected to be operational soon. He said the voluntary assessment by the private sector such as Prime Infra and the city government helped determine the root of the problem, and enabled the pumps to draw rainwater and garbage that clogged the pumps. "What we noticed in the past was that the approach was a band-aid, not comprehensive. Now, what we are doing, with the help of Prime Infra and local governments, is looking at the whole thing so that the solution is long-term," added Dizon. Aside from Metro Manila, the rehabilitation also covers several provinces in Northern and Central Luzon, including Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, and Tarlac, which are vulnerable to flooding. The program likewise extends to key urban centers in the Visayas and Mindanao, including the cities of Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, and Cagayan de Oro, and Maguindanao, where flood risks remain a major concern. WILLIAM DEPASUPIL

- [Three arrested for rape in Pasay](#) (2026-06-25 16:02)

A WOMAN's cry for help led to her rescue and the arrest of her three alleged rapists in Pasay City. Results of the initial investigation showed that the victim was rescued by Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) personnel after she managed to escape from her attackers Wednesday. A fourth suspect remains at large and is the subject of a police manhunt. The 24-year-old victim, a housekeeping staff member, said she attended a birthday celebration in Malibay, Pasay City, where she became drunk. Police said the victim boarded an e-bike driven by Raymond at around 6 a.m. to go home, but the suspect allegedly brought her to another location instead. The suspect allegedly met with Aaron and Simeon along F. Angeles Street in Barangay 79, Zone 10, before the victim was brought to a local lodge where she was allegedly assaulted. Police said Cristopher later arrived at the room and allegedly attempted to assault the victim, but she was able to resist. After leaving the lodge, the suspects allegedly

forced the victim onto an e-bike where she found an opportunity to escape near EDSA Rotonda and shouted for help. The victim's call for assistance caught the attention of MMDA personnel who immediately responded and brought her to Pasay Police Station Sub-Station 5 for assistance. Charges for violation of Article 266-A of the Revised Penal Code, as amended by Republic Act 8353, or the Anti-Rape Law, were being prepared against the suspects.

- [Leachon seeks TRO against his suspension](#) (2026-06-25 16:01)

DR. Anthony Leachon has requested the Pasig City Regional Trial Court to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the six-month suspension meted out to him by the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) for serious ethical violations. Leachon, an independent health advocate and a prosecution witness in the Dengvaxia case, was a former president of the PCP. He cited inconsistencies and self-contradiction in the May 2026 PCP decision to suspend him. Leachon argued that the PCP first ruled in the ethics complaint filed against him in February 2025 by former Health secretary and now Iloilo Rep. Janette Garin, Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go, Dr. Julius Leccioncs, Dr. Raymundo Lo and Maria Lourdes Santiago, that he did not violate the organization's code of ethics. He added that the PCP also ruled that the complainants failed to establish and prove that he acted in bad faith in disseminating information on the health effects of Dengvaxia, especially when he presented and cited scientific data. "Yet, despite these findings, the PCP concluded that I committed defamation and malicious attacks against fellow physicians and allied health professionals and that I deliberately made allegations and insinuations or claims of corruption and unethical practice against Dr. Hartigan-Go," Leachon said. Stressing that Garin and her co-plaintiffs were public figures whose official conduct and performance in office are legitimate subjects of public scrutiny and criticism, Leachon said his statements were neither malicious nor irresponsible and were made in good faith in connection with matters involving public accountability and public health policy. "The PCP is an institution I have served, led, and respected throughout my professional life. My decision to seek relief from the courts is not an attack on the institution, it is an appeal to the rule of law," he said. Leachon described the PCP suspension as "unfair, not measured, not proportionate and oppressive." "This case will now proceed through the courts, where I am confident the issues can be examined fairly, objectively, and independently," he added.

- [Mary Grace Piattos' an impeachment trial witness](#) (2026-06-25 16:00)

THE prosecution team has included Mary Grace Piattos — by all accounts, a fictitious name — on its list of intended witnesses for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. Mary Grace Piattos was one of many fictitious names used to liquidate public funds by the Office of the Vice President (OVP) and the Department of Education (DepEd), when Duterte was still its secretary. The signature on the Piattos acknowledgment receipt serves as evidence of fund misuse in the vice president's impeachment. Other suspicious names on the vice president's acknowledgment receipts, like Piattos, incorporated fruits, popular local snack brands, fast-food chains, bakeshops, celebrities and even tech companies. These included Chippy McDonald,

Kokoy Villamin, Xiaomi Ocho, Cannor Adrian Contis, Fernando Tempura, Jay Kamote, Miggy Mango, Joug De Asim, Amoy Liu, Fernan Amuy, Pia Piatos-Lim, Renan Piatos, May Pamana, Erwin Q. Ewan and Kristine Applegate Estrada. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) checked their national database and confirmed there were no birth, marriage or death records for anyone named “Mary Grace Piattos.” Lawmakers even offered a P1-million reward for anyone who could step forward and prove she actually existed, but no one ever came. The PSA confirmed that 1,322 out of 1,992 unique names submitted for the OVP and 405 out of 677 for DepEd had no official records, totaling over 1,700 fabricated or nonexistent names. The list of witnesses was in the pretrial brief that House prosecutors submitted last week to the Senate sitting as an impeachment court. The trial is scheduled to start this July 6. Defense unfazed The vice president’s defense team said it is not concerned by the reported inclusion of Mary Grace Piattos on the list of prosecution witnesses. Defense spokesman Michael Poa said the decision to present Piattos as a witness is entirely within the prerogative of the prosecution and carries no implication for the defense. “The presentation of witnesses is a matter for the prosecution panel to decide,” Poa said, adding that the defense remains prepared to address any testimony that may be presented during the proceedings. Poa said the defense panel is prepared to cross-examine Piattos should she be called to testify, as well as any other witnesses presented by the prosecution. He emphasized that the defense team has consistently prepared for all possible scenarios in the proceedings and will exercise its right to challenge testimonies and evidence introduced by the opposing side. Sealed BIR box On Thursday, Senate Secretary Renato Bantug Jr. said the sealed box containing the income tax records of Duterte, her husband Manases Carpio and their companies may be opened and marked during her impeachment trial. The box was submitted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) after the House subpoenaed the tax records while considering two impeachment complaints against Duterte. Although the House Committee on Justice received the box, its members voted not to open it and to leave it to the Senate impeachment court to do so during trial. But House prosecutors sought to open the sealed box for its pretrial marking of evidence. But during a briefing on Thursday, Bantug said the box will remain with the Senate impeachment court. “Based on the record that I reviewed, it’s part of the submission [of the House prosecution panel] as received by the Office of the Secretary,” Bantug said. Asked whether the box can be opened during the trial, Bantug said, “I would suppose so.” “But what I can say for certain is that in the pretrial conference, [wherein] the clerk of court presiding, that decision cannot be made. That is beyond my authority,” Bantug said. He said the prosecution panel had asked that the box be opened, inventoried and be marked. “That’s something that the pretrial conference, that the clerk of court cannot decide on.” “Although we distributed copies of the manifestation by electronic mail to the members of the impeachment court, I don’t have information if there is any discussion on it,” Bantug said. He said the pretrial conference was supposed to be finished Thursday evening. It dragged on for five days due to the voluminous documents that needed to be marked. “We’re very, very hopeful that we will be able to complete the marking of evidence tonight. Both parties will be working on the exhibits until 7 p.m. So, at this point, I am very confident that we will be able to finish [the marking],” he added. Bantug said once the pretrial conference ends “the staff work will begin for the



drafting of the pretrial order.” Asked when the pretrial order would be released, Bantug said, “I cannot estimate yet the time. But we will finish it as fast as possible. I talked to the staff, I told them that if we have to work on the weekend then we would.” The House prosecution panel said it remains confident that the controversy surrounding the sealed box would not delay the trial. Ako Bikol Saro Party-list Rep. Terry Ridon, a member of the House prosecution team, said the most important consideration at this stage is that the BIR box be officially marked as evidence for presentation during the impeachment proceedings. Ridon expressed optimism that the evidence-marking process involving the disputed box could be completed within the week, allowing the trial preparations to proceed as planned. “The critical issue is that the BIR box is properly identified and marked as evidence. Its inclusion in the prosecution’s evidence is what matters at this point,” Ridon said. No diversion

Malacañang on Thursday rejected Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano’s claim that the Marcos administration was using the impeachment trial to divert public attention from the investigation into alleged anomalies in flood control projects. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said there was no basis for Cayetano’s claim, insisting that law enforcement agencies continued to pursue those responsible for the alleged irregularities. “Who told him that the focus would only be on the vice president’s impeachment trial? We have already seen how the National Bureau of Investigation, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Department of Justice have been carrying out their work,” Castro said during a press conference. “Maybe since he likes social media, he’s busy on using Facebook, maybe he’ll see the updates on what’s going on there — how the government is working to hold the perpetrators accountable and will not focus on the impeachment trial,” she added. During a Facebook Live on Wednesday, Cayetano described the Marcos administration’s alleged shift in focus to Duterte’s impeachment trial as “selective justice.” “Because if what the administration wants is for us to forget all the other corruption issues for now and focus on the impeachment first because it is important, then that would be selective justice, wouldn’t it?” the senator said. But Castro said Duterte’s impeachment was not even included in the agenda of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s meetings with his Cabinet secretaries. She also said that the executive branch remained focused on governance and project implementation. “So where exactly is former Senate president Alan Peter Cayetano getting these stories from? Perhaps you should ask him the next time you have the chance. Although it seems he spends most of his time on Facebook, so you may not be able to reach him. But if the opportunity arises, ask him where he gets these stories,” Castro said. The Palace official also said neither the impeachment trial nor any other political issue would hamper government work, but cautioned against possible obstructionists. “What Sen. Alan Cayetano is saying is pure intrigue, baseless and unsubstantiated. So, I hope our countrymen will learn and find out who is really saying something with meaning,” she added.

- [Pre-trial conference terminated](#) (2026-06-25 13:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The pre-trial conference for the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte ended Thursday night -- with the House prosecution panel blaming the defense for the delay in terminating the procedure. The proceedings started on Thursday, June 18 and wrapped



up after a total of five working sessions. The impeachment trial proper will begin on July 6. The five-day conference revolved mainly around the preliminary marking and evaluation of documentary evidence from both parties. "I placed on record that that position of the defense actually prolonged the process of pre-marking the exhibits of both the defense and the prosecution," said Rep. Gerville Luistro, who led the House prosecution panel. In one instance, both camps had to mark about 8,000 pieces of evidence instead of 4,000 because the defense insisted on marking their documents separately even though these are the same exhibit presented by the prosecution. "So, nagiging times two 'yung dedicated time [for the marking of evidence]," Luistro said during the briefing. "We put on record our observation about the common exhibits that in spite of the willingness of the prosecution that we share the marking in the same exhibit because after all it is exactly the same, that's why we call it common exhibit, the defense maintained their position to put their marking on a separate set of documents," she said. With the termination of the pre-trial conference, the Impeachment Court will now issue the pre-trial order which serves as the guide for the holding of the impeachment trial. "We expressed our thanks and gratitude to the Impeachment Court because through the intervention of the Impeachment Court we were able to finish the marking [of evidence] especially with voluminous documents pertaining to the Article on Unexplained Wealth and the Article on Confidential Fund," said Luistro.

- [Remulla calls for stronger regulation of gun ownership](#) (2026-06-25 13:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Thursday strongly urged Congress to put stronger regulation into gun ownership to prevent further incidents of injury or killings caused by improper handling of firearms. While there are millions of gun owners in the Philippines, Remulla pointed out that the law only provides very low culpability in case of mishandling firearms. In the fatal school shooting in Tacloban, Leyte, the two minor suspects obtained guns from an aunt who is a member of the police force and a security guard. The two relentlessly shot at students killing three and injuring 20. The police woman aunt of the 14-year-old suspect was already relieved from post and is set to face malversation and administrative sanctions for negligence, while the security agency may face the revocation of its license to operate for failing to report a lost firearm. Remulla underscored that the responsibility of securing firearms rests on the adults to prevent young family members from gaining access to them. He also emphasized that gun ownership demands responsibility in its use especially in its safekeeping. "I recommend to Congress that they rewrite the IRR of gun ownership and the responsibility of owning firearms. People have to be responsible gun owners or gun operators, people have to take accountability," Remulla told reporters in a press briefing at Camp Crame. "Sa nangyaring ito wala kaming macharge dahil bitin ang batas, kailangan may liability ang mga taong ito. Kailangan may criminal liability. Lahat ng may konsensya ng humawak ng baril ay responsable sa paghawak ng kanilang mga kagamitan," Remulla said. (In this incident, we can't charge anyone because the law has frailty, these people have to have liability.)

- [Marcos ‘heartbroken’ over string of violent incidents involving youth; Torre calls for urgent intervention](#) (2026-06-25 12:54)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is “heartbroken” over the deadly school shooting in Tacloban City and other recent violent incidents involving the youth and has ordered government agencies to identify the root causes of such occurrences, Malacañang said Thursday. In a press briefing, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said the chief executive considered the growing number of youth-related violence cases “deeply alarming,” especially when children are both the perpetrators and victims. “These types of violence are no longer acceptable, especially when young people are involved,” Castro said in Filipino, referring to the Tacloban school shooting that left three dead and several others injured and the stabbing incident in General Trias in Cavite involving elementary-aged children. Marcos, Castro added, has directed concerned agencies to strengthen school safety measures nationwide and immediately investigate the factors driving youth violence. The president likewise tasked authorities to determine whether exposure to violent content, including some gaming applications, may be influencing the behavior of young people. “So, we should really see where it is coming from – if there is imitation, since this kind of violence is seemingly becoming normal,” Castro said. Meanwhile, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) General Manager Nicholas Torre III warned that youth violence needed urgent intervention and called for stronger protection measures. Torre said the incidents should not be treated as separate cases but as warning signs of deeper issues affecting young people. He said violence among young people often developed from unresolved conflicts, bullying, humiliation, unmanaged anger, and situations where students feel they have no one to turn to. Torre said schools and communities needed stronger systems to identify students who may be struggling before conflicts escalated into violence. He called for improved anti-bullying programs, intervention mechanisms, and accessible support channels for students facing threats, isolation, or distress. “We cannot wait until a child is stabbed, beaten, or driven to harm himself before we decide to act,” Torre said. Torre added that protecting children requires shared responsibility from parents, schools, communities, online platforms, and government. “Our children deserve more than condolences after every tragedy. They deserve protection before it happens,” he said.

- [PNP eyes stronger ties with DepEd for police presence in schools](#) (2026-06-25 12:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday said it is looking to enhance collaboration with the Department of Education (DepEd) by encouraging weekly police participation in school flag-raising ceremonies and educational activities as part of efforts to promote safer campuses and deter crime through sustained visibility and engagement. “Our goal is not to police the classroom but to build trust and provide a sense of security,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said in a statement Thursday. “When students regularly see police officers during flag ceremonies and school activities, they are reminded that law enforcement is part of the community, and that police are always ready to help,” he added. The proposal came after the June 22 shooting incident inside a school in Tacloban City resulted in

the deaths of three students and injury of 20 more. Nartatez said regular police visibility can serve as both a deterrent and a bridge between law enforcers and the youth. According to Nartatez, police officers who participate in flag ceremonies often help lead students in reciting the "Panatang Makabayan" and engage with learners before returning to their regular assignments. Nartatez clarified that the initiative does not involve routine patrol operations inside school grounds. Instead, the PNP is looking to strengthen coordination with DepEd officials, school administrators, and local government units to institutionalize voluntary police participation in school safety activities while respecting the learning environment and the authority of school officials. "Visibility can discourage criminal acts but more importantly, it encourages students to approach us, report concerns early, and become partners in keeping their schools safe," Nartatez said. Nartatez said the PNP will continue discussions with DepEd and other stakeholders to explore practical measures that can improve campus safety while maintaining schools as welcoming spaces for learning. The Philippine Army (PA), meanwhile, expressed willingness to support the PNP in police security efforts when called upon by proper authorities. "The PA's role, if required, will be in support of the PNP and other civilian agencies, in accordance with the existing laws," Army spokesperson Col. Louie Dema-ala said. Dema-ala clarified that the primary responsibility for maintaining peace and order, including securing schools against threats, rests with the PNP.

- [Marcos brings 'Bawat Bayan Makikinabang' initiative to South Cotabato](#) (2026-06-25 12:42)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday led the delivery of government services to vulnerable communities in South Cotabato through his administration's Bawat Bayan Makikinabang program. The said event aims to expedite the delivery of assistance from the national government to local governments and communities as the province is still reeling from the effects of the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that jolted Mindanao earlier this month. Under the program, the Office of the President distributed 40 million pesos to 200 barangays in South Cotabato and 96 million pesos to 480 barangays in Cotabato Province. "Because even though there is no more earthquake, we need to assess the various infrastructures, those that can still be used, those that can no longer be used, and what other needs there are," Marcos said. "Currently, we are providing cash transfers because the relief phase is over and we have entered, we have been able to provide food assistance," he added. The chief executive further gave reassurance that the process for releasing quick response funds (QRF) are more streamlined to ensure the needs of the people would be immediately provided. The direct funding mechanism is expected to improve efficiency in implementing local projects. "Because if we go through the national government again, you know that when it goes through the national government, we will send more people, they will send assessors, they will interview you. It takes a long time," Marcos said. "So, just ask the local government. That's what we did. We just gave the funds to the local government and I told them, you take care of it," he added.

- [67% of Filipinos willing to donate kidneys — survey](#) (2026-06-25 12:27)

MANILA, Philippines — About 67 percent of adult Filipinos are willing to donate their kidneys to help a family member recover, according to a study released on Thursday. The Octa Research was commissioned by the National Transplant Ethics Committee (NTEC) and the Philippine Organ Donation and Transplantation Program-Philippine Network for Organ Sharing (PODTP-Philnos) for the National Organ and Blood Donation Awareness Week. The study noted that the willingness to donate their kidneys was highest among individuals from socioeconomic class ABC—at 78 percent—and those aged 35 to 44—at 79 percent. Even among the lower-income Class E group, 66 percent expressed their willingness to donate.

- [Palace denies Cayetano claim of using impeachment trial to cover up flood control mess](#) (2026-06-25 11:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Thursday rejected Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano's claim that the Marcos administration was using the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte to divert public attention from the investigation into alleged anomalies in flood control projects. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said there was no basis for Cayetano's claim, insisting that law enforcement agencies continued to pursue those responsible for the alleged irregularities. "Who told him that the focus would only be on the vice president's impeachment trial? We have already seen how the National Bureau of Investigation, the Office of the Ombudsman, and the Department of Justice have been carrying out their work," Castro said during a press conference. Castro said Duterte's impeachment was not even included in the agenda of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s meetings with his Cabinet secretaries. "So where exactly is former Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano getting these stories from? Perhaps you should ask him the next time you have the chance. Although it seems he spends most of his time on Facebook, so you may not be able to reach him. But if the opportunity arises, ask him where he gets these stories," she said.

- [Cabinet convenes to finalize 2027 priority spending](#) (2026-06-25 11:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Executive Secretary Ralph Recto convened key Cabinet officials to review the implementation of their agencies' respective budgets for this year and to finalize priority spending for 2027, as the government works to accelerate service delivery, Malacañang said Thursday. Recto led the whole-of-government budget review meeting on Monday, in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to regularly monitor national budget utilization. The meeting was also held to address implementation delays and ensure that public funds are used effectively to deliver the greatest benefits to the people, the Office of the Executive Secretary said in a statement. "We need to closely track the execution of the 2026 budget and finalize the 2027 national budget," Recto said during the meeting. "Let us get our act together and ensure that our programs and projects are delivered faster in the second half of the year," he added.

- [Filipino-Canadian nurse-turned-comedian makes it to Forbes' top 50 creators with multimillion dollar earnings](#) (2026-06-25 10:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Filipino Canadian content creator John Dela Cruz, known as Nurse John, reached 29th place among the 50 top creators by Forbes magazine. Dela Cruz had earnings of \$7.2 million, with 19.2 million total followers and an average engagement at 12.97 percent. “The Canadian nurse-turned-comedian has turned hospital burnout into a multimillion-dollar stand-up career. Dela Cruz, who worked as a frontline nurse during Covid-19, began posting TikToks as a way to cope with the chaos of hospital life. His Short-Staffed Tour has sold more than 250,000 tickets since the fall of 2024, including sold-out runs in Australia and New Zealand. His 2026 spring extension, spanning 22 shows across Europe, sold out instantly, and has appeared at Netflix’s a Joke, the New York Comedy Festival and Just for Laughs,” Forbes said. The list was topped by MrBeast, who had earnings of \$300 million, a total follower count of 873 million and an average engagement of 3 percent. “To make the 2026 quantitative list, Forbes estimated each creator’s gross earnings between March 2025 and March 2026. We count earnings, not equity held in public and private companies. Our partners at Influential provided follower counts across social platforms and engagement rates (likes, comments and shares divided by total followers),” the magazine said on its website.

- [UAE grants visa-on-arrival to Filipinos](#) (2026-06-25 10:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Filipinos are eligible for the grant of a visa-on-arrival by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) if they possess valid visas from 34 countries. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said the UAE's visa upon arrival scheme would take effect on June 25. “The visa-on-arrival privilege extended to Filipino citizens by the UAE was in view of the excellent bilateral relations between the Philippines and the UAE,” the DFA said in a statement on Wednesday. Filipino citizens traveling to the UAE using their Philippine passports and possessing a valid visa, residence permit, or Green Card issued by any of the following countries: United States, European Union member- states, Australia, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Canada, and New Zealand, “shall be eligible for the grant of a visa-on-arrival by the UAE,” the DFA said. For those intending to stay in UAE for 14 days, they need to pay 100 AED (Arab Emirates Dirham). The visa may be extended for an additional 14 days at a fee of 250 AED. For those wanting to stay for 60 days, they have to pay 250 AED. However, it is no longer extendable.

- [NBI files qualified human trafficking charges vs former lawmaker, wife over Pasig KTV operation](#) (2026-06-25 10:06)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has filed qualified human trafficking charges on Thursday against former lawmaker Mike Defensor, his wife Julie Rose Defensor, and other personalities linked to a KTV establishment in Pasig City that was raided over alleged sexual exploitation activities involving women. NBI Director Melvin Matibag said during a media briefing that the complaint was based on evidence gathered during the April raid, including documents, corporate records, and findings from the rescue operation involving more than 50 alleged victims. Matibag presented photos and other evidence recovered from the establishment, including pregnancy test kits that he said were allegedly used to determine

whether female workers had become pregnant. He said the NBI considered the women vulnerable because many were single mothers seeking employment and income, making them susceptible to exploitation. The NBI chief rejected claims that no trafficking occurred because the women were not physically forced, saying exploitation could also happen through economic vulnerability and the circumstances surrounding their employment. “They are not just numbers. They are the reason why we are here,” Matibag said, referring to the alleged victims and stressing that the bureau pursued the case to hold those responsible accountable. The NBI also presented its findings on the ownership and control structure of companies allegedly connected to the establishment, saying the Defensor family maintained control through ownership interests and corporate positions. Matibag said records from the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that control of CliffPoint Development Corporation was linked to Pax Libera Mining, which the NBI claimed was also controlled by the Defensor family. He said Mike Defensor, Julie Rose Defensor, and their family members held key positions in the companies, describing the arrangement as an “interlocking directorate” where ownership and management remained within the family. According to Matibag, Defensor’s direct ownership in CliffPoint may have decreased over the years, but the NBI found that control remained through related corporations. “The form and structure may have changed, but control remained with the Defensor couple and their family,” Matibag said. The NBI said the charges against the couple were filed under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, citing provisions covering qualified trafficking, liability of corporate officers, alleged syndicate involvement, and the large number of alleged victims. Matibag said the corporate structure itself formed part of the evidence because it allegedly showed who had control over the operation. The NBI chief also addressed accusations from Defensor that the investigation was politically motivated, saying the bureau relied on official documents and evidence gathered during the investigation. He said allegations against investigators would not erase the evidence presented by the NBI. Regarding reports of illegal drugs found during the raid, Matibag said individuals allegedly caught using prohibited substances had already been charged, while other possible liabilities connected to the establishment remained under investigation. Matibag said additional officials linked to the companies would be identified when the formal case documents were released. He reminded the public that the respondents remained presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court. “No one is above the law,” Matibag said, adding that the NBI would continue pursuing those allegedly responsible based on evidence regardless of their status or influence.

• [Tropical Storm 'Gardo' enters but won't make landfall — Pagasa](#) (2026-06-25 09:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Tropical Storm “Gardo” has entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) but will remain far from the landmass throughout its forecast period, the state weather agency said on Thursday. Nathaniel Servando, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) chief, said Gardo, the seventh storm to hit the country in 2026, was estimated at 1,400 kilometers east of extreme Northern Luzon. Moving westward at 45 kilometers per hour (kph), the tropical storm has maximum sustained winds of 85kph near the center and gustiness of up to 105kph. Likely to move north-northwestward to



northward, it would then exit PAR either by Friday morning or afternoon, Servando said. Meanwhile, the Pagasa administrator said Severe Tropical Storm "Francisco" was still within PAR but was expected to exit within the next six hours. Forecast to further weaken, Francisco, which affected the provinces of Batanes and Cagayan, would be downgraded to a tropical storm as it leaves the PAR region, the national weather bureau said

- [Ombudsman orders Cayetano, Padilla, Senate sergeant-at-arms to answer obstruction of justice complaint](#) (2026-06-25 09:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman has ordered Senators Alan Peter Cayetano and Robinhood Ferdinand Padilla, as well as former acting Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Mao Aplasca to answer the complaint filed against them for alleged obstruction of justice. The Ombudsman gave the three senators a non-extendible period of 15 days from receipt of its order within which to submit their counter-affidavits. "If the respondents do not file their counter-affidavits within the reglementary period despite due notice, or cannot be served with or refuses to receive this order to file counter-affidavit, the complaint shall be deemed submitted for resolution and no further pleadings or documents shall be entertained," it said. The complaint was filed earlier this month by Francis Joseph Aquino Dee et al. in connection with the "escape" of Sen. Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa.

- [DFA: No report of Filipinos injured in the twin strong earthquakes in Venezuela](#) (2026-06-25 06:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said there were no reports of Filipinos injured during the two strong earthquakes that shook Venezuela on Thursday morning. The DFA, through the Philippine Embassy in Bogota, is closely monitoring the situation in Venezuela following two powerful back-to-back tremors that hit its northern coast. The BBC reported that the magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 quakes -- which occurred just seconds apart -- caused panic in the capital, Caracas. "As of this writing, no reports of injuries or casualties were received from Filipino nationals in Venezuela," DFA spokesman Analyn Ratonel said in a statement. "There are an estimated 74 Filipinos in Venezuela, many of them are religious missionaries," she said. The embassy is in touch with Filipinos in Caracas, and in the city of Barinas. "They have been advised to shelter safely in place and monitor local news for updates," Ratonel said.

- [Impeachment prosecutors include Mary Grace Piattos in list of intended witnesses](#) (2026-06-25 04:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The prosecution team included Mary Grace Piattos on its list of intended witnesses for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. The list was in the pre-trial brief the prosecution submitted last week to the Senate sitting as an impeachment court. The trial will start this July 6. 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 articles of impeachment 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 and sent the impeachment articles to the House plenary for action.

- [Visayas placed on yellow alert as major power plants remain offline](#) (2026-06-25 01:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) placed the Visayas grid under yellow alert on Thursday afternoon amid reduced generating capacity caused by outages at several power plants and rising electricity demand. In an advisory, NGCP said the yellow alert would be in effect from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. on June 25. Available capacity in the Visayas grid was projected at 2,504 megawatts (MW), only 146 MW above the expected peak demand of 2,358 MW. A yellow alert is issued when the operating margin falls below the transmission grid's contingency requirement, indicating that power supply reserves are thin but sufficient to meet expected demand. NGCP attributed the alert to the unavailability of three large coal-fired power units, TVI 1, TVI 2 and PEDC 3, as well as higher demand forecasts. The grid operator reported that 10 power plants were on forced outage in June alone. An additional eight plants have remained offline since May, one since March, three since 2025, two since 2024, two since 2023, and one since 2021. Meanwhile, 16 generating units were operating at reduced capacities. In total, about 1,030.5 MW of generation capacity was unavailable to the Visayas grid due to plant outages and deratings. The yellow alert highlights the continuing vulnerability of the Visayas power system to supply disruptions, particularly when major baseload plants are unavailable during periods of elevated demand. Power stakeholders have repeatedly emphasized the need for additional generation capacity and improved reliability of existing plants to ensure sufficient reserves and avoid tighter supply conditions that could lead to red alerts and possible service interruptions. No rotational power interruptions had been announced as of Thursday morning.

- [‘Francisco’ downgraded into severe tropical storm; Batanes still under Signal No. 1](#) (2026-06-25 01:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Tropical Cyclone "Francisco" has been downgraded into a severe tropical storm as it was forecast to exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) either Thursday afternoon or evening, according to the state weather bureau. Weather specialist Leanne Loreto of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in a 5 a.m. briefing that Signal No. 1 remained hoisted over Batanes. Moving north-northeastward, the severe tropical storm was estimated at 415 kilometers northeast of Itbayat, Batanes while packing maximum sustained winds of 100 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 125kph, she said. Meanwhile, the Pagasa forecaster said Tropical Storm "Higos" (international name) has been forecast to enter PAR within the day but would also exit the region Friday morning. "Higos would be renamed 'Gardo' for its domestic name and would be the seventh storm to hit the country this year," Loreto said. Over the next 24 hours, the state-run weather agency said most parts of Luzon and the Visayas would be affected by the southwest monsoon or "habagat" which would

bring occasional and scattered rains and thunderstorms. On one hand, Mindanao will be experiencing partly cloudy to overcast skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to the effect of the localized thunderstorms, it added.

- [De Lima remembers PNoy on death anniversary](#) (2026-06-24 19:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima on Wednesday thanked the late president Benigno "Noy" Aquino 3rd as she paid tribute to him on his death anniversary. "One of my regrets in life is that I was not able to talk to PNoy more after his term ended because of the circumstances behind my control", de Lima said in a statement. Recalling her detention that started in 2017, she said Aquino was able to visit her several times but that their catch-up "was very limited." De Lima was detained until her release on bail in 2023. Her detention stemmed from drug-related charges, filed in court in 2017, of which she has been cleared. "I was still in detention when PNoy died in 2021. It was deeply saddening to have lost a great leader and dear friend. What made it even more heartbreaking was that I was not able to attend his wake to pay my final respects", she said. The lawmaker said today "is even more meaningful" as she also remembered that she was cleared of all the charges against her exactly two years ago. "While I may not be able to thank him personally anymore, my deepest gratitude for giving me strength and making me feel back then that I was not alone is always included in my prayers and remembrance of him", she said in Filipino. "There are many things that can be said about PNoy, but I can summarize it to being good, good humored, simple, compassionate and most of all, being a faithful leader who sacrificed himself to serve Filipinos and value the interest of the Philippines", she said. "Thank you, PNoy", said de Lima who closed her statement with "We miss you, Sir...".

- [Muntinlupa joins DOE solar energy program](#) (2026-06-24 19:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Muntinlupa City Mayor Ruffy Biazon on Wednesday said the city government has partnered with the Department of Energy (DOE) and other local government units to support the shift toward renewable energy in public facilities. Biazon said Muntinlupa, together with mayors from Parañaque, Pateros, Caloocan, Malabon, and Las Piñas, signed a memorandum of agreement with the DOE for the implementation of the Solar Solutions for Government – Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Public Building (SSG-ERP) program. The initiative aims to help local governments shift toward the use of solar energy and other energy-efficient technologies. Under the agreement, participating LGUs will receive technical assistance and a demonstration project from the DOE for the installation of a 30 kWp grid-tied Solar PV System in public buildings they nominated. Biazon said the program is part of the national government's effort to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. He said Muntinlupa has been trying to lead by example by adopting renewable energy solutions in government facilities. "For a long time, we have installed solar panels in our different facilities, and we are also using electric vehicles," Biazon said. Biazon said the city will continue supporting initiatives aimed at creating energy-efficient cities.

- [Remulla supports amending juvenile justice law](#) (2026-06-24 18:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Wednesday said he supports the amendment of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act following the recent series of school violence that happened almost successively in the past weeks. “Yes I am,” Remulla told reporters in an interview when asked if he’s agreeable to amending the minimum age of criminal responsibility. According to Remulla, their studies show that juveniles are being used as drug couriers because of the general provision of the law that spares minors, aged 15 and below from criminal liability. The interior chief would have to review the possible amendments with Congress along with the preferred age of responsibility. Under Republic Act No. 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006, a child fifteen years of age or under at the time of the commission of the offense shall be exempt from criminal liability. However, the child shall be subjected to an intervention program. Whereas a child above 15 years but below 18 shall likewise be exempt from criminal liability and subject to intervention program, unless he/she has acted with discernment. In such a case, a child shall be subjected to appropriate proceedings as dictated by law. Shortly after the incident, Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan, principal author of the law clarified that it does not give children in conflict with the law a blanket immunity from crimes, pushing back against criticisms that it acts as a jail escape card. “The law does not excuse criminal acts committed by minors. Accountability remains in place through intervention, rehabilitation, and appropriate legal processes,” he emphasized. Sen. Robin Padilla, a staunch advocate of amending the law proposes to lower criminal responsibility to 10 years old. This targets minors aged 10-17 involved in heinous crimes allowing them to be subjected to criminal prosecution.

- [P1.7B illegal cigarettes seized in anti-smuggling operation](#) (2026-06-24 16:31)

A JOINT operation by the Bureau of Customs (BOC), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) intercepted 23 containers of smuggled cigarettes worth an estimated P1.7 billion, marking one of the largest anti-smuggling seizures this year. Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said on Wednesday that the operation was conducted on June 22 following intelligence information provided by the NBI. “Immediately, I ordered enforcement action, triggering a coordinated inspection and interdiction effort involving several government agencies,” added Nepomuceno. The raiding team accounted for all 24 containers linked to the shipment during the operation. Sixteen containers were located at a private shipping facility in Tondo, Manila, while four were found aboard the vessel ASC Big Boy. Four containers had already been dispatched to different warehouses before the authorities moved in. Three of the dispatched containers were recovered, while efforts are ongoing to locate the remaining container. The vessel ASC Big Boy has since been placed under the custody of the Coast Guard. Initial inspection showed that 23 containers contained cigarettes without the required tax stamps, a violation confirmed by the BIR. Authorities estimated the shipment contained around 29,900 master cases of cigarettes with a total value of P1.716 billion. Investigators found that the cargo had been misdeclared as consumer goods before being loaded at Pier 7 in Cebu and transported to a private wharf in Tondo. The shipment may have violated provisions of the

Customs Modernization and Tariff Act on misdeclaration and unlawful importation, as well as the National Internal Revenue Code, covering excisable goods without payment of taxes and without proper tax stamps. Authorities are conducting a full inventory and valuation of these seized goods as investigations and case build-up continue against those behind the smuggling operation.

- [Group: Online regulation will protect youth](#) (2026-06-24 16:30)

THE Kapisanan ng Social Media Broadcasters ng Pilipinas Inc. (KSMBPI) has renewed its call for the creation of a National Social Media Regulatory Board (NSMRB), saying it is crucial in protecting the youth against cyberbullying, violent content, online manipulation and other harmful materials on the internet. KSMBPI founding chairman Michael Raymond Aragon urged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to back the creation of a regulatory body. This comes following the shooting incident at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City on June 22 that left three students dead and 20 others injured. The perpetrators are two male minors, ages 14 and 15. One was a Grade 9 student at the school, while the other was an outsider.” Amid the senseless shooting spree propagated by minors last Monday morning at the San Jose National High School in Tacloban, we are now asking the government’s most crucial support for a law creating the NSMRB to immediately address the clear and present danger of unregulated social media in the country today,” Aragon said in an interview. Aragon said initial findings from the Philippine National Police, Department of Education and local authorities pointed to a combination of personal struggles, alleged bullying experiences and possible exposure to harmful online content as among the factors being examined in the case. He said investigators found that the two minor suspects experienced prolonged bullying since Grade 7, which authorities were looking into as a possible factor behind their reported plan for retaliation.” The PNP even revealed that the suspects were heavily influenced by online videos of gun violence,” Aragon said, adding that one of the suspects was also reportedly exposed to violent online gaming content. Aragon said the incident showed the need for stronger accountability mechanisms for digital platforms, particularly in addressing content moderation failures, cyberbullying, deepfakes and algorithm-driven systems that may amplify harmful material among vulnerable users. He said the proposed NSMRB would provide a government framework to monitor emerging online threats while ensuring that social media companies take greater responsibility in protecting users, especially minors. Aragon added that his group had earlier submitted a draft executive order seeking the creation of the regulatory body but was advised that a Republic Act would provide stronger legal footing, including clearer enforcement powers and penalties for violations. The proposal was later brought before Congress, but Aragon said it is yet to be acted upon. He maintained that the creation of the NSMRB is not intended to restrict legitimate online expression but to establish safeguards against abuses and risks that continue to emerge as digital platforms become more influential in everyday life.” Social media has become a powerful tool for communication and information, but without proper regulation, it can also become a channel for harmful content and manipulation,” Aragon said.

- [DOLE, Sweden push workers' safety](#) (2026-06-24 16:29)

THE Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Sweden vowed to promote safer workplaces, stronger industries and sustainable economic growth through continued collaboration and innovation. In a forum organized by the Swedish Embassy in partnership with Business Sweden and in coordination with DOLE, officials focused on finding solutions to occupational safety and health challenges in various sectors. At the center of discussions was the need to protect workers exposed to hazardous working conditions. One of the key presentations came from Alimak, a Swedish company specializing in vertical access solutions for industrial facilities and construction sites. It highlighted the dangers associated with working at heights, which remains one of the leading safety concerns across industries worldwide. The firm shared how best global practices and more efficient access systems can significantly reduce workplace accidents and improve worker protection. The importance of strengthening capacity-building programs that would help inspectors and frontline personnel adopt international safety standards and modern safety technologies was also discussed. Swedish Ambassador Anna Ferry underscored the vital role of the private sector in advancing sustainable development, particularly in achieving decent work and economic growth. She stressed that corporate social responsibility begins with ensuring fair treatment, safe working conditions, and respect for workers' rights. According to Ferry, Swedish companies have become global leaders in innovation and sustainability by integrating good labor practices, environmental responsibility, renewable energy solutions, and anti-corruption measures into their operations. She emphasized that responsible business practices are not only morally sound but also make good business sense by creating long-term value for companies and communities alike. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino stressed the importance of intensified workplace safety inspections and occupational hazard response efforts. He reported that the labor department is boosting the capabilities of its Occupational Safety and Health Center through partnerships with local government units for community-level distribution of personal protective equipment. This, he added, was augmented by collaboration with the Armed Forces of the Philippines on rescue training programs. Labor Undersecretary Felipe Egargo Jr. said DOLE is embedding workplace safety into project planning, particularly in the transportation, construction and shipping sectors, while expanding high-impact inspections in high-risk workplaces.

- [Mother of school shooting fatality seeks justice](#) (2026-06-24 16:12)

TACLOBAN CITY — The mother of one of the three students killed in the San Jose National High School shooting has called for stricter accountability for minors involved in serious crimes, saying the tragedy that claimed her daughter's life should serve as a wake-up call for authorities. Jennelyn Badoria, mother of 15-year-old Joyancee Separa, said in an exclusive interview with The Manila Times that she hopes the government will review existing laws on juvenile offenders as younger individuals are increasingly becoming involved in violent crimes. "I want the law to be enforced so that minors involved in serious crimes will be held accountable for their actions because we are seeing younger and younger individuals committing acts of violence," Badoria said. She said many young offenders appear to believe

they will not be punished because of their age, making them less hesitant to commit acts of violence against others. “For me, there should be stricter accountability for minors, especially if they fully understand the gravity of what they have done,” she added. Separa, a Grade 9 student, was among the three fatalities in Monday’s shooting and was reportedly recording a video of the incident when she was struck by gunfire. According to information released by authorities, the 15-year-old was the second of three siblings and had dreamed of becoming an honor student. “Like what happened to my child, her life can no longer be brought back, so I hope there will be just punishment for those who commit such crimes,” Badoria said.

- [Public trust restored in Manila, Moreno says](#) (2026-06-24 16:12)

MANILA Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso said a year after he was reelected as mayor, public trust and investor confidence in the city has been restored. In his State of the City Address during Manila’s 455th founding anniversary on June 24, Domagoso highlighted the city’s improved fiscal situation after inheriting over P14.6-billion unpaid obligations from the previous administration. “Through disciplined fiscal management, we turned debt into stability and stability into better service for every Manilan,” Domagoso said. On top of the said billions in unpaid obligations, there were also unpaid bills to garbage contractors and utility providers, as well as a City Hall budget strained by years of accumulated financial pressure. Domagoso highlighted the increase in business registration, which saw a 332-percent rise. Business renewals also saw a significant increase of over 105 percent. “A city grows when people believe in it again. Today, Manila is growing because confidence has returned. And when trust returns, investments follow, opportunities multiply and progress becomes unstoppable,” he said. Private investment in construction projects approved by the Office of the Building Official also grew significantly, from P2.7 billion under the previous administration to P9.3 billion in the first year of the current term. The city government also reported improvements in revenue collection efficiency, which rose from 62.9 percent under the previous administration to 90.3 percent in the first year of the current term. Total revenue collection increased from P15.5 billion to P19.2 billion, or 24 percent, despite challenges posed by global oil price fluctuations and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. “We inherited P14.6 billion commercial debts, but we delivered results and never compromised the services our people deserved. Every peso was managed with discipline, every obligation was met with accountability, and every decision was guided by service to every Manileño,” Domagoso said. The mayor also reported collecting more than P309 million in contractor’s taxes after the city pursued flood control contractors operating in Manila. He said the effort was undertaken independently of ongoing national investigations into alleged anomalies in flood control projects. Domagoso attributed part of the administration’s accomplishments to cooperation between the executive and legislative branches of the city government. “When the executive and legislative branches work as one, every decision becomes faster, every policy becomes stronger and every Manileño benefits,” he said. “Our aspiration to Make Manila Great Again begins with healthier children, better schools, decent homes and quality health care for every Manilan family,” he added, citing initiatives such as the One Smart TV, One Laptop, One Classroom program for public schools



and the expanded YorMilk feeding program.

- [PNP probe of Ateneo drowning almost done'](#) (2026-06-24 16:10)

THE police are set to complete their investigation into the drowning of two Ateneo varsity basketball players and could file charges before the Department of Justice (DOJ) on Friday, Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said on Wednesday. Remulla said the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) has nearly completed its case buildup after conducting interviews with close to 100 people and gathering more than 1,200 pages of testimonies during the two-week investigation. The CIDG is “conclusive and very confident” about the evidence gathered for the case, he said. The remaining steps involve interviews with a few more individuals, including former players and representatives from Ateneo management, to complete the investigation. “On Friday, we will submit this to the DOJ for the filing of charges. Just wait for the final review, and we will explain to you what we found in this investigation,” Remulla said. The DILG earlier tasked the CIDG to investigate the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Ateneo student-athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili in Dipaculao, Aurora, on June 8. The probe also includes determining possible violations of Republic Act 11053, or the Anti-Hazing Act of 2018. Remulla on Wednesday said business tycoon Manny Pangilinan will also be summoned by the CIDG. Ateneo president Fr. Roberto Yap faced CIDG investigators on Wednesday. For nearly two weeks, the CIDG had summoned various individuals, mostly players, coaching staff and university officials to answer questions about the drowning of Baterbonia and Adili during a team building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora, on June 8. The PNP earlier said Ateneo’s basketball program is autonomous from the university and is managed by the foundation of Smart Communications owned by Pangilinan. Investigators, the PNP said, are looking into the culpability of the university as well as Smart Communications in the drowning incident. Show-cause order Meanwhile, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has issued a show-cause order to the Ateneo de Manila University after it failed to provide an incident report and documents regarding its own investigation into the deaths of Baterbonia and Adili. In a statement late Tuesday night, the commission said its National Capital Region office directed Ateneo to submit the necessary documents and reports after its meeting last June 9. It added that it made repeated requests for these documents “given the seriousness of the incident and the commission’s responsibility to ascertain the facts and determine compliance with applicable regulations.” “Despite follow-ups by CHED-NCR, the university failed to provide the required records and information,” the commission said. Because of this, CHED issued a show-cause order on June 16, which mandates Ateneo to submit a written explanation under oath on why the commission should not impose appropriate sanctions within 10 days from receipt of its order. CHED said it cannot allow matters involving the loss of student lives and questions of institutional accountability to remain unaddressed, stressing that higher education institutions are expected to cooperate fully with regulatory processes, particularly in incidents involving student safety and welfare.

- [Prosecutors seek to open sealed box with VP's tax records](#) (2026-06-24 16:10)



HOUSE prosecutors in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte want to open a sealed box containing her tax records, as well as those of her husband Manases Carpio and their companies, Rep. Leila de Lima said on Wednesday. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) submitted the sealed box to the House Committee on Justice in response to a subpoena, but members of the panel eventually voted 38-6 to keep the box sealed due to privacy concerns. The majority decided to err on the side of caution to protect the procedural integrity of the case, choosing to leave the box sealed and turn it over to the Senate to handle when the case advanced to an impeachment trial. Now that the case is in the exhibit-marking stage, the prosecution believes it is appropriate to open the container and conduct an inventory of its contents. “We think that will aid in a more efficient and expeditious conduct of the trial if it can be opened now during the pretrial stage,” de Lima said.

**Pretrial measures** The proposal was one of four pretrial measures that House prosecutors sought to streamline proceedings and ensuring a more efficient conduct of trial. Speaking to reporters, de Lima said these measures were the use of Filipino and English during witness examinations; the participation of both public and private prosecutors in presenting witnesses; the adoption of a reciprocal three-day disclosure rule; and the opening of the sealed BIR box. De Lima said the use of either Filipino or English — or both — during direct, cross and redirect examinations would make the proceedings more accessible to the public. “This is a very public proceeding and a public trial,” she said. “It would be better if more people understood what was happening.” She added that the occasional use of Filipino would help viewers and listeners better comprehend the testimonies and arguments presented in court. Because some witnesses are expected to provide extensive testimony covering a wide range of issues, it would be practical for both public and private prosecutors to handle different aspects of the questioning, de Lima said. Under the proposal, a witness may be presented by a public prosecutor, a private prosecutor or by both working together, depending on the nature and scope of the testimony. De Lima clarified that the third proposal did not originate from the prosecution but was instead requested by the defense. She noted that the prosecution’s witnesses and documentary evidence have already been identified in pretrial filings and marked in advance, making surprise witnesses unlikely. “We think they already know who our witnesses are and what the evidence is because these are all contained in the pretrial brief,” she said. Nevertheless, the prosecution agreed to the arrangement to avoid procedural disputes and delays that could hamper the progress of the case. The measure, she said, is intended to eliminate claims of “surprise witnesses” and ensure that the trial proceeds without unnecessary technical objections. The court has yet to rule on the prosecution’s requests.

**Defense response** The defense panel said they will submit a formal response to the prosecution’s manifestation after receiving the document on Wednesday morning. Speaking to reporters, Michael Poa, a member of the defense team, confirmed that they had only briefly reviewed the prosecution’s filing due to the continuing document-marking activities. “We just received it this morning. We haven’t read it in detail yet because we’ve been occupied with the marking process. But we will formally respond to the manifestation,” the defense lawyer said. Poa said the primary concern remains the completion of the pretrial conference in time for the scheduled start of trial on July 6. The lawyer noted that procedural adjustments have

accelerated the review of evidence and documents. Under Article II, two separate groups are now conducting document marking simultaneously, a move expected to significantly reduce processing time. “They’re pretty confident that they’ll be done by tomorrow,” the lawyer said, referring to the document-marking teams. The defense also reported improvements in the pace of document review under Article I, with both sides implementing additional measures to expedite proceedings. “We’re really working hard so that we don’t have to extend the pretrial conference too much,” the lawyer said. To meet the target timeline, document marking was scheduled to continue until 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Thousands of documents. Despite efforts to speed up the process, the defense acknowledged the challenges posed by the sheer volume of evidence being examined. “There are around 4,000 documents from the prosecution, and there’s a similar number from the defense,” the lawyer said. The documents include acknowledgment receipts, reports and other supporting records that must be individually reviewed and marked. Because of the extensive documentation, the defense declined to guarantee that all pretrial activities would be completed by Thursday. Nevertheless, both parties are reportedly committed to concluding the pretrial conference as quickly as possible. BIR box. The defense also addressed questions regarding a sealed BIR box and whether its contents could become part of the proceedings. The lawyer maintained that the issue is separate from the impeachment case and reiterated the defense’s position that only actions allegedly committed during Duterte’s tenure as vice president may be considered in the proceedings. Citing the Supreme Court’s ruling in Duterte versus House of Representatives, the defense argued that impeachable offenses must involve acts committed while the public official occupied an impeachable office. “Our main contention is that anything before her term as vice president does not constitute an impeachable offense and therefore should be excluded from the proceedings,” the lawyer said. He declined to comment further on the opening of the BIR box. Delays possible. The scheduled impeachment trial may face delays if the Senate impeachment court’s timetable is not met, as both the prosecution and defense panels continue to grapple with extensive pretrial preparations. Under the timeline set by the Senate, which is sitting as an impeachment court, the pretrial conference should conclude by June 25. However, both parties acknowledged that completing the process within the prescribed period remains challenging due to the volume of documents that need to be reviewed, organized and marked as evidence. Members of both the prosecution and defense panels said the painstaking process of sorting thousands of pages of documents and identifying exhibits has slowed proceedings, raising concerns that the schedule for the formal trial may be affected. The defense panel also dismissed reports that the pace of the proceedings was being hampered by a shortage of lawyers on Vice President Duterte’s legal team. Poa said the vice president’s camp has a complete roster of lawyers and support staff handling the case. “We are fully staffed. The challenge is the sheer volume of work that needs to be completed during the pretrial conference,” Poa said. He added that the defense team is prepared to extend its working hours and continue proceedings through Saturday, if necessary, to ensure that all pretrial requirements are completed ahead of the scheduled convening of the impeachment trial.

- [NBI to file human trafficking charge against Defensor](#) (2026-06-24 16:09)

THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said it would file a human trafficking complaint against former lawmaker Mike Defensor in connection with alleged sexual exploitation activities at a Pasig City KTV bar linked to his family. NBI Director Melvin Matibag said the complaint against Defensor would be filed on Friday before the Pasig City Prosecutor's Office after evidence linking him to the establishment's operations was collated. Matibag said an initial probe showed that Defensor was aware of the alleged illegal activities in the establishment. Defensor has denied the allegations, describing them as politically motivated. Matibag has rejected Defensor's claim that the investigation was politically motivated, saying it was based on verified reports and evidence. The NBI earlier filed complaints against Defensor's wife, Julie Rose Defensor, and their son, Miguel Gabriel Defensor, over alleged violations of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and other related offenses. In an earlier statement, the NBI said authorities raided the establishment, resulting in the rescue of more than 50 women and the arrest of several individuals. Investigators alleged that the women were recruited for supposed entertainment work but were subjected to sexual exploitation activities. Authorities alleged that the KTV bar is connected to Bleu Hotel. The hotel was later shut down by Pasig City over alleged involvement in human trafficking and prostitution, with the filing of criminal complaints pending. The NBI said it is looking into possible violations of the National Building Code after investigators found structural changes, including concealed doors, hidden stairways and private rooms in the establishment, which may have facilitated the alleged illegal activities.

- [Leptospirosis cases up 6%](#) (2026-06-24 16:08)

THE Department of Health (DOH) reported a 6-percent increase in leptospirosis cases, a disease common during the rainy season. In a statement released on Wednesday, the DOH said from Jan. 4 to June 6 this year, leptospirosis cases in the country rose by 6 percent compared to the same period last year. Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection commonly transmitted when a skin lesion is exposed to floodwater contaminated with animal urine, as well as tainted food and drinks. Leptospirosis symptoms typically appear two days to four weeks after exposure and may include fever, headache, muscle pain, red eyes and dizziness. If left untreated, leptospirosis can lead to serious complications such as liver and kidney failure, and damage to the lungs or heart. The DOH noted that most cases involved farmers and individuals who waded through floodwaters or walked through stagnant water following heavy rains. "If you can't avoid going fishing or working in the fields, remember to wear boots, especially if you have an injury or sprain on your foot," the agency said. The DOH added that people exposed to floodwaters should immediately wash with clean water and soap. It urged the public to avoid wading through floodwaters, especially if they have an open wound. "If you experience a fever, headache, dizziness, body pain or tears after fishing, consult a doctor immediately," the DOH said.

- [LGUs to get P1.32T tax share in 2027](#) (2026-06-24 16:07)

THE share of local governments from national tax collections will increase to P1.32 trillion next year as part of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s continued push for stronger local governance, Malacañang said Wednesday. Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said the National Tax Allotment (NTA) for LGUs would jump by P129.32 billion from the 2026 level, a "non-partisan, formula-based" allocation that would be highlighted in the president's fifth State of the Nation Address on July 27. "As a former local executive official himself, the president sees and honors these as people's entitlements. These are guaranteed plowbacks that will go from big cities to the remotest barangay (villages)," Recto said in a statement. The P1.32 trillion NTA for 2027 is based on internal revenue collections in 2024, in accordance with the law requiring the allotment to be computed using collections from three years prior. Recto said the allocation formula is fixed by law and cannot be altered. "The law and regulations state that the dividends of local governments are based on national tax collections," he said. Recto said the amount would be among the biggest ticket items in the proposed 2027 national budget, which is being finalized by the Department of Budget and Management. Under the NTA allocation formula, around 83 provinces will receive P303.56 billion; 149 cities, P303.56 billion; 1,491 towns, P448.84 billion; and 41,912 villages, P263.97 billion. "That indexation is set in stone, beyond alteration. As such, they are in the nature of automatic appropriations," Recto said. About P990.68 of the P1.32 trillion NTA would come from the Bureau of Internal Revenue collections, P329.09 billion from the Bureau of Customs, and P63.6 million from other collections certified by the Bureau of the Treasury. Recto said that an LGU's share would be determined by its population and land area. For 2026, Davao City received the biggest city allocation at P10.1 billion, nearly 15 percent higher than the previous year. In Metro Manila, Quezon City received P9.82 billion, Manila P6.09 billion, Caloocan City P5.5 billion, Taguig City P4.4 billion, and Pasig City P3.05 billion. "So next year, not only they, but all LGUs will receive increases," Recto said. The NTA increase follows the continued growth of government tax collections and the implementation of the Supreme Court's Mandanas-Garcia ruling, which expanded the revenue base used in computing LGU shares. Aside from the NTA, Recto said that the Marcos administration increased the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF) to a record high of P57.87 billion for 2026 to further strengthen partnerships between national agencies and LGUs in implementing development projects. "The conventional and traditional thinking is that the NTA for LGUs is enough. But the president said we should tap the expertise and resources of LGUs in implementing national projects and programs," he said. Recto said that Marcos has consistently emphasized that national government projects and local government initiatives should not be treated separately. He said that one example was the Department of Education's partnership with local governments to address the country's classroom shortage by allowing LGUs to implement school infrastructure projects. "In many meetings, he said that treating national government projects as separate from local government projects is a false dichotomy. That is why there is now a pivot toward LGUs, making them partners in implementing projects," Recto said.

- [Graft charges filed against Herbosa, Escolango](#) (2026-06-24 16:07)

EMPLOYEES of the Department of Health (DOH) filed charges of graft, grave misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service on Wednesday before the Ombudsman against Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa and Undersecretary Randy Escolango over alleged illegal control of the agency's multibillion-peso procurement. The complainants identified themselves only as Concerned Department of Health Personnel. In the copy of the complaint obtained by The Manila Times, the complainants alleged that the two officials established a "closed-loop procurement scheme" that allows Escolango to control every stage of the procurement process — from fund allocation and contract approvals to the distribution of medicines, vaccines and other medical supplies. They cited the Department Personnel Orders issued by Herbosa in February 2026 which designated Escolango as the head of both the Financial and Management Service, and the Supply Chain Management Service. The complainants added that Herbosa also appointed Escolango as chairman of the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee-A, which oversees DOH's major procurements. They alleged that Escolango effectively held sway over budget programming, fund availability, contract awards to suppliers, and even the handling and distribution of products purchased with public funds. The complaint asserted that the respondents violated the provisions of the Republic Act (RA) 3019, or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and Republic Act 12009, or the New Government Procurement Act, which mandate the independent segregation of procurement functions to prevent abuse of power and corruption." The concurrent designation of Escolango creates an absolute concentration of power that subverts the anti-graft architecture of RA 12009," the complaint read. The complainants warned that such an arrangement opens the door to manipulation of the procurement process, artificial budget inflation, front-loading of contracts and the entry of substandard medical supplies — all of which could pose a serious threat to public health." It permits an official to review his own agency's financial releases, completely neutralizing independent audit systems," the complainants said." In light of these allegations, we appeal to Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla to place Herbosa and Escolango under immediate six-month preventive suspension without pay while the case is under investigation," they added.

- [Court voids GSIS rule excluding secondary beneficiaries from survivorship benefits](#)  
(2026-06-24 16:06)

THE Supreme Court has struck down a Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) regulation that barred secondary beneficiaries from receiving survivorship benefits of members who had rendered at least three but less than 15 years of government service, ruling that the agency exceeded its authority. In a decision written by Associate Justice Henri Jean Paul Inting, the Court's Third Division declared Section 24.2.2 of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 8291, or the GSIS Act of 1997, ultra vires for going beyond the law. The Court said the provision could not be enforced insofar as it conflicted with Section 21(c) of the statute. The ruling stemmed from the claim of Petronilo Laroco, who sought survivorship benefits following the death of his daughter, Cristie C. Laroco, a public school teacher who had served the government for 13 years and paid GSIS premiums for 12 years. She died single and

without children. The GSIS denied the claim, citing its IRR, which limited survivorship benefits for secondary beneficiaries to cases where the deceased member had at least 15 years of service. Since Cristie had only 13 years in government service, the agency ruled that only primary beneficiaries — such as a spouse or dependent children — could qualify. The Court of Appeals affirmed the GSIS ruling, prompting Laroco to elevate the case to the Supreme Court, arguing that the IRR effectively amended the GSIS Act by removing statutory rights granted to secondary beneficiaries under certain conditions. The Supreme Court ruled in his favor, clarifying that under the GSIS Act, secondary beneficiaries may receive survivorship benefits if there are no primary beneficiaries, the dependency requirements are met, the member was in service at the time of death, and the member had rendered at least three years of government service. The Court said Section 24.2.2 of the IRR imposed an additional requirement — raising the threshold to 15 years of service — which is not found in the law and therefore cannot be enforced. While acknowledging GSIS' intent to address perceived inequities in the system, the Supreme Court said administrative agencies cannot amend legislation through implementing rules. It added that Congress had already established a distinction in benefits: members with at least 15 years of service are entitled to a survivorship pension, while those with three to less than 15 years receive a cash benefit equivalent to 100 percent of their average monthly salary for each year of service with paid contributions. The Court stressed that social security laws must be liberally interpreted in favor of employees and their beneficiaries, as these statutes are intended to advance social justice and protect families from the financial impact of death or disability. It said that if GSIS believes reforms are necessary, it should bring the matter to Congress rather than alter statutory provisions through administrative issuances. The case was remanded to the GSIS Committee on Claims for recomputation of the benefits due to Laroco.

- [Experts warn tech-enabled trafficking demands innovation](#) (2026-06-24 16:03)

ANTI-TRAFFICKING experts have called for stronger technological innovation in law enforcement as digital and AI-driven crimes continue to evolve, despite the Philippines retaining its Tier 1 status in the 2025 US State Department Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report for the 10th consecutive year. Advocates warned that sustained top-tier status should not lead to complacency, as traffickers increasingly exploit online platforms and emerging technologies faster than traditional responses can adapt. The International Justice Mission (IJM) said gaps remain in the country's anti-trafficking efforts, particularly in addressing tech-enabled exploitation. The 2025 TIP Report, released by the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, noted that while the Philippines fully meets minimum standards and imposes stringent penalties, weaknesses persist, including the absence of a centralized trafficking database. "Despite these achievements, the persistence of tech-enabled crimes remains a significant challenge," IJM said. A 2022 IJM study with the University of Nottingham Rights Lab estimated that nearly 500,000 Filipino children were exploited for online sexual abuse materials. It stressed that AI and digital tools must be used both to disrupt trafficking networks and strengthen victim protection. "The path forward requires continuous technological innovation and collaboration," the study said, adding that AI can help detect



harmful content, analyze online ads, and process digital evidence more efficiently. IJM warned traffickers are increasingly using digital platforms to expand recruitment and exploitation, while AI is being used both to scale criminal activity and evade detection. At the same time, it said AI can support real-time detection of suspicious content and improve law enforcement response. The TIP Report said maintaining Tier 1 status requires adapting to threats such as online exploitation, illegal recruitment, and cyber-facilitated trafficking. It noted Asia accounts for about 59 percent of global trafficking victims. It also cited the arrest in the Philippines of American fugitive Herbert Leon Kimble in connection with a \$1.2-billion US health care fraud case, highlighting continued international enforcement cooperation. Meanwhile, the Bureau of Immigration said it is pushing for an AI-enabled nationwide border security system under the proposed Civil Aviation and Immigration Security Services (Caiss) project, covering major airports and seaports, with biometric and real-time screening features. BI said the technology could help strengthen detection of traffickers and transnational criminals as the Philippines works to keep pace with evolving cross-border crime. BI spokesman Dana Sandoval said that the Caiss aims to deliver an integrated end-to-end solution covering all major airports, the Zamboanga seaport and six border crossing stations. The proposed P10.74 billion public-private-partnership project will be at zero cost to the government.

- [First lady distributes rice to over 1,300 QCitizens](#) (2026-06-24 16:01)

FIRST lady Liza Araneta-Marcos returned on Wednesday to Quezon City, this time in Barangay Pagasa, for another rollout of her “Mula sa Puso para sa Pamilya” rice distribution program. Accompanied by Mayor Joy Belmonte, ex-District 6 congressman Kit Belmonte (the mayor’s first cousin), and Barangay Chairman Chinggay Bilaos, the first lady distributed 10-kilogram bags of rice to over 1,300 beneficiaries. She mingled with the residents as she shared a message of solidarity, compassion and hope. She also cited the importance of helping families meet their daily food needs. “As a mother myself, I know how essential it is to have food on our table. Even if this assistance is modest, I hope it goes a long way,” the first lady told the beneficiaries in Filipino. “I hope this will help ease your burden in the days to come, and with this, we can be of help to you,” she added. Telling the residents how lucky they were with Mayor Belmonte, whom she described as “very hardworking for her constituents” and an excellent speaker, the first lady asked for understanding if she could not speak long before the crowd, as she always feels nervous. Belmonte thanked the first lady for distributing rice assistance to her constituents amid rising commodity costs driven by conflict in the Middle East. She said more “QCitizens” would benefit from the rice distribution program, as the first lady — inspired by the simple belief that “every Filipino family deserves food on the table” — was also set to visit Barangay Monica on Friday for the program. Last Monday, the first lady and the city chief executive led the first rollout of the weeklong rice distribution program in Doña Imelda village. Belmonte said the rice distribution program is funded through the Local Government Support Fund in the amount of P462.9 million, released by the Office of the President to the city government. She told The Manila Times that a total of 210,455 QCitizen families would benefit from the first lady’s rice distribution program. The rice subsidy initiative



also supports local farmers through direct procurement, she said. The mayor said that the local government has used the Sagip Saka Act to source rice directly from farmer cooperatives, helping both consumers and agricultural producers.

- [DOLE urges construction firms to adopt Progressive Wage Model for better pay and skills](#) (2026-06-24 16:01)

THE Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) encouraged the country's construction firms to adopt a Progressive Wage Model (PWM) that rewards workers with higher pay as they gain skills, experience, and productivity. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino said on Wednesday that he signed the "Advisory on the Voluntary Adoption of a Progressive Wage Model for Lower-Wage Workers in the Construction Industry," which is designed to ensure that covered workers receive at least the applicable minimum wage while providing a structured path toward higher earnings. "The Progressive Wage Model is a wage-setting framework designed to ensure that covered lower-wage workers receive at least the applicable minimum wage while providing clear and predictable pathways for wage progression," he said. The advisory guides in implementing the PWM for lower-wage occupations in the construction sector, including carpenter helpers, mason helpers, painter helpers, tile-setter helpers, and plumber helpers. Tolentino emphasized that workers no longer have to wait for promotions to receive better compensation. Instead, employees can move up the wage ladder by upgrading their skills, obtaining certifications, gaining work experience, and improving their job performance. Under the PWM, wage increases are tied to measurable improvements in productivity, efficiency, work quality, safety compliance, and overall performance. The labor chief stressed that the PWM is not intended to replace the country's existing regional minimum wage system. "The PWM will not replace our regional minimum wage system. With its voluntary adoption, workers' wages will be more competitive, boosting their productivity further," Tolentino said. DOLE believes the model will also benefit employers by helping them attract, retain, and develop skilled workers. The department said the approach can contribute to workforce stability, higher productivity, and more inclusive economic growth within the construction industry. To encourage wider adoption, the National Wages and Productivity Commission will continue working with government agencies and social partners to explore possible incentives, including preferential consideration in government procurement, subject to existing laws and regulations. Construction firms interested in implementing the Progressive Wage Model may coordinate with their respective Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards for technical assistance and guidance.

- [Imee Marcos questions CA confirmation of 5 senior military officers](#) (2026-06-24 16:01)

SEN. Imee Marcos questioned the confirmation of the ad interim appointment of five senior military officers by the Commission on Appointments (CA). During the special session on June 17 called by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the CA approved the promotion of Lt. Gen. Edmundo Peralta, Vice Admiral Alan Javier, Maj. Gen. Isagani Crispe, Brig. Gen. Niceforo Diaz Jr., and Brig. Gen. Rosemawatte Remo. On the same day, Marcos wrote a letter to CA Secretary Myra Marie

Villarica raising some legal concerns on the ad interim appointment of the five senior officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Villarica forwarded Marcos' letter to Senate President Win Gatchalian for his "attention." Marcos said that with the adjournment of the session on June 3, the ad interim appointments of the five officers "ceased to be effective, pursuant to Section 16, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution." "Thus, in order for the Commission on Appointments to confirm the appointment of said officers, they should have been reappointed first," the senator said. However, she said Republic Act 11939 requires that "an officer must have at least one year of remaining active service prior to compulsory retirement to be eligible for appointment or promotion to certain positions." "The earliest day that the above-named officers could have been re-appointed was upon the adjournment of the session on June 3," Marcos said. "Unfortunately, as shown above, even if said officers were re-appointed on the same day their appointments were by-passed, they can still no longer comply with the requirement of Section 1 RA 11939 since, at that point, they have less than one year of active service remaining prior to reaching the compulsory retirement age [of 57]," she said. Crispe turned 56 on April 21, Remo on April 24, Diaz on May 5, Peralta on May 14, and Javier on May 16. Javier and Crispe received their ad interim appointment on April 14, Remo on April 23, and Peralta and Diaz on April 30. Marcos asked whether the CA "possesses records or documents showing the basis for finding the appointees qualified and eligible notwithstanding the statutory prohibition." "Although these issues were raised by Sen. Rodante Marcoleta, we deem it necessary to reiterate the same given their importance and effect on future promotions within the Armed Forces of the Philippines," she added.

- [CFO launches Filipino language tutorial series](#) (2026-06-24 16:00)

THE Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) launched a Filipino language tutorial series to strengthen cultural ties between overseas Filipinos (OFs) and their ancestral homeland. Under the CFO's Virtual Sentro Rizal program, non-resident Filipinos, particularly second- and third-generation youth abroad, will learn the Philippine languages and rediscover their cultural heritage. Called "Filipino One-on-One," the series features short-form instructional videos introducing basic words, phrases and everyday expressions in some of the country's "most widely spoken languages," the CFO said. The lessons cover practical topics such as greetings, self-introductions, family terms and common conversational expressions, providing learners with an accessible entry point into Philippine languages and culture. The CFO said the project addresses a growing challenge confronting Filipino communities around the world: the "gradual loss" of linguistic and cultural connection among younger generations born and raised outside the Philippines. "While many overseas Filipinos maintain strong emotional ties to their family's homeland, language often becomes one of the first casualties of migration," the CFO said in a statement. "By the second or third generation, many young Filipinos abroad are no longer able to speak or understand the languages spoken by their parents, grandparents or relatives in the Philippines," it added. The language series seeks to "reverse that trend by making Philippine languages more accessible through digital platforms familiar to younger audiences," the CFO said. The initiative also reflects the CFO's mandate to strengthen ties between OFs and the

Philippines. The initial modules feature lessons in Tagalog, Ilocano, Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Kapampangan, and Waray, with a Bikolano module scheduled for release in July.

- [Murder charges filed vs 15-year-old shooter](#) (2026-06-24 16:00)

POLICE have filed murder charges against a 15-year-old Grade 9 student for the June 22 shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City that left three students dead and 20 others injured. The complaint, lodged through inquest proceedings before the Office of the City Prosecutor of Tacloban, includes three counts of murder, three counts of frustrated murder and multiple counts of serious physical injuries. The suspect and witnesses appeared at the Bulwagan ng Katarungan on Tuesday night as authorities continued their investigation into one of the deadliest incidents of school-related violence. The suspect's 14-year-old companion remains under the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and will undergo intervention measures at the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth in Tanauan, Leyte. Authorities said no criminal charges were filed against the younger minor because he is exempt from criminal liability under existing laws governing children in conflict with the law. Under Republic Act 10630, which strengthened the country's juvenile justice system, a child age 15 years or below at the time of the commission of an offense is exempt from criminal liability but will be subjected to an intervention program. The law further states that a child is deemed to be 15 years old on the day of the 15th anniversary of his or her birth date. Police said both minors tested positive for gunpowder nitrates, while firearms recovered from them also yielded positive results for gunpowder residue. Police Regional Office-8 director Brig. Gen. Jason Capoy said investigators are pursuing the case with fairness and due process. "We remain committed to establishing the truth and ensuring accountability under the law," Capoy said. Tacloban Mayor Alfred Romualdez expressed his sympathies to the families and assured the public that "the city government remains committed to ensuring that a thorough investigation is conducted and that justice is served." Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez visited the wake of the slain students on Tuesday night to extend condolences to their grieving families. He also assured the bereaved families that they are not alone in their grief and pledged continued support as they seek justice for their loved ones. Officials called on the public to unite in supporting the victims and their families while authorities work to prevent similar tragedies from happening again in schools and communities. Discernment is key Whether the 15-year-old suspect can be held criminally liable and imprisoned will depend on whether prosecutors can prove he acted with "discernment," a legal expert said on Wednesday. Legal expert Melissa Loja said the filing of murder charges against the minor is possible under Republic Act 9344, or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, which provides that children above 15 but below 18 years old may be held criminally liable if they are found to have acted with discernment. "Yes, the 15-year-old suspect can be charged. He is 15 years old, and under Republic Act 9344, a child above 15 but below 18 is exempt from criminal liability unless he acted with discernment," Loja told The Manila Times. She said discernment refers to a child's ability at the time of the offense to understand the difference between right and wrong, and the consequences of the wrongful act, citing a 2023 Supreme Court ruling. The ruling clarified that discernment cannot be

presumed in cases involving children in conflict with the law. Prosecutors must prove it as a separate circumstance beyond reasonable doubt, while the final determination rests with the court based on the circumstances surrounding the case. Among the factors courts may consider are the child's behavior before, during and after the offense, the nature and severity of the act, the use of weapons, attempts to conceal evidence, and signs of planning or cunning. Loja said discernment is different from intent. A minor may understand what he wanted to do, but the law requires proof that he also understood the wrongfulness and consequences of the act. She said the defense may raise the possibility that the suspects were influenced or "groomed" online, which could become relevant in assessing whether they possessed the moral capacity to recognize the consequences of their actions. The Supreme Court has previously ruled that discernment may be established through circumstantial evidence, citing factors such as the manner of committing the crime, the use of threats and efforts to avoid accountability. Loja said the ultimate decision will rest with the trial court. 'Bullying gone wrong' Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Wednesday said preliminary investigation on the school shooting suggested a case of "bullying gone wrong" further aggravated by the minor suspects' exposure to a violent online game. He added that the police are looking at the culpability of the aunt and the parents who were the sources of the firearm used. One of the guns used was not registered and bore a fake serial number, he said. "The mere fact that the minors had access to the guns, makes those who own the guns culpable," he said in Filipino. Lapses highlighted Sen. Raffy Tulfo expressed deep concern over the shooting, which he said highlighted lapses not only on the part of the school and parents but also the Department of Education (DepEd), which is responsible for ensuring student safety. "I have repeatedly urged the Department of Education to address the growing incidents of violence in schools and strengthen campus security by deploying security guards equipped with metal detectors to inspect students' belongings before they enter school premises," Tulfo said. "It is unfortunate that this recommendation appears to have gone without immediate action. It is clear that the DepEd fell short in ensuring the safety and protection of our students." Tulfo noted that he first raised the proposal during a Senate Committee on Basic Education hearing on Aug. 12, 2025, following two separate school shooting incidents that month in Lanao del Sur and Nueva Ecija. During the hearing, he urged DepEd officials to deploy security guards with metal detectors in public schools, a recommendation that was supported by the department. He also renewed calls for stronger anti-bullying and security measures during a Senate hearing on March 17, 2026, including the mandatory installation of CCTV cameras in classrooms and common areas. However, Tulfo said many of these recommendations remain unimplemented despite the issuance of DepEd Memorandum Order 90, s. 2025. "We should not wait for more people to get hurt or for more lives to be lost before taking action," he said. Age proposal scored The opposition Akbayan party-list on Wednesday slammed the suggestion of Sen. Robinhood Padilla to lower the age of criminal responsibility from 15 to 10, following the school shooting in Tacloban City. In a statement, the party-list accused Padilla of "exploiting a tragedy to advance a misguided proposal" and even cited his role in the escape last month of Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity. "Robin wants to jail 10-year-olds, but he helped the 64-year-old Bato dela

Rosa — who is accused of being a mass murderer — escape. Prison for children, but freedom for Bato? What kind of thinking is that?” Akbayan president Rafaela David said in Filipino, and referring to dela Rosa by his nickname. David said jailing children who are too young and who cannot fully grasp right from wrong is not rehabilitation. “Did Robin even read the law? The Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act holds minors who commit crimes, especially heinous ones, accountable. In fact, minors ages 15 and above may be held criminally liable if proven to have acted with discernment, while those below 15 can be deprived of liberty as they undergo intensive intervention and rehabilitation programs,” she said. The opposition party-list said it stands with the families of the victims, but warned against the exploitation of public grief to “justify draconian policies that could make schools and communities more unsafe.”

Visits to the families Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian on Wednesday visited the wake of the three students who were killed in the school shooting. “President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sent me here because the entire country was shocked by what happened, and from the very beginning we immediately deployed our social workers to the bereaved families and our hospital social workers to the injured, and we will stay with them until the very end,” Gatchalian told the local media. The DSWD chief first visited the family of Chris Lorenz Fabian, the 15-year-old Boy Scout who was fatally shot while trying to prevent one of the suspects from entering their classroom. “The suspect is now under our custody and is not free because he has been turned over to us and is currently in one of our facilities, and I assure you that under the law he should no longer remain in the community and will not return to his home,” Gatchalian said. He also assured the bereaved families that the DSWD would shoulder funeral assistance and continue providing psychosocial interventions to help them recover from the tragedy. “That is also why we are here because we will take care of all the funeral arrangements, and we will also leave our social workers to continue assisting the family,” he added. The DSWD Field Office 8 had earlier deployed social workers to provide psychosocial interventions and financial assistance to bereaved families, injured students, teachers and other affected individuals. Gatchalian also appealed to the public to refrain from resharing videos and photographs of the incident, warning that such materials could re-traumatize survivors and grieving families. “Sometimes there are pictures that should no longer be posted because the trauma is repeated and reactivated, and many of our social workers are appealing to the general public to help these families heal by being responsible in posting such images,” he said. After visiting the wake, the DSWD chief proceeded to several hospitals to check on the condition of the injured students and meet with their families. Vice President Sara Duterte condoled with the family of the three students who were killed in the school shooting in Tacloban City on Wednesday. In a post on Facebook, Duterte said that she visited the wake of the three teenagers who were killed after two students shot their classmates inside the San Jose National High School. “We personally conveyed our heartfelt condolences, on behalf of my entire family and the Office of the Vice President, to their families and relatives who are deeply grieving the loss of their loved ones,” Duterte said in her Facebook page in Filipino. She added that she joined in the appeal of their parents that the tragedy “should never happen again and that justice be served for their children.” The Department of Education said that the shooting in Tacloban City has underscored the need to strengthen the systems that protect and support learners both inside

and outside school. It also emphasized that preventing violence requires early intervention and sustained engagement from families, communities and government institutions. In a statement, Education Secretary Sonny Angara said the tragedy in Tacloban is a “painful reminder that learner protection requires constant vigilance and shared commitment.” “While investigations will establish the facts surrounding this incident, we must also ask what more can be done to better support our learners and strengthen protective systems around them,” Angara added. He further stressed that learner safety is a conversation that must involve not only schools, but families, communities, local governments and all institutions entrusted with the welfare of children. WITH IZEL ABANILLA, JAVIER JOE ISMAEL, RED MENDOZA AND ARIC JOHN SY CUA

- [4 more crew members of MV Epaminondas return home](#) (2026-06-24 15:41)

Four crew members of the MV Epaminondas returned home on Tuesday night via Doha, Qatar, according to the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW). In a statement on Wednesday, the DMW said the four arrived in a Qatar Airways flight that landed in Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3. The four were welcomed by members of the DMW, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, the Manila International Airport Authority, and representatives of their licensed manning agency. They received financial assistance from DMW and OWWA, as well as temporary hotel accommodation. Also, they would join two of their colleagues undergoing medical assessment. “The six Filipino seafarers have since been reunited with their families after the security incident involving their vessel in the Persian Gulf region. Another crew member is expected to arrive on Thursday, while the remaining three will be repatriated once clearance is granted by Iranian military authorities,” the DMW said. The vessel was seized by the Iranian navy last April.

- [House Suporta sa Bayan Desk serves over 3,500 Filipinos in first 50 days](#) (2026-06-24 15:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives Suporta sa Bayan Desk (SBD) served over 3,500 Filipinos in its first 50 days. The desk processed 3,738 requests from March 18 to June 22, 2026, based on the SBD accomplishment report. This figure was composed of 3,103 walk-in constituents and 635 endorsed by House lawmakers. If the requests, 3,592 or 96 percent was approved. “Every single one of those 3,592 approvals is a Filipino family that didn’t have to go home empty-handed, patients who can now afford their medicines, their dialysis, their operation,” Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy 3rd said in a statement. The SBD served an average of 72 clients each day during the period, with P171,498,700 already released to recipients, the statement said. The desk served as a one-stop facilitation center helping people complete required documents before their requests are endorsed to agencies like the Department of Social Welfare and Development and Department of Health, the statement said.

- [Duterte visits wake of three teens killed in Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-24 13:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte has condoled to the family of the three students who were killed in the school shooting in Tacloban City on Wednesday. In a post on



Facebook, Duterte said that she visited the wake of the three teenagers who were killed after two students shot their classmates inside the San Jose National High School. "We personally conveyed our heartfelt condolences, on behalf of my entire family and the Office of the Vice President, to their families and relatives who are deeply grieving the loss of their loved ones," Duterte said in her Facebook page in Filipino. She added that she joined in the appeal of their parents that the tragedy "should never happen again and that justice be served for their children." In an earlier statement, Duterte said that it was the Marcos government's failure to recognize the importance of intelligence gathering and identifying threats that could have saved lives of children. "Our learners must be protected from radical influences, whether they come from outside the school, from online platforms, or from individuals who take advantage of the vulnerabilities of young people," Duterte said.

- [Full cooperation with Dela Rosa's camp continues — PNP](#) (2026-06-24 13:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Wednesday said efforts are being sustained to secure full cooperation and complete compliance in the implementation of the revoked firearm licenses and outstanding legal processes involving Senator Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa. PNP Chief, Police General Jose Melencio C. Nartatez, Jr. noted the latest turnover of six firearms by Senator Dela Rosa's camp, bringing the total number of surrendered guns to 26, following the revocation of his License to Own and Possess Firearms covering 117 registered firearms. "We acknowledge this latest turnover as a step toward compliance, and we have directed our personnel at the Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO) and local units to ensure that these items are properly accounted for, inventoried, and secured in accordance with our strict regulatory protocols," Nartatez said. The turnover happened on Monday at the residence of the senator in Silang, Cavite. His legal representative handed the firearms to personnel from the PNP-FEO, the Regional Civil Security Unit-Calabarzon, and local police units. The items were placed under temporary safekeeping pending verification and documentation. The PNP-FEO earlier issued the revocation order covering all firearms registered under Dela Rosa's name under Republic Act 10591 or the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act. The directive requires full surrender and accounting of all covered firearms.

- [DOLE, Tesda reinforce flagship programs under Joint Circular](#) (2026-06-24 12:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) have signed a joint memorandum circular that would align their flagship programs to ensure that every technical-vocational scholar seamlessly transitions from the classroom straight into a stable job or a fully funded community enterprise. The JMC was signed at the Tesda headquarters in Taguig City on Wednesday by Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino and Tesda Director-General Kiko Benitez. The signing, according to Tesda, is a significant step in strengthening institutional convergence between the two agencies, building on Joint Memorandum Circular No. 001, Series of 2024, which first established a unified framework for coordinating employment facilitation, livelihood support, and TVET programs. Under the JMC, a "structured referral pathway" or graduation system will be



established that would enable the seamless movement of beneficiaries across government programs, supporting pathways toward sustainable employment or livelihood, such as transitioning TUPAD beneficiaries into TESDA scholarship programs and job placement opportunities. It also strengthens accountability through an Anti-Double Dipping Policy, which sets clear safeguards and verification processes to ensure that beneficiaries do not simultaneously avail of similar forms of assistance from both agencies, thereby promoting fairness and optimal use of public resources. It also introduces Community-Based Enterprise Groups, also known as “Tropa sa Negosyo at Trabaho,” which organizes groups of at least five individuals with complementary skills into collective enterprises aimed at improving productivity, sustainability, and market access. The two agencies will also implement a Data Sharing Framework through a shared digital registry that will enhance beneficiary tracking, eligibility validation, and joint monitoring and reporting, building on the existing data sharing agreement between the two agencies. The JMC underscores both agencies’ commitment to strengthening convergence in employment facilitation, livelihood support, and technical vocational education and training (TVET) programs. In his speech, Benitez said that the strengthened partnership is designed to ensure that government interventions translate into real opportunities for Filipinos. “This strengthened effort alongside DOLE builds the seamless pathways we aim for Training to Trabaho. We want to make sure that Filipino learners and workers are not left on their own after training,” Benitez said. For his part, Tolentino said that the partnership would strengthen his aim of revitalizing the TUPAD or Tulong Pangkabuhayan sa Ating Displaced Workers program that would not only produce not just temporary employment, but a long-term solution to underemployment and unemployment. “With that, I think the phrase [to] catch all Filipinos would be very, very appropriate and realistic,” Tolentino said. He added that DOLE is ready to provide financial assistance to those displaced by disasters and that TESDA would provide the training framework for them to start their own businesses.

- [Task force to prevent school shooting in Manila formed](#) (2026-06-24 12:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Following the Tacloban school shooting incident, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno signed Executive Order No. 29, creating the Manila School and Community Safety Task Force to prevent violence in schools. Moreno made the announcement during his State of the City Address on Wednesday. The task force aims to prevent armed violence and mass-casualty incidents in schools and public spaces through a “prevention-first approach” built on three principles: eliminating illegal firearms and armed threats, acting on every credible warning sign of violence, and preparing every school and community for emergency response. “Our policy is simple: Remove illegal guns. Act on every warning sign. Prepare every school. Manila will not wait for a tragedy before taking action,” said Moreno.

- [Tropical storm likely to enter PAR Thursday](#) (2026-06-24 12:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The national weather bureau said on Wednesday that Tropical Storm “Higos” (international name) may enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) late Thursday. Nathaniel Servando, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services

Administration (Pagasa) chief, said Higos was 2, 120 kilometers east of Central Luzon (outside PAR) while moving west-northwestward at 20 kilometers per hour (kph). Packing maximum sustained winds of 65kph near the center and gustiness of up to 80kph, the tropical storm may enter PAR late Thursday. Its direction will likely be over extreme Northern Luzon but will exit PAR the following day, the state-run weather agency said. Meanwhile, Typhoon "Francisco" was forecast to exit PAR on Thursday, according to the Pagasa administrator. Francisco continues to weaken while over the Philippine Sea, the weather agency said as Signal No. 1 remained over Batanes and the northeastern portion of Cagayan.

- [Euclid telescope snaps best photo yet of Milky Way's heart](#) (2026-06-24 11:10)

PARIS — The Euclid space telescope has captured the largest and most detailed photo ever taken of our galaxy's crowded heart, a dazzling image packed with 60 million stars, the European Space Agency said Wednesday. The new photo of the Milky Way's bright center will help in the search for planets beyond our Solar System, the agency added. At the center of our spiral galaxy "lies the bulge — a large bubble containing billions of stars," French astronomer Jean-Charles Cuillandre, who works on the Euclid mission, told Agence France-Presse. Euclid launched in 2023 on a mission to chart one-third of the sky in the hopes of shedding light on the enduring mysteries of dark matter and dark energy. "Now we've decided to point Euclid at the brightest area of the sky — and it works superbly, it's extraordinary," Cuillandre said. Euclid, which is hovering 1.5 million kilometers (930,000 miles) from Earth, captured the image with its visible light camera over 26 hours in March 2025. The mosaic is composed of nine photographs, each covering an area of the sky larger than the Moon. The original image was captured in black and white, but color was added using observations from the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope located in Hawaii. However "we didn't do this just to produce a beautiful image," Cuillandre emphasized. 'Cosmic magnifying glass' In recent decades, scientists have identified thousands of planets outside our Solar System, which are known as exoplanets. New exoplanets are unlikely to be identified within the Euclid image, but it will help the scientists measure the mass of planets already spotted — and those that will be discovered in the future. It can do this via a process called microlensing, which happens when one star crosses over another. The closer star "acts like a cosmic magnifying glass, bending and brightening the background star's light," the ESA explained in a statement. If a planet is orbiting the closer star, its gravity also slightly bends this light. This tiny change in brightness allows scientists to track the planet down. "During the last 20 years, almost 300 exoplanets have been discovered using this technique, all with ground-based telescopes and all towards the center of our galaxy," French astronomer Jean-Philippe Beaulieu said in the statement. For example, Beaulieu said he led the team that discovered an icy planet "a bit like Hoth from Star Wars" 20 years ago. The new image from Euclid "includes 51 known planetary systems — and it will assist in studying many more that will be found," he added.

- [Grade 9 student stabbed in Negros high school in another incident of school violence](#) (2026-06-24 09:20)

BACOLOD CITY — A Grade 9 student was stabbed by a schoolmate on Tuesday afternoon, outside the premises of Julio Ledesma National High School (JLNHS) in Teachers Village, Barangay 2 in San Carlos City, authorities reported on Wednesday, June 24, 2026. The incident occurred around 3:40 p.m. Both students are 17 years old, according to the Police Regional Office – Negros Island Region (PRO NIR). The victim, who sustained a stab wound to the lower right side of his abdomen, was immediately brought to San Carlos City Hospital, where he remains conscious and is receiving medical treatment. The Grade 10 suspect was caught following a police pursuit, and the bladed weapon used in the attack was recovered. The stabbing incident occurred a day after a shooting involving 14 and 15-year-olds at another school in Tacloban, Leyte killed 3 and injured dozens. Investigators established that the assault at JLNHS stemmed from an old personal grudge between the two teenagers. In an official statement, JLNHS confirmed the incident took place outside school grounds. The administration said that faculty members had held class debriefings in response to the recent school shooting in Tacloban City. “Before the incident, the learner had communicated to the class adviser about a perceived threat. In response, the adviser instructed the learner not to leave the school campus while efforts were being made to contact the parent or guardian,” the school said. However, the student chose to leave the premises despite the warning. JLNHS added that it has since increased security measures and was conducting meetings to review and strengthen existing safety protocols and student support interventions. Negros Occidental Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson described the incident as “deeply disturbing, coming amid rising concerns over violence in and around schools.” “Schools are meant to be places of learning, growth, and opportunity — environments where students feel safe, respected, and free to pursue their education without fear,” Lacson said. He urged all school heads, administrators, and both public and private education officials to remain vigilant and committed to securing campuses. “Safety requires more than rules; it calls for active leadership and close coordination with parents, local government units, law enforcement, and the entire community,” the governor added.

- [Health officials face graft complaint over multibillion-peso procurement scheme](#)  
(2026-06-24 08:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Concerned Department of Health (DOH) personnel on Wednesday filed a complaint against Secretary Teodoro Herbosa and Undersecretary Randy Escolango before the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly controlling the agency’s multibillion-peso procurement scheme and called for their dismissal from service. Charges of graft, grave misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service were filed against Herbosa and Escolango by the complainants, who identified themselves only as “concerned Department of Health personnel” at the anti-graft office in Quezon City. In a complaint, a copy of which was obtained by The Manila Times, the staff alleged that the two officials established a “closed-loop procurement scheme” where Escolango controlled fund allocation and contract approvals to the distribution of medicines, vaccines, and other medical supplies. They cited the Department Personnel Orders issued by Herbosa in February 2026 which designated Escolango

as the head of both the Financial and Management Service and the Supply Chain Management Service. At the same time, Herbosa also appointed the undersecretary as chairman of the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee-A (COBAC-A), which oversaw DOH's major procurements, the complainants said. Consequently, they alleged that Escolango effectively held sway over budget programming, fund availability, contract awards to suppliers, and even the handling and distribution of products purchased with public funds. The complaint asserted that the respondents violated the provisions of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act (Republic Act 3019) and the New Government Procurement Act (R.A. 12009), which mandated the independent segregation of procurement functions to prevent abuse of power and corruption. "The concurrent designation of Escolango creates an absolute concentration of power that subverts the anti-graft architecture of RA 12009," the complaint read. They warned that such an arrangement opened the door to manipulation of the procurement process, artificial budget inflation, front-loading of contracts, and the entry of substandard medical supplies—all of which could pose a serious threat to public health. "It permits an official to review his own agency's financial releases, completely neutralizing independent audit systems," they pointed out. "In light of these allegations, we appeal to Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla to place Herbosa and Escolango under immediate six-month preventive suspension without pay while the case is under investigation," the complainants said. Should they be found guilty, the complainants were also seeking the heaviest administrative penalty—dismissal from the service—along with the forfeiture of benefits, perpetual disqualification from holding any government position, and all other accessory penalties provided for by law.

- [Philippines maintains stance on arbitral ruling amid China's assertions ahead of 10th anniversary](#) (2026-06-24 08:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Maritime Council (NMC) on Wednesday maintained the country's position on the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award and insisted the ruling remained the legal basis for the country's maritime rights and entitlements. In a statement, the NMC threw its support behind the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and stressed that the Philippine government's "clear and consistent" stance anchored on the stressing 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos) and affirmed by the 2016 arbitral ruling. "The Award is final and legally binding on the parties and remains an important contribution to international law and the rules-based international order," the NMC said. "As the Philippines commemorates the tenth anniversary of the Arbitral Award on July 12, 2026, we recognize its enduring significance not only to the Philippines but also to the international community," it added. The council likewise reaffirmed the Philippines' commitment to dialogue, diplomacy and the peaceful settlement of disputes, adding that upholding the arbitral ruling strengthens legal certainty, promotes responsible state behavior, and contributes to regional peace, stability and prosperity. "Disputes can be addressed through peaceful means and resolved in accordance with international law," it said. The arbitral tribunal in The Hague ruled in favor of the Philippines on July 12, 2016, invalidating China's sweeping claims over

most of the South China Sea based on its so-called nine-dash line. The tribunal found that China's claims had no legal basis under UNCLOS. China has refused to recognize the ruling and continues to reject its validity, while the Philippines has consistently maintained that the award is final and binding under international law.

- [Business tycoon Manny Pangilinan summoned over drowning of 2 Ateneo athletes as probe nears end](#) (2026-06-24 07:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Wednesday said business tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan was also summoned by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to appear before its fact-finding probe into the deaths of Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) basketball players. Meanwhile, ADMU president Father Roberto Yap faced CIDG investigators on Wednesday. For nearly two weeks, the CIDG had summoned various individuals, mostly players, coaching staff and university officials to shed light into the drowning of Rene Clert Baterbonia and Divine Adili during a team building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora on June 8. "Tomorrow we will summon Manny Pangilinan," Remulla told reporters in an ambush interview on Wednesday morning. Remulla said their investigation was almost complete, having gathered "conclusive" details from interrogations from people involved, conducting intensive investigation and even reconstructing the crime scene. He said in Filipino that the findings would be submitted to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for the filing of charges. "Let's just wait for our complete investigation on Friday so that we can see what we can share with you," said Remulla still in Filipino. The PNP said the basketball program of ADMU was autonomous from the university and managed by the foundation of Smart Communications owned by Pangilinan, hence the reason for his subpoena. Investigators, the PNP said, were looking into the culpability of the university as well as Smart Communications in the drowning incident. Throughout the course of the investigation, Remulla said they have interviewed over a hundred people and collected over 1200 pages of testimonies from people who were at the crime scene. Remulla said the case build up was "conclusive" and the CIDG was "very confident."

- [SSS pension booster delivers 6.2% return for members amid economic challenges](#) (2026-06-24 07:24)

MANILA, Philippines — A program designed for members of the Social Security System (SSS) has posted an average return of investment (ROI) of 6.2 percent from January to May this year despite the prevailing economic challenges, its top official revealed on Wednesday. The Pension Booster Program, also known as the Voluntary Provident Fund, continues to deliver strong financial performance in 2026 and remains a reliable retirement savings option for Filipino workers, SSS president and CEO Robert Joseph de Claro said. De Claro said the return remained competitive and continued to exceed market benchmark rates although it was slightly lower than the previous year's performance due to changes in interest rates implemented by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. The program reflects the government's commitment to strengthening retirement security, according to Finance Secretary Frederick Go who is ex-official chair of Social Security Commission, the agency's governing body. Go stressed that the

continued strong performance of the SSS Pension Booster underscored its commitment to protecting the financial future of Filipino workers. “Through prudent management of members’ funds, we are helping build a more secure and dignified retirement for every Filipino,” the Finance chief said. De Claro noted that the 2026 performance follows the 6.83 percent return in 2025, surpassing the prevailing 91-day treasury bill rate which has a year-to-date average of approximately 4.77 percent. In 2025, contributions rose 21.8 percent to P699 million from P574 million in 2024, reflecting growing member confidence in the program, the SSS chief executive said in a statement emailed to The Manila Times. To maximize members’ earnings, de Claro said the SSS waived the one percent management fee on the total balance of Pension Booster accounts from 2025 to 2028, allowing members to fully enjoy investment gains. He said that members may now conveniently monitor the monthly compounding growth of their Pension Booster savings through their My.SSS accounts, allowing them to track the progress of their retirement funds and make more informed decisions in planning for their future. “The strong performance of the Pension Booster demonstrates disciplined and professionally managed savings. We remain committed to providing members greater financial security during retirement,” de Claro said. Stressing that the program (Pension Booster) is open to all SSS members to build additional savings for their retirement, the top SSS official said that it would allow individuals to save starting at P500, with no maximum contribution limit. De Claro then urged members to start early and stay invested longer to maximize returns, citing the benefits of compound growth. “Planning and saving for retirement should begin early. The longer the members stay invested, the greater their potential returns,” he said. Interested SSS members may enroll in the Pension Booster Program online through their My.SSS account, he added.

- [AirAsia brings back signature 20% off on fares](#) (2026-06-24 06:26)

MANILA, Philippines — AirAsia has reintroduced its signature low fares with discounts of up to 20 percent, offering travelers the ideal chance to book their next adventure. The low-cost carrier said the initiative aimed to make travel more affordable once again, giving passengers the perfect opportunity to turn their travel plans into reality. “From 23 to 28 June 2026, guests can enjoy up to 20 percent off fares across AirAsia's extensive domestic and international network, making it easier to explore dream destinations, reunite with loved ones, and create new travel memories without stretching their budget,” the low-cost carrier said. More than 500,000 seats are available under the promotional campaign, covering popular routes from Manila to Kalibo, Kota Kinabalu, Da Nang, and other destinations across the AirAsia Philippines network. The airline is also offering up to 30 percent off Value Pack bundles, which include travel inconvenience coverage, a 20-kilogram checked baggage allowance, standard seat selection, a Santitas inflight meal, and a duty-free voucher. “As the Philippines enters the rainy season, AirAsia is giving guests greater flexibility to plan their travels with confidence. Through a one-time zero change fee, guests can move their flight without any processing fee should their travel plans change, making it easier to book ahead and continue exploring new destinations despite changing weather conditions,” AirAsia added.



- [Meta offers lower cost glasses as wearables competition heats up](#) (2026-06-24 06:16)

SAN FRANCISCO — Meta on Tuesday launched a new line of smart glasses priced slightly lower than its Ray-Ban-branded glasses, as competition heats up in the AI-powered wearable tech space. The glasses are being made in partnership with eyewear giant EssilorLuxottica, but won't carry that company's Ray-Ban or Oakley branding, unlike previous releases. The new glasses will start at \$299, slightly less than its Ray-Ban smart glasses, which start at \$379. Meta smart glasses allow you to shoot photos and videos, listen to music, take phone calls and interact with an integrated AI assistant including for live translation. Meta also sells two Oakley-branded pairs that start at \$399, while its top-of-the-line Meta Ray-Ban Display glasses are priced at around \$800. "We just feel like we need to have a pair of glasses at a lower price point, and we were trying to figure out what could work there," Meta's vice president of wearables, Alex Himel, told The Verge. The glasses will offer an array of photo, video and other AI features powered by Meta's own AI models, and will support live translation in 14 new languages. While Meta currently dominates the market for smart glasses, other companies are trying to catch up. Earlier this month, Snap, the maker of social media app Snapchat, announced its own new generation of smart glasses, called Specs, which will provide an augmented reality experience beyond what Meta offers. People will be able to use Snap's Specs without pairing them with a smartphone, and the glasses will project digital objects onto the surrounding environment. Specs will launch later this year for \$2,195 — many times more expensive than anything Meta offers. Apple is also reportedly gearing up to launch its own smart glasses in 2027. The iPhone maker previously launched a mixed-reality headset called Vision Pro for \$3,499, but sales have been lackluster.

- [Minor in Tacloban shooting faces murder charges](#) (2026-06-24 06:04)

(UPDATE) TACLOBAN CITY — Police filed murder and multiple counts of serious physical injury charges against a 15-year-old boy involved in the shooting at a school here on Monday, which Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said was triggered by "bullying." The suspect, whose identity has been withheld because he is a minor, and witnesses appeared for inquest proceedings at the Bulwagan ng Katarungan, while the 14-year-old, also considered a child in conflict with the law (CICL), along with the 15-year-old, was placed under the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and will be confined at the Regional Rehabilitation for Youth in Tanauan, Leyte. Authorities said while no charges were filed against the younger suspect because he was exempt from criminal liability due to his age, the older boy faced three counts of murder, three counts of frustrated murder, and multiple counts of serious physical injuries. The two minors from San Jose National High School here tested positive for gunpowder nitrates. 'Bullying gone wrong' Remulla, in Manila, said on Wednesday that a preliminary investigation into the brutal school shooting in Tacloban, Leyte leaned toward a case of "bullying gone wrong," aggravated by the minor suspects' exposure to a violent online game. "Ang lumalabas sa initial feedback ay bullying gone wrong. Binubully daw yung dalawang estudyanteng yon at nainfluence sila sa video games (Based on initial feedback, this is a case of bullying gone wrong. The two suspects apparently are students that were influenced



by video games),” Remulla told reporters in an interview. Remulla said in Filipino that they were looking at “the culpability of the aunt and parents from who the firearms were taken.” Remulla said one of the two guns used was not registered and bore a fake serial number. Remulla said, however, that the fact that the kids had access to the guns, makes their owners culpable. On Monday morning, two Grade 9 students, went on a shooting spree, killing three and injuring 20. Initial investigation points to bullying as the reason behind the rampage. Bullied since Grade 7, the two appear to have planned the shooting for over a month as seen in alleged screenshots of their chats that went viral on social media. The two talked about securing firearms and even looked into the juvenile justice law, thinking they would be exempt from criminal liability for being minors.

- [NBI to file human trafficking complaint vs ex-lawmaker Mike Defensor](#) (2026-06-24 05:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is set to file a human trafficking complaint against former congressman Mike Defensor in connection with a KTV bar in Pasig City that was previously raided over alleged sexual exploitation involving dozens of women. NBI Director Melvin Matibag said the complaint would be filed Friday before the Pasig City Prosecutor’s Office, following the bureau’s investigation into the establishment. Matibag said evidence gathered by investigators indicated Defensor’s alleged involvement in the operations of the KTV bar, adding that authorities believe the former lawmaker was aware of the reported trafficking activities. “It appears Mike Defensor was indeed involved in this matter,” Matibag said, noting that investigators believe he knew about the alleged operations inside the establishment. The NBI also said its findings included violations of the National Building Code based on the structure’s floor plan. It alleged that Defensor was aware of and consented to structural modifications that allegedly facilitated trafficking activities, including concealed doors, hidden stairways, and private rooms. Defensor has denied the allegations, calling them “politically motivated.” The NBI filed related charges against Defensor’s wife, Julie Rose Defensor, and their son, Miguel Gabriel Defensor, in connection with the same case.

- [BI arrests 5 foreigners in Parañaque raid on suspected scam hub](#) (2026-06-24 04:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Five foreigners were arrested by Bureau of Immigration (BI) operatives following a raid on a suspected online scam hub in Parañaque City, BI Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado said on Wednesday. The raid, Viado said, was carried out as part of the government’s intensified campaign against transnational crime and illegal activities involving foreign nationals. The operation stemmed from intelligence reports linking the location to an alleged “love scam” operation that targeted victims through online deception and cryptocurrency-related schemes. Arrested during the raid at a condominium complex in Sapphire Seaview Park, Paranaque were Chinese citizen Tang Shun, Malaysian Chia Kong Loon, and Burmese Kum Htoi, Myo Oo, and Kyaw Tint Lwin. The five were apprehended after immigration checks allegedly uncovered violations of Philippine immigration laws. According to Viado, intelligence reports indicated that the condominium units were being used for fraudulent online activities. Authorities also received information that some workers associated with the

operation were allegedly restricted from freely leaving the premises.

- [LGUs to get P1.32T national tax share in 2027](#) (2026-06-24 04:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Share of local governments from national tax collections will increase to P1.32 trillion next year, as part of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s continued push for stronger local governance, Malacañang said Wednesday. Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said the National Tax Allotment (NTA) for LGUs would jump by P129.32 billion from the 2026 level, a "non-partisan, formula-based" allocation that would be highlighted in the President's fifth State of the Nation Address on July 27. "As a former local executive official himself, the President sees and honors these as people's entitlements. These are guaranteed plowbacks that will go from big cities to the remotest barangays (villages)," Recto said in a statement. The P1.32-trillion NTA for 2027 is based on internal revenue collections in 2024, in accordance with the law requiring the allotment to be computed using collections from three years prior. Recto said the amount would be among the biggest ticket items in the proposed 2027 national budget which is being finalized by the Department of Budget and Management. Under the NTA allocation formula, around 83 provinces will receive P303.56 billion; 149 cities, P303.56 billion; 1,491 towns, P448.84 billion; and 41,912 villages, P263.97 billion.

- [Social media watchdog renews call for creation of regulatory board amid online threats to youth](#) (2026-06-24 04:34)

MANILA, Philippines — A social media watchdog has renewed its call for the immediate creation of a National Social Media Regulatory Board (NSMRB), citing growing concerns over the alleged risks posed by unregulated digital platforms, particularly among Filipino youth. Kapisanan ng Social Media Broadcasters ng Pilipinas Inc. (KSMBPI) founding chairman Michael Raymond Aragon appealed to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to support the establishment of the proposed regulatory body and certify the measure as urgent. The appeal came after the recent shooting incident at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, where three high school students were killed and 13 others were wounded. "Amid the senseless shooting spree propagated by minors last Monday morning at the San Jose National High School in Tacloban, we are now asking the government's most crucial support for a law creating the NSMRB to immediately address the clear and present danger of unregulated social media in the country today," Aragon said in an interview. Aragon said initial findings from the Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Education (DepEd), and local investigators pointed to a combination of personal, digital, and systemic factors surrounding the incident. He said authorities found that the two minor suspects, aged 14 and 15, had allegedly experienced prolonged bullying since Grade 7, which investigators said may have contributed to their reported desire for retaliation. Authorities also said the attack was planned weeks in advance and that the suspects allegedly intended to target specific individuals but instead struck nearby classmates. Aragon said investigators also examined the possible influence of violent online content, including videos depicting foreign school shootings and other violent materials accessible through digital platforms. "The PNP even revealed that the suspects were heavily

influenced by online videos of gun violence,” Aragon said, adding that one of the suspects was also reportedly exposed to violent online gaming content. The KSMBPI official said the incident demonstrated the need for stronger safeguards against harmful digital content, deepfakes, cyberbullying, and algorithm-driven manipulation that may affect behavior and public perception. He said the organization had submitted a draft executive order proposing the creation of the NSMRB but was advised that a Republic Act would be more appropriate to provide clear legal authority, including specific penalties for violations. The group later elevated the proposal to Congress but said it continues to await legislative action. Aragon said the proposed NSMRB would serve as a mechanism to address emerging challenges linked to social media use while promoting accountability among digital platforms.

- [CHED issues show-cause order to Ateneo over deaths of student cagers](#) (2026-06-24 02:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Higher Education issued a show-cause order to the Ateneo de Manila University after it failed to provide an incident report and documents regarding its own investigation into the death of student athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. Baterbonia and Adili died on June 8 during a team-building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora. In a statement late Tuesday night, CHED Chairman Shirley Agrupis said its National Capital Region office directed Ateneo to submit the necessary documents and reports after its meeting last June 9. Agrupis said that it has made repeated requests for the submission for these documents "given the seriousness of the incident and the Commission's responsibility to ascertain the facts and determine compliance with applicable regulations." "Despite follow-ups by CHED-NCR, the University failed to provide the required records and information," Agrupis added. Because of this, CHED issued a SCO on June 16, which mandates Ateneo to submit a written explanation under oath within 10 days from receipt of its order. "The University must state why the Commission should not impose appropriate sanctions for alleged violations of the following; CMO (CHED Memorandum Order) No. 63 (s. 2017), on the conduct of off-campus activities; CMO No. 6 (s. 2026), in relation to Republic Act No. 11053 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR); and its alleged failure to exercise reasonable supervision over its students in loco parentis (in the place of a parent)," Agrupis said. Agrupis said that the CHED could not allow matters involving the loss of student lives and questions of institutional accountability to remain unaddressed, stressing that higher education institutions are expected to cooperate fully with regulatory processes, particularly in incidents involving student safety and welfare.

- [SC voids GSIS rule excluding secondary beneficiaries from survivorship benefits](#) (2026-06-24 02:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court struck down a Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) regulation that barred secondary beneficiaries from receiving survivorship benefits of members who had rendered at least three but less than 15 years of government service, ruling that the agency exceeded its authority. In a decision written by Associate Justice Henri Jean Paul B. Inting, the SC's Third Division declared Section 24.2.2 of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 8291, or the GSIS Act of 1997, ultra

vires for going beyond the law. The Court said the provision could not be enforced insofar as it conflicted with Section 21(c) of the statute. The ruling stemmed from the claim of Petronilo Laroco, who sought survivorship benefits following the death of his daughter, Cristie C. Laroco, a public school teacher who had served the government for 13 years and paid GSIS premiums for 12 years. She died single and without children. The GSIS denied the claim, citing its IRR which limited survivorship benefits for secondary beneficiaries to cases where the deceased member had at least 15 years of service. Since Cristie had only 13 years in government service, the agency ruled that only primary beneficiaries—such as a spouse or dependent children—could qualify. The Court of Appeals affirmed the GSIS ruling, prompting Laroco to elevate the case to the High Court, arguing that the IRR effectively amended the GSIS Act by removing statutory rights granted to secondary beneficiaries under certain conditions. The high tribunal ruled in Laroco's favor, clarifying that under the GSIS Act, secondary beneficiaries may receive survivorship benefits if there are no primary beneficiaries, the dependency requirements are met, the member was in service at the time of death, and the member had rendered at least three years of government service. The Court said Section 24.2.2 of the IRR imposed an additional requirement—raising the threshold to 15 years of service—which is not found in the law and therefore cannot be enforced. While acknowledging GSIS' intent to address perceived inequities in the system, the SC said administrative agencies cannot amend legislation through implementing rules. It added that Congress had already established a distinction in benefits: members with at least 15 years of service are entitled to a survivorship pension, while those with three to less than 15 years receive a cash benefit equivalent to 100 percent of their average monthly salary for each year of service with paid contributions. The Court stressed that social security laws must be liberally interpreted in favor of employees and their beneficiaries, as these statutes are intended to advance social justice and protect families from the financial impact of death or disability. It said that if GSIS believed reforms were necessary, it should bring the matter to Congress rather than alter statutory provisions through administrative issuances. The case was remanded to the GSIS Committee on Claims for recomputation of the benefits due to Laroco.

- [Typhoon Francisco continues to weaken over Philippine Sea](#) (2026-06-24 00:00)

MANILA, Philippines – The state-run weather agency said on Wednesday that Wind Signal No. 1 remains hoisted over the provinces of Batanes and Cagayan due to Typhoon Francisco, which continues to weaken while lingering over the Philippine Sea. Nathaniel Servando, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) chief, said Francisco's eye was estimated at 350 kilometers (kms) east-northeast of Calayan, Cagayan, or 275kms east of Basco, Batanes. Moving northward at 10 kilometers per hour (kph), Francisco has maximum sustained winds of 155kph near the center and gustiness of up to 190kph, according to the latest Pagasa bulletin. Citing the track forecast, Servando said the typhoon will exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) by Thursday evening or Friday morning. The national weather agency said the typhoon has also been affecting Ilocos Region, Cordillera Administrative Region, and the rest of Cagayan Valley, bringing cloudy skies with scattered rain

showers and thunderstorms. On one hand, the southwest monsoon or ‘habagat’ has been bringing the same weather pattern over Metro Manila, Central Luzon, CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), MIMAROPA (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan), Bicol Region, Western Visayas, and Negros Island Region in 24 hours, it added. Meanwhile, Servando said that Pagasa is closely monitoring the movement of Tropical Storm Higos (international name), which was outside PAR, and is unlikely to hit the country.

- [Cayetano orders programming review, digital expansion, reorganization push for PTV-4](#)  
(2026-06-23 19:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Lino Cayetano announced issuing his first official orders as general manager of government-owned People’s Television Network (PTV) meant to strengthen the network’s content, expanding its reach, and improving its organizational structure. In a statement posted on Facebook, Cayetano said the directives, issued following a two-week assessment and review, were guided by a mandate to make PTV and its services “closer and more relevant to the lives of the Filipino people.” Among those he ordered is the review and realignment of PTV’s programming across all platforms. A panel will be formed to assess the network’s program grid, with the goal of strengthening its news and public affairs offerings while expanding educational, cultural, developmental, and disaster preparedness content. This would build on the talent and experience already within the network and seen to also provide employees with greater support and resources. Next is the creation of a task force focused on digital, Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT), and multichannel development. The body will work to activate new DTT and digital channels, expand the network’s social media presence, strengthen regional content, and pursue partnerships with government agencies, local government units, non-government organizations, private sector partners, and other content providers. According to Cayetano, the move aims to bring PTV’s services to more Filipinos across different platforms. He likewise directed the establishment of a committee tasked to review all positions and its plantilla as part of efforts to strengthen its workforce. This will run alongside the endorsement of PTV’s reorganization plan, which Cayetano noted has remained pending for the past 15 years. “At the same time, we will partner with the academe and the private sector to attract fresh talent — building a stronger team that honors those who have long served PTV and prepares the network for the future,” Cayetano said. He added that said orders seeks address the network’s content, reach, and institutional capacity, as part of efforts to build “a stronger, more sustainable, and more progressive national public broadcaster.”

- [Acosta praises Marcos, Gatchalian for fast-tracking completion of delayed PAO building](#)  
(2026-06-23 17:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Public Attorney’s Office (PAO) Chief Persida Rueda-Acosta on Tuesday expressed gratitude for the ‘swift actions’ of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and now Senate president Sherwin Gatchalian to push through with the construction of the long-delayed PAO building in Quezon City. Rueda-Acosta, who toured the members of the Quezon City Press Club at the under-construction facility on a 5, 175 square-meter National Government Center

property along Commonwealth Avenue, also was thankful to Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Vince Dizon who instructed the concerned agency officials to fast track the construction as ordered by the Chief Executive. Congratulating Gatchalian for his election as the new Senate chief and restoring order at the upper chamber, she was all praises for the former for making true with his promise when he made available the amount of P280 million for the building's Phase 5 when he was then the Senate committee on appropriations head. "We thank President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Senator Sherwin Gatchalian for prioritizing the budget for the construction of our new building as well as Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon for guaranteeing the building's structural integrity," the chief public attorney told reporters. PAO is currently located in Barangay Pinyahan, also in the city, which was cramped with a limited space. It was just beside an informal settlers' area that was struck by a huge fire on March 6, 2026. "We badly need a much bigger building like this one as there are over 1,000 clients who come to us on a daily basis. We really need a bigger space to accommodate the growing number of indigents who seek free legal assistance, among others," Rueda-Acosta said. Saying she refused to handle the budget to avoid corruption within the agency, she said the fund allocation for the building construction was being downloaded by the Department of Budget and Management to DPWH. "But you know what, if PAO handles the budget, the building may have been finished by now but then, it's still okay because we make sure that PAO remains free of corruption issues," Rueda-Acosta stressed. The top PAO official, who vowed to maximize her term by retiring when she reaches 70 (she is 64 at present), the compulsory retirement age as mandated by an existing law, assured the public that the new building can withstand a magnitude 10 earthquake, and is accessible particularly once the Metro Rail Transit-7 is completed. With a total of P900-million allocated under the 2018 budget but has since ballooned to P2-billion due to the rising cost of materials over the years, the construction started in 2019 but was delayed because of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, according to PAO. With the target date of completion in May 2027, Rueda-Acosta was confident that they could be able to move to the new 10-story building a month later. Vowing to work more with dedication "so that there will be no reasons for the Filipino people to rise up in arms or resort to lawlessness," Rueda-Acosta said the new PAO building is dedicated to the 'masang Pilipino' (Filipino masses) in order to serve them better and more extensively. If she is still healthy when she leaves PAO, Rueda-Acosta said she may consider making herself available to serve the Filipino people in some other capacity.

- [AFP generals filing complaints vs Gibo over foreign passport claim 'joke'](#) (2026-06-23 17:22)

MANILA, Philippines —The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Tuesday utterly dismissed claims that a majority of generals were in conflict with Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. and were preparing to file complaints against him as a "joke." Rear Admiral Roy Vincent Trinidad, AFP spokesman for the West Philippine Sea clarified that there is practically no basis for the claim. "On the legal side, I would like to defer to the Department of National Defense (DND) for the merits of the case," Trinidad said in a press briefing at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon



City. As to whether there is indeed a friction between the defense chief and some senior military officials, Trinidad again rejected the allegation. “No such (tension) exists. Laugh at it. It’s a good joke,” he said. The remarks were made after a lawyer filed complaints against Teodoro, accusing him of perjury and falsification in connection with his reported ownership of a Maltese passport. The lawyer later claimed that a majority of AFP generals were considering filing similar cases amid alleged growing tensions between the defense chief and the military. Col. Francel Margareth Padilla, AFP spokesman, echoed yet again that the military would not be drawn into what she described as unverified accusations. “We will not dignify baseless and unverified allegations that seek to drag our institution into matters that are driven by personal motives,” Padilla said. She added that “the intent is malicious and also the timing is very dubious.” Padilla reiterated that the AFP stands by Teodoro as the defense secretary and that “we will not dignify these claims.” She also reiterated that there is “no need for a loyalty check” assuring that every member of the military remains professional in carrying out their duties.

- [Teens planned school attack, messages show](#) (2026-06-23 16:11)

LEAKED alleged chats between the minor suspects in the San Jose National High School shooting in Tacloban, Leyte, circulated rapidly on the internet Tuesday and showed the two shooters planned the attack over a month ahead and researched juvenile justice laws and believed they would be exempt from criminal liability. “Screenshots of the text messages spread so fast,” BGen Jason Capoy, Police Regional Office 8 regional director, said in Filipino. He said their investigation so far suggested that the two had indeed planned the shooting, and even did research on the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act to see what it says about minors who are involved in crimes. The screenshots showed that the two talked casually about committing the crime, and were relieved that the law spares minors from criminal liability. The Philippine National Police (PNP) earlier said initial investigation suggested that the suspects were victims of bullying since Grade 7. Their bullies, however, were not among the victims. The PNP said the 14-year-old suspect gained access to his gun, a Glock 9mm pistol, from an aunt who was an active police officer while the other’s weapon, a .38 revolver, was registered as a service firearm from a security agency. The 14-year-old suspect’s aunt has been relieved and an administrative investigation is underway. Three victims died while 20 were injured in the school shooting Monday. Forty shells were recovered at the crime scene. Gorebox addict Capoy said one of the suspects was addicted to Gorebox, a violent online game. “It is a shooting game. There are firearms there. The game is rather violent,” he added. A background check on the boy’s social media account revealed that he made numerous violent posts prior to the incident. Among the posts he made was a video of him at a firing range doing target shooting. But Capoy said although the boy had been to a firing range, he was not a good shot. “He’s not that good to be considered an expert but he knew how to release and load magazines,” Capoy said. Palace open to law review In the wake of Monday’s shooting, Malacañang said it believes there is a need to study proposed amendments to Republic Act 9344, or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006, particularly proposals to lower the age of



criminal liability of minors. In a Palace briefing, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said enacting changes to the legislation would depend on the version that would be submitted to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Earlier, the PNP said it supports Sen. Robinhood Padilla's proposal to revisit the law and stated they want the age of criminal responsibility lowered from 15 to 12 years old. Castro said this was "reasonable." "If this is good for our youth and for the implementation of our law, the president will agree to that," she said in Filipino. "Nothing has been discussed about the age yet, but what we are saying is that whatever version Congress can provide, the president will look into it. But as far as we know, yes, the president is open to lowering the age," she added. In the same briefing, PNP spokesman Col. Allen Rae Co said they are pushing for an amendment to RA 9344 because more minors were committing crimes. Unlike in other countries, minors who commit heinous crimes in the Philippines cannot be tried as adults. Banning violent online games Castro said the president is also open to proposals to ban violent online games. "It was reported that these children are addicted to playing violent online games. It was discussed that those kinds of apps should be banned in the Philippines. So that's a good suggestion," Castro said during the press conference. "We hope that a measure will be crafted soon and the president is open to such proposals," she added. The Palace official said the administration was open to legislative measures that would regulate access to violent online content, particularly among minors. Castro also said that lawmakers may move quickly to study possible restrictions in light of the incident. In related developments, Sen. Risa Hontiveros said the Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality will conduct an investigation on the Tacloban shooting incident and the growing threat of online radicalization among children on July 1. The senator, who chairs the committee, said the public hearing follows the panel's April 14 inquiry which showed that online platforms and gaming spaces are allegedly being used to groom, manipulate, and radicalize children into violence. Education Secretary Sonny Angara said the deadly shooting highlights the need to address not only security concerns but also the mental health and social environment affecting Filipino youth. Angara said the Department of Education is closely reviewing the incident, noting that it was one of three school violence cases reported nationwide within less than a week. "We are seeing a generation that often seeks validation through social media, and sometimes the desire for attention and recognition can lead young people to do unusual or harmful things," he said. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) continued to provide psychosocial interventions and financial assistance to survivors and families affected by the shooting. The agency said social workers have administered psychological first aid to students, parents, and other affected individuals to help them cope with the trauma caused by the incident. The DSWD has also released P100,000 in financial assistance to nine injured individuals and P10,000 each to the families of the three fatalities through its Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) program. Muntinlupa City Mayor Ruffy Biazon warned that the country should treat "nihilistic violent extremism" as a clear and present danger, following the first reported indiscriminate mass shooting in a Philippine school in Tacloban, which he said showed the possible influence of online platforms on young people. Biazon said the incident was a manifestation of the emergence of nihilistic violent extremism, which intelligence and security agencies have been monitoring in recent

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- [Teens planned school attack, messages show](#) (2026-06-23 16:11)

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- [Make our schools safer, child rights group says](#) (2026-06-23 16:09)

FOLLOWING Monday's fatal school shooting in Tacloban City, Child Rights Network (CRN) Philippines on Tuesday called on the government, schools, and civil society to start "necessary conversations" on school safety. "We call on the government, schools, and civil society to start the necessary conversations about how we can make schools safer, prevent bullying and other forms of violence, and ensure that children have access to the support they need for their mental health and in times of distress," CRN said in a statement. The group mourned with the families of the three students who were killed in Monday's shooting at San Jose National High School. "Schools are meant to be safe spaces where children can learn, play, build healthy relationships, and discover who they want to become. They are not meant, and should never

become, places where children, teachers, and school personnel have to run, hide, or fear for their lives,” the group said. “As we grieve, we must be willing to face the harder truth that violence does not exist in a vacuum. There are conditions that may have contributed to this tragedy, placed children at risk, or pushed them into conflict with the law,” they added. The group said guns have no place in schools and should never be in the hands of the children. “We call for greater accountability and scrutiny of the children’s possession of weapons. Guns have no place in schools and should never fall into the hands of children,” the group said. “As more information comes to light, we hope this tragedy serves not only as a moment of grief, but also a time to reflect on how we can better protect children from violence or prevent it from taking root in their lives,” the advocacy group added. CRN informed the public that should there be a child needing counseling, they can call the Makabata hotline at 1383 for proper intervention. Meanwhile, late on Monday, Akbayan party-list expressed deep concern over the incident. “We call on the Philippine National Police, the Department of Education, and all concerned agencies to conduct thorough, impartial investigations. Justice must be ensured for the victims and their families, while also examining the broader social and institutional factors that may be driving violence among young people, with prevention as the goal,” the party-list said. “We urge the public to remain vigilant in demanding justice while resisting calls for draconian responses that may deepen fear and insecurity rather than address the roots of the problem. True public safety requires effective prevention, support systems, and accountable institutions. No parent should lose a child to school violence, and every student deserves a safe, nurturing environment free from fear and harm,” they added. The Philippine office of the United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef) said the shooting caused fear and distress among learners, teachers, parents and communities. “Violence has no place in schools. The involvement of minors, as both victims and alleged perpetrators, further underscores the urgent need for strengthened prevention of violence and protection, and mental health support systems for children,” Unicef said. “When violence enters classrooms and school grounds as well as its surroundings, it shatters not only young lives but also the trust of families and communities in the very institutions meant to protect and empower children,” they added. Age of criminal responsibility Also on Tuesday, the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (Pahra) expressed alarm over the call of Sen. Robinhood Padilla to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) following the school shooting in Tacloban City. In a statement, Pahra expressed sympathy for the victims and their families, but said the tragedy “should not be exploited to revive proposals that have repeatedly been criticized by child rights advocates.” “Every time a crime involving children makes headlines, Senator Padilla’s solution is always the same: lower the age of criminal responsibility.... But have you ever asked what interventions actually prevent children from committing violence? Have you explored reforms that strengthen mental health support, anti-bullying programs, family interventions, and child rehabilitation instead of simply making children easier to imprison?” Pahra Secretary-General Edgar Cabalitan said. He emphasized that children in conflict with the law do not “walk free” under the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act and remain subject to “intervention, accountability measures, rehabilitation, and restorative justice mechanisms appropriate to their age and development.” “The public should stop believing the false

narrative that children are exempt from accountability. They are not. The law simply recognizes that children require restoration, not retaliation. Justice is not measured by how young we imprison people,” Cabalitan said. “If bullying was identified as the trigger, why is the conversation immediately about punishment instead of prevention? If there were missed warning signs, why aren’t we talking about strengthening schools, mental health services, and child protection systems? The answer to a broken system is not to criminalize children earlier,” he added. The group argued that lowering the MACR could only do little to prevent similar tragedies and urged lawmakers to pursue evidence-based and child-centered reforms, instead of stating “punitive” responses that failed to reduce crimes. “Children need accountability, but accountability should lead to restoration — not lifelong criminalization. If we truly want safer communities, we must invest in preventing violence, not simply lowering the age at which we punish it,” Cabalitan said.

- [VP Sara to attend impeach trial if needed, lawyer says](#) (2026-06-23 16:08)

VICE President Sara Duterte is expected to attend her impeachment trial before the Senate sitting as an impeachment court when proceedings begin on July 6, her lawyer said Tuesday. In an interview, Michael Poa confirmed that the vice president would appear before the impeachment court if necessary. This clarification contradicts earlier reports that suggested she would not attend the proceedings and would only be represented by her legal team. Poa said Duterte remains prepared to participate in the trial as required under the impeachment process. The impeachment trial can legally proceed with or without her presence. If she opts not to appear before the Senate impeachment court to enter a plea, the court will simply enter a plea of “not guilty” on her behalf. Duterte is being represented by a 16-member legal panel from the Fortun Narvasa & Salazar law firm. As preparations for the trial continue, Poa said both the defense and prosecution have been engaged in pre-trial proceedings focused on the marking and identification of documentary evidence. “The process has been orderly since the first day of the pre-trial conference last Thursday,” he said. “We are hopeful of completing the pre-trial soon, but there are a lot of documents, which is normal for a case of this nature.” Poa noted that the pre-trial conference could extend beyond Wednesday and continue through the original schedule later this week due to the volume of records being reviewed. He explained that the marking of documentary evidence is a crucial phase designed to ensure the smooth and orderly conduct of the impeachment trial. “This is for identification purposes. During the trial, the parties will simply refer to these documents as exhibits, making proceedings more efficient,” Poa said. The defense has opted to separately mark its own documents even when some may overlap with those submitted by the prosecution. “Their documents are theirs and our documents are ours,” Poa said. “We are being very careful with the way we do things because these are the documents we will use during the course of the trial. Both sides understand that.” Poa also addressed concerns raised over the prosecution’s witness list and reports that some witnesses may mirror or adopt testimonies from others. According to the defense counsel, each side independently submitted its pre-trial brief, identifying witnesses and documentary evidence it intends to present. “It is well within the prerogative of each party to

identify and present the witnesses they would like to call,” he said, adding that the defense is prepared to respond to any motions or manifestations that may be filed by the prosecution regarding witnesses. He likewise defended the decision of both sides to reserve certain witnesses whose identities have not yet been publicly disclosed, citing security concerns. “We also have reserved witnesses whom we did not name for their security,” Poa said. At the same time, he emphasized the defense’s support for timely disclosure of witnesses and the order of presentation to allow all parties — including senator-judges — to adequately prepare for the proceedings. “We asked for disclosure of the order of trial and the witnesses who will testify first and next. If there is a rule requiring disclosure within a certain period, we have no problem complying with it,” he said. The impeachment trial of Duterte is scheduled to begin on July 6. Preparations for the trial continue as the Senate impeachment court moves toward completing pre-trial proceedings. According to Senate impeachment court Clerk of Court Renato Bantug Jr., the pre-trial conference involving Duterte’s defense panel and the House prosecution team is expected to conclude this week, paving the way for the issuance of a pre-trial order. Bantug said the Senate impeachment court aims to finalize and submit the pre-trial order to the presiding officer on June 25, following the completion of the pre-trial conference. “The target is to submit the pre-trial order to the presiding officer on June 25,” Bantug said, noting that discussions may continue if all matters are not resolved within the scheduled timeframe. Public prosecutors in the impeachment trial have asked the Senate impeachment court to adopt additional measures as the marking of evidence continues in the pre-trial proceedings, noting the “voluminous” documents that are still being processed by both the prosecution and the defense. During a press briefing at the House of Representatives on Tuesday, House lead prosecutor and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said their team is seeking additional exhibit-marking teams and extra working days to review the thousands of documents linked to the confidential funds of the vice president. “I wish to share that indeed, the documents for confidential fund are really voluminous. As a matter of fact, the prosecutors have expressed their uncertainties as to whether the marking will be finished by Thursday,” Luistro said. Luistro said that they have proposed to Senate Secretary Renato Bantug, through House Secretary-General Cheloy Garafil, to extend the marking of exhibits to Friday and Saturday, as well as increasing the number of marking teams from four to as many as eight.

- [Cebu emerges as a diversified economic powerhouse](#) (2026-06-23 16:07)

CEBU CITY — Cebu has outgrown its reputation as a business process outsourcing (BPO) hub and is emerging as a diversified economic powerhouse driven by exports, innovation, tourism, manufacturing and technology. Speakers reinforced that message during The Manila Times Cebu Business and Tourism Forum 2026 on Tuesday, June 23, at the Radisson Blu Cebu. The forum, themed “Padayon Cebu: Accelerating Momentum, Securing Prosperity,” gathered government officials, business leaders, tourism stakeholders and technology advocates to discuss opportunities and challenges shaping Cebu’s future as one of the country’s leading economic centers. Opening the event, The Manila Times Chief Executive Officer Anna Marie Ang-Thompson said Cebu’s economic story has evolved beyond the industry that helped establish its global



reputation."Cebu is ready to move beyond its traditional BPO image," Thompson said. She noted that while the IT-BPM sector remains a major contributor to jobs and economic activity, Cebu has expanded into a broader growth engine supported by exports, entrepreneurship, premium services and innovation. "Cebu is no longer just answering calls. Cebu is making the calls. Calls to innovation. Calls to global competitiveness. And calls to the future," she said. In her welcome remarks, The Manila Times President and Chief Operating Officer Blanca Mercado said the forum aimed to look beyond Cebu's achievements and focus on the factors that will influence its next phase of development. She said Cebu's continued success depends on how it addresses issues such as sustainable tourism, infrastructure, digital transformation, workforce development and regional competitiveness. "The question before us is not whether Cebu will continue to grow. The question is how that growth can become more inclusive, more resilient, and more sustainable," Mercado said. Delivering the keynote address, Paolo Uy, head of the Cebu Provincial Investment and Promotions Office, highlighted the scale of the regional economy and Cebu's role as its primary growth driver. "Today, Central Visayas is a P1.3 trillion economy, and Cebu remains its principal economic driver," Uy said. Uy said services account for more than 70 percent of Central Visayas' economy, driven by tourism, trade, finance and digital services. He said Cebu's growth has become more diversified. He cited manufacturing, maritime industries, infrastructure development, logistics, innovation, agribusiness and tourism as key sectors contributing to the province's expanding economy. Uy said manufacturing now accounts for nearly 15 percent of regional output, while maritime industries continue to support exports, jobs and investments. He pointed to ongoing infrastructure projects that improve connectivity and strengthen Cebu's role as a gateway for commerce, tourism and trade. He said innovation now extends beyond the IT-BPM sector and influences manufacturing, logistics, agriculture, health care, education and government services. Uy also emphasized food and water security and agribusiness development as priorities for long-term economic resilience. The morning session featured presentations from Regan Rex King, president of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry; April Joy Medico, deputy administrator of the Mactan Economic Zone; Christine Villanueva, head of communications and strategy of Aboitiz InfraCapital Cebu Airport Corp.; and Aseem Roy, president of the Cebu IT-BPM Organization. King and Villanueva highlighted Cebu's appeal as both a business and tourism destination, citing connectivity, investment opportunities and quality of life. They said Cebu benefits from a combination of commercial activity and leisure offerings that support investment and tourism growth. During the afternoon session, Sheila Lobien, chief executive officer of Lobien Realty Group, discussed real estate trends and investment opportunities, while Aldie Garcia, vice chairman and assurance managing partner of PwC Philippines, presented findings from a business confidence survey. Garcia said business leaders identified concerns involving regulatory processes, responsiveness and ease of doing business. Survey respondents called for streamlined bureaucracy, faster digitalization, improved infrastructure and stronger public-private partnerships. Kernan Motoomull, chief executive officer of TechSupport.ph Inc., emphasized the need for businesses to build digital foundations before adopting advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence. He said small and medium enterprises should invest in systems for operations, finance, human resources and customer management. Rosalie Pañares, founder and



chief executive officer of Thaumazo Express Transport Solutions (TEXTS) Inc., highlighted the role of logistics and last-mile delivery in economic activity. She discussed challenges faced by riders and logistics operators, including rising fuel costs, and pushed the use of artificial intelligence and Internet of Things technologies to improve efficiency and safety. Arnold Comendador, vice president for sales for Visayas and Mindanao of InfiniVAN, discussed digital infrastructure and its role in tourism, public services and business expansion. He cited the company's fiber network rollout, submarine cable projects and connectivity initiatives across the country. The Manila Times columnist Ben Kritz moderated morning and afternoon fireside chats, where speakers reiterated the importance of infrastructure development, digital transformation, talent development and public-private collaboration in sustaining Cebu's economic momentum. Throughout the forum, speakers said Cebu must continue diversifying its economy, attracting investments and strengthening partnerships among government, industry and communities. The forum forms part of The Manila Times' continuing efforts to convene policymakers, business leaders and industry stakeholders to discuss regional development, competitiveness and sustainable economic growth. KAISER JAN FUENTES

- [Anti-graft court denies motion of Zaldy Co's co-accused](#) (2026-06-23 16:05)

THE Sandiganbayan Sixth Division affirmed its ruling to deny the motions for permission to file demurrer to evidence of seven accused in the malversation through falsification case filed against former congressman Zaldy Co and others in connection with an anomalous road dike construction project in Oriental Mindoro. In a 10-page resolution promulgated on June 23, 2026, the court denied for lack of merit the motions for reconsideration filed by Gerald Pacanan, Dominic Serrano, Juliet Calvo, Dennis Abagon, Montrexis Tamayo, Lerma Cayco, and Felisardo Casuno, Co's co-accused. A demurrer to evidence is a motion to dismiss the case right in the middle of the trial. Instead of moving forward with presenting a defense, the accused asks the court to acquit them immediately because the prosecution's case is too weak. The accused may file a demurrer to evidence with or without leave — or permission — of the court. If the demurrer is filed by an accused without leave of court and it is later denied, the accused can no longer present evidence in his defense. On the other hand, if the demurrer is filed with leave of the court but it is later denied, the accused can still take his turn during the trial to present witnesses and evidence. A granted demurrer means acquittal. "After reviewing the prosecution evidence and the parties' arguments, this court arrived at the conclusion that granting the same would only lead to delay and, hence, denied the said motions," the court said.

- [ICC tells lawyers: No comments in media](#) (2026-06-23 16:04)

THE International Criminal Court (ICC) told lawyers Tuesday in the trial of former president Rodrigo Duterte to refrain from public commentary, stressing that all arguments must remain strictly within court proceedings. "The chamber wishes to remind all counsel that they must not comment publicly or speculate outside court proceedings," Presiding Judge Joanna Korner said during the second status conference of the case before ICC Trial Chamber III in The Hague. Korner stressed that reporting on the proceedings must be accurate and free from

misinformation. “The proper forum for arguments is the courtroom, not public or media discourse,” she said. The chamber noted that legal proceedings must not be influenced by external commentary, adding that strict observance of professional standards by both prosecution and defense teams is mandatory. Korner cited prior concerns involving former defense counsel Nicolas Kaufman issuing public statements and media interviews. The chamber noted that while the Pre-Trial Chamber had previously reminded Kaufman of his professional obligations of respect and courtesy toward the court, subsequent media appearances following key rulings had been viewed as inconsistent with those standards. Korner said the episode illustrated the need for clearer and more comprehensive rules governing counsel’s engagement with the media, particularly in high-profile international criminal cases, adding that existing codes of conduct appeared to contain gaps that should be addressed. The chamber indicated that more detailed guidance should be developed to regulate public communications by both prosecution and defense teams moving forward. Duterte did not attend the second status conference after formally waiving his right to be present. In a filing dated June 19, 2026, Duterte’s defense team informed Trial Chamber III that the 81-year-old accused opted to skip the procedural hearing and submitted a signed written waiver. The panel — composed of Korner together with Judges Reine Adélaïde Sophie Alapini-Gansou and Nicolas Guillou — granted the request and ordered that the waiver be placed on record. Under the waiver, Duterte instructed his lawyers to address all matters on the status conference agenda, including any additional issues that might arise during the hearing. Separately, the ICC Registry submitted a revised E-Court Protocol following consultations with the parties on the court’s proposed digital evidence system. The filing came after Trial Chamber III instructed the Registry to consult the prosecution, defense, and victims’ representatives on reforms to the handling of electronic evidence. The Registry said all parties supported the use of the Judicial Workflow Platform (JWP) witness module, which would serve as a centralized database for witness information throughout the trial. However, all sides raised concerns over the proposed E-binders module, which would require re-uploading evidence files into the system and maintaining parallel documentation processes. Parties described this as duplicative and potentially inefficient. The defense requested further testing to ensure that metadata consistency between the new JWP system and the existing JEM platform would be maintained, warning that discrepancies could affect the integrity of case records. Despite these reservations, the Registry submitted an amended protocol incorporating the agreed use of the JWP witness module while continuing to review concerns over the E-binders system. The ICC had earlier proposed replacing the current JEM/Nuix system with the JWP for managing witness and evidence records, as part of broader digital modernization efforts ahead of Duterte’s trial, which is scheduled to begin on Nov. 30, 2026.

- [First lady distributes rice to Tondo indigents](#) (2026-06-23 16:03)

FIRST lady Liza Araneta-Marcos led a rice distribution Tuesday among vulnerable families in Tondo, Manila, as part of the “Mula sa Puso Para sa Pamilya” initiatives. Araneta-Marcos was accompanied during the activity at Masinop Street by Manila Mayor Isko Moreno. A total of 500

beneficiaries, including senior citizens, solo parents and persons with disabilities (PWDs), each received five kilos of rice. “As a mother, I know how important it is to have food on the table. Even if we cannot eradicate poverty, at least we hope that this little thing will help you in the days to come,” Araneta-Marcos said. Manila Department of Social Welfare Director Jay Dela Fuente said the first lady’s presence and direct interaction with the beneficiaries reflected the administration’s commitment to providing tangible assistance to Filipinos. Raquel Encarnacion, a senior citizen beneficiary, said the aid provided a much-needed relief for her big family. Meanwhile, Michael Vergara, father of a PWD, said the rice he received would reduce their family’s daily expenses. He shared the challenges of caring for his 9-year-old differently-abled child, who frequently falls ill. He asked the government for support for his child’s medical needs. The first lady’s rice distribution program will continue in Barangay Bagong Pag-asa in Quezon City on Wednesday, before another round of distribution in Barangay 377 in Sta. Cruz, Manila, on Thursday. The program was launched in Barangay Doña Imelda in Quezon City on Monday, where 1,200 families received rice aid.

- [LTFRB suspends Five Star buses over fatal road crash](#) (2026-06-23 16:02)

THE Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has suspended the operation of eight passenger bus units of Pangasinan Five Star Bus, Inc., following a deadly road crash in front of a hospital in Santiago City, Isabela. LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said the 30-day suspension was imposed after the June 11 incident that killed a pedestrian and injured two passengers. “We express our sincerest condolences to the family of the victim. We understand the pain of that loss, and we in the LTFRB assure the family that we will exhaust all measures in the interest of justice and accountability,” Mendoza said in a statement. A police investigation indicates that the bus driver lost control of the vehicle on the national highway and hit a female pedestrian in front of the Santiago City Medical Center. The bus also collided with a pick-up truck moving in the opposite direction. The victim later succumbed to her injuries from the crash, while two of the bus passengers were reported injured, according to the police report. In a show-cause order, the LTFRB directed Pangasinan Five Star Bus, Inc. to explain why its Certificate of Public Convenience should not be suspended or revoked over the incident. Also, the agency ordered the company to subject the bus driver to a drug test and submit all eight suspended units for a roadworthiness inspection. The operator was likewise required to surrender the bus units’ license plates. Mendoza said the investigation will determine whether the company complied with road safety requirements and whether it provided assistance, including facilitating insurance claims, for the fatality and injured passengers. A hearing on the case is scheduled for July 7.

- [‘Lab For All’ offers Makati residents free medical services](#) (2026-06-23 16:01)

HUNDREDS of Makati residents received free medical consultations, laboratory tests, and medicines through the “Lab For All: Laboratoryo, Konsulta, at Gamot Para sa Lahat” health care initiative held in the city on Tuesday. The community-based medical outreach, led by first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, was conducted in several Makati communities before culminating at

the Makati Coliseum on June 23. The program provided residents with free health services, including ECG for individuals aged 35 and above, urinalysis, blood sugar tests, BMI assessment, hemoglobin testing, cholesterol and uric acid screening, chest X-ray, fetal Doppler, ultrasound for pregnant women, medical consultations, and medicines good for 15 days. Before the main event, medical missions were conducted in Barangay Valenzuela on June 19, Barangay Carmona on June 20, and Barangay Guadalupe Viejo on June 21. Makati City Mayor Nancy Binay said the initiative strengthens preventive health care by allowing residents to detect possible health concerns early and seek medical attention. “Preventive health care is one of the most effective ways to build healthier communities. By providing free consultations, diagnostic services, and medicines, Lab For All empowers residents to detect health concerns early and seek timely treatment,” Binay said. Also, the mayor said the program supports efforts to expand access to health care services in line with Republic Act 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act.

- [Reversal of Recto's plunder case dismissal sought](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

A COALITION of doctors and lawyers has asked the Office of the Ombudsman to reverse the dismissal of plunder and graft complaints against Executive Secretary Ralph Recto and PhilHealth President and CEO Emmanuel Ledesma Jr., citing a sharp increase in unprogrammed appropriations for projects in Recto's home district in Lipa City. In a 49-page Motion for Reconsideration filed Tuesday, the complainants urged the Ombudsman to revive the case involving the transfer of P60 billion in Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) reserve funds to the National Treasury, which they claimed was carried out in bad faith. The group, led by lawyer Rodel Taton and several medical professionals, alleged that after the fund transfer provision was inserted into the 2024 national budget, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) projects funded through unprogrammed appropriations in Lipa City rose from P50 million in 2023 to P3.6 billion in 2024 — a 7,100 percent increase. They said the amount covered 33 contracts, with P1.97 billion awarded to construction firms allegedly linked to CWS Party-list Rep. Edwin Gardiola, who campaigned with Recto and his family during the 2025 elections. The complainants argued that Recto's role as then-Batangas representative and deputy speaker placed him in the bicameral conference committee that finalized the 2024 budget provision allowing the transfer of PhilHealth funds. He was later appointed finance secretary on Jan. 11, 2024. The group claimed Recto and Ledesma should face charges of plunder, graft, technical malversation, and grave misconduct, arguing that the transfer of PhilHealth funds and the subsequent allocation of projects in Lipa City warranted further investigation. They cited the insertion of the special provision during the November 2023 bicameral budget hearings and argued that the circumstances surrounding the increase in district funding raised questions on whether public funds were improperly diverted. “Respondents were fully aware from the outset that PhilHealth's excess reserve funds could neither be returned to the National Treasury nor be utilized for Unprogrammed Appropriations, except for the purposes expressly mandated by law,” the motion read. The motion cited contractors connected to Gardiola, including Newington Builders Inc. (formerly Gardiola Construction), Laurel Development Corp., S-Ang General Construction & Trading Inc.,

and Redinex Construction and Trading. The complainants pointed to the Independent Commission for Infrastructure's recommendation in November 2025 to file criminal charges against Gardiola over alleged links to DPWH contractors. They argued that technical malversation is a crime where liability attaches regardless of an official's claimed good faith, saying the alleged diversion of funds itself constituted a violation. The group cited retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio's discussion on Recto's alleged role in the inclusion of the special provision in the 2024 budget, saying this supported their call for a fresh review of the complaint. The Ombudsman earlier dismissed the complaints filed in January, citing lack of prima facie evidence. The complainants maintained that the evidence and circumstances presented were sufficient to justify reversing the dismissal and conducting further proceedings. Recto has maintained that he merely performed a "legal and ministerial duty" in implementing the 2024 General Appropriations Act, which was presumed constitutional at the time. "The Congress ordered the Department of Finance secretary. The Supreme Court justices themselves said that I have no criminal liability because I simply followed the law and implemented it in good faith," Recto previously said.

- [Baldwin attends NBI probe](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

FORMER Ateneo de Manila University men's basketball head coach Tab Baldwin appeared Tuesday before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) which is investigating the drowning of Blue Eagles Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili during a team-building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora. Baldwin, accompanied by his legal counsel Karl David, arrived at the NBI office at 1:45 p.m. and remained at the bureau for questioning. He declined to issue any statement and did not respond to questions from members of the media. Baldwin did not attend two earlier scheduled subpoenas, including a June 16 summons where his lawyer appeared on his behalf, citing that he was "not in good condition," and a June 19 schedule, when he instead appeared before the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) for a separate proceeding. Earlier reports also noted that Baldwin had postponed previous appearances due to personal and health-related reasons. NBI Director Melvin Matibag said the bureau is comparing Baldwin's testimony with statements he previously gave to the CIDG as part of efforts to establish a consistent account of events. He said investigators were aiming to complete the probe within the week, after earlier delays caused by the nonappearance of some subpoenaed individuals. Matibag added that the NBI secured autopsy findings showing that Baterbonia and Adili drowned, with no indication of foul play such as being forcibly held underwater or subjected to external interference. The autopsy reports have been turned over to the victims' families, according to the bureau, as part of the documentation for death certification. Investigators have since shifted focus to environmental and situational factors, including strong sea currents and swimming conditions along the Pacific coastline in Aurora where the incident occurred. The probe is also examining whether rip currents, combined with the reported limited swimming ability of some participants, may have contributed to the fatalities. Initial findings from resort management indicated that safety measures were in place at the time of the incident, including warnings, designated swimming areas, and restrictions on

how far guests could enter the water. The resort had previously hosted the Ateneo basketball program without any reported incidents. Investigators have interviewed more than 20 current and former members of the Ateneo men's basketball program, coaching staff, and team officials, including resigned team manager Epok Quimpo, as well as resort staff and management. The NBI said its findings remained preliminary as it continued to gather testimonies and evaluate physical and documentary evidence before releasing its final conclusions on the case.

- [NDA partners with ABI Pascual to feed 500 students for 100 days](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

THE National Dairy Authority (NDA) signed a partnership with ABI Pascual Foods Inc. to serve milk to 500 public school learners daily in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, for a 100-day feeding program to improve child nutrition and support local dairy farmers. The memorandum of agreement, signed in Makati City on Tuesday, brings together ABI Pascual, NDA, Department of Education, and the city government of Sta. Rosa for the initiative that will benefit Kindergarten to Grade 6 learners of Malitlit Elementary School starting in September 2026. The program is part of the NDA-Private Sector-Funded Milk Feeding Program, making ABI Pascual the first private-sector partner to implement the agency's milk-feeding initiative at scale. The 100-day period aligns with the minimum timeframe used for nutritional status evaluation, allowing partner agencies to monitor changes in the learners' growth and nutritional outcomes. NDA Administrator Marcus Antonius Andaya said the initiative aims to address child nutrition while creating a stronger market for Filipino dairy farmers. Andaya said the program is only the beginning of efforts to expand dairy participation among local governments, government agencies, and private companies. "Right now, it's just the beginning of this program to increase the market for our dairy farmers," Andaya said. He added that the NDA plans to continue engaging corporations and other partners to replicate the initiative. The agency is also working with lawmakers to extend the number of days covered by the milk-feeding program and increase funding support. Andaya said the milk-feeding program has a P3 billion budget allocation for 2026, which the agency intends to utilize while continuing discussions for additional funding in succeeding years. Andaya said Sen. Kiko Pangilinan is among those backing the sector. The partnership also aims to connect school-based nutrition programs with the growth of the local dairy industry by increasing demand for locally produced milk.

- [BI officers stop aspiring OFW headed for Russia](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

BUREAU of Immigration authorities intercepted another suspected victim of illegal recruitment, highlighting the growing use of social media platforms by recruiters offering lucrative but questionable overseas jobs. Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado on Tuesday said the passenger attempted to leave for Hong Kong. During primary inspection, the passenger claimed he was traveling as a tourist for a five-day vacation sponsored by a friend. But immigration officers noticed inconsistencies in his documents and referred him for secondary inspection by members of the Immigration Protection and Border Enforcement Section (I-Probes). "Further questioning revealed that Hong Kong was merely a transit point and that his actual destination



was Moscow, Russia," Viado added. Authorities learned that the man had supposedly been recruited through Facebook and WhatsApp by people claiming to represent a staffing agency. He was reportedly promised a monthly salary of \$2,700 and was told that he could eventually qualify for Russian citizenship. The passenger, however, failed to present the required employment contract, overseas employment clearance, or proof that he had undergone the legal deployment process for overseas workers. Viado warned that illegal recruiters are increasingly turning to social media platforms to lure Filipinos with promises of high salaries, quick deployment, and attractive benefits abroad. He said many of these offers turn out to be fraudulent, leaving victims vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, or dangerous working conditions overseas. The BI chief urged aspiring overseas workers to verify all job offers through the Department of Migrant Workers and comply with legal deployment requirements designed to protect Filipino workers. The interception comes amid continuing concerns over unauthorized overseas deployment schemes. The BI noted the recent repatriation of 24 Filipino workers from Russia and reiterated its call for the public to seek employment only through legitimate channels and to report suspected illegal recruitment activities to authorities.

- [DOLE, Sweden push workers' safety](#) (2026-06-23 16:00)

THE Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Sweden vowed to promote safer workplaces, stronger industries and sustainable economic growth through continued collaboration and innovation. In a forum organized by the Swedish Embassy in partnership with Business Sweden and in coordination with DOLE, officials focused on finding solutions to occupational safety and health challenges in various sectors. At the center of discussions was the need to protect workers exposed to hazardous working conditions. One of the key presentations came from Alimak, a Swedish company specializing in vertical access solutions for industrial facilities and construction sites. It highlighted the dangers associated with working at heights, which remains one of the leading safety concerns across industries worldwide. The firm shared how best global practices and more efficient access systems can significantly reduce workplace accidents and improve worker protection. The importance of strengthening capacity-building programs that would help inspectors and frontline personnel adopt international safety standards and modern safety technologies was also discussed. Swedish Ambassador Anna Ferry underscored the vital role of the private sector in advancing sustainable development, particularly in achieving decent work and economic growth. She stressed that corporate social responsibility begins with ensuring fair treatment, safe working conditions, and respect for workers' rights. According to Ferry, Swedish companies have become global leaders in innovation and sustainability by integrating good labor practices, environmental responsibility, renewable energy solutions, and anti-corruption measures into their operations. She emphasized that responsible business practices are not only morally sound but also make good business sense by creating long-term value for companies and communities alike. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino stressed the importance of intensified workplace safety inspections and occupational hazard response efforts. He reported that the labor department is boosting the capabilities of its Occupational Safety and Health Center



through partnerships with local government units for community-level distribution of personal protective equipment. This, he added, was augmented by collaboration with the Armed Forces of the Philippines on rescue training programs. Labor Undersecretary Felipe Egargo Jr. said DOLE is embedding workplace safety into project planning, particularly in the transportation, construction and shipping sectors, while expanding high-impact inspections in high-risk workplaces.

- [Impeachment prosecutors push pre-trial extension due to "voluminous" documents](#)  
(2026-06-23 15:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The public prosecutors in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte have asked the Senate Impeachment Court to adopt additional measures as the marking of evidence continues in the pre-trial proceedings, noting the "voluminous" documents that are still being processed by both the prosecution and the defense. During a press briefing at the House of Representatives on Tuesday, House lead prosecutor and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said that their team is seeking additional exhibit-marking teams and extra working days to review the "thousands" of documents linked to the confidential funds of the Vice President. "I wish to share that indeed, the documents for confidential fund is really voluminous. As a matter of fact, the prosecutors have expressed their uncertainties as to whether the marking will be finished by Thursday," Luistro said. Luistro said that they have proposed to Senate Secretary Renato Bantug, through House Secretary-General Cheloy Garafil, to extend the marking of exhibits to Friday and Saturday, as well as increasing the number of marking teams from four to as many as eight. She said that the evidence for marking include 1,900 documents evidencing payment (DEP) from the Department of Education, and 2,000 DEPs from the Office of the Vice President. Despite this, both Luistro and Manila Rep. Joel Chua said that they are confident that the main trial would begin on July 6, as long as the pre-trial order to be issued before that day.

- [EPD strengthens school security in metro east through heightened police visibility and presence](#) (2026-06-23 15:26)

The Eastern Police District (EPD) had intensified police patrols in and around schools to help ensure the safety of students, teachers, school personnel, and parents amid the unfortunate shooting incident in Tacloban City yesterday. Police said were mobilized near schools premises to ensure public safety, and deter possible threats, and provide assistance when needed. EPD acting director Brig. Gen. Melecio Buslig Jr. said the increase police visibility covers the municipality of Pasig, Mandaluyong, Marikina, and San Juan. He said that police personnel will continue conducting visibility patrols, monitoring of school activities and stakeholders, especially during school opening and dismissal hours. "As part of the EPD's commitment to ensuring a safe and secure learning environment, police personnel have been strategically deployed in and around school premises to provide security coverage, maintain peace and order, and deter potential threats," Buslig Jr. said. "These intensified security measures aim to protect students, teachers, parents, and school personnel, particularly during school opening

and dismissal hours,” he said. Through continuous monitoring, visibility patrols, and community engagement, the EPD remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard the welfare of the public and support the uninterrupted pursuit of education, he stated. “The safety and security of our students, teachers, and parents remain our top priority. Through our enhanced police presence and active coordination with school authorities, we are committed to providing a secure environment where learning can thrive and every member of the school community can feel protected. Meanwhile, NPD acting director Brig Gen. Benliner Capili said the district’s area of responsibility would be strengthened to provide initiative among students focuses of their studies while giving parents peace of mind “As part of the EPD’s commitment to ensuring a safe and secure learning environment, police personnel have been strategically deployed in and around school premises to provide security coverage, maintain peace and order, and deter potential threats,” he said.

- [Repatriation of 24 Filipinos from Russia done in good faith, Palace says](#) (2026-06-23 14:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Russia did not ask for anything in return in its decision to repatriate 24 Filipinos detained for trafficking, Malacañang said on Tuesday. In a press briefing, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said it was all in good faith following President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin recently. “Nothing. In their bilateral meeting, the president just opened up about the 24 Filipinos detained in Russia,” Castro said in Filipino, and added that Putin was even “surprised” to know that there are Filipinos detained, without formal charges, in Irkutsk in southeastern Siberia. “The response of Russia, of President Putin, was good because our people returned home immediately,” she added. All former detainees have safely returned to the country last June 21. Their homecoming was facilitated by the Department of Foreign Affairs in coordination with Russian authorities, with assistance from the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). “The repatriation of 24 Filipinos was just one of President Marcos Jr.’s successful engagements in another country,” Castro said. Initial reports indicated that they may have fallen victims to illegal recruitment schemes and were taken into custody for possible immigration-related violations. The DMW is now investigating the matter.

- [Gov’t to provide P150K cash aid to kin of Tacloban shooting victims](#) (2026-06-23 13:36)

MANILA, Philippines—The government will provide P150,000 in financial assistance to each family of those who died in a school shooting in Tacloban City, Malacañang said Tuesday. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Health would also extend psychosocial services to everyone affected by the incident.

- [Amnesty Intl PH: Lowering minimum age for criminal responsibility not solution](#) (2026-06-23 13:00)

Amnesty International Philippines on Tuesday said lowering the minimum age for criminal responsibility is not the solution in reducing juvenile crime. The group condemned Monday's shooting at a Tacloban City school that killed three people. "This tragedy must not be exploited to revive failed and dangerous proposals to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility or further weaken the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act. Such knee-jerk reactions fail to address the root causes of harm and places more children at risk. The Juvenile Justice law exists because children must be treated differently from adults in ways that prioritize rehabilitation and accountability appropriate to their age," Amnesty International section director Ritz Lee Santos said in a statement. "Contrary to false claims, children in conflict with the law are still held accountable for unlawful acts under the Juvenile Justice Act based on the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) framework, which is not the same punishment given to adult suspects or accuse and People Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) in an adult criminal system. Exposing children to harsher punishment does not prevent them from committing crimes but it can only further harm and increase the likelihood of reoffending. Thus, lowering the age of criminal responsibility does not address the vulnerability of children to violence, nor will it prevent guns or knives from ending up in the hands of minors. When governments respond to social harm only through punishment, only the poor and vulnerable children are affected in most cases," they added. The human rights organization called on members of the 20th Congress to reject renewed attempts at lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility and instead invest in evidence-based measures that protect children and communities. "The pursuit of justice for the victims of the Tacloban school shooting must never come at the expense of children's rights. In moments of grief and public outrage, the government must resist punitive responses that have repeatedly proven ineffective and instead uphold its mandate to protect every child while ensuring accountability by upholding human rights standards," they said.

- [Pangilinan: Disinformation on Juvenile Justice Law fuels misconceptions, crimes](#)  
(2026-06-23 12:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Disinformation surrounding the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (JJWA) led to widespread misconceptions that children in conflict with the law (CCL) are exempted from punishment, Sen. Francis Pangilinan said. He said Republic Act 9344, or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006, provides for the implementation of comprehensive juvenile intervention programs for children in conflict with the law. The senator on Tuesday said the JJWA does not, in any way, empower children to commit crimes. It does not exempt minors from punishment and that parents may also be held accountable. He issued the clarification following the Tacloban shooting incident on Monday, wherein two minor children opened fire at the San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, killing three students and injuring 20 others. The suspects—aged 14 and 15—are now in police custody. The minimum age of criminal liability under the JJWA is 15. "At meron talagang accountability sa ilalim ng batas (And there's accountability under the law [for violators]," Pangilinan said. "Marami kasi ang nagkakat ng disinformation o maling impormasyon na pagka menor de edad ay walang pananagutan (A lot of people spread disinformation that minors have no accountability [if they commit crimes],"

Pangilinan said during a Facebook Live with Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council Executive Director Tricia Oco. Pangilinan and Oco said that the release of minor suspects also violates the law. "Huwag na huwag nating bigyan ng mga maling impormasyon yung mga bata. Nakukuha din nila yan sa social media (We must not give children false information. They get it from social media)," Oco said. "Kasi hindi po hindi totoo yun na pag meron kayong ginawang kasalanan, sorry, pakakawalan lang kayo (It's not true that if you commit crime, you will just be released)," she added.

- [PH Embassy in Qatar: No Filipinos affected in gas facility blast](#) (2026-06-23 12:54)

MANILA, Philippines — No Filipinos were killed or injured in the explosion at the Ras Laffan gas facility in Qatar, the Philippine Embassy in Doha said on Tuesday. "According to Philippine Ambassador Mardomel Celo Melicor, there are no Filipinos involved [in the explosion]," Foreign Affairs spokesman Analyn Ratonel said. Melicor has yet to reply to media query whether there are Filipino workers at Ras Laffan. Initial reports said that at least 13 people were killed, 12 of them from India, and 66 others were wounded after the explosion at Qatar's largest gas facility. "As of June 23, there are no nationals included in the list of confirmed fatalities and injuries," the embassy said. It added that it "continues to monitor the situation and coordinate with local authorities for relevant updates." "Filipino nationals requiring assistance may reach out to the embassy," the embassy posted on Facebook. Meanwhile, the embassy also conveyed its condolences and sympathies to those affected by the Ras Laffan incident on June 21. "Our thoughts are with the families who are grieving the untimely loss of their loved ones, and we wish a swift and full recovery to those who were injured," the embassy said.

- [De Lima files bill vs expiry of prepaid load](#) (2026-06-23 12:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Representative Leila de Lima of Mamamayang Liberal party-list filed House Bill 9903 that seeks to abolish the expiration of prepaid loads. "In the hopes of maintaining social justice, even every peso that avails us of the ability to communicate in this day and age must be safeguarded," de Lima said in the explanatory note of the bill which she filed on Monday. She said the bill has "a narrowly tailored provision for dormant accounts, those inactive for a minimum period of" one year. The lawmaker said that such accounts may be deducted P1 per day of inactivity until credits are fully consumed. This will also allow carriers to reclaim the dormant numbers for reallocation while preserving the vast majority of consumer assets. "Subscribers must receive notification of these daily deductions," she said.

- ['Sharmaine Bill' filed in House of Representatives](#) (2026-06-23 11:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Four lawmakers filed the Lived Identities and Recognition Act or Sharmaine Bill on Tuesday, which aims to give transgender and intersex Filipinos the right to change their names and gender based on their lived gender identities. "For many trans and intersex Filipinos, their names cause ridicule and discrimination. They are often mocked and laughed at because of the names that are on their legal documents," Akbayan Rep. Perci Cendaña said in Filipino and English in a statement. "This is why we filed the Sharmaine Bill. If

we immediately understand that Sharmaine is the name that an orange on TikTok wants, we can also extend the same understanding to our trans and intersex siblings," said Cendaña who filed House Bill 9929 with fellow Akbayan Representatives Jose Manuel "Chel" Diokno and Dadah Kiram Ismula with Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao."The bill aims to establish a clear statutory authority to recognize lived identities on the basis of gender identity. It provides an accessible administrative procedure for name change and gender recognition. It protects the right to privacy and non-discrimination. It declares that all persons, regardless of gender identity, are equal before the law and entitled to the same dignity, protection, and recognition," they said in the bill's explanatory note.

- [Pangilinan bats for more funding for ube as global demand soars](#) (2026-06-23 10:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Francis Pangilinan vowed to boost funding for the local production of ube or purple yam under the 2027 budget amid its surging popularity in the international scene. The senator over the weekend pressed for more support for the production of ube — a naturally sweet, starchy vegetable grown by Filipino farmers. Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that ube exports from the Philippines have risen in recent years, with the country shipping around \$3.25 million, or nearly 1.7 million kilos-worth of ube in 2025 from \$2.7 million in 2024. "So, now what we're doing is we're preparing for the next budget cycle and look into how we can provide additional funding for the high-value crops program but also focus this time on ube," Pangilinan said. The Department of Agriculture's (DA) high-value crop program provides essential support to localized farming sectors, having allocated ₱500 million for cacao and coffee in the 2026 budget. He said reports showed that ube has "transcended Filipino culture and entered mainstream consciousness as cafes and restaurants around the world hunt for the next viral food and drink." He raised the need to bank on opportunities created by the global interest in the country's high-value food products, such as ube and mango. "We'll figure out how to source the funds and make it happen," said Pangilinan, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform. The Philippine Root Crop Research and Training Center said in a research paper that ube production faces several challenges, including limited access to resources, pests and diseases, lack of mechanization, and predominance of small-scale farming systems.

- [Typhoon Francisco to exit PAR Thursday evening or Friday morning](#) (2026-06-23 10:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Francisco was forecast to exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) on Thursday evening or Friday morning, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Tuesday. Pagasa said in its 5 p.m. bulletin that the typhoon maintained its strength while moving over the Philippine Sea but it remained far from the landmass. It said that Signal No. 1 remains up over Batanes, the northeastern portion of Cagayan including the eastern portion of Babuyan Islands. Moving northwestward at 10 kilometers per hour (kph) while packing maximum sustained winds of 175 kph and gustiness of up to 215 kph, "Francisco" was estimated to be 330 kms east of Calayan, Cagayan, Pagasa said.

- [CICC bans GoreBox](#) (2026-06-23 10:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) has temporarily blocked the video game GoreBox after the police found out that one of the two teens behind the school shooting in Tacloban played it prior to the attack. The CICC said that the game is known for its “graphic depictions of violence” and allows players to experiment with different kinds of weapons. First launched in 2023, GoreBox markets itself as “a physics-driven sandbox game where creativity meets unrestrained destruction.” Unlike other shooting games that rely on very realistic graphics, Gorebox uses blocky animation, akin to Roblox and Minecraft. The game is available for PCs and Android devices. Following the Tacloban shooting tragedy, the CICC reiterated its commitment to providing rapid incident response. At the same time, they also urged the public to immediately report cases of cyberbullying and other online threats through Hotline 1326 or [report@cicc.gov.ph](mailto:report@cicc.gov.ph). The agency said it would continue to work with relevant government agencies and stakeholders as authorities investigate the circumstances surrounding the Tacloban school shooting incident.

- [Marcos open to banning violent online games after Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-23 09:44)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is open to proposals banning violent online games in the country, following a school shooting in Tacloban City that killed three students and left 20 others wounded. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro issued the statement after police investigators found that one of the teens behind Monday's attack at the San Jose National High School was a regular player of the sandbox video game GoreBox, which features firearms and graphic depictions of violence. “It was reported that these children are addicted to playing violent online games. It was discussed that those kinds of apps should be banned in the Philippines. So that's a good suggestion,” Castro said during a press conference. “We hope that a measure will be crafted soon and the President is open to such proposals,” she added. The Palace official said the administration was open to legislative measures that would regulate access to violent online content, particularly among minors. Castro also said that lawmakers may move quickly to study possible restrictions in light of the incident. The Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center's (CICC) Threat Monitoring Center, in close coordination with the Council for the Welfare of Children, has intensified its monitoring of online activities, including GoreBox and similar platforms.

- [Zubiri pushes social media ban for children, review of juvenile justice law](#) (2026-06-23 09:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Following the shooting incident inside a school in Tacloban City on Monday, Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri expressed support for a “serious discussion” on banning or strictly limiting social media access for children. The Senate majority leader on Tuesday also pressed for a review of the juvenile justice law to lower the age threshold for heinous crimes. “This tragedy should push us to confront a hard truth: Matindi na ang influence ng social media sa mga bata (social media has a strong influence on children),” Zubiri said in a



statement. "Whether a child is bullied or not, violent content, online threats, dangerous trends and hateful behavior can plant ideas in young minds and give them the confidence to act on things they should never even consider," he said. He said there is a pending bill in the Senate, the proposed Social Media Safety for Children Act, which seeks to prohibit children below 16 from registering, accessing or maintaining social media accounts. "A school, being our children's second home, should be one of the safest places for our students," he said. Zubiri also noted that Australia has already banned social media for children under 16, while the United Kingdom, France, Denmark, Greece, Spain, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates and other countries "have moved or are moving toward stricter age limits, age verification and tighter protections for minors online." "We should also explore the possibility of amending the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act and study whether minors as young as 14 who commit heinous crimes such as murder, rape and similar grave offenses should be tried as adults, with due process, discernment and rehabilitation still properly considered," he said. "Hinihiling ko sa lahat ng (I appeal to all) concerned government agencies: Act with urgency, strengthen school security, protect our children online and make sure no other family will have to suffer this kind of heartbreak again," Zubiri added.

- [Pasay announces traffic adjustments for Rainbow Festival parade](#) (2026-06-23 09:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Traffic adjustments are expected in some areas in Pasay City on Wednesday, June 24, as the city holds the Pasay Rainbow Festival, featuring a Pride Parade and a series of activities celebrating diversity and inclusivity. The Pasay Traffic and Parking Management Office said motorists should expect slow-moving traffic and temporary road interruptions along the parade route, as participants gather at Tramo along EDSA and proceed to Arnaiz Avenue, Roxas Service Road, and Derham Street before reaching Cuneta Astrodome. The Pride Parade will open the day-long celebration at 3 p.m., followed by the Ms. Gay Pasay Tourism Grand Coronation Night at 6 p.m., and the Rainbow Party later in the evening at the Pasay Astrodome along F.B. Harrison Street. Organized by the city government under Mayor Imelda Calixto-Rubiano, the event highlights the city's support for the LGBTQIA+ community through activities promoting acceptance, representation, and equal recognition. Roads expected to be affected include Tramo, Arnaiz Avenue, Taft Avenue, Leveriza Street, and F.B. Harrison Street. Traffic personnel and law enforcement officers will manage vehicle movement and ensure the safe conduct of the event. Motorists are advised to plan their routes, allow extra travel time, and follow the instructions of traffic enforcers.

- [Dela Rosa surrenders more firearms](#) (2026-06-23 08:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Six more firearms belonging to Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa were surrendered to the Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday, following the revocation of his license to own and possess firearms. Dela Rosa's legal representative turned over the firearms to members of the PNP Firearms and Explosive Office and the Regional Civil Security Unit 4A in Silang, Cavite. The firearms were at the residence of Dela Rosa's counsel for safekeeping. Dela Rosa already surrendered 26 firearms. He surrendered through his legal counsel 20 firearms on



June 11. The revocation order covers a total of 117 firearms registered under the senator's name. The order was issued by the PNP Firearms and Explosives Office pursuant to Republic Act 10591 after the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against the lawmaker who, to this day, remains in hiding.

- [PNP backs lowering of age of criminal responsibility](#) (2026-06-23 08:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Tuesday said it supports the proposal to amend the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act, particularly the lowering of the age of criminal responsibility. “The PNP is supportive of lowering the age of criminal liability to 12 years old,” PNP Spokesman Allen Rae Co said in a briefing in Malacañang. “We are already having problems with the increasing involvement (of minors in crimes). They have discernment. They know what they are doing,” he added in Filipino. The current law puts the minimum age of criminal responsibility at 15 years old.

- [Lawmakers file New Party-List System bill](#) (2026-06-23 07:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy 3rd and several party-list representatives filed House Bill 9906 or the proposed New Party-List System Act. Section 10 of the bill disqualifies any person related by blood or affinity within the second degree to any incumbent member of the Senate or the House of Representatives. It likewise bans any incumbent elective official at the national, provincial, city, or town level during nomination. The bill likewise disqualifies any person who had been awarded a government contract within five years before the election, as well as any person who is “a director, officer, or controlling shareholder of a corporation that has been awarded government contracts within the same period.” Under the measure, “a person who has previously served as an elective official or candidate for elective office may be nominated as a party-list representative only after the lapse of one (1) full election cycle following the election in which such person served or ran as a candidate.” The bill was filed on Monday by Dy, Tingog Rep. Jude Acidre, TGP Rep. Jose “Bong” Teves Jr., TUCP Rep. Raymond Democrito Mendoza, Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon, FPJ Panday Bayanihan Rep. Brian Poe, and 4Ps Reps. JC Abalos and Marcelino Libanan.

- [Teen in Tacloban school shooting addicted to violent online game - PNP](#) (2026-06-23 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — One of the teenagers involved in the shooting at the San Jose National High School in Tacloban, Leyte was addicted to a violent online game, the Police Regional Office Eastern Visayas (PRO 8) said on Tuesday. “As per our investigation, it was GoreBox,” PRO 8 director Brig. Gen. Jason Capoy said in a phone interview with reporters. “It is a shooting game. There are firearms there. The game is rather violent,” he added. On Monday morning, two minors, armed with a .9mm Glock and a .38 revolver, shot their fellow Grade 9 classmates resulting in the death of three students and injury of 20 others. Forty shells were recovered at the crime scene. A background check on the boy's social media account revealed that he made numerous violent posts prior to the incident. Among the posts was a video of him in a firing range doing target shooting. Capoy said however that the boy could be considered a

target shooter. “He’ s not that good to be considered an expert but he knew how to release and load magazines,” Capoy said.

- [More areas in Metro Manila, 4 provinces to have power interruptions this week due to maintenance works](#) (2026-06-23 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — More areas in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal will have power interruptions this week because of maintenance works, Meralco said on Tuesday. In Metro Manila, some parts of Central Business Park Island in Pasay City will have no electricity on June 24 between 12:01 a.m. and 5 a.m. because of the replacement of an electricity pole and primary line switch and line reconductoring work along Diosdado Macapagal Ave. Some sections of Malibay in Pasay City will also have power interruptions on June 26 between 12:01 a.m. and 3 a.m. because of line reconstruction work along Clemente Jose St. In Mandaluyong City, some locations in the villages of Highway Hills and Barangka Ilaya will have no electricity on June 25-26 between 11:45 p.m. and 4:45 a.m. due to the relocation of electricity facilities along Pioneer St. Some areas in the villages of Buayang Bato and Highway Hills in Mandaluyong City; some places in Brgy. Cembo in Taguig City; and some portions of Brgy. Kapitolyo in Pasig City will experience power interruptions on June 25-26 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of the conversion of electricity facilities along Pioneer St. in Bgy. Highway Hills. Some sections in the villages of San Roque and Tangos in Navotas City will have no power on June 28 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. because of the replacement and installation of electricity facilities along Judge A. Roldan St., Gov. A. Pascual St., Gold Rock St. and Bagong Kalsada St. In Bulacan, several areas in the villages of Donacion, Niugan and Paltok in Angat; And the villages of Bonga Mayor, Bonga Menor, Cambaog, Catacte, Malamig, San Pedro, Talampas, Tanawan, Tibagan, and Bustos Town Proper in Bustos will have power interruptions on June 25 and June 29 between 12:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. because of critical system improvement activities. In Cavite, some portions of Brgy. Alapan 2-B in Imus City will have no electricity on June 26 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. due to the installation of an electricity pole and line reconductoring work along Alapan 2-B Road. In Laguna, several areas in the villages of Baanan, Balanac, Bucal, Buenavista, Bungkol, Burlungan, Ibabang Butnong, Ilayang Butnong, Ilog, Malaking Ambling, Malinao, Munting Ambling, Sabang, Saladsad and Tipunan in Magdalena; and some locations in the villages of Bongkol, Culoy, Ibabang Taykin, Ilayang Taykin and Tuy-Baanan in Liliw will have no power on June 25-26 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. due to the replacement of an electricity pole, line reconductoring work and installation of electricity facilities. Also, several locations and nearby areas in the villages of Poblacion, San Agustin, Palma, San Gregorio, San Miguel, San Roque and Sta. Rosa in Alaminos, Laguna will have power interruptions on June 25 between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. due to the relocation of hazardous electricity poles affected by the road widening project in Brgy. San Miguel. In Rizal province, some parts of Joyous Heights Subd. in Brgy. San Jose, Antipolo City will have no electricity on June 25 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. due to the replacement of electricity poles and line reconductoring works in the subdivision.

- [VP Sara to attend impeachment trial, lawyer says](#) (2026-06-23 02:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte will attend her impeachment trial before the Senate sitting as an impeachment court when proceedings begin on July 6, according to her lead defense counsel. In an interview on Monday, lawyer Michael Poe confirmed that the vice president would appear in person before the impeachment court if necessary. This clarification contradicts earlier reports that suggested she would not attend the proceedings and would only be represented by her legal team. Poe said Duterte is prepared to participate in the trial as required under the impeachment process. Under the Senate rules, the vice president is required to appear before the impeachment court to enter a plea. If she chooses not to attend, the court will enter a plea of "not guilty" on her behalf. The vice president is represented by a 16-member legal panel from the Fortun Narvasa & Salazar law firm.

- [Duterte waives right to appear at second ICC status conference](#) (2026-06-23 01:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Former president Rodrigo Duterte will not attend the second status conference in his crimes against humanity case at the International Criminal Court (ICC) on June 23, 2026, after waiving his right to be present. In a filing dated June 19, 2026, the Duterte defense team notified Trial Chamber III that the 81-year-old former leader wished to skip the procedural hearing and attached a signed written waiver. On the same day, Presiding Judge Joanna Korner and judges Keebong Paek and Nicolas Guillou granted the request and directed the defense to place the waiver on the court record. According to the one-page waiver, Duterte instructed his lawyers to address all procedural matters on the status conference agenda, "as well as any other matters that may be discussed during the hearing." The two-hour hearing, scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon in The Hague (4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Manila time), will tackle a five-point procedural agenda set by the Chamber on June 18. Issues to be discussed include deadlines for observations on expert panel reports, adoption of a protocol on handling confidential information, page limits for the prosecution's trial brief, scheduling of future status conferences after the judicial recess, and public statements made by counsel. While the hearing will be public, the Chamber may shift to private sessions if discussions involve sensitive witness protection or security matters. This marks the second consecutive status conference Duterte has skipped. He was also permitted to waive his appearance at the first procedural hearing on May 27, 2026. Under ICC rules, the mandatory obligation for an accused to be physically present applies only to the trial itself, not to status conferences, which are "essentially administrative in nature." Duterte's trial proper is scheduled to begin on November 30, 2026. He faces three counts of crimes against humanity of murder for killings allegedly committed during his anti-drugs campaign as Davao City mayor and later as president, spanning from 2013 to 2018.

- [NGCP again issues yellow alert for Visayas grid](#) (2026-06-23 01:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) issued a yellow alert for the Visayas grid on Tuesday, June 23 as major coal power plants continue to be unavailable while electricity demand remains 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 expected to reach around 2,424 megawatts (MW), while available supply is only at 2,579 MW. The NGCP said

that 25 plants were on forced outage while 17 others are running on derated capacities, for a total of 953.9 MW unavailable to the grid. The major Visayas coal plants that are still offline are Therma Visayas Inc. Unit 1 (169 MW), Therma Visayas Inc. Unit 2 (169 MW), and 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.

- [Super typhoon still far from landmass; tropical depression outside PAR spotted](#) (2026-06-22 23:49)

MANILA, Philippines – Tropical Cyclone Francisco has intensified into a super typhoon far away from the Luzon landmass, with Wind Signal 1 up over Batanes and the northern portion of Cagayan, the state-run weather agency said on Tuesday. Weather specialist Veronica Torres of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said it is also closely monitoring another weather disturbance outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), which has developed into a tropical depression. Torres said the super typhoon was estimated at 725 kilometers east of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, with maximum sustained winds of 140 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 170kph. Moving west-northwestward at 30kph, Francisco – with international name ‘Mekkhala’ – was expected to maintain its strength within the day as it may recurve and continue with its weakening trend. “It would likely exit PAR by Friday,” the Pagasa forecaster said. Meanwhile, the tropical depression outside PAR is also unlikely to affect the country's weather, the national weather bureau said. It said that the southwest monsoon or ‘habagat’ has been affecting the Visayas, Mindanao, and Palawan, bringing cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms within 24 hours. However, Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies due to localized thunderstorms, Pagasa said.

- [St Luke's bags best specialized hospital in the country](#) (2026-06-22 18:24)

MANILA, Philippines — St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) was hailed as the number one in multiple specialties in the “Best Specialized Hospitals Asia Pacific 2026” by Newsweek and Statista. In a statement on Monday, SLMC said it was named the best specialized hospital in the country overall. The hospital was also recognized for its cardiac surgery, oncology, orthopedics, and pediatrics. Meanwhile, its Quezon City branch also earned top recognition, ranking number 1 in neurology and neurosurgery in the Philippines.

- [Media task force condemns slay try on radio broadcaster](#) (2026-06-22 17:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFOMS) expressed concern over the reported attempt on the life of radio broadcaster Jay Lavapie, who survived an ambush in Barangay Cagay, Roxas City, early Monday morning. In a statement, the PTFOMS noted the attack occurred at around 5 a.m. while Lavapie was driving along a national highway on his way to his radio station. Initial reports yielded that at least two motorcycle-riding suspects blocked Lavapie's vehicle before opening fire. Authorities recovered four spent shell casings

at the scene. “The PTFOMS and the Philippine National Police Media Vanguard are currently conducting an investigation to thoroughly examine this cowardly act and ensure that justice is served,” the statement read. “We condemn all acts of violence and intimidation against journalists and assert that such actions have no place in a democratic society,” it added. The task force further stated that Police Regional Office 6 (PRO6) Director PGen. Randolph Tuano has directed police units to immediately act on the case and give it the highest priority. It likewise called on media organizations, civil society groups, and government agencies to work together to strengthen measures protecting journalists and ensure a safe environment for media professionals carrying out their duties. “Together, we can foster an environment where media professionals can operate without fear, ensuring the critical flow of information that is vital to our society,” the PTFOMS said.

- [Marcos orders probe, tighter security after Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 17:26)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered a thorough investigation into the school shooting in Tacloban City and directed authorities to strengthen security measures, particularly in schools, Malacañang said on Monday. The directive came after the Palace received news that at least two were dead and several others were injured following the incident that happened at the San Jose National High School. “The president is saddened by the incident. Anyone, especially the parents of the victims, will feel the sadness and fear,” Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said in Filipino in a statement. Marcos, she further noted, tasked authorities to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the incident to determine the circumstances surrounding the shooting. The chief executive likewise ordered concerned agencies to ensure the protection and safety of the public in all places, including government offices, business establishments, and especially educational institutions. “A thorough investigation is ordered and the protection and safety of the people must be ensured in all areas, offices, establishments, especially schools,” Castro said.

- [Gatchalian alarmed, outraged by rising violence in schools](#) (2026-06-22 16:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Win Gatchalian said he was “deeply alarmed and outraged” by the shooting incident at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, killing three learners and wounding five others. The senator on Monday called on the Department of Education (DepEd) to “further strengthen security measures across all campuses.” “Hindi katanggap-tanggap na umaabot ang ganitong klaseng karahasan sa mga paaralang dapat nagsisilbing ligtas na espasyo (This kind of violence is unacceptable in schools which should serve as safe space [for students]),” Gatchalian said. He also urged DepEd to provide immediate psychosocial support and intervention for affected learners, teachers, and school personnel. “While authorities have apprehended one suspect, a 15-year-old Grade 9 student, I strongly urge law enforcers to exhaust all efforts to arrest the remaining suspect and ensure that justice is swiftly served,” he added. Gatchalian noted that last week seven students were wounded in separate stabbing incidents inside a school in Cavite. “The series of violence inside

schools are quite alarming and need immediate coordinated action [from concerned authorities]," he said in Filipino.

- [DepEd condemns shooting at school on Tacloban City](#) (2026-06-22 16:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) condemned the shooting incident at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, expressing its gravest concern and considering the situation as high alert. "We strongly condemn this act of violence and extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims, as well as our earnest prayers for the swift recovery of those who were injured", the DepEd said in a statement. It said that its central office officials, with regional and division office staff, were "actively on the ground" and "coordinating closely with school authorities and law enforcement". The DepEd also worked with government agencies to deploy medical assistance and psychosocial interventions for learners and staff.

- [3 killed, 7 wounded in Tacloban high school shooting](#) (2026-06-22 16:21)

(UPDATE) TACLOBAN CITY — Three teenage students were killed and seven others were wounded after a shooting inside San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, Leyte, at around 9 a.m. Monday. Police said one suspect, a 15-year-old Grade 9 student, was taken into custody while another 14-year-old suspect later surrendered to the authorities. The two were described as "very close friends." Videos circulating online showed students and teachers running from the campus in panic, with some students carrying an injured female classmate to safety while others cried and screamed, hiding inside a classroom as gunfire erupted inside the school. Tacloban police said anger over bullying was a possible motive. Police BGen. Jason Capoy said in a phone interview that both suspects were Grade 9 students from the same school, and that interviews with teachers and school officials said they had been bullied since Grade 7. Initial investigation showed that the supposed targets of the shooters were not among the victims, who were mostly female students. The shooters were caught in possession of a A Glock 9mm semi-automatic pistol and a .38 revolver, contrary to earlier claims that they fired long firearms. Investigators are determining how they got hold of the guns. One possibility is that they obtained the guns from parents or any close relative that was in law enforcement. If this is proven true, charges would be brought immediately against the police personnel involved, Capoy said. Asked how the students were able to sneak the firearms inside the school, Capoy said the school has many entrances and exits and only one security guard was employed. Police said the suspects ran into two separate classrooms during the rampage. Thorough investigation President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered a thorough investigation into the school shooting and directed authorities to strengthen security measures, particularly in schools. "The president is saddened by the incident. Anyone, especially the parents of the victims, will feel the sadness and fear," Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said in Filipino. Marcos tasked authorities to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the incident to determine the circumstances surrounding the shooting, she added. Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. ordered an all-out investigation to come up with measures to prevent a repeat of Monday's shooting in any school. The Tacloban



City Police Office condemned the violence and said it is conducting “an extensive investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident, identify all persons involved, and establish the motive behind this unfortunate event.” The police also appealed to the public to remain calm, refrain from spreading unverified information, and cooperate with authorities by providing information that may aid the ongoing investigation. Leyte 1st District Rep. Martin Romualdez said he was “deeply saddened and heartbroken” by the tragedy and directed his office to coordinate with local authorities and government agencies to determine what assistance can immediately be provided to the affected families. “A school should always be a place of learning, safety, and hope, and no parent should have to endure the pain of losing a child in a place where they are supposed to be protected,” Romualdez said. Tingog Party-list said it is already coordinating with hospitals, the Tacloban City government, the Department of Education, and national agencies to ensure that the injured students receive medical assistance, including hospitalization, medicines, transportation, and other immediate expenses. The Department of Education (DepEd) condemned the shooting, calling it “a high-alert situation.”

“We strongly condemn this act of violence and extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims, as well as our earnest prayers for the swift recovery of those who were injured,” the DepEd said in a statement. It said that its central office officials, with regional and division office staff, were on the ground and coordinating closely with school authorities and law enforcement to ensure safety. The DepEd said it was working with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and other government agencies to deploy medical assistance and psychosocial interventions for learners and staff. Alarm and outrage Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said he was “deeply alarmed and outraged” by the shooting and called on DepEd to strengthen security measures across all campus. Sens. JV Ejercito, Bong Go, Robinhood Padilla, Francis Pangilinan and Camille Villar on Monday echoed Gatchalian’s concern over recent violence in schools. Ejercito raised the need to further strengthen the campaign against loose firearms adding that schools “should be safe spaces for learning.” “Gun ownership carries with it a responsibility. Firearms do not simply end up in the hands of a minor if they are kept by a responsible owner,” Ejercito said in a statement. He asked the Philippine National Police to file charges against the firearm owner. “This kind of violence is unacceptable in schools which should serve as safe spaces,” Gatchalian said in Filipino. Villar added, “We should not allow violence to steal the future of our children.” Poor impulse control Adolescent health specialist Dr. Rajami Malibago told The Manila Times several factors may contribute to mass shootings involving teenagers, noting that “the brain of teenagers is not fully developed,” particularly the prefrontal cortex that regulates emotions and impulse control. Malibago said bullying, school pressure, and other social factors could trigger emotionally driven actions among adolescents, underscoring the need for stronger mental health interventions and early support systems for young people. Under the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, a minor aged 15 and below who has committed a crime is generally exempt from criminal liability and is immediately released to his parents, guardians, or the local social welfare and development office. However this only applies to minors without discernment, or an understanding of the moral and legal consequences of their actions and knowing the difference between right and wrong. If discernment is present, the suspects will be subject to formal court



proceedings, and if found guilty, will face a suspended sentence and be sent to a youth care facility, such as a Bahay Pag-asa. WITH NESTOR ABREMATEA, KRISTINA MARALIT, BERNADETTE TAMAYO, REINA TOLENTINO

- [Henry Alcantara says declared net worth at P18M](#) (2026-06-22 16:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Witness Henry Alcantara told the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division on Monday that the net worth in his Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) was at P18 million. The court asked Alcantara how much his net worth was after asking him about the conditions for his admission into the Witness Protection Program. Alcantara, who had committed to retribute P300 million which he said was unlawfully obtained in connection with flood control projects, has returned P181 million to the government. He told the court the payment was up to the end of 2027. A former district engineer of the Bulacan 1st District Engineering Office, Alcantara testified on Monday before the court in the graft case filed against former Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. and other people in connection with the alleged ghost project in Pandi, Bulacan.

- [Prosecutors seek 62 dates in impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-22 16:20)

HOUSE prosecutors on Monday asked the Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, to allot 62 trial dates for its presentation of evidence and witnesses in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. The prosecution team's legal spokesman, Benjamin Tolosa Jr., clarified that trial dates could be less than that number if the court allows more than one witness per day. The defense team asked for 30 dates. Tolosa said the prosecution and the defense teams had 51 common witnesses, 26 named and 35 unnamed. He said the parties had 248 common exhibits. The Senate, as the impeachment court, will determine the number of trial dates in its pre-trial order. 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 a public statement that she had contracted 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 denied the allegations in the two impeachment complaints heard by the House Committee on Justice but did not attend any hearings. The committee on April 29, 2026 found probable cause to impeach Duterte and sent the impeachment articles to the House plenary for action. The impeachment trial is scheduled to start this July 6. Pre-trial proceedings have yet to be finished. The prosecution team named Tolosa, a veteran trial lawyer, as its legal spokesman for the trial. "As legal spokesperson, he will be speaking in behalf of the prosecution team, particularly with respect to the developments that are happening in the proceedings of the impeachment trial," Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro, lead prosecutor, said in a press briefing on Monday. Tolosa, founding and managing partner of the Tolosa, Lim and Chua law firm, had served as a senior associate at the Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz Law Offices. He earned his law degree from the University of Santo Tomas and was among his graduating class' top 10 students.

- [The Manila Times forum tackles Cebu economic expansion](#) (2026-06-22 16:19)

CEBU CITY — Business leaders, tourism stakeholders and technology advocates are set to gather for The Manila Times Cebu Business and Tourism Forum 2026 on June 23 at the Radisson Blu Cebu, as the province seeks to sustain its growth momentum and strengthen its position as one of the country's leading economic centers. Carrying the theme "Padayon Cebu: Accelerating Momentum, Securing Prosperity," the one-day forum will bring together representatives from the business, real estate, digital transformation, tourism and hospitality sectors to discuss opportunities and challenges shaping Cebu's future. The event comes as Cebu continues to attract investments across key industries, driven by a robust tourism sector, expanding infrastructure projects and a growing digital economy. Organizers said the forum aims to foster greater collaboration among stakeholders and identify strategies that will support long-term and inclusive growth. During a luncheon meeting at Crimson Resort & Spa Mactan, General Manager Mia Singson-Leon welcomed the objectives of the forum, emphasizing the importance of creating platforms that bring attention to the evolving challenges facing Cebu's business community amid shifting global economic conditions. She also highlighted the strong culture of cooperation among Cebu's business leaders, noting that collaboration across industries has long been one of the key drivers behind the province's sustained growth and competitiveness. The discussions are expected to focus on investment opportunities, tourism development, digital transformation initiatives and infrastructure projects that support economic expansion in Central Visayas. Ahead of the forum, representatives from The Manila Times led by President and COO Blanca Mercado met with partner organizations in Cebu to finalize preparations for the event. This included visits to Aboitiz Infracapital Cebu Airport Corp., which operates the Mactan International Airport and the Filinvest Hospitality Corp. properties along Mactan Island. The forum is part of The Manila Times' continuing efforts to convene industry leaders, policymakers and innovators in discussions on economic development, regional competitiveness and sustainable growth.

- [First lady rolls out rice distribution program in QC](#) (2026-06-22 16:19)

FIRST lady Liza Araneta-Marcos led the first roll-out of her "Mula sa Puso para sa Pamilya" rice distribution program in Quezon City on Monday. The first lady was accompanied by Mayor Joy Belmonte, San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora — who heads the Metro Manila Council — and other top government officials when she distributed 10-kilogram bags of rice to over 1,200 beneficiaries in Barangay Doña Imelda. Belmonte expressed gratitude to the first lady for her effort to extend the much-needed assistance to her constituents in times of the rising commodity costs triggered by the Middle East war. She said more "QCitizens" would benefit from the rice distribution program as the first lady, who was inspired by a simple belief that "every Filipino family deserves food on the table," was also set to visit Barangay Pagasa and Barangay Monica on Wednesday and Friday, for the program. At her visit in Barangay Doña Imelda, the first lady mingled with the residents as she shared a message of solidarity, compassion and hope. She cited the importance of helping families meet their daily food needs. "I am here as a mother, because I know how essential it is to have food on our table. Even if this assistance is modest, I hope it goes a long way — for the few days that we are able

to be of help to you,” the first lady told the beneficiaries in Filipino. Belmonte said the rice distribution program is funded through the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF) in the amount of P462.9-million, which was released by the Office of the President to the city government. The rice subsidy initiative also supports local farmers through direct procurement of rice, Belmonte told The Manila Times. The city chief executive said the local government has used the Sagip Saka Act to source rice directly from farmer cooperatives, helping both consumers and agricultural producers. The city government said that a total of 210,455 families, or about 25 percent of all families in the city are expected to benefit from the program.

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- [Oil firms roll back pump prices](#) (2026-06-22 16:18)

ALL fuel prices were lowered on Tuesday, June 23, as the global market reacted to Iran and US signing an interim peace deal and the brief reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. The prices of diesel went down by P9.04 per liter, gasoline by P3.90 per liter, and kerosene by P11 per liter. Last week, the price of diesel dropped by around P3.71 to P5.71 per liter, gasoline rose by P1.68 per liter, and kerosene declined by around 50 centavos to P3.50 per liter. The Department of Energy said it will continue monitoring developments in the Middle East, after Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz again due following recent attacks by Israel in Lebanon. “It is still too early to

tell where fuel prices will settle, so we will just continue with the monitoring for now,” Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said in an online media briefing.

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- [Poa agrees with prosecution panel: 3 months are not enough for VP Sara's impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-22 16:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Michael Poa, one of Vice President Sara Duterte's lawyers agreed with the House prosecution panel's assessment that three months are not enough for her impeachment trial. The pre-trial conference for the impeachment trial of Duterte resumed on Monday as defense and prosecution panels continued the marking of their respective evidence. “With the assessment of Rep. (Gerville) Luistro sa tingin ko (I think the) three months [trial schedule] is a bit tight. Sa tingin ko rin (I think so, too),” Poa said in a briefing. “But again, ‘wag natin sabihin with certainty ang mga bagay na yan (we should not say with certainty these kind of things). It will depend on the witnesses and phase,” he said. Poa said both sides were trying to speed things up. “Hindi rin pwedeng madaliin (it can't be rushed),” Poa added. He declined to discuss what happened during the closed-door pre-trial conference. “It will be unfair for us to disclose. We will provide you our position once there was a categorical pronouncement kung ano binabalak ng (on the plans of the) Impeachment Court,” Poa said

- [CSC grants OFWs ‘additional points’](#) (2026-06-22 16:17)

THE Civil Service Commission (CSC) announced on Monday that overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who fell short of the 80.00 passing rate in their Career Service Examination (CSE) can qualify for additional points under a new policy. The policy seeks to provide OFWs the chance to secure civil service eligibility for both professional and subprofessional level and qualify for regular appointment in government service, CSC Chairman Marilyn Yap said. Applicants can receive a maximum of 10 preference rating points, which will be added to their actual exam score to help them reach the 80.00 passing mark. The final rating reflected on the applicant's Certificate of Eligibility will be capped at exactly 80.00, the CSC said. “The CSC acknowledges the vital contributions of OFWs to the national economy and their potential for reintegration into the Philippine government's career service,” Yap said. “By granting qualified modern heroes additional points in the CSE, we open opportunities for regularization and promotion in

the career service, thereby contributing to national development in the long run,” she said. In Resolution 2600596, the agency established the Overseas Filipino Workers-Preference Rating (OFW-PR), which grants additional points to qualified OFWs based on their length of overseas employment and work performance. The policy expands the CSC’s existing preference rating system to include Filipinos employed overseas, following the successful implementation of CSC Resolutions 2301123 and 2500164, which grant CSE-PR to specific groups of government workers, as well as military and uniformed personnel, respectively, Yap said. The new policy covers OFWs who took the CSE through the Pen-and-Paper Test or other examination modes, beginning with the Aug. 9, 2026 CSE and subsequent examinations. To qualify, applicants must have rendered at least five years of aggregate service as an OFW between January 2000 and their date of application. “This service can be continuous or intermittent. This policy includes individuals under contract for overseas employment but have not yet left the Philippines, but excludes participants in government-recognized visitor program for cultural and educational purposes,” Yap said. While the OFW-PR grants civil service eligibility, it does not automatically guarantee employment. “They must still meet all other qualification standards for their target position, such as educational attainment and relevant training,” Yap said.

- [Senate presidents showed statesmanship except one – Lacson](#) (2026-06-22 16:16)

THE Senate's previous "fathers" or presidents demonstrated statesmanship and professionalism during leadership transitions except one, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said. The senator said former Senate president Alan Peter Cayetano stood out as the only Senate leader who triggered a legislative paralysis because he tried to cling to power. "Statesmen all, except one — I’ve seen the ‘changing of the guard’ in the Senate many, many times. Frank Drilon to Manny Villar in 2006; Manny Villar to Juan Ponce Enrile in 2008... Koko Pimentel to Tito Sotto in 2018... Chiz Escudero to Tito in September 2025; Tito to Alan Cayetano in May 2026; finally, to Sherwin Gatchalian on June 17, 2026," Lacson wrote on X on Sunday. "Save for the last one, everyone else relinquished their posts with exemplary statesmanship and professionalism," Lacson said. Cayetano unseated Sotto on May 11 through the help of Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, who suddenly appeared at the Senate after being absent for six months. He provided Cayetano the "crucial" 13th vote to snatch the Senate top post. Lacson said under Cayetano's watch, the Senate was entangled in several controversies, with P700 million in taxpayers' money wasted during his 28-day "rule." Cayetano also led a boycott of Senate sessions from June 1 to 3. But Escudero's presence in the June 3 session paved the way for a session where Gatchalian was elected Senate president pro tempore and acting Senate president, Lacson said. Despite his ouster in the June 3 session, Cayetano insisted on being the "legitimate, legal, and moral" Senate president, and led most of the new minority bloc in petitioning the Supreme Court to recognize him as Senate president, Lacson said. Even after Gatchalian was elected Senate president during the Senate's special session last June 17, Cayetano resorted to attacking members of the majority bloc via his Facebook Live broadcasts, he added.

- [‘Francisco’ to turn into super typhoon](#) (2026-06-22 16:15)

Typhoon Francisco (international name Mekkhala) is forecast to reach the super typhoon category, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in its 5 p.m. bulletin on Monday. “Francisco” further intensified, packing maximum sustained winds of 175 kph near the center, and gustiness of up to 215 kph. It was last located 625 km east of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, moving west northwestward at 20 kph. Signal No. 1 was hoisted in Batanes, northeastern portion of Cagayan (Gonzaga, Santa Ana) including the eastern portion of Babuyan Islands (Babuyan Island, Didicas Island, Camiguin Island). Pagasa said the highest wind signal that will likely be hoisted throughout the cyclone's passage is Signal No. 2. The periphery of “Francisco” and the southwest monsoon have been causing strong to gale-force gusts in most of Luzon and the Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Norte, Camiguin, Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Islands, Davao Occidental and Davao Oriental. Pagasa added that rough seas could prevail over the seaboards of Batanes, Babuyan Islands and mainland Cagayan, and the eastern seaboards of Isabela and northern Aurora. Mariners of small seacraft, including all types of motorbancas, are advised not to venture to the sea. Meanwhile, Pagasa said “Francisco” is forecast to weaken starting Wednesday.

- [DSWD distributes P9.1B to transport workers](#) (2026-06-22 16:14)

THE Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has released more than P9.11 billion in financial aid to more than 1.8 million beneficiaries across various sectors of the public transportation industry nationwide under the government's special cash relief assistance program. Of the total amount released, P5.978 billion was distributed to 1.195 million tricycle drivers, representing 91.67 percent of the sector's target beneficiaries — the highest completion rate among all transport groups covered by the program. A total of 118,691 public utility jeepney drivers received P593.455 million; 89,274 transport network vehicle service drivers received P446.370 million; 314,390 private express and/or messenger delivery service drivers received P1.572 billion; while 104,319 motorcycle taxi drivers received P521.595 million in assistance. Through the DSWD's Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations program, each beneficiary received P5,000 in cash. The DSWD under the leadership of Secretary Rex Gatchalian, continues to work closely with local government units (LGUs) and partner transport groups to complete the remaining payouts for public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers and riders by June 30. “In line with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to ensure quick, orderly and no beneficiary would be left behind in the delivery of government assistance, the DSWD is continuously doing the necessary steps to complete payout operations throughout the country until the end of June,” DSWD spokesman Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao said on Monday. She encouraged beneficiaries who have yet to claim their assistance to coordinate with their LGUs or transport organizations. She said the number of beneficiaries served reflects the Marcos government's strong commitment to providing support to transport workers following the rise in gas prices due to the geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

- [Go pays tribute to PH athletes](#) (2026-06-22 16:13)



SEN. Bong Go said the Filipino athletes' achievements here and abroad reflect the value of sacrifice they offered to bring honor to the country. The senator paid tribute to Filipino athletes honored at the 5th Philippine Sports Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony organized by the Philippine Sports Commission. Go on Saturday said the honor belongs to athletes who earned their place through years of discipline and performance. Inducted to the ceremony were Adeline Dumapong-Ancheta (para powerlifting), Beatriz Lucero-Lhuillier (gymnastics and taekwondo), Cecil Mamiit (tennis), Isidro del Prado (athletics), Eduardo Pacheco (basketball and football), Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco Jr. (boxing), and Ramon "El Presidente" Fernandez (basketball). "Through your sweat, discipline, and perseverance, you have shown the world what the Filipino spirit is capable of," Go said in his speech. "Life, just like sports, is an arena of immense challenges," said Go, chairman of the Senate Committee on Sports. "Defeat, challenges, and extreme doubt will come your way." He said the recognition of the country's sports greats comes at a time when Filipino athletes continue to gain attention abroad, including Alex Eala's run in the Berlin Open and Jordan Clarkson's display of the Philippine flag during the New York Knicks' championship parade. Bernadette Tamayo

- [PH advances sustainable development in UN climate negotiations](#) (2026-06-22 16:12)

THE Philippines pushed for country-driven and inclusive approaches to climate action during the 64th Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB64) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Bonn, Germany. The Climate Change Commission (CCC) said the Philippine delegation advocated approaches that support sustainable development, address the needs and priorities of individual countries, and provide developing nations with adequate finance, technology and capacity-building support. Head of Delegation and CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera said climate action must be "ambitious, equitable, and responsive to national realities." "As a developing country highly vulnerable to climate impacts, the Philippines continues to advocate for solutions that strengthen resilience, advance sustainable development, and ensure that no country is left behind in the transition to a low-carbon future," Herrera said. During negotiations under the United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Program, the Philippines called for nationally determined and demand-driven approaches that recognize countries' varying circumstances and development priorities. The delegation also underscored the need for accessible financing, technology transfer and capacity-building to support just transition efforts while promoting inclusive participation and equitable socioeconomic outcomes. In discussions on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, the Philippines pushed for stable, predictable and transparent support mechanisms to enable broader participation in cooperative approaches and strengthen the implementation of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The delegation likewise stressed during discussions on the Mitigation Work Program and the implementation of Global Stocktake outcomes that increased climate ambition should be matched with practical means of implementation and aligned with national development goals. On climate and trade, Philippine negotiators said climate policies should not create new trade barriers or impose additional burdens on developing countries. They also emphasized the need to protect food security and



preserve nationally determined approaches while ensuring that climate measures support sustainable development. “The transition to a climate-resilient and low-emissions future must be fair, inclusive, and supportive of development aspirations. International cooperation should empower countries to implement climate action in ways that reflect their unique needs and priorities,” Herrera said. The Philippine delegation also joined the Annual Global Stocktake Dialogue, discussions between Asean and Japan on the second Global Stocktake, and high-level exchanges on transparency, implementation and climate action delivery. CCC Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said the Philippine delegation’s participation was guided by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s call for climate action that protects lives, livelihoods and development gains. He said the country remains committed to working with other developing nations to promote science-based and development-oriented climate solutions that address the needs of vulnerable communities while supporting inclusive and sustainable growth. The SB64 meetings were held from June 8 to 18 in Bonn, Germany, as part of preparations for the next United Nations climate change conference.

- [Labor pushes ratification of new ILO Convention](#) (2026-06-22 16:11)

LABOR leaders are calling on the Marcos administration to support a new international labor convention into concrete protections for Filipino digital platform workers. The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), the country’s biggest alliance of labor federations in the Philippines, on Monday called on the government to immediately ratify International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 193, also known as the Decent Work in the Platform Economy Convention, 2026. ILO Convention 193 is the first international treaty that focuses on workers earning a living through digital labor platforms. It was adopted during the just concluded 114th International Labor Conference (ILO) in Geneva. TUCP also assured the public wants labor safeguards incorporated into the proposed European Union-Philippines Free Trade Agreement (EU-PH FTA) and a new law that would protect workers in the gig and platform economy. The government, it said, should ensure that the country’s trade commitments are consistent with its labor obligations. The group pointed out that while the draft Digital Trade Chapter of the EU-PH FTA mentions platform workers, it focuses mainly on cooperation and information sharing, and lacks enforceable labor protections. It pointed out that the draft agreement does not contain clear provisions on workers’ rights, algorithmic accountability, or transparency in digital management systems used by online platforms. It also expressed concern over provisions that could limit government access to source codes and software algorithms under certain conditions. According to the TUCP, this could make it difficult to enforce protections required under ILO Convention 193, particularly safeguards against unfair suspension or deactivation of platform workers. It stressed that transparency and accountability in algorithm-driven systems are essential because these systems directly affect workers’ jobs and incomes. The group called on Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretary Allan Gepty, the country’s chief trade negotiator, to ensure that international trade agreements support decent work and uphold labor standards. It said foreign investments are welcome but should create quality jobs, protect workers’ rights, and prevent the spread of insecure and poorly regulated platform

work. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino said the government supports international standards that place decent work at the center of innovation under the leadership of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The TUCP is also urging Tolentino to lead efforts for the immediate ratification of the convention and support legislation that would strengthen protections for platform workers.

- [Power restored in quake-hit areas](#) (2026-06-22 16:10)

The electricity services in General Santos City and across the SOCOTECO II franchise area have been substantially restored less than two weeks after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck southern Mindanao, the Department of Energy (DOE) said. In a statement Monday, the DOE attributed the immediate restoration to the coordinated efforts of the DOE, National Electrification Administration (NEA), National Power Corporation, Task Force Kapatid, electric cooperatives, private sector stakeholders and local government units. DOE said the Task Force Kapatid, which is composed of 184 task force members from 26 electric cooperatives, helped restore power to around 95 percent of affected consumers in General Santos City within 72 hours. In Sarangani, restoration teams overcame damaged roads, landslides and critical infrastructure disruptions, including the relocation of a damaged 69-kilovolt transmission line in less than 48 hours. NEA Administrator Antonio Almeda said that as of June 18, energization across the SOCOTECO II franchise area had reached 99 percent, allowing households, businesses, schools, hospitals and other essential facilities to resume normal operations. According to the DOE, the restoration teams were able to restore electricity service to nearly all affected areas in less than 10 days, an achievement that under normal circumstances and given the extent of the damage, could have taken several months to complete. NPC President and Chief Executive Officer Jericho Jonas Nograles said the Kalamansig Diesel Power Plant resumed operations just 80 minutes after the earthquake, while power services in Sarangani Island were substantially restored by June 21. In Balut Island, power provider PSPI achieved full energization across all constituent barangays on June 18, except for a small number of isolated and severely damaged homes. "The swift restoration of electricity in General Santos and Sarangani reflects the strength of our energy family. Electric cooperatives from across Mindanao came together to share resources, expertise, and manpower to help affected communities recover faster. Their dedication and spirit of cooperation allowed us to restore power in days despite the significant challenges brought about by the earthquake," Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said. Garin, meanwhile, underscored the importance of strengthening the resilience of the country's energy infrastructure in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to build back better following major disasters. "Every disaster provides valuable lessons on how we can make our energy systems stronger and more resilient. Guided by the President's directive, we are pursuing long-term measures that will help reduce vulnerabilities and ensure that communities can recover more quickly from future disruptions," she said. Among these initiatives is NEA's pilot underground cabling project in Naga City, which is being undertaken in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways and the local government. The project seeks to place electric and telecommunications lines underground along a major corridor serving educational institutions and commercial establishments, while

supporting broader urban improvement efforts that include bicycle lanes and solar-powered street lighting.

- [AirAsia Philippines to retire old aircraft](#) (2026-06-22 16:09)

AirAsia Philippines is gradually retiring its older aircraft as part of its fleet modernization program. Its Malaysia-based parent company, AirAsia X (AirAsia Group), announced that it is phasing out its older, less efficient fleet in favor of the Airbus A321LR, which is more economical and cost-effective. Bo Lingam, Group CEO of AirAsia Group, said the company plans to introduce the Airbus A220 in the future. To boost efficiency, AirAsia Philippines is optimizing its flights and fleet strategy while preparing for these aircraft deliveries. The upcoming addition of the Airbus A220 introduces a smaller, highly efficient aircraft tier. This gives the Group the flexibility to optimally match aircraft size with demand on regional routes. "We are going to get the A220s by the end of next year, and these aircraft will be deployed in the Philippines. We are currently reviewing our network strategy, and over the next two or three months, we will determine the routes, deployment plans, and opportunities that will support our long-term growth in the Philippine market," Lingam said in a statement. AirAsia Group is executing its planned growth strategy with full operational focus. It is restoring aircraft frequencies and capacity across its network, with full capacity expected in August 2026. The Group said that it is actively engaged with governments and partners to further advance a more competitive cost environment that ultimately benefits travelers. "Air travel and tourism remain the economic backbone of many Asean countries, which is why all stakeholders across the aviation and tourism industry must play their part in ensuring costs remain affordable as the sector continues to recover. This includes avoiding increases in airport levies, taxes and charges over the next one to two years, as this will be critical to sustaining demand, improving connectivity and supporting economic recovery across the region," Lingam said.

- [Comelec to test vote counting machines for Bangsamoro polls](#) (2026-06-22 16:08)

THE Commission on Elections (Comelec) will hold simulation tests on June 27 for the automated election system (AES) that will be used for the Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections (BPE). Comelec Chairman George Garcia said the simulation would be held on Saturday in two areas in the region. "We will have our simulation activity. We will test our voting machines and transmission devices in Tawi-Tawi and Maguindanao del Norte," he said during the Stakeholders Walkthrough of the Data Center for the BPE in Makati City on Monday. Actual voters will cast ballots while the Electoral Board members will administer the use of the voting machines on Saturday. "We will also test the transmission of election results from the precincts to the Comelec servers," added Garcia. The ballots will be printed starting next month at the National Printing Office in Quezon City, he said in a separate interview. Other forms for the Sept. 14 polls are also being printing, Garcia said. These are the election day computerized voters' list, voters information sheet, training ballots and posted computerized voters' list.

- [LRT Line 2 operating hours shortened on July 25](#) (2026-06-22 16:07)

THE Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) will shorten operating hours for LRT Line 2 on July 25 to allow urgent repair and replacement works along the track between V. Mapa and J. Ruiz stations. The LRTA said the maintenance activity on a rigid frognose section is necessary to ensure safer and more reliable train operations. A rigid frognose is a track component that allows trains to safely and smoothly pass when shifting from one track to another. Under the adjusted schedule, the last trip from Recto Station will leave at 8 p.m., while the final trip from Antipolo Station will leave at 7:30 p.m. The LRTA said it will deploy shuttle vans to provide alternative transportation for passengers affected by the shortened operations. It will also coordinate with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and Philippine National Railways (PNR) to help provide additional transport options. Passengers were advised to plan their trips accordingly and monitor the LRTA's official social media pages for more announcements and updates.

- [SC acquits man in gun case over failure to mark seized firearm](#) (2026-06-22 16:06)

THE Supreme Court has acquitted a man charged with illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, ruling that the failure of police to immediately mark the seized weapon at the place of seizure created reasonable doubt over the identity and integrity of the evidence. In a 19-page decision penned by Associate Justice Henri Jean Paul Inting, the Court en banc reversed the Court of Appeals (CA) and cleared Tony Baclig II of violations of the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act (Republic Act 10591). The high court said that while firearm cases do not require the same strict chain-of-custody rules as drug cases under Republic Act 9165, law enforcers must still see to it that the identity of the weapons in question must be preserved. It stressed that the failure to immediately mark the firearm at the scene of arrest created doubt that the item presented in court was the same weapon recovered from Baclig. The case stemmed from an Oct. 2, 2016 motorcycle accident involving Baclig, where police officers responding to the incident saw a caliber .45 Taurus pistol inside his sling bag while assisting him. The firearm was loaded with seven rounds of ammunition, and Baclig failed to present a license to carry. He was arrested, and a search incident to arrest yielded another magazine containing six bullets. The RTC and the CA both convicted Baclig, but he appealed the case before the Supreme Court, arguing that the gun was not properly marked at the place of seizure. The Court agreed, ruling that although the firearm was lawfully seized under the plain view doctrine and the arrest was valid, the unexplained failure to mark the items at the scene weakened the prosecution's evidence. The Court said this gap in handling the evidence cast reasonable doubt on its identity and integrity, warranting Baclig's acquittal.

- [BI nabs Canadian wanted for child abuse](#) (2026-06-22 16:05)

(UPDATE) THE Bureau of Immigration (BI) has arrested a Canadian wanted in his home country for offenses involving child sexual abuse material. Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado on Monday announced the arrest of 77-year-old Rudolf Hannes Hofer, who was apprehended by agents of the bureau's Fugitive Search Unit (FSU) in San Carlos City, Pangasinan. The arrest was carried out in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive

to strengthen border security and ensure that the country does not become a safe haven for individuals fleeing prosecution abroad. BI operatives conducted the operation in coordination with government intelligence agencies and the San Carlos City Police Station. According to Viado, the arrest stemmed from information provided by Canadian authorities and verified through official channels. Hofer is the subject of two active warrants issued in British Columbia, Canada. The warrants were issued for alleged possession of child sexual abuse material and breach of undertaking. Further investigation by the BI revealed that Hofer had also been overstaying in the country. Viado stressed that the bureau remains vigilant against foreign nationals who attempt to evade justice in their country by hiding in the Philippines. “The Philippines will not serve as a sanctuary for fugitives seeking to escape accountability for serious crimes,” Viado said. He added that the BI’s #ShieldKids campaign remains focused on protecting vulnerable sectors, particularly children, through close cooperation with international law enforcement partners in locating, arresting and deporting foreign offenders. Hofer is currently detained at the bureau’s Warden Facility in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, where he will remain while deportation proceedings and other immigration processes are underway. In 2024, the BI launched Project #ShieldKids Campaign, in coordination with the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (Iacat) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The project seeks to harmonize government efforts against sex offenders in the country by institutionalizing a network of communication among government agencies that investigate and arrest pedophiles and traffickers. Citing BI records, Viado said the bureau barred 137 foreign nationals from entering the country in 2024 for being registered sex offenders, compared to 169 in 2023. The same data showed that 109 Americans topped the list of those barred, followed by 12 Britons, five Australians, three Germans, and two Canadians. Also excluded were citizens from American Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Japan, Ireland, and the British Indian Ocean Territory. “This decline shows that our message is clear — we will continue to shut our doors to these predators,” he said.

• [Where perseverance meets opportunity: Two SM scholars share journey to academic inclusion](#) (2026-06-22 16:05)

Behind every scholarship is a story of perseverance, sacrifice, and hope. For many SM Foundation scholars, the journey to higher education has been marked by financial hardships, difficult choices, and unwavering determination. Yet despite the challenges, they continue to pursue their dreams, inspired by the sacrifices of their families and driven by a desire to create a better future for themselves and their communities. Among them are Shawn Marion Alambra of Leyte and Mark Jade Feria Rivera of Nueva Ecija, whose stories reflect the transformative power of education and opportunity. Shawn Marion Alambra BS Civil Engineering Eastern Visayas State University One of the beneficiaries is Shawn Marion Alambra from Tacloban City, taking up Civil Engineering at Eastern Visayas State University. Coming from a poor family, he was, at one point, conflicted about pursuing his studies or just work to help his parents financially. “There had been times when I questioned myself if pursuing this path was even worth it; watching my parents struggle so much in life made me think if I should help with

family finances or keep on going on with my dream,” he shared. He said he never had the opportunity to express how painful it was to ask his parents for a school project costing above P100. the fact that he knew it was already a lot for them, and heard them say they will do their best to come up with the amount made him tear up in silence. The young Leyte native also said that at some point of his journey he envied his classmates enjoying their meals and snacks in school while he looked at the P10 to P20 he had for the day. “It’s really hard not to envy others when you long for things that they have. Because in a world where money runs most of the needs in every people, it’s a huge struggle to see the horizon of your dreams when your legs are tied to a weight of financial challenge. But as they said, ‘there is no easy path to success; it requires hard work and dedication.’ It isn’t an easy journey to say the least, it has a lot of ups and downs, and sometimes there’s always a point where giving up is the greatest option,” he said. “But I realized, if I give up, my family’s sacrifice would also be in vain. If I give up, the people and the world I always dreamed to help loses a light of hope. I had to wake up to the reality where I wanted to be someone who gives light to the horizons of other people, a hand that lifts up other people who struggle with the same fate as mine.” Alambra continued. His darkened hopes and dreams lighted up when he received an email from SMFI, confirming his scholarship. “The word ‘Congratulations’ assured me that I could keep on walking down my path to greatness due to this opportunity. Now I can continue my long journey without worrying too much about my financial status. I can finally ease the financial burden of my studies from my family, and all I have to do now is to keep the flame of hope burning inside me to keep on marching to greatness, keep on dreaming for a future where I can also be a hand to lift others and be someone can be a light to others who are in a pit of hopeless darkness,” he said. “I am very much thankful to SMFI for their scholarship program for giving me a chance to become someone who’s destined for greatness and excellence. This scholarship is not just a dream; it is a responsibility I will carry on with pride and dignity,” the future civil engineer stated. Mark Jade Feria Rivera BS Information Technology Central Luzon State University Salutatorian in elementary. Valedictorian in high school. Now a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology student at Central Luzon State University (CLSU) in Muñoz City, Nueva Ecija as an SMFI scholar. “I started my journey as a student full of dreams, driven by an ambition to make the world a better place through the power of technology. Born and raised in a small town in Nueva Ecija, I grew up watching my parents work tirelessly to provide for us. My father is a hardworking farmer, and my mother is a former domestic helper who worked abroad,” Mark Jade Feria Rivera began, adding he and his two sisters were raised by their parents with strong morals and dignity. “From a young age, I was deeply aware of our financial struggles. Despite these hardships, my parents sacrificed so much just to put food on our table and support our education. They always told us that education is the only legacy they can leave to us. Bearing that in mind, I have always taken my studies seriously, determined never to waste a single bit of their sacrifices,” he said. His passion for technology began in elementary school, completing his primary education at Talabutab Norte Elementary School under the Special Program in Information and Communications Technology (SP-ICT), graduating as the class salutatorian. He continued this path into junior high school at Talabutab Norte National High School, where his mentors gave him the opportunity to dive into developmental



research and programming. However, building software requires funding, which was a major hurdle for him and his group. “Refusing to let financial constraints stop us, my research group found creative, zero-cost alternatives to bring our ideas to life. We developed ‘DineDash,’ a software system designed to modernize school canteen ordering, inspired by the self-service kiosks in major fast-food chains,” he related. He continued his journey at Palayan City Senior High School under the ICT strand where he continued leading budget-friendly tech projects, including a study on the effectiveness of an improvised ergonomic device, voting system, development of a gamified learning application, and a recent assessment of students’ cybersecurity awareness and online safety. Through hard work and dedication, he graduated from senior high school as the class valedictorian. Now, as a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology student at Central Luzon State University College of Engineering, Rivera is eager to develop even more innovative research that solves real-world problems. “The SM Foundation scholarship would not only alleviate my family’s financial burden but also empower me to pursue my mission of innovating, creating meaningful change, and giving back to the community,” the future data scientist and technological innovator from Nueva Ecija said. As Shawn, Mark Jade, and thousands of other scholars continue their educational journey, they embody the vision of SM founder Henry “Tatang” Sy Sr., who believed that education can transform lives and uplift communities. Through the SM College Scholarship Program, deserving students are given the opportunity to pursue higher education, overcome financial barriers, and build a brighter future. Since its establishment, the program has supported generations of learners and has produced 4,640 college scholar graduates, proving that when given the chance, young Filipinos can achieve their dreams and become catalysts for positive change.

- [Manila rolls out mobile computer learning centers to boost digital literacy](#) (2026-06-22 16:04)

THE city government of Manila has rolled out its new Mobile Computer Learning Center, which was turned over on Monday. During the city’s weekly flag-raising ceremony, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno received two mobile learning facilities donated by the Junior Chamber International (JCI). The Mobile Computer Learning Center, which will be managed by the Manila City Library Office, will provide learners with access to computers as well as basic digital skills training. The facility will be stationed in two barangay (villages) every week until it reaches all 896 barangay in the city. “This will help many of our learners who want to access computers and digital learning, especially those who don’t have access to it,” Moreno added in a Facebook post. He shared that when he was a counselor in 1998, he launched the Isko Moreno Computer Learning Center, which helped a total of 20,000 graduates. “That’s why I saw the value of this to the youth, because many of our students went on to further study in the tech industry,” he said. The mayor hopes that the new facilities will improve students’ digital literacy and inspire them to pursue careers in the technology sector.

- [Drug firm, QC offer kidney screening](#) (2026-06-22 16:03)



IN line with National Kidney Month, pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim launched an initiative on Monday aimed at bringing early detection screening to barangay (villages) in Quezon City to combat chronic kidney disease (CKD). The Iwas Dialysis, Ligtas Kidney (Avoid Dialysis, Safe Kidney) program will bring essential kidney screening closer to underserved areas, particularly in villages, public markets, and malls. In an interview with The Manila Times, Dr. Greta Cortez, head of medicine of Boehringer Ingelheim, highlighted the importance of scaling up screening initiatives, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. “The lack of awareness about CKD is a major hurdle because many people don’t realize that conditions like high blood pressure or diabetes can lead to kidney disease,” Cortez said. “This program bridges that gap by educating communities and providing accessible screenings,” she said. Dr. Anthony Russell Villanueva, a nephrologist from the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, said CKD is a leading cause of mortality in the country, with diabetes and hypertension being primary contributors. “We need to act early. Almost 40 percent of Filipinos diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes already have kidney damage during their first consultation,” Villanueva said. During the launch, Boehringer Ingelheim turned over 7 uACR machines to the city government, which will be distributed to the six districts to ensure that health centers have tools to detect early signs of kidney damage. The initiative was previously launched in Antipolo City and Taytay, Rizal. Cortez hopes the project can be replicated in more cities across the country. “We hope that through screen programs like this, we can reduce the number of patients,” said Cortez.

- [LGBTQ+ community gets more support](#) (2026-06-22 16:02)

MANDALUYONG City launched its Right to Care card on Monday, an initiative that aims to provide more inclusive recognition of care relationships and support persons regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation. Mandaluyong Mayor Menchie Abalos led the launch of the program, which allows residents to designate a trusted person who may provide care and support when needed. The project is expected to benefit members of the LGBTQ+ community and other individuals whose chosen caregivers or support persons may not always be recognized under traditional arrangements. Abalos also urged LGBTQ+ employees to update their beneficiaries for their SSS and GSIS benefits to ensure that their intended recipients are properly reflected in their records. The city will announce the official start of the application period through its Gender and Development (GAD) Department. Councilor Charisse Marie Abalos-Vargas said the program’s Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) have been completed, and applications may begin once the guidelines are published. Applicants must accomplish the application form and Special Power of Attorney (SPA) form, and prepare the required supporting documents before submission. They will then undergo ID documentation, select a schedule for the mandatory orientation, and receive their Right to Care card after completing the process. The program was launched as part of Mandaluyong’s Pride Month activities and the city’s efforts to promote equal and inclusive recognition of care and support.

- [Marcos leads launch of Walang Gutom Kitchen in Cebu](#) (2026-06-22 15:38)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday led the launch of Walang Gutom Kitchen in Cebu City, reaffirming his administration's commitment to addressing hunger. Joined by Department of Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rex Gatchalian, Marcos toured the facility, observed its operations, distributed meals, and met with beneficiaries and local officials. The facility is the second Walang Gutom Kitchen in the country after the first opened in Pasay City in December 2024. Operated by the DSWD, the community-based food bank provides free, nutritious breakfast and lunch daily to identified beneficiaries and walk-in clients experiencing involuntary hunger. The initiative is part of the government's Walang Gutom Program, the national anti-hunger initiative launched in 2023 and institutionalized through Executive Order No. 44 in 2024 to help reduce food insecurity among Filipino families. The DSWD said the facility also serves homeless individuals and other vulnerable sectors by providing immediate access to nutritious meals. It will also serve as a center for other social services under the Pag-abot Program and Tara, Basa! Tutoring Program to provide beneficiaries with immediate assistance and other necessary services.

- [Padilla ready to become senator-judge in the impeachment trial of VP Sara](#) (2026-06-22 15:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Robinhood Padilla on Monday said he is ready to fulfill his duty as senator-judge in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. The Senate, sitting as Impeachment Court, will begin the trial on July 6. It will try the four Articles of Impeachment against Duterte which the House of Representatives transmitted to the Senate. "Isang karangalan po sa atin na maging (It would be an honor for us to be a) senator-judge," Padilla said in a chance interview. "Ako po ay matahimik ngayon kasi nag-aaral tayo. Pinag-aaralan ko ang rules of court (I am keeping a low profile nowadays because I'm studying the rules of court)," he said. Padilla, an ally of Duterte, said he will be fair in weighing the arguments of the defense and prosecution panels. "Umasa kayo na una sa lahat dapat nating ipangako [na] tayo po ay patas, tayo ay parehas, walang tinititigan, tinitingnan (Rest assured that first of all we must promise that we will be fair, will not favor anyone)," he added. Asked whether the Duterte will attend the trial, Padilla said, "Dapat ang tanungin natin kanyang abogado (We should ask her lawyers)."

- [VP Duterte reports office's accomplishments](#) (2026-06-22 13:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte reported her office's accomplishments on Monday as it started the PASIDUNGOG. The OVP said the PASIDUNGOG is its yearly awarding ceremony "that recognizes the invaluable contributions of its partners in the shared mission of creating a positive difference in the lives of Filipinos." "In the previous years, the number of people we served and gave new hope to reached 271,631 individuals", Duterte said in Filipino. "By providing capital and improving grassroots economies, we have already empowered 39 groups and over 4,400 entrepreneurs through our Mag Negosyo Ta 'Day Program", she said. Duterte also said the office's free ride buses eased public transport for 2.9 million commuters. "The OVP Disaster Operations Center continues to provide swift and immediate

relief to affected communities", she said. "Together with our partners, we have already extended critical relief to over 535,000 families across the nation", she said. She also said that in previous years, 603,751 students received school and dental kits from the OVP. She also said that every year, the OVP "expands its reach, providing hope and relieving families of crippling debt due to harrowing medical and funeral expenses."

- [Muntinlupa strengthens school security after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-22 13:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Muntinlupa City Mayor Ruffy Biazon ordered an urgent assessment of school security measures following the deadly shooting incident at a school in Tacloban, saying no community can be complacent against threats of violence. Biazon said in a statement released Monday evening, that the incident, which left three people dead and at least five others injured, highlights the need to review how schools prepare for possible security threats. The mayor said he called for a meeting with city, school, and security officials to identify vulnerabilities, address gaps, and strengthen safety measures in Muntinlupa schools. "Although the incident is far from Muntinlupa City, the threat of such kind of violence does not distinguish geographic boundaries. No community can afford to be complacent, and that the circumstances that give rise to such acts must be carefully understood and addressed wherever they may exist," Biazon said. Biazon described the Tacloban shooting as shocking and alarming, noting that similar incidents were previously seen by Filipinos mainly through international news. He said a thorough investigation into the motive and circumstances behind the attack is necessary to understand how it happened and help prevent similar incidents in the future. "We assure all Muntinlupeños and parents of children who go to school that we will do our best to ensure the safety and security of our schools and learners," Biazon said. The mayor also called for prayers for the victims and their families as authorities continue to look into the incident.

- ['Francisco' to intensify into a super typhoon Tuesday](#) (2026-06-22 13:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The state-run weather agency said Tropical Cyclone 'Francisco' has been forecast to further develop into a super typhoon by Tuesday. Nathaniel Servando, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) chief, said, however, that the typhoon would remain far from the Philippine landmass. Estimated at 620 kilometers east of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, Francisco has maximum sustained winds of 155 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 190kph while moving west-northwestward at 15kph, the national weather bureau said. Pagasa said Signal No. 1 remains over Batanes and the northeastern portion of Cagayan including the eastern portion of Babuyan Islands. Francisco would likely exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility by Friday, it added. While Mindanao, Visayas and Palawan are affected by the southwest monsoon or 'habagat,' Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon, on one hand, would be experiencing partly cloudy to overcast skies with isolated downpours or thunderstorms due to the localized thunderstorms, Pagasa's 5 a.m. bulletin said.

- [Female cop's nephew used her gun in Tacloban shooting — PNP](#) (2026-06-22 13:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday said the police officer aunt of the 14-year-old suspect in the San Jose National High School shooting in Tacloban, Leyte is set to face raps over supposed negligence in the safekeeping of her firearm resulting in the access of her nephew to it. Meanwhile, the gun used by the 15-year-old suspect was found out to be registered to a security agency in Cebu, PCol. Allen Rae Co. On Monday morning, two minors relentlessly shot students at school killing three and injuring seven. Tacloban police said initial investigation suggests that the shooting was a retaliation of the two suspects who were bullied at school. Upon background check, the Co said authorities found social media posts from one of the suspects showing acts of violence. “Upon verification of the social media account of one of the suspects, may mga nakita po tayong mga pinost niya na violent videos pertaining to guns, video of him firing a gun, ito ay very obviously red flags,” Co said. “If anybody was able to monitor itong mga red flags na ‘to this could have been prevented,” Co said.

- [‘Francisco’ to turn into super typhoon in 12 hours](#) (2026-06-22 11:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Francisco (international name Mekkhala) is forecast to reach the super typhoon category in the next 12 hours, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in its 5 p.m. bulletin on Monday. “Francisco” further intensified, packing maximum sustained winds of 175 kph near the center, and gustiness of up to 215 kph. It was last located 625 km east of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, moving west northwestward at 20 kph. Signal No. 1 was hoisted in Batanes, northeastern portion of Cagayan (Gonzaga, Santa Ana) including the eastern portion of Babuyan Islands (Babuyan Island, Didicas Island, Camiguin Island). Pagasa said the highest wind signal that will likely be hoisted throughout the cyclone’s passage is Signal No. 2. The periphery of “Francisco” and the southwest monsoon have been causing strong to gale-force gusts in most of Luzon and the Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Norte, Camiguin, Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Islands, Davao Occidental and Davao Oriental. Pagasa added that rough seas could prevail over the seaboard of Batanes, Babuyan Islands and mainland Cagayan, and the eastern seaboard of Isabela and northern Aurora. Mariners of small seacraft, including all types of motorbancas, were advised not to venture into the sea. Meanwhile, Pagasa said “Francisco” is forecast to weaken starting Wednesday.

- [2 students in police custody after school shooting in Tacloban City kills 3](#) (2026-06-22 09:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Two students armed with hand guns opened fire in a high school in the central Philippines on Monday, killing three fellow students and wounding another seven, police said. The suspects, aged 14 and 15, were arrested. The suspects and the victims were students of the San Jose National High School in Tacloban city, where the mid-morning shooting happened, regional police chief Brig. Gen. Jason Capoy said. An investigation was underway to determine the cause of the shooting in the government-run school, which has more than 1,500 students. Capoy said that the suspects, who were close friends, said in initial questioning that they were

bullied in school. He did not elaborate. They have no criminal records and it's not immediately clear where they got the 9 mm pistol and cal. 38 revolver that were used in the attack. They managed to bring the guns into the campus because there was only one guard on duty at multiple entrances and exits, Capoy said. "The suspects barged into two rooms because after the shooting in the first, the children scampered and the suspects apparently ran after some victims into another room," Capoy told reporters. Most of the dead and wounded were female students, he said. In a video posted online, students hiding under desks in a shut classroom can be heard screaming and weeping as gunshots could be heard outside. Some called their mothers. Other videos show visibly terrified students streaming out of the school campus, some holding and embracing each other. One of the suspects was arrested in the school after the attack but the second fled and hid in a house nearby. He was found by police who were alerted by residents, police said. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered a thorough investigation of the shooting and asked law enforcers to boost security in all schools, workplaces and public areas, Communications Undersecretary Claire Castro said. "The president was saddened by this incident. Anybody, especially the parents of the victims, will feel sad and terrified," Castro said. The national police have urged the public to remain calm and cooperate with authorities by providing any information that may aid the ongoing investigation.

- [Oil firms to implement big-time price rollback on Tuesday](#) (2026-06-22 08:41)

MANILA, Philippines — A substantial fuel price rollback is expected on Tuesday, June 23, after the global market reacted to Iran and US signing an interim peace deal. On Monday, Shell said that diesel prices will drop by P9.04 per liter, gasoline by P3.90 per liter, and kerosene by P11.00 per liter. Other oil companies are expected to announce a similar price rollback. The Department of Energy said that for this week, diesel prices will go down by P9.04 to P11.04 per liter, gasoline by P3.90 to P5.90 per liter, and kerosene by P9.82 to P11.82 per liter. Last week, diesel prices decreased by P3.71 to P5.71 per liter, gasoline by up to P1.68 per liter, and kerosene by around P0.50 to P3.50 per liter.

- [Prosecutors name legal spokesman for VP Sara impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-22 06:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives' prosecution team named veteran trial lawyer Benjamin Tolosa Jr. as its legal spokesman for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. "As legal spokesman, he will be speaking in behalf of the prosecution team, particularly with respect to the developments that are happening in the proceedings of the impeachment trial," Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro, lead prosecutor, said in a press briefing on Monday. Tolosa, founding and managing partner of the Tolosa, Lim and Chua law firm, served as a senior associate at the Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz Law Offices. He earned his law degree from the University of Santo Tomas.

- [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.

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- [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.

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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 ACHR 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 150kph, 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 Nayon 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 lilial, 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.