



PHILIPPINES SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: June 24, 2026 - July 01, 2026

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

Executive Summary

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

Key Developments

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

Outlook

Please check back later for an updated analysis.

ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: GMA Network

- [Marcos highlights 'sustained investment' in PAF at 79th founding anniversary](#) (2026-07-01 05:51)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday led the 79th founding anniversary of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), saying the service has evolved from a modest post-war force into a mission-oriented, capability-driven institution.

- [Tacloban shooting victim's mom calls for lower age of criminal liability](#) (2026-07-01 05:50)

The mother of one of the victims in the deadly school shooting in Tacloban City on Wednesday called for lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

- [EDSA rally may be extended if organizers meet permit conditions -- QC official](#) (2026-07-01 05:20)

The Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) may be allowed to extend its gathering at the EDSA People Power Monument if organizers comply with conditions set by the Quezon City government, a local official said Wednesday.

- [MMDA: 3 lanes of EDSA northbound, southbound now open to traffic](#) (2026-07-01 04:56)

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said Wednesday that the three lanes of EDSA northbound and southbound are now fully passable to traffic.

- [IACAT calls for unity vs human trafficking](#) (2026-07-01 04:37)

As it launched this year's national awareness month against trafficking, the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) on Wednesday called for government agencies and private stakeholders to unite against the crime.

- [Hontiveros links Tacloban school shooting to online extremist group '764'](#) (2026-07-01 04:09)

Senator Risa Hontiveros on Wednesday said the deadly school shooting in Tacloban City may be linked to “764,” an online extremist group allegedly luring children into violence and pornography.

- [CSC approves standards for new school counselor posts](#) (2026-07-01 04:00)

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has approved the qualification standards for newly created school counseling positions under the Basic Education Mental Health and Well-Being Promotion Act.

- [DepEd reiterates ban on students' gadget use during class hours](#) (2026-07-01 03:35)

The Department of Education (DepEd) has reminded schools to strictly enforce its policy prohibiting students from using gadgets during class hours, except for educational purposes or emergencies.

- [QC official: EDSA rally permit may be canceled if event becomes disorderly](#) (2026-07-01 02:21)

The permit for the ongoing rally along White Plains Avenue in Quezon City by the Iglesia ni Cristo may be canceled if organizers commit violations and become disorderly.

- [LIVE VIEW: Traffic situation at EDSA-White Plains \(July 1, 2026\)](#) (2026-07-01 00:07)

LIVE VIEW: Traffic situation at EDSA-White Plains (July 1, 2026)

- [Iglesia ni Cristo rally may have more attendees on Wednesday, NCRPO says](#) (2026-06-30 23:51)

Iglesia ni Cristo rally may have more attendees on Day 2, NCRPO says

- [LIVE UPDATES: Iglesia ni Cristo rally \(July 1, 2026\)](#) (2026-06-30 23:09)

Here are the latest news and developments regarding the Iglesia ni Cristo rally on Wednesday, July 1, 2026.

- [Taiwan passport holders can enter the Philippines visa-free for 14 days](#) (2026-06-30 16:26)

The Manila Economic and Culture Office (MECO) has announced that Taiwan passport holders may enter the Philippines visa-free for 14 days.

- [Iglesia Ni Cristo rally crowd peaked at around 15,500 --QCPD](#) (2026-06-30 15:54)

The crowd estimate at the Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) rally staged Tuesday at the People Power Monument peaked at around 15,500, recorded at 7 p.m. by the Quezon City Police District.

- [Social media ban for kids under 13 proposed by Speaker Dy, Sandro Marcos](#) (2026-06-30 15:25)

A bill prohibiting children aged 13 and below from using social media accounts has been filed in the House of Representatives. The bill also imposes a P50 million fine on social media platforms with insufficient online child safety standards, such as age verification, parental controls, and safeguards against harmful content.

- [NCRPO chief: No special treatment for Iglesia Ni Cristo rally despite being church member](#) (2026-06-30 14:52)

No special treatment was given to the rallyists at the EDSA-White Plains area on Monday, even with a member of the Iglesia Ni Cristo in charge of the police operations.

- [No jackpot winners for June 30, 2026 PCSO major lotto games](#) (2026-06-30 14:12)

No one bagged the jackpot prizes in the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Tuesday, June 30, 2026.

- [Palace says Marcos also for transparency and accountability](#) (2026-06-30 11:55)

Malacañang said Tuesday that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. shares the EDSA rallyists' call for transparency, accountability, and the rule of law.

- [House prosecutor: Important for Filipinos to understand, watch impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-30 11:39)

"Handa po tayo at gagalangin natin ang proseso. Sana galangin din ng bawat Pilipino ang ating impeachment court," House Impeachment Prosecutor Representative Lorenz Defensor said.

- [Iglesia Ni Cristo secures permit for July 1 rally](#) (2026-06-30 11:24)

The Quezon City government granted the request of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) to obtain a rally permit for Wednesday, July 1, along the stretch of White Plains Avenue to Temple Drive.

- [Plunder case vs. Marcoleta based on merit, not politics --Clavano](#) (2026-06-30 11:23)

The Ombudsman's filing of charges against officials linked to corruption, including Senator Rodante Marcoleta, is based on merits, not politics.

- [Former DPWH chief Manuel Bonoan offers 'tell-all' in bid for state witness status](#) (2026-06-30 11:19)

Former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel Bonoan has asked the Ombudsman to be made a state witness in the flood control projects anomaly probe in exchange for a “tell-all” account of the alleged scheme, according to copies of motions obtained exclusively by GMA News.

- [EDSA rally crowd estimate now at 13,000 -- NCRPO](#) (2026-06-30 10:34)

The crowd estimate of the protesters who gathered in the vicinity of the EDSA People Power Monument in Quezon City rose to 13,000 on Tuesday afternoon, impeding traffic as Metro Manila moved closer to its rush hour grind.

- [Leviste seeks resumption of House probe into flood fund mess](#) (2026-06-30 10:17)

Batangas Representative Leandro Leviste on Tuesday filed a resolution urging the House of Representatives to resume its investigation into the alleged anomalous flood control projects.

- [TIMELINE: The plunder case vs. Rodante Marcoleta over P75M campaign contributions](#) (2026-06-30 09:58)

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Monday announced that a plunder charge is poised against Sen. Rodante Marcoleta and a few others over P75 million in campaign contributions that weren't declared in his Statement of Campaign Expenditures after his successful run for a Senate seat in May 2025.

- [CICC monitoring social media for disinformation amid EDSA rally](#) (2026-06-30 09:42)

The Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) on Tuesday said it is intensifying its monitoring of various social media platforms as thousands of people gathered at EDSA for a protest rally.

- [EXPLAINER: How are other countries enforcing social media bans for minors?](#) (2026-06-30 09:40)

A bill proposing a social media ban for minors is among the priority measures of the

Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC), according to Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian.

- [Ombudsman backs plan to tap Bonoan as state witness](#) (2026-06-30 09:24)

The Office of the Ombudsman on Tuesday defended its plan to tap former Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan as a state witness, saying his testimony could help build a stronger case against former House Speaker and incumbent Leyte 1st Dist. Rep. Martin Romualdez.

- [Palace touts expanded PhilHealth benefits, NCR wage hike, fee-free digital transfers](#) (2026-06-30 09:12)

Malacañang on Tuesday highlighted several government measures aimed at easing the financial burden of Filipinos, including expanded PhilHealth benefits for leptospirosis patients, a new wage increase for workers in Metro Manila, and lower costs for digital banking transactions.

- [Marcoleta should face legal process in plunder case--Palace](#) (2026-06-30 08:56)

Malacañang on Tuesday rejected Senator Rodante Marcoleta's claim that his possible arrest would derail efforts to uncover alleged irregularities in flood control projects, saying the lawmaker should instead allow the justice system to take its course.

- [Alan Peter Cayetano urges SC to rule on June 3 Senate session validity](#) (2026-06-30 08:49)

The camp of Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Tuesday filed a manifestation reiterating its plea for the Supreme Court (SC) to decide on a petition seeking to declare the June 3 Senate session as null and void.

- [BI nabs 10 foreigners in Siargao for illegal activities](#) (2026-06-30 08:33)

Ten foreigners in Siargao were arrested for allegedly engaging in illegal activities, according to the Bureau of Immigration (BI) on Tuesday.

- [Sherwin Gatchalian checks Senate plenary, says chamber ready for Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-30 06:04)

Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Tuesday led an inspection of the Senate plenary, where the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte is scheduled to begin on July 6.

- [Manila Water assures 24/7 supply amid lower Angat allocation](#) (2026-06-30 05:51)

East zone concessionaire Manila Water Company on Tuesday assured its customers of uninterrupted 24/7 water service and normal water pressure despite the ongoing effects of El Niño and the reduced water allocation from Angat Dam in Bulacan.

- [Ombudsman won't cave in to Iglesia Ni Cristo rally pressure -- Lacson](#) (2026-06-30 05:47)

Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson expressed confidence Tuesday that Ombudsman Jesus Crispin "Boying" Remulla would not cave in to the pressure of Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) amid its ongoing rally in support of Senator Rodante Marcoleta.

- [Ombudsman panel eyes Bonoan as witness in Bong Revilla flood control case](#) (2026-06-30 04:57)

Ombudsman prosecutors are considering fielding former Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan as witness in the malversation case against former Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr. and six others in connection with the allegedly non-existent P92.8 million flood control project in Pandi, Bulacan.

- [Crowd size at EDSA rally hits 10,000; NCRPO, other PNP units under full alert](#) (2026-06-30 04:10)

Some 10,000 protesters have gathered near the EDSA People Power Monument in Quezon City as of late morning Tuesday, Super Radyo dzBB reported, quoting police estimates.

- [At least 2 nabbed amid EDSA rally tensions](#) (2026-06-30 03:58)

Police officer injured, 2 nabbed amid tensions at EDSA rally

- [Iglesia Ni Cristo questions possible filing of plunder raps vs Marcoleta](#) (2026-06-30 03:42)

The Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) on Tuesday questioned the possible filing of plunder charges against Senator Rodante Marcoleta.

- [Marcoleta on possible plunder charges: They want to silence me](#) (2026-06-30 01:39)

Senator Rodante Marcoleta on Tuesday slammed Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla who said that plunder charges will be filed against the lawmaker this week.

- [LIVE UPDATES: EDSA protest \(June 30, 2026\)](#) (2026-06-30 01:30)

Here are the latest news and developments regarding the EDSA protest on Tuesday, June 30, 2026.

- [Marcos cancels FOCAP appearance to monitor EDSA protest](#) (2026-06-30 01:25)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Tuesday canceled his scheduled appearance at the presidential luncheon hosted by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP) to monitor the situation on EDSA, according to the Presidential Communications Office (PCO).

- [Lacson: Bonoan must reveal all, return public funds](#) (2026-06-29 17:59)

Former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel Bonoan may have vital information to reveal as a potential state witness in the flood control mess, but he must also "make restitution" for funds lost to the anomalies, Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said on Monday.

- [Court orders 90-day suspension of Jinggoy Estrada's 3 co-accused in flood fund plunder](#) (2026-06-29 15:11)

The Sandiganbayan Fifth Division has ordered the 90-day preventive suspension of three Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials over plunder and graft cases linked to the flood control project anomalies.

- [Pre-trial order for Sara Duterte impeachment case sent to prosecution, defense](#) (2026-06-29 14:34)

The Senate impeachment court has sent the pre-trial order to the camp of Vice President Sara Duterte and the House prosecution panel, Senate secretary, and impeachment clerk of court Atty. Renato Bantug said on Monday.

- [3 Filipino archbishops receive the pallium from Pope Leo](#) (2026-06-29 14:16)

Pope Leo XIV conferred the pallium upon 32 newly appointed metropolitan archbishops, including three Filipinos: Alberto Uy, Charlie Inzon, and David William Antonio.

- [PCSO: No winners of major lotto draws on June 29, 2026](#) (2026-06-29 14:04)

There were no winners of the major lotto jackpots drawn Monday, June 29, 2025, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

- [Sara Duterte camp agrees to open BIR box of tax records in executive session](#) (2026-06-29 14:00)

The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte has agreed to the opening of the sealed Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) box containing her tax records and those of her husband, on the condition that it would be done in an executive session.

- [DOH: Mpox cases in PH down 79% compared to 2025](#) (2026-06-29 11:46)

The cases of monkeypox (mpox) in the country are 79% lower in 2026 compared to the previous year, the Department of Health (DOH) said Monday amid reports of local detections.

- [Ridon: VP Sara Duterte request to dismiss impeachment not in Constitution](#) (2026-06-29 11:28)

Vice President Sara Duterte's request to dismiss the Articles of Impeachment against her cannot be done as it is not allowed by the Constitution, a member of the House Prosecution Panel said.

- [Palace: No rift with China amid Teodoro row with Chinese Embassy](#) (2026-06-29 09:41)

The Palace on Monday said the Philippines continues to maintain good relations with China despite the heated exchange between Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. and the Chinese Embassy in Manila.

- [Palace on Franco Mabanta apology: A lesson against stirring baseless intrigues](#) (2026-06-29 09:24)

Malacañang on Monday said the apology issued by Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN) founder Franco Mabanta to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos serves as a reminder against creating intrigue without a factual basis.

- [DepEd studying mandatory bag inspections after Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-29 09:07)

The Department of Education (DepEd) is studying whether to require mandatory bag inspections in schools following the recent school shooting in Tacloban City, as lawmakers on Monday pressed the agency to strengthen campus safety measures.

- [Sara Duterte's impeachment lacks evidence? Premature to say --House prosecution](#) (2026-06-29 08:49)

It is premature for the camp of Vice President Sara Duterte to insist that there is a lack of evidence in the impeachment case against her pending the presentation of evidence, the House prosecution panel said Monday.

- [DILG says it won't press charges vs. other Ateneo players: 'They are also victims'](#) (2026-06-29 07:55)

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will not recommend the inclusion of other student-athletes from the Ateneo de Manila University men's basketball team as respondents in the charges stemming from the drowning deaths of two former players, saying they were also victims.

- [Ombudsman to enlist ex-DPWH chief Bonoan as state witness in flood control projects cases](#) (2026-06-29 07:41)

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla will ask the Sandiganbayan to discharge former Public Works and Highways Secretary Manuel Bonoan from the cases he's facing in connection with the alleged P573 million in kickbacks from flood control projects.

- [DepEd to seek funds for more security guards in public schools](#) (2026-06-29 07:34)

The Department of Education (DepEd) will seek additional funding to hire more security guards in public schools as it steps up efforts to strengthen campus safety following recent incidents involving learners.

- [Bam Aquino rejects blanket ban on video games after Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-06-29 07:20)

Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aguirre Aquino IV has rejected proposals for a blanket ban on video games following the deadly school shooting in Tacloban City.

- [PNP vows tight security for Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-29 07:11)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said Monday it has put in place comprehensive security measures for the upcoming impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, adding that authorities have not monitored any validated threats that could disrupt the proceedings.

- [Ombudsman to file plunder charges vs Rodante Marcoleta](#) (2026-06-29 06:50)

Plunder charges will be filed this week against Senator Rodante Marcoleta, Ombudsman Jesus

Crispin Remulla said Monday.

- [Tab Baldwin admits working in PH since 2013 sans alien employment permit](#) (2026-06-29 06:46)

Resigned Ateneo men's basketball head coach Tab Baldwin on Monday admitted to not holding an alien employment permit (AEP) despite working as a basketball coach in the Philippines since 2013.

- [OVP touts 'efficient' use of 92% of its P913-M budget for 2025](#) (2026-06-29 05:48)

The Office of the Vice President (OVP) on Monday said it obligated 92.32% of its P913.243-million allocation under its current and continuing appropriations for 2025, citing what it described as strong fiscal management and the supposed efficient use of public funds.

- [Ted Te, 3 others tapped to assist House prosecutors in Sara Duterte's impeach trial](#) (2026-06-29 04:53)

The House prosecution team on Monday named former Supreme Court Public Information Office chief and human rights lawyer Theodore "Ted" Te, along with three others, as additional private prosecutors who will assist in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [Marcos meets presidential scholars: Education is most important thing to be given to youth](#) (2026-06-29 04:22)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Monday stressed the importance of education, saying this is the most important service the government could give to the youth.

- [Sherwin Gatchalian: Senate now open to visitors](#) (2026-06-29 03:20)

Visitors will now be allowed at the Senate under the Office of the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms (OSAA)'s Visitor Management System (VMS), according to Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian.

- [EXPLAINER: How to tell if a child is being exploited online to commit violence](#) (2026-06-28 18:35)

In March, the Philippine National Police Anti-Cybercrime Group (PNP-ACG) rescued seven students, all minors, who were allegedly recruited online and encouraged to commit acts of violence. Authorities launched the operation after receiving intelligence information from their foreign law enforcement partners regarding suspicious activities within an online gaming community.

- [Prosecution may waive some articles if evidence vs. Sara Duterte already 'strong'](#) (2026-06-28 15:46)

The House prosecution panel aims to present evidence for all four articles of impeachment against VP Sara Duterte, but might drop witnesses or articles if the evidence is already strong.

- [No winners of major lotto draws on Sunday, June 28, 2026](#) (2026-06-28 13:53)

There were no winning bettors in either of the two major lotto games played on Sunday, June 28, 2026.

- [Anti-dynasty, social media ban for minors among LEDAC priority bills --Gatchalian](#) (2026-06-28 13:40)

Among the 50 LEDAC priority bills are the anti-political dynasty bill and a measure that seeks to ban minors from social media platforms, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said on Sunday.

- [Paolo Marcoleta, Mike Defensor spotted at White Ribbon March](#) (2026-06-28 13:15)

SAGIP Party-list Rep. Paolo Marcoleta and former congressman Mike Defensor were spotted at the White Ribbon March along EDSA, an anti-corruption protest, on Sunday, June 28.

- [No room for staying silent, say White Ribbon marchers against corruption](#) (2026-06-28 12:39)

"Lahat ng sangkot, dapat managot!" This battle cry was heard once again as progressive and religious groups marched to the People Power Monument to call once again for an end to corruption.

- [Sherwin Gatchalian 'prepared' to serve as presiding officer in Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-28 10:40)

Senate President Sherwin “Win” Gatchalian said Sunday that he is prepared to serve as the presiding officer in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [EJK victims optimistic on Duterte ICC case developments -- Conti](#) (2026-06-28 08:41)

Victims of the bloody drug war are feeling optimistic over recent developments in the case against former president Rodrigo Duterte before the International Criminal Court (ICC), according to ICC assistant to counsel Kristina Conti.

- [Teodoro hits China's 'insincerity, duplicity' over arrests of its citizens in PH](#) (2026-06-28 06:11)

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on Sunday criticized the Chinese Embassy in Manila over its recent statement expressing concern over the arrest of Chinese nationals in the Philippines, accusing Beijing of supposed "insincerity and duplicity" in its dealings with the country.

- [DepEd seeks to add more guidance counselors, work with PNP to protect students](#) (2026-06-28 05:41)

Apart from strengthening the security of public schools amid the recent school shooting in Tacloban City, a Department of Education (IDepEd) official on Sunday said they are also addressing the need to improve guidance counseling for students.

- [LOOK: Mass held at EDSA Shrine as part of White Ribbon March](#) (2026-06-28 04:57)

Members of religious and civil society groups on Sunday attended a Mass at the EDSA Shrine in Quezon City as part of the White Ribbon March calling for an end to corruption.

- [Only 1 Tacloban shooting victim in ICU, rest of victims recovering -- DepEd](#) (2026-06-28 04:42)

An official of the Department of Education on Sunday said only one victim of the deadly shooting inside the San Jose National High School in Tacloban City remains in the intensive care unit (ICU) while the rest of the cases are now stable.

- [New US ambassador to PH Lee Lipton now in Manila](#) (2026-06-28 04:09)

Lee Lipton, the new United States ambassador to the Philippines, has arrived in Manila to start his tour of duty, the US Embassy said Sunday.

- [Erwin Tulfo seeks 'total review' of PH Juvenile Law implementation](#) (2026-06-28 02:21)

Senator Erwin Tulfo said Sunday that a panel he chairs will conduct a total review of the implementation of Republic Act 9344 or the "Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006."

- [LIVE UPDATES: White Ribbon March \(June 28, 2026\)](#) (2026-06-28 00:45)

Here are the latest news and developments regarding the White Ribbon March on Sunday, June 28, 2026, that calls for an end to corruption while pushing for reforms to the country's political system.

- [DTI urges buyers to check safety marks of appliances, devices](#) (2026-06-27 19:54)

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is intensifying its monitoring of appliance sellers, including online merchants, to ensure products being sold comply with mandatory safety standards.

- [Ateneo urges public to avoid cyberbullying amid probe into Baterbonia, Adili deaths](#) (2026-06-27 18:28)

Ateneo de Manila University on Saturday appealed to the public to refrain from cyberbullying, online harassment, and spreading unverified information as investigations continue into the deaths of student-athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili.

- [Earthquake swarms may or may not lead to stronger tremors, says PHIVOLCS](#) (2026-06-27 14:53)

An earthquake swarm was observed at the Cotabato Trench before the fatal magnitude 7.8 earthquake on June 8, but the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) said the smaller tremors do not conclusively prove they triggered the major Mindanao quake.

- [EXPLAINER: Is a social media ban for minors protection or just a band-aid solution?](#) (2026-06-27 13:26)

Following the fatal school shooting in Tacloban City, discussions have resurfaced on whether the Philippines should impose restrictions on social media use among minors.

- [NCRPO mobilizes nearly 10,000 police officers for White Ribbon March](#) (2026-06-27 12:26)

The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said Saturday that it would deploy nearly 10,000 personnel to ensure public safety and security during the White Ribbon March on Sunday.

- [House prosecution: Sara Duterte's freedom of speech 'not absolute'](#) (2026-06-27 10:59)

House prosecution: Sara Duterte's 'freedom of speech' not absolute

- [Bayan: 'Rabid' pro-Duterte personalities 'not welcome' at White Ribbon March](#) (2026-06-27 10:01)

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) on Saturday said fierce supporters of former

President Rodrigo Duterte and his family are not welcome at the White Ribbon Movement March against corruption on June 28.

- [The youth should be protected against violence, neglect --Marcos](#) (2026-06-27 07:38)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Saturday called for stricter protection of the youth in the country against violence and neglect following recent school incidents that resulted in tragic loss.

- [NBI files complaint of qualified human trafficking vs Mike Defensor, 6 others](#) (2026-06-27 07:01)

The National Bureau of Investigation-National Capital Region filed a complaint against former congressman Mike Defensor and six others on Friday for qualified human trafficking.

- [Rodrigo Duterte's defense denounces prosecution's request to access items during his arrest](#) (2026-06-27 06:04)

The defense team of former president Rodrigo Duterte slammed the International Criminal Court prosecution's recent request to examine some items acquired during his arrest, calling the move a “fishing expedition.”

- [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 Malampaya 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.

Source: PhilStar Global

- [Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for June 30 – July 6](#) (2026-07-01 04:43)

Prices of oil and fuel products may either increase or decrease starting Tuesday, June 30.

- [Innovations, responsive service for fisherfolk highlight BFAR' s 79th anniversary rites](#) (2026-07-01 04:23)

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) put the spotlight on its innovative programs and rapid response to the needs of Filipino fisherfolk as it marked its 79th

anniversary.

- [Manila-based consultancy shut over Poland job scam](#) (2026-07-01 03:18)

Authorities have arrested two suspects in entrapment operation.

- [LPA is now Tropical Depression Henry; Signal No. 1 up](#) (2026-06-30 23:30)

Tropical Depression Henry may become tropical storm by Thursday, says PAGASA.

- [DA workers ordered to hasten preps for El Niño](#) (2026-06-30 16:00)

Workers at the Department of Agriculture have been ordered to speed up preparations for the El Niño phenomenon, which has started affecting the country and may last until the early part of next year.

- [Church bucks offshore wind project in Ilocos](#) (2026-06-30 16:00)

The Diocese of Laoag has joined groups opposing a proposed offshore wind project in this province, saying it will jeopardize the livelihood of more than 6,500 fishermen and destroy the local marine ecosystem.

- [P115.3 million smuggled cigarettes seized in Zamboanga](#) (2026-06-30 16:00)

Illegal cigarettes valued at P115.3 million were seized in separate anti-smuggling operations in Zamboanga del Sur on Monday.

- [4 dead, 11 injured as truck rams roadside wake](#) (2026-06-30 16:00)

Four people died while 11 others were injured when a wing van crashed into a group of visitors at a wake in Pagbilao, Quezon on Monday night.

- [Family of 4 stabbed dead in Zamboanga](#) (2026-06-30 16:00)

A barangay health worker and her three teenage children were found dead with multiple stab wounds inside their home in Josefina town, Zamboanga del Sur on Monday.

- [Taguig cop accused of sexually harassing girl, 8](#) (2026-06-30 16:00)

A policeman assigned in Taguig City is facing administrative complaints over allegations that he sexually harassed an eight-year-old girl.

- [Army firefighters lauded for Davao de Oro emergency mission](#) (2026-06-30 11:17)

A group of soldiers went viral on Facebook after engaging in a different kind of firefight, not using firearms but hoses and water, to put out a fire that razed a passenger bus at a stretch of highway in Barangay Tuboran in Mawab, Davao de Oro on Monday, June 29.

- [Major EDSA routes blocked due to Iglesia ni Cristo rally](#) (2026-06-30 02:21)

Major routes are temporarily closed after thousands of INC members conducted an unanticipated rally.

- [Metro Manila may see rains as LPA nears cyclone strength](#) (2026-06-29 23:50)

A low-pressure area over the coastal waters of San Pascual, Masbate may develop into a tropical depression within 24 hours.

- [Tulfo welcomes DepEd' s safety measures](#) (2026-06-29 16:00)

Sen. Raffy Tulfo has welcomed nationwide school safety measures enforced by the Department of Education following the June 22 school shooting in Tacloban perpetrated by two Grade 9 boys ages 14 and 15.

- [SC urged: Cancel PUV modernization](#) (2026-06-29 16:00)

Transport group Piston has renewed its call for the Supreme Court' s invalidation of the government' s public transport modernization program.

- [DOT taps TikTok content creators for tourism promos](#) (2026-06-29 16:00)

The Department of Tourism and social media platform TikTok partnered yesterday to boost local tourism promotions through a travel content series, Wanderlust Week.

- [Fire destroys 163 houses in CDO](#) (2026-06-29 16:00)

A fire gutted 163 houses in Barangay Lapasan here on Sunday, the Bureau of Fire Protection reported.

- [Marcos hands over P453.8 million for Zamboanga, Sulu projects](#) (2026-06-29 16:00)

President Marcos turned over yesterday P453.8 million for initiatives addressing hunger, food security and community development in Zamboanga Peninsula and Sulu.

- [BI nabs 10 foreigners in Siargao](#) (2026-06-29 16:00)

The Bureau of Immigration has arrested 10 foreigners in Siargao for illegally working in the country and other violations of immigration laws, the BI announced.

- [5 police trainees beat up laborer in Quezon](#) (2026-06-29 16:00)

Five trainees at the Philippine National Police Regional Training Center 4A in Tayabas City, Quezon allegedly beat up a construction worker last week, according to the PNP.

- [Bulacan Grade 10 student stabbed dead; teacher nabbed](#) (2026-06-29 16:00)

A Grade 10 student bled to death due to a stab wound in her neck early yesterday in Baliwag City, Bulacan.

- [Marikina boosts school security](#) (2026-06-29 16:00)

The Marikina government has strengthened security protocols in all schools in the city following violent incidents involving minor students.

- [PNP: Bato faces arrest if he attends VP trial](#) (2026-06-29 16:00)

The Philippine National Police said on Sunday the PNP is prepared to arrest Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa if he resurfaces during the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [Soldier, teacher killed in Lanao del Sur ambush](#) (2026-06-29 11:18)

An Army corporal and a teacher were killed, while a civilian driver was critically wounded in an ambush in Barangay Lamin in Malabang, Lanao del Sur on Saturday afternoon, June 27.

- [Negros Occidental school shifts online after shooting threat](#) (2026-06-29 09:12)

School shooting threats ripple after Tacloban attack

- [Quezon City rolls out school zone, road safety measures](#) (2026-06-29 09:07)

The measures seek to reduce crashes and protect students near schools.

- [Mother, 3 children hacked, stabbed to death inside house in Zamboanga del Sur](#) (2026-06-29 08:25)

A mother and her three children were found lifeless by neighbors, with multiple hack and stab wounds on different parts of their bodies, on the floor of their house in Barangay Litapan in Josefina, Zamboanga del Sur on Monday morning, June 29.

- [Israelis, other foreigners in Siargao nabbed over immigration violations](#) (2026-06-29 06:45)

The Immigration bureau says they face deportation over alleged immigration violations in Siargao.

- [LPA east of Samar likely to become tropical depression](#) (2026-06-29 04:23)

PAGASA says the weather system east of Eastern Samar may intensify soon.

- [Batangas City school suspends classes amid shooting threat](#) (2026-06-29 02:50)

In an advisory posted on the Facebook page of Batangas City Integrated High School shortly before midnight on Sunday, June 28, the school said the suspension would remain in effect until further notice.

- [DMW to hold health summit for OFWs](#) (2026-06-28 16:00)

The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) is encouraging overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families to participate in a two-day summit in Quezon City.

- [2,000 Pinoy sailors await evacuation](#) (2026-06-28 16:00)

About 2,000 remaining Filipino seafarers stranded in the Persian Gulf are looking forward to the evacuation plan of the International Maritime Organization.

- [Explain vlogging driver' s booking refusals, Grab told](#) (2026-06-28 16:00)

Ride-hailing app Grab should explain whether its drivers are allowed to decline bookings, according to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

- [Viral parking dispute in Mandaluyong probed](#) (2026-06-28 16:00)

Police have launched an investigation into an altercation over a parking dispute after a man allegedly brandished a firearm while confronting a motorist outside his residence in Mandaluyong.

- [For 6th time, Quezon City gets clean audit](#) (2026-06-28 16:00)

The Quezon City government has again received a clean audit from the Commission on Audit (COA).

- [Government sleeping on 20-year-old juvenile justice law – groups](#) (2026-06-28 16:00)

Child rights advocates lament that the implementation of the country' s juvenile justice system has been weak, with many local government units (LGUs) still failing to comply with key provisions of Republic Act 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act.

- [LTFRB suspends electric vehicle taxi driver over prank robbery](#) (2026-06-28 16:00)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has suspended the driver of an electric vehicle or EV taxi who drew flak after being involved in a robbery of two vloggers, which turned out to be a prank.

- [President Marcos declares local holidays](#) (2026-06-28 16:00)

Malacañang has issued nine proclamations declaring local holidays in various parts of the country.

- [Negros Occidental LGU grants P50,000 annual bonus to centenarians](#) (2026-06-28 16:00)

To honor residents aged 100 years and above, the Cadiz City government in Negros Occidental passed an ordinance giving P50,000 in annual cash bonus “for as long as the centenarians remain alive.”

- [Police nab forest ranger, 3 others](#) (2026-06-28 16:00)

Four armed men, including a forest ranger, were wounded in an encounter with police units in Arayat, Pampanga on Saturday.

- [Baguio City crime rate up 3% in first five months of 2026](#) (2026-06-28 09:49)

crime incidents in Baguio rose by 3% in the first five months of 2026, driven mainly by an increase in property-related offenses, according to the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO).

- [BARMM residents mourn death of ex-rebel turned regional lawmaker](#) (2026-06-28 09:42)

The Maguindanaons are mourning the demise, due to illness, early Sunday, June 28, of the secretary of the central committee of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, who had supported the MILF's struggle for self-governance by southerners through state-permitted autonomy.

- [Cotabato mayor sets peculiar rules against 'badmouthing' in BARMM polls](#) (2026-06-28 06:19)

The mayor of Cotabato City warned on Sunday, June 28, that any subordinate maliciously maligning any candidate or political party now gearing up for the September 14 Bangsamoro parliamentary polls could be suspended or, if evidence warrants, terminated from service.

- [Public warned over 'misleading' BARMM peace rally reports](#) (2026-06-28 04:00)

An official of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) has warned the public against what he described as “fake and misleading” reports on the June 26 Peace Rally organized by the United Bangsamoro Justice Party (UBJP).

- [Bicam OKs bill expanding education voucher program](#) (2026-06-27 16:00)

The bicameral conference committee adopted the final version of the proposed Basic Education Voucher Program Act, which seeks to expand the subsidies given to kindergarten to senior high school students in qualified private schools.

- [Retired AFP general brandishes gun in road dispute](#) (2026-06-27 16:00)

Police are investigating a retired general of the Armed Forces of the Philippines seen in a viral video brandishing a gun during a confrontation with a motorist in Mandaluyong.

- [PRC suspends Badoy's license for 6 months](#) (2026-06-27 16:00)

For red-tagging health care workers, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) has suspended for six months the medical registration of Lorraine Marie Badoy, former spokesperson of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict.

- [DILG mulls bounty for Bato's arrest](#) (2026-06-27 16:00)

As Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa continues to evade authorities, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is studying whether to put up a bounty to help speed up the lawmaker's arrest.

- [Magat Dam nearing critical level](#) (2026-06-27 16:00)

The water level in Magat Dam in Ramon, Isabela has continued to decline and is nearing its critical level, according to the National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

- [3 rob suspects wounded in NLEX ‘shootout’](#) (2026-06-27 16:00)

Three suspected members of a robbery group were wounded in an alleged shootout with police officers along the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) toll plaza in Bocaue, Bulacan on Friday afternoon.

- [Visayas LGUs ban hogs, pork from ASF-hit areas](#) (2026-06-27 16:00)

Several local government units in the Visayas have banned the entry of live pigs, pork and pork products coming from areas affected by African swine fever (ASF).

- [Comelec holds mock election in BARMM](#) (2026-06-27 16:00)

Simulated voting activities were held yesterday in several areas in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in preparation for the conduct of the first BARMM parliamentary election this coming September.

- [Bangsamoro gov’t provides relief to quake victims in Soccsksargen](#) (2026-06-27 09:01)

More than a thousand Moro and non-Moro residents in two tremor-stricken areas received relief provisions this week from the Bangsamoro regional government, local executives announced on Saturday, June 27.

- [Comelec conducts mock BARMM elections in Maguindanao del Norte](#) (2026-06-27 08:36)

Poll officials facilitated on Saturday, June 27, a simulated voting activity in Barangay Rebuken in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao del Norte as part of the preparations for the September 14 parliamentary polls in the Bangsamoro region.

- [Mother of abandoned newborn in Mt. Province surfaces](#) (2026-06-27 07:51)

The mother of a newborn baby found abandoned in Samoki, Bontoc, Mountain Province, has surfaced and is now under medical care.

- [Private firm cited for extensive South Cotabato pro-education projects](#) (2026-06-27 05:55)

The South Cotabato Schools Division had awarded a private firm a citation for supporting the programs of the education department in ancestral lands of indigenous tribes and in enclaves of settler communities in the province.

- [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.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer

- [Sea travel in Zambales suspended as Henry brings rough seas](#) (2026-07-01 14:02)

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales – The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in Zambales suspended sea travel for all vessels on Wednesday as rough seas spawned by Tropical Depression Henry battered the province. According to Commander Euphraim Jayson Diciano, head of the PCG in Zambales, the suspension was based on the 5 a.m. advisory of the Philippine Atmospheric,

- [2 boys drown in Bataan river](#) (2026-07-01 13:52)

HERMOSA, Bataan -Two boys, aged 8 and 12, drowned in the Gasak River Dam in Barangay Culis, Hermosa town on Tuesday afternoon. Report from Bataan police said the two boys were with another boy swimming in the swollen river when the two ventured into a deep portion and failed to get out. READ: 2 brothers

- [14-year-old Tacloban shooting suspect wanted to be a cop – aunt](#) (2026-07-01 13:24)

MANILA, Philippines – Alias Nash, the 14-year-old suspect in the school shooting in Tacloban City, was brought to the firing range by his aunt because he “looked up to” her, Nash’ s aunt, Police Staff Sgt. Arla Ray Pacencia said on Wednesday. During a Senate panel probe into the Tacloban shooting incident that led to three

- [Senate hearing: Tacloban school shooter shot best friend in the back](#) (2026-07-01 13:09)

MANILA, Philippines — One of the students wounded in the June 22 shooting at a school in Tacloban City was shot in the back by his own best friend, a resource person told a Senate hearing on Wednesday. Gerric Bituin was among those wounded when two minor students, aged 14 and 15, opened fire at at

- [Graft case proceedings of Estrada, Bonoan moved to July 14](#) (2026-07-01 13:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The graft proceedings of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and former Public Works secretary Manuel Bonoan before the Sandiganbayan Second Division was moved to July 14. The graft case filed in the anti-graft’ s Second Division against Estrada and Bonoan stemmed from allegedly anomalous flood control projects in Bulacan worth P213 million. “The case and

- [Batangas residents who camped at Liwasang Bonifacio join INC Edsa rally](#) (2026-07-01 12:40)

LIVE UPDATES: Edsa INC rally on July 1, 2026 MANILA, Philippines — Residents from the first district of Batangas who spent the night at Liwasang Bonifacio traveled to Edsa on Wednesday to join the second day of the rally organized by members of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC). Barangay Bilaran Councilor Allan Tabanggay of Nasugbu,

- [3 Edsa northbound lanes reopen after INC bus pulled back](#) (2026-07-01 12:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Three northbound lanes of the Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (Edsa) near the People Power Monument are now passable after a bus carrying rallyists for the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) protest blocking the way was moved back to White Plains Avenue on Wednesday morning. In an advisory, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA)

- [Tacloban shooting: Victim's mom wants separate detention for suspects](#) (2026-07-01 12:05)

MANILA, Philippines – Jenelyn Badoria, the mother of 14-year-old Yancee Badoria Separa, who died during the Tacloban school shooting incident, demanded that the suspects be placed in a different facility and not just in a shelter where minors in conflict with the law are cared for and rehabilitated. Badoria expressed her calls at the Senate

- [Pagasa lifts wind signals; Henry moves away from PH landmass](#) (2026-07-01 11:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Wind signals have been lifted as Tropical depression Henry moves over the West Philippine Sea on Wednesday, July 1, according to the state weather bureau. In a weather advisory issued at 11 am, TD Henry is moving generally westward while away from the Philippine landmass at 250 kilometers per hour. READ: Pagasa:

- [PNP backs mandatory school bag inspections after deadly attacks](#) (2026-07-01 11:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) has expressed support for a proposal requiring mandatory bag inspections in schools nationwide as part of efforts to enhance campus security following recent incidents of school violence. The Department of Education (DepEd) is currently reviewing the proposal following the fatal shooting in Tacloban City that claimed the

- [Suspected 'groomer' of Tacloban school shooters tagged in Senate hearing](#) (2026-07-01 11:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The two minor suspects, alias Nash and Rod, in the Tacloban school shooting may have been influenced by an “adult groomer,” Sen. Risa Hontiveros said on Wednesday. Hontiveros revealed the potential link during the Senate panel on women, children, family relations, and gender equality hearing on the fatal shooting incident. Citing her

- [Senate body unable to locate parents of Tacloban shooting suspect](#) (2026-07-01 11:31)

MANILA, Philippines— The Senate committee on women could not locate the parents of one of the two suspects in the June 22 fatal shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City. The committee, headed by Sen. Risa Hontiveros, is looking into the incident, which left three students dead and several others wounded. READ: NBI probes Tacloban

- [44-year-old man hacked to death in Bukidnon](#) (2026-07-01 11:23)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — A 44-year-old man was hacked to death by an unidentified assailant following a brief chase before dawn Wednesday in Barangay 1, Talakag town in Bukidnon, police

said. The victim sustained severe hack wounds to the back of his head and both shoulders during the attack in Sitio Inangay at around

- [Tindig Pilipinas hits INC rally backing Marcoleta](#) (2026-07-01 11:20)

MANILA, Philippines – Tindig Pilipinas, organizers of the Trillion Peso March, on Wednesday criticized the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC)-led gathering in support of Sen. Rodante Marcoleta, saying mass demonstrations should not be used to shield public officials from legal scrutiny. In a statement, Tindig Pilipinas said it strongly opposes the rally held in

- [Marcos to PAF: Remain loyal to constitutional duty, safeguard freedom](#) (2026-07-01 11:12)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday urged members of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) to remain faithful to their constitutional duty to protect the Filipino people and defend the country's democratic institutions. Speaking during the PAF's 79th Founding Anniversary celebration, Marcos reminded air force personnel to consistently observe safety protocols in both missions

- [Heavy rain threat prompts class suspensions in Batangas, Laguna](#) (2026-07-01 10:58)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Several cities and municipalities in Batangas and Laguna suspended classes at all levels in public and private schools on Wednesday amid the threat of heavy rains from Tropical Depression Henry. In Batangas, the class suspensions were called in four cities and 26 municipalities. The class suspensions came after Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto,

- [Senate panel probes Tacloban shooting](#) (2026-07-01 10:56)

MANILA, Philippines – The Senate panel on women, children, family relations and gender equality opened a hearing on Wednesday to look into the fatal school shooting in Tacloban City. Presided over by the panel's head, Sen. Risa Hontiveros, the hearing seeks to identify links between violent and extremist messaging in online gaming platforms and minor-incited

- [Angat Dam continues to drop below 160-meter critical water level](#) (2026-07-01 10:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Angat Dam continues to plummet below the 160-meter critical water level, dropping to 159.90 meters on Wednesday, July 1, according to the state weather bureau. In the latest update of Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the water reservoir in Bulacan fell 0.05 meters from Tuesday's 159.95 meters recorded water

- [Sarangani extends class, gov't work suspensions due to aftershocks](#) (2026-07-01 10:41)

COTABATO CITY — Sarangani Gov. Rogelio Pacquiao has ordered the extension of the suspension of face-to-face classes at all levels, both public and private, across the province, as well as work arrangements in the provincial government from July 1 to July 15 due to earthquake aftershocks. "This is due to the continuing aftershocks, recurring seismic

- [NCRPO: 4 nabbed at INC rally now freed](#) (2026-07-01 10:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The four individuals arrested during a commotion at the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) rally in Quezon City have been released from police custody, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said. “The bus driver was let off the hook by our police officer since what had happened was only part of his

- [PNP busts gun, drug syndicate in North Cotabato](#) (2026-07-01 10:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) busted a suspected illegal firearms and drug syndicate in Aleosan, North Cotabato and launched a manhunt for three remaining suspects after an intelligence-driven operation left one suspect dead. The operation took place on June 29 in Barangay New Panay and involved the PNP Intelligence Group, Police Regional

- [QC gov’ t: INC sought 4-day rally permit, approved only for July 1 so far](#) (2026-07-01 10:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS) explained that the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) originally requested a permit to hold a rally until Friday, July 3, but the local government only gave them until Wednesday, July 1, for now. “A day at a time,” DPOS chief Elmo San Diego

- [Kidapawan’ s warning as the Philippines faces climate shocks](#) (2026-07-01 09:51)

The 2016 Kidapawan bloodshed remains a defining moment in Philippine history, exposing the fragility of governance when confronted with climate shocks and food insecurity. As the country braces for the 2026-2027 Super El Niño, the lessons of Kidapawan are more urgent than ever. Famine is not a natural calamity but a governance failure, and climate

- [PNP chief urges INC rally organizers to comply with LGU permit](#) (2026-07-01 08:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. urged the organizers of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC)-led rally in Quezon City to comply with the permit granted to them by the local government. “Our personnel have been instructed to exercise maximum tolerance while remaining ready to enforce the law and

- [NCRPO to await QC permit if INC rally extends beyond 8 p.m.](#) (2026-07-01 08:42)

MANILA, Philippines — National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director Maj. Gen. Anthony Aberin on Wednesday said they will wait for the Quezon City government to issue a new permit if the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC)-led rally at the People Power Monument extends beyond its approved schedule. Rally organizers secured a permit from the city

- [Police may tow INC buses if they remain on Edsa, NCRPO says](#) (2026-07-01 08:15)

MANILA, Philippines — National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director Maj. Gen. Anthony Aberin asked the organizers of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC)-led rally in Quezon City to back their buses up into White Plains Avenue to further clear the northbound lanes of Epifanio

delos Santos Avenue (Edsa). “[Quezon City Police District director Brig. Gen.

- [Heavy rainfall forecast over 3 provinces due to Henry, habagat](#) (2026-07-01 08:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Heavy rainfall is forecast over three provinces in Luzon on Wednesday, July 1, due to the effects of Tropical Depression Henry and the southwest monsoon, or habagat, according to the state weather bureau. In a weather advisory issued at 5 a.m., the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Henry

- [Pagasa: LPA develops into Tropical Depression Henry](#) (2026-07-01 08:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The low-pressure area off the West Southwest coast of Abucay, Bataan has intensified into tropical depression (TD) Henry, with three areas over Luzon placed under wind signal number 1, according to the state weather bureau. Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) weather specialist Chenel Dominguez noted during its 5 a.m.

- [INC Edsa-White Plains rally enters 2nd day](#) (2026-07-01 06:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The rally mounted by the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) at the Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (Edsa)-White Plains Avenue area in Quezon City entered its second day on Wednesday, July 1. At least 4,000 participants so far were in the area as of 5 a.m., according to the Quezon City Police District’s (QCPD)

- [Dole approves ‘historic’ P85 wage hike for NCR workers](#) (2026-07-01 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) on Tuesday approved a minimum wage hike of P85 for the National Capital Region (NCR), with the labor chief calling this a “historic” increase even as it elicited skepticism to disapproval from concerned stakeholders. The increase granted by Dole’s Wage Order No. NCR-27 will be

- [DA gathers data, fast-tracks water projects to fight El Niño](#) (2026-07-01 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) is implementing a data-driven planning strategy to safeguard the country’s agriculture sector from a looming El Niño phenomenon expected to peak later this year. Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said in a statement on Tuesday that the agency is shifting to a broader food systems approach

- [Namfrel pushes for strictest version of party list reform bill](#) (2026-07-01 05:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Citizens’ Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) has called for the passage of a party list reform law that adopts the strongest provisions of House Bill No. 9906 and Senate Bill No. 2090. In a statement on Monday, the poll watchdog welcomed the filing of the two bills which act as

- [Bonoan to boost cases vs Romualdez, Revilla](#) (2026-07-01 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman made the “tough decision” to make former Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan a state witness to strengthen the case to be filed against Leyte Rep. and former House Speaker Martin Romualdez over the flood control scam, Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano said on Tuesday. “The reason why we

- [Gatchalian: VP tax records not top priority in impeachment agenda](#) (2026-07-01 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Opening the sealed Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) box containing Vice President Sara Duterte’s tax records may not necessarily be No. 1 on the agenda of the impeachment court when it opens the trial on July 6, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said on Tuesday. Gatchalian ruled out a separate pretrial conference for

- [Ombudsman spox: Plunder complaint not yet signed](#) (2026-07-01 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The plunder complaint that the Office of the Ombudsman was said to be preparing against Sen. Rodante Marcoleta—and which was cited as the Iglesia ni Cristo’s reason for mounting an unauthorized rally on Tuesday—was apparently not yet ready for filing after all. This was according to Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano, who on

- [Sect decries raps set vs Marcoleta as ‘selective justice’](#) (2026-07-01 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) said its mass gathering on Edsa on Tuesday was in support of Sen. Rodante Marcoleta, a prominent member of the religious group, in the face of the plunder charges being prepared against the lawmaker by the Office of the Ombudsman. In a message livestreamed by the INC-owned

- [Marcos wants ‘maximum tolerance’ for protest that ruined his sked](#) (2026-07-01 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang said President Marcos does not consider the unannounced rally mounted by the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) as a threat to his security and his remaining two years in office, adding that his order to the police is to exercise “maximum tolerance.” Still, Marcos canceled a number of his engagements on Tuesday

- [Iglesia chokes Edsa, then gets permit for 2nd day](#) (2026-07-01 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — An unannounced rally by thousands of Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) members supporting embattled Sen. Rodante Marcoleta crippled traffic along Metro Manila’s main thoroughfare on Tuesday, as authorities allowed the permitless protest to continue for hours before the Quezon City government approved a permit for a second day of demonstrations. The surprise mobilization,

- [Farmers alarmed as Angat Dam falls below critical level](#) (2026-07-01 05:06)

CITY OF MALOLOS, BULACAN, Philippines — The water level of Angat Dam fell below the critical threshold of 160 meters above sea level (masl) on Tuesday, raising fresh concerns among farmers who depend on the reservoir for irrigation as the wet planting season begins. Data from the Bulacan Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office

- [USDA eyes support for Bohol ube industry](#) (2026-07-01 05:04)

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL, Philippines — Officials from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) visited Bohol on Monday to explore possible funding support for a proposed five-year research program aimed at strengthening the province's globally recognized ube (purple yam) industry. The USDA delegation met with Gov. Erico Aristotle Aumentado, provincial officials, and representatives from the Department

- [Survivor seeks justice after family murdered in Zamboanga](#) (2026-07-01 05:02)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — The lone surviving member of a family brutally attacked inside their home in Josefin town, Zamboanga del Sur, appealed for swift justice after his mother and three younger siblings were killed, as police intensified the hunt for the suspect. "The pain of losing my mother and my three

- [Solon urges passage of bill creating standard emergency response](#) (2026-07-01 01:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Parañaque Rep. Brian Raymund Yamsuan has called on his colleagues at the House of Representatives to support a measure that will create a uniform and standard emergency response system to ensure the safety of Filipinos during disasters and crises. In a statement on Tuesday, Yamsuan said he has filed House Bill (HB)

- [MMDA moves concrete barriers on Edsa, adds one more lane amid INC rally](#) (2026-06-30 23:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has repositioned its concrete barriers along the northbound side of Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (Edsa) and opened one more lane in the area where the unannounced Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) protest rally is being held. MMDA personnel were seen late Tuesday night using a forklift to

- [Metro Manila, other PH areas to see rainy Wednesday due to LPA](#) (2026-06-30 23:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Overcast skies and rains are expected to continue in Metro Manila and other parts of the country on Wednesday due to a low-pressure area (LPA) off Oriental Mindoro, according to state meteorologists. Aside from Metro Manila, the LPA, will continue to bring cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms to Central Luzon,

- [Bohol town honors guerrillas, unveils plan for WWII memorial shrine](#) (2026-06-30 22:26)

CATIGBIAN, BOHOL, Philippines — The municipality of Catigbian on Monday held the first-ever commemoration of the establishment of the Bohol Area Command, honoring the courage and sacrifices of the guerrilla fighters who resisted the Japanese occupation during World War II. The observance began at the Catigbian Municipal Hall grounds, where local officials led by Mayor

- [DSWD prepositions relief goods in Mimaropa amid LPA, habagat threats](#) (2026-06-30 22:07)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has readied relief goods and mapped out evacuation facilities across the Mimaropa region. This is to assist communities that may be hit by the combined effects of a Low Pressure Area (LPA), the southwest monsoon or Habagat, and localized thunderstorms. According to

- [PCSO lotto results: No jackpot winners on June 30](#) (2026-06-30 21:58)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpots for Ultra Lotto 6/58, SuperLotto 6/49 and Lotto 6/42 during the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draws on Tuesday, June 30. According to the PCSO, the Ultra Lotto 6/58 winning combination was 14-43-54-52-11-58 for a jackpot prize of ₱128 million. No ticket matched all six numbers. The SuperLotto 6/49

- [Lubang imposes ‘no sail policy’ for motorized bancas amid rough sea](#) (2026-06-30 21:55)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The municipal government of Lubang in Occidental Mindoro has imposed a “no sail policy” for all motorized bancas starting July 1, citing rough sea brought about by a low pressure area. In Memorandum No. 013, Series of 2026, all motorized bancas are prohibited from venturing into the sea until further

- [AFP places NCR units on red alert amid Edsa protest](#) (2026-06-30 20:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Tuesday placed its units in the National Capital Region (NCR) on red alert as authorities responded to a protest along Edsa that drew thousands of demonstrators. “The AFP has placed units in the NCR on Red Alert Status to ensure heightened operational readiness,” the

- [Ex-vice mayor, son confirmed dead; cops intensify hunt for killers](#) (2026-06-30 20:45)

TACLOBAN CITY — The Police Regional Office (PRO-8) in Eastern Visayas on Tuesday, June 30, confirmed that the two men earlier reported missing in Mayorga, Leyte were positively identified as former Abuyog, Leyte Vice Mayor James Bohol and his son, Carlo James “Jimbo” Bohol, whose bodies were recovered in a ravine in Silago, Southern Leyte. The

- [Surigao del Sur LGU hits mining raid for lack of coordination](#) (2026-06-30 20:32)

BAROBO, Surigao del Sur — The local government unit (LGU) of Barobo, Surigao del Sur has criticized the raid recently conducted by authorities on alleged illegal mining sites in two barangays, saying it was not properly informed of the operation. Mayor Ronnie Martizano on Tuesday described the raid as “disgusting” for its alleged failure to

- [Civilians surrender 79 loose guns, get livelihood package](#) (2026-06-30 20:25)

COTABATO CITY – Civilians have surrendered at least 79 loose firearms in Maguindanao del Sur in exchange for livelihood and agricultural assistance, military officials said. Lt. Colonel Aeron Gumabao, commanding officer of the Army’s 57th Infantry Battalion (57IB), said they presented on Monday the surrender of the unlicensed firearms, which include two mortar

tubes. The

- [MMDA uses recycled materials in Pasig sidewalk improvement plan](#) (2026-06-30 20:21)

MANILA, Philippines—The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Tuesday launched a sidewalk improvement project along C5 road in Pasig City that will use bricks made of recycled materials. In a statement, the MMDA said the initiative seeks to repair and rehabilitate sidewalks from Ortigas Avenue to Bagong Ilog. The existing sidewalks, which are made of

- [Manila Water: East Zone gets served amid El Niño, low Angat level](#) (2026-06-30 20:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Water assured its East Zone customers of continued water service 24/7 despite the effects of a strong El Niño and the reduced allocation from Angat Dam. According to a statement on Tuesday, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has lowered the allocation to 48 cubic meters per second (CMS) from the

- [German firm thanks PH for trusting its transport management system](#) (2026-06-30 19:50)

MANILA, Philippines — DERMALOG Identification Systems GmbH, a German biometrics firm based in Hamburg, has expressed its sincere appreciation to the Filipinos for trusting its Land Transportation Management System (LTMS), an integrated digital platform that streamlines public services related to land transportation. “We are deeply grateful to the Filipino people for their trust and support

- [186 Pangasinan fisherfolk receive livelihood grants](#) (2026-06-30 19:35)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — A total of 186 fisherfolk from four towns in Pangasinan are set to receive P3.732 million in livelihood grants under the national government’s Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP). The beneficiaries belong to eight Sustainable Livelihood Program Associations (SLPAs) from Lingayen, Binmaley, Labrador, and Bugallon. Five of the associations are engaged in aquaculture, particularly

- [Baguio exhibition features 1,000 artworks](#) (2026-06-30 19:27)

BAGUIO CITY — More than 120 artists and artisans from Baguio and other parts of the Cordillera are showcasing over 1,000 artworks at the third “Arts for Everyone” exhibition, which opened Sunday, June 28, at the atrium of SM City Baguio, marking the event’s biggest edition yet. The exhibit, organized by the Pasakalye Group of

- [Fines up to P50M urged on socmed platforms sans child safeguards](#) (2026-06-30 19:25)

MANILA, Philippines – House Bill No. 9965, or the proposed Children’s Social Media Safety Act, seeks to impose fines of up to P50 million on social media platforms that fail to comply with mandatory child online safety standards, including age verification, parental controls, and safeguards against harmful content. The bill, filed by House Speaker Faustino

- [P85 wage hike ‘insufficient’ amid rising cost of living, says labor groups](#) (2026-06-30 19:21)

MANILA, Philippines—Several labor groups on Tuesday said the P85 increase for minimum wage earners in Metro Manila remained inadequate amid rising costs of basic necessities, renewing earlier calls for a P200 nationwide wage hike. In a meeting with market vendors and construction workers in Malabon City, Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino announced that minimum wage earners

- [De Lima: VP Duterte using Edsa rally to distract from impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-30 19:15)

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte’s remark that the rally on Edsa reflected “growing sentiment” against the Marcos administration may be aimed at diverting attention from her upcoming impeachment trial, Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima said Tuesday. “With the impeachment trial of VP Sara approaching, we expect her to use occasions like this

- [Clavano: Private funds can still be used as basis for plunder case](#) (2026-06-30 19:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Plunder cases could still be filed even if the amount in question came from private funds, Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano said on Tuesday. Clavano made the pronouncement in response to Sen. Rodante Marcoleta’s defense that a complaint against him over an undeclared P75-million donation for his senatorial campaign is “legally insufficient” since the

- [PhilHealth expands leptospirosis coverage to P411,000 starting July 15](#) (2026-06-30 19:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) will be expanding its leptospirosis benefit package, under which coverage may reach up to more than P400,000 for qualified patients with moderate to severe cases needing critical care. In a briefing on Tuesday, Palace press officer Claire Castro said the expanded leptospirosis benefit package will be implemented

- [Lawmaker sees Marcoleta’s imminent plunder case as ‘selective justice’](#) (2026-06-30 19:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Batangas First District Rep. Leandro Leviste has described the imminent filing of non-bailable plunder charges against Sen. Rodante Marcoleta “selective justice,” noting that those involved in the flood control corruption must be held accountable. Leviste said this in an ambush interview with reporters as he, along with his around 200 constituents, arrived

- [2 alleged gunrunners arrested in Marawi City entrapment](#) (2026-06-30 19:08)

COTABATO CITY — Police and military personnel arrested two suspected gunrunners and confiscated from them three firearms, including two high-powered guns, during an entrapment operation in Barangay Cabingan, Marawi City on Monday, the police said. Brig. Gen. Christopher Abecia, Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO-BAR) director, identified

the suspects as Jubidi Andul Jalil, 33, of

- [Legazpi City gov't equips 56 public schools with metal detectors](#) (2026-06-30 18:59)

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay — The local government has donated 56 handheld metal detectors to the Department of Education (DepEd) Legazpi Schools Division Office to strengthen security in public schools following the fatal school shooting in Tacloban City. READ: Tacloban school shooting 'hero' laid to rest as family seeks justice Mayor Hisham Ismail said the devices

- [Dispersing INC rally would have caused greater chaos – NCRPO](#) (2026-06-30 18:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Dispersing the surprise protest by the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) in Quezon City would have caused even greater chaos, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said on Tuesday. NCRPO chief PMGen. Anthony Aberin made the statement as he brushed off allegations of special treatment, particularly claims that authorities allowed the INC

- [5 Oriental Mindoro towns suspend afternoon classes due to weather](#) (2026-06-30 18:46)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Local government units in five municipalities of Oriental Mindoro suspended afternoon classes on Tuesday, June 30, due to inclement weather brought by a low-pressure area (LPA). Classes at all levels in both public and private schools were suspended in Pola and Bansud towns. Classes from preschool to senior high school

- [High-value drug suspect nabbed with P3.4M 'shabu' in Butuan buy-bust](#) (2026-06-30 18:44)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — A high-value drug suspect was arrested with some P3.4 million worth of suspected 'shabu' (methamphetamine) during a joint anti-drug operation in Butuan City, authorities said. In a statement, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency-13 (PDEA-13) said the buy-bust operation was carried out around 10:38 a.m. on Saturday, June 27, in

- [1 killed in tribal conflict over boundary dispute in Mountain Province](#) (2026-06-30 18:44)

BAGUIO CITY — A member of the Butbut tribe in Tinglayan, Kalinga was killed after renewed hostilities erupted with the Betwagan tribe of Sadanga, Mountain Province over their longstanding boundary dispute, police said. The clash occurred on June 27 at Mt. Tummuwad, according to the Kalinga Police Provincial Office, which has since deployed personnel to

- [Cayetano bloc asks SC to define quorum rules ahead of Duterte trial](#) (2026-06-30 18:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate minority led by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano urged the Supreme Court (SC) to rule on the validity of the June 3, 2026 session, saying unresolved issues could affect the upcoming impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. In a manifestation and motion dated June 29 but made public on June

- [Leyte eyes mental health, child protection group after school shooting](#) (2026-06-30 18:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Leyte may soon establish a network of mental health and child protection professionals to respond to students in distress. This is meant to prevent a repeat of last week's school shooting in the island, Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez said on Tuesday. In a statement, he said a "regional rapid-response network" of

- [2 bakery workers drown in Bontoc river](#) (2026-06-30 18:31)

BAGUIO CITY — Two bakeshop employees who went missing while swimming in a river in Bontoc, Mountain Province, were found dead on Tuesday, June 30, police said. The victims were identified as Jeremiah Binan Guing-oy, 25, of Mankayan, Benguet, and a 38-year-old resident of Baguio City whose identity was withheld pending notification of his family.

- [Claire Castro says Marcos puzzled over INC rally for Marcoleta](#) (2026-06-30 18:31)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was puzzled as to why there was a need to hold a rally at the People Power Monument in EDSA for Sen. Rodante Marcoleta, who is set to face a non-bailable plunder case before the Sandiganbayan. This was according to Palace Press Officer Claire Castro, who said Marcos listens

- [INC rally on July 1 gets permit from Quezon City gov't](#) (2026-06-30 18:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The demonstration being mounted by the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) in Quezon City has been given a permit by the local government. According to a copy of the permit sent to the Inquirer, the Quezon City Department of Public Order and Safety said it had no objection to the organizer's proposal to

- [3 minors die as truck, motorcycle collide in Bukidnon](#) (2026-06-30 18:20)

MALAYBALAY CITY, Bukidnon — Three minors were killed after the motorcycle they were riding collided with a 10-wheeler truck loaded with sugarcane in Barangay Angga-an, Damulog town, Bukidnon, on Tuesday morning, June 30. Omar Tangandigan of the Damulog Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) said the victims, aged 16, 13, and 10, were

- [Taal Volcano records second phreatomagmatic eruption in one day](#) (2026-06-30 18:11)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — A second short-lived phreatomagmatic eruption was recorded at Taal Volcano in Batangas province on Tuesday afternoon, June 30, just hours after another similar eruptive event earlier in the day, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said. According to Phivolcs, the latest eruption began at 2:24 p.m. and lasted four

- [Palace rebuts Sara Duterte's 'poor governance' claim](#) (2026-06-30 18:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday countered Vice President Sara Duterte's statement that the administration has been "defined by poor governance," stressing that the Marcos administration is characterized by good leadership, unlike the previous administration. Duterte made the remark after members of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) gathered at the EDSA People Power Monument to express

- [Ridon: Prosecution received pretrial order, ready for July 6](#) (2026-06-30 17:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The prosecution team for the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte is ready for the start of the trial at the Senate Impeachment Court, Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon said on Tuesday. Ridon in an online interview said that the prosecution continues to prepare for the first day of trial on

- [Palace denies accusation of ‘selective justice’ in Marcoleta’s case](#) (2026-06-30 17:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday brushed off claims made by the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) that there is “selective justice” under the Marcos administration. The statement from the religious sect came after it confirmed staging a protest at the Edsa People Power Monument in support of Sen. Rodante Marcoleta, who might reportedly face a non-bailable

- [UP Open University offers 25 free online courses](#) (2026-06-30 17:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) has opened enrollment for 25 Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) scheduled from July to December 2026, offering learners free, self-paced online courses through its MODEl platform. The new batch follows the 32 MOOCs offered during the first half of 2026. UPOU said six new

- [Ombudsman: Bonoan’s state witness bid made to pin down Romualdez](#) (2026-06-30 17:18)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Tuesday said it accepted former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) chief Manuel Bonoan’s offer to become a state witness, as he can testify against former House Speaker Martin Romualdez in flood-control-related cases. Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano also admitted that it was a “tough decision”

- [PNP tells INC rallyists: Don’t affect others by blocking roads](#) (2026-06-30 17:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) urged participants of a rally believed to be mounted by the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) not to affect other individuals who not taking part in the protest-action by blocking major thoroughfares on Tuesday. “We are not blaming anyone or whatever in this case. That’s why the PNP

- [Palace sees no threat in INC rally despite heightened security](#) (2026-06-30 17:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang said the rally staged by members of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) on Tuesday does not pose a threat to the Marcos administration. The gathering, which began early in the day at the People Power Monument on Edsa and at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila, was in support of Sen. Rodante Marcoleta. The

- [Cayetano, Lacson trade barbs anew](#) (2026-06-30 16:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano on Tuesday accused Sen. Panfilo Lacson of bending the law, as he questioned the latter's alleged attempt to block the Senate's resumption of the flood control probe. This latest remark from Cayetano, however, was met with mockery from Lacson. "Poor guy. He still can't move on.

- [OPAPRU mourns passing of BARMM parliament member](#) (2026-06-30 16:53)

COTABATO CITY – The Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity (OPAPRU) on Tuesday expressed its sympathy over the passing of Haron Abas, a member of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) or Bangsamoro Parliament, who passed away on Sunday, June 28. "We stand in profound grief alongside the leadership and members of

- [PNP: INC Edsa rally crowd grows to over 14,000 as of 4 p.m. Tuesday](#) (2026-06-30 16:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The crowd at the rally organized by the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) near the People Power Monument along Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (EDSA) has now reached 14,100 as of 4 p.m. Tuesday, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP). Data released by the PNP showed that around 13,500 people were at the

- [Marcos on INC rally: Acquittal happens in court, not through rallies](#) (2026-06-30 16:39)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. reminded Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) members who staged a rally at the Edsa People Power Monument on Tuesday that holding a protest does not absolve a person from facing a pending case. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro relayed the president's message as INC members staged a protest in

- [Cavite school shooting plot foiled; Grade 10 student in custody](#) (2026-06-30 16:31)

LUCENA CITY — The prompt response of school officials and police authorities foiled a potential school shooting involving a Grade 10 student in General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite, police said on Tuesday. The Cavite Police Provincial Office (CPPO) said officers recovered an improvised, unregistered firearm after acting on information provided by vigilant school officials. "Acting on

- [PNP eyes Public Assembly Act raps over INC rally](#) (2026-06-30 16:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) said it was looking into possible violations of Batas Pambansa (BP) No. 880 or the Public Assembly Act in connection with the rallies mounted by the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC), which were allegedly held without a permit. "We are still studying. We're not yet sure as to

- [House resolution seeks to revive flood control scandal probe](#) (2026-06-30 16:13)

MANILA, Philippines — A resolution was filed on Tuesday urging the House of Representatives to reopen its inquiry into the flood control scandal, calling on the chamber's infrastructure committee to resume hearings nine months after they were suspended. House Resolution No. 1169, filed by Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste, urged the lawmakers to continue the hearings

- [Palace: Marcos respects right to assembly but won't tolerate abuse](#) (2026-06-30 16:10)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. respects the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly but does not tolerate the “abuse” of these freedoms, Palace press officer Claire Castro said. Early Tuesday, members of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) gathered at the People Power Monument along EDSA in Quezon City and Liwasang Bonifacio in

- [Tacloban school shooting ‘hero’ laid to rest as family seeks justice](#) (2026-06-30 16:06)

TACLOBAN CITY — Fifteen-year-old Chris Lorenz Fabian, hailed as a hero for sacrificing himself to protect his classmates during the June 22 mass shooting at San Jose National High School, was laid to rest Tuesday, June 30, at the Superior Memorial Gardens in this city as his grieving family appealed to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

- [14-year-old girl killed in Bulacan stabbing](#) (2026-06-30 15:55)

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan — A 14-year-old Grade 10 student died after she was allegedly stabbed by a relative inside their home in Barangay Subic, Baliwag City, Bulacan, early Monday morning. Baliwag City police chief Col. Eisbon Llamasares said the incident occurred at around 3:30 a.m. Police said they received a call from a

- [Ateneo drowning probe: Rene Baterbonia's family shows up at CIDG](#) (2026-06-30 15:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The family of late Ateneo de Manila University basketball player Rene Baterbonia arrived at the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP CIDG) headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City on Tuesday morning. The Baterbonia family entered the CIDG office after 2 p.m. and left after 3:30 p.m. on June 30.

- [From endorsement to protest: Iglesia ni Cristo stands by Marcoleta](#) (2026-06-30 15:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Thousands of Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) members gathered Tuesday near the People Power Monument in Quezon City to support Sen. Rodante Marcoleta, more than a year after the religious organization endorsed him in the 2025 senatorial elections. Hours before the gathering, the INC released an official statement backing Marcoleta, who is set

- [Teachers group slams P85 daily wage increase: ‘Grossly inadequate’](#) (2026-06-30 15:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) said the government-approved P85 daily wage increase for minimum-wage earners in Metro Manila falls far short of what Filipino workers need, as it remains inadequate to keep up with rising living costs. “Any wage increase won by workers is welcome, but let us not mistake crumbs

- [TIMELINE: What led to Rodante Marcoleta's plunder case](#) (2026-06-30 13:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Thousands of protesters gathered at the EDSA People Power Monument on Tuesday, June 30, as the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) expressed support for Sen. Rodante Marcoleta, who is set to be charged with plunder before the Sandiganbayan. The non-bailable

case against Marcoleta is related to the P75 million in donations that the

- [PNP ‘exhausting all means’ to have peaceful end to Edsa rally](#) (2026-06-30 13:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) said it will “exhaust all means” to end the rally reportedly mounted by the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) without a permit at the Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (Edsa) People Power Monument on Tuesday. “Obviously, it will not be indefinite, but we are with the DILG in assessing

- [Trans students gain uniform choices, but barriers remain](#) (2026-06-30 13:35)

“Belle” Kasing never got to wear the school uniform that reflected who she truly was. Assigned male at birth, Belle wanted to wear the girls’ uniform in line with her gender expression. But when she was in high school, such accommodation was unusual and easy to ignore. Like many transgender students then, she was expected

- [PNP on ‘no-permit’ INC rally: Respect for rule of law must be consistent](#) (2026-06-30 13:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) maintained that respect for the rule of law “must be consistent” as the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) mounted several rallies in Metro Manila on Tuesday. “The exercise of any right comes with the responsibility to observe the law. Compliance with the legal requirements governing public assemblies, including

- [Prosecution eyes presenting Bonoan as last witness in Bong Revilla case](#) (2026-06-30 12:45)

MANILA, Philippines — State prosecutors on Tuesday said former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) chief Manuel Bonoan is being eyed as a witness in the malversation case filed against Sen. Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr. in the Sandiganbayan Third Division. “I manifested in the court earlier,” Office of the Ombudsman’s Deputy Special Prosecutor Omar

- [LIVE: Traffic situation along Edsa | June 30](#) (2026-06-30 12:19)

MANILA, Philippines – Traffic remains heavy along portions of EDSA on Tuesday as thousands of protesters gathered near the People Power Monument in Quezon City. Authorities have closed several lanes and rerouted vehicles as police and traffic personnel work to manage congestion in the area. READ: LIVE UPDATES: Edsa rally on June 30, 2026 Follow our

- [NCRPO: Sudden ‘no-permit’ INC rally left cops not fully prepared](#) (2026-06-30 12:08)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said on Tuesday that the sudden Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) protest prevented authorities from being fully prepared. On the sidelines of the INC rally in front of the Edsa People Power Monument, NCRPO spokesperson Maj. Hazel Asilo admitted to reporters that the police district was

- [Sara Duterte impeachment trial open to 150 visitors – Gatchalian](#) (2026-06-30 12:06)

MANILA, Philippines— Despite space limitations, the Senate will still allocate 150 seats to the public for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. The Senate, acting as an impeachment court, is set to commence the trial proper at 2 p.m. on Monday, July 6. “We don’ t have much space left, but we’ re accommodating 150 people

- [AFP urges lawful protests as thousands rally on Edsa](#) (2026-06-30 12:06)

MANILA, Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Tuesday urged organizers of a lightning rally along Edsa to ensure their activities comply with the law and do not disrupt public order as thousands of protesters gathered at the People Power Monument. The demonstration drew thousands of protesters, prompting authorities to deploy additional

- [PNP on full alert amid INC rallies](#) (2026-06-30 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The entire Philippine National Police (PNP) is now on full alert amid the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) rallies on Tuesday, June 30. The alert level status took effect at 8 a.m. and applied to all national support units and regional offices of the PNP, according to a memorandum from the Directorate for

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of June 30, 2026](#) (2026-06-30 11:55)

MANILA, Philippines – Motorists were greeted by mixed fuel price movements Tuesday, June 30, with pump prices either increasing by as much as P1.90 per liter or decreasing by up to P1.16 per liter, following what the Department of Energy (DOE) described as a “calming” global oil market. Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said gasoline prices

- [Dole: ‘Historic’ P85 wage hike set for Metro Manila workers](#) (2026-06-30 11:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment on Tuesday announced a P85 daily wage increase for workers in Metro Manila, marking the largest wage hike ever approved by the National Capital Region’ s wage board. A total of 1.1 million daily earners are expected to benefit from the increase, Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino announced

- [P105-M ‘smuggled’ cigarettes seized in Zamboanga del Sur ops](#) (2026-06-30 11:41)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Authorities intercepted suspected smuggled cigarettes in this city and Pitogo, Zamboanga del Sur, with a combined value of at least P105 million. Lt. Col. Lee Eric Humpa, Pagadian City police chief, said operatives discovered the contraband, which was transported via four motorized pump boats, at the shoreline of Barangay

- [LIVE REPORT: INC holds Edsa protest over alleged ‘selective justice’](#) (2026-06-30 11:40)

MANILA, Philippines – Thousands of protesters, including members of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC), have gathered at the People Power Monument along EDSA on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, for a rally calling for transparency, accountability, justice, and peace. The gathering has caused heavy traffic in parts of EDSA, prompting road closures and the deployment of

- [NCRPO on full alert amid Edsa rally on Tuesday](#) (2026-06-30 11:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) is on full alert amid the Edsa rally on Tuesday morning, June 30, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP). In a statement, the PNP said the NCRPO's full alert status took effect at 5 a.m. It did not say when it would be lifted.

- [Sotto wants inquiry into social media impact on Filipino children](#) (2026-06-30 11:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Vicente “Tito” Sotto III has filed a resolution seeking an inquiry into the impact of social media on Filipino children. His proposed Senate Resolution No. 486 aims to look into whether the increasing involvement of minors in violence, cyber-related offenses, and other harmful behavior may be linked to

- [Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto leads drive vs school violence](#) (2026-06-30 11:13)

LUCENA CITY – Alarmed by a series of violent incidents in schools across the country, the Batangas Provincial Council for the Protection of Children (PCPC) convened on Monday to strengthen measures aimed at preventing school violence, particularly in the province. Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto led the consultation meeting, which brought together officials from the provincial government,

- [Rare Samar Rafflesia rediscovered in protected forest after 15 years](#) (2026-06-30 10:51)

TACLOBAN CITY – One of the country's rarest flowering plants, the endangered Samar Rafflesia (*Rafflesia manillana*), has been documented once again inside the protected forests of Samar Island, marking its first confirmed sighting in 15 years and underscoring the island's status as one of the Philippines' most important biodiversity hotspots. The rare parasitic plant was

- [Hontiveros: I never recommended banning any game](#) (2026-06-30 10:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros on Tuesday denied proposing a ban on video games amid online discussions scrutinizing her stance on the matter. Hontiveros, who chairs the Senate panel on women, children, family relations, and gender equality, scheduled a hearing to examine the role of video games in influencing violent behavior among minors. “I

- [Solon urges people to join Edsa rally, says it's not for one group only](#) (2026-06-30 10:37)

LIVE UPDATES: Edsa rally on June 30, 2026 MANILA, Philippines — Batangas Rep. Leandro Legarda Leviste has called on Filipinos to troop to the EDSA People Power Monument since the protest action there is not for any particular group. In a statement on Tuesday, Leviste said that the rally, purportedly staged by Iglesia ni Cristo (INC),

- [Islamic leaders nix online mudslinging ahead of BARMM polls](#) (2026-06-30 10:30)

COTABATO CITY – Muslim religious leaders in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) have called for an end to digital mudslinging or online attacks as the

election period for the historic Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections (BPE) draws near. The Commission on Elections set the election period for the first parliamentary polls from July 16

- [WATCH: Tension flares as police confront INC rallyists on EDSA](#) (2026-06-30 10:30)

MANILA, Philippines — A confrontation broke out Tuesday morning between police and rally participants after buses transporting members of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) blocked the northbound lanes of Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA) and the EDSA Carousel bus lane. The blocking of the northbound lanes happened around 8:30 a.m., prompting National Capital Region

- [DILG calls for maximum tolerance, order at Edsa rally](#) (2026-06-30 10:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said it has directed the Philippine National Police (PNP) to exercise maximum tolerance and implement appropriate security measures during the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) rally along Edsa on Tuesday. The PNP, in coordination with the concerned local government unit, was tasked with ensuring that the activity

- [4 Laguna towns suspend classes due to heavy rain threat](#) (2026-06-30 10:09)

LUCENA CITY – Four local government units in Laguna suspended classes on Tuesday, as a low-pressure area (LPA) threatened to bring heavy rains to the province. In separate advisories posted on their official Facebook pages Tuesday morning, the local governments of Magdalena, Pagsanjan, Pila, and Santa Cruz announced the suspension of classes at all levels

- [MRT-3 fully operational – DOTr](#) (2026-06-30 10:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metro Rail Transit (MRT)-3 remains open and fully operational on Tuesday despite the ongoing rally at the Edsa People Power Monument, the Department of Transportation said. The agency said train services from the North Avenue Station to the Taft Avenue Station remain uninterrupted despite the event. READ: LIVE UPDATES: Edsa rally on

- [Faint crater glow at Kanlaon may signal volcanic activity – Phivolcs](#) (2026-06-30 10:02)

BACOLOD CITY —A faint crater glow was observed at the summit of Kanlaon Volcano from 3:40 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. on Monday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). Mari-Andylene Quintia, Phivolcs resident volcanologist, said the glow typically occurs when magma has risen to a shallow depth beneath the volcano. READ: Kanlaon

- [Taal Volcano logs 4-minute phreatomagmatic eruption](#) (2026-06-30 09:57)

LUCENA CITY – A four-minute phreatomagmatic eruption occurred at Taal Volcano in Batangas province on Tuesday morning, marking the fourth eruptive event recorded this month, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said. According to Phivolcs, the eruption began at 7:13 a.m. and generated a plume that rose about 450 meters above the main

- [EDSA rally has no permit – MMDA GM Torre](#) (2026-06-30 09:46)

MANILA, Philippines – The ongoing rally at the Epifanio delos Santos Avenue – People Power Monument has no valid permit, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) General Manager Nicolas Torre III said. Thousands of individuals gathered along Edsa and White Plains Avenue early Tuesday morning purportedly in support of Sen. Rodante Marcoleta who is set to

- [Army troops help extinguish passenger bus fire in Davao de Oro](#) (2026-06-30 09:38)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Troops from the 10th Infantry Division (10ID) assisted local firefighters in extinguishing the fire that hit a passenger bus in Barangay Tuboran, Mawab, in Davao de Oro, a military official said. Maj. Ruben Gadut, 10ID Public Affairs Office chief, said that a Davao Metro Shuttle bus bound for New Bataan

- [Several arrested during INC rally on EDSA](#) (2026-06-30 09:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Several individuals were arrested Tuesday during the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) rally along Edsa, with some allegedly punching police officers during a confrontation. An Inquirer journalist at the scene witnessed at least three arrests as of 9 a.m. The arrests came after tensions escalated between rally participants and law enforcers deployed in

- [Marcos cancels engagements to monitor Edsa rally](#) (2026-06-30 09:24)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has canceled his morning engagements on Tuesday to monitor the ongoing rally at the Edsa People Power Monument. Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Secretary Dave Gomez confirmed this in a message to reporters. “The president is monitoring the situation in Edsa,” Gomez said. READ: LIVE UPDATES: Edsa rally

- [INC airs support for Marcoleta, hits ‘selective justice’](#) (2026-06-30 08:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) on Tuesday said it supports Sen. Rodante Marcoleta who will be charged with plunder, and that it rejects “selective justice” and the “distortion of law” as thousands of rallyists gathered at the Edsa People Power Monument. “The Iglesia ni Cristo supports what Senator Marcoleta stands for because

- [LOOK: People gather near People Power Monument on June 30](#) (2026-06-30 08:45)

MANILA, Philippines – Rallyists brave the rain as they gather along White Plains Avenue and Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA) near the People Power Monument in Quezon City on Tuesday morning, June 30, 2026. READ: At least 7,000 gather at People Power Monument on June 30 The number of participants was around 7,000 as

- [Parts of Edsa in QC, Mandaluyong closed as rally disrupts traffic](#) (2026-06-30 07:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Several roads / road segments around the People Power Monument and Edsa in Quezon City and Mandaluyong City were closed on Tuesday morning due to a rally, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said. In a traffic advisory as of 7:18 a.m.,

the MMDA said road closures include: Meanwhile, the MMDA said

- [At least 7,000 gather at People Power Monument on June 30](#) (2026-06-30 07:46)

LIVE UPDATES: Edsa rally on June 30, 2026 MANILA, Philippines — Groups of rallyists gathered along the corner of Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (Edsa) and White Plains Avenue near the People Power Monument on Tuesday morning, June 30, prompting road closures and heavy traffic in the area. The Quezon City Police District (QCPD) estimated the

- [MMDA tows illegally parked vehicles amid Edsa rally, says Torre](#) (2026-06-30 07:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Tuesday began towing illegally parked vehicles along Edsa as authorities sought to ease heavy traffic caused by a protest rally near Ortigas Avenue. MMDA General Manager Nicolas Torre III said the agency had coordinated with law enforcement and other government agencies while deploying personnel, barriers,

- [Rallyists from unidentified groups gather at Liwasang Bonifacio](#) (2026-06-30 07:36)

bf02e76a-e443-41b9-ac4f-529e58ffa75c.mov MANILA, Philippines — Hundreds of individuals from unidentified groups assembled for a mass action at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila Tuesday morning. A stage was also seen being assembled in the area. The purpose of the gathering has yet to be determined, but songs against corruption are being played in the area. According to the Manila

- [‘Arraignment of Estrada, Bonoan moved to July 28’](#) (2026-06-30 07:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The arraignment of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and former Public Works secretary Manuel Bonoan for their graft and plunder cases before the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division has been postponed to July 28, a source said on Tuesday. This comes after state prosecutors filed before the antigraft court division a motion to amend case information

- [Marcoleta: Plunder case meant to keep me off Duterte impeach trial](#) (2026-06-30 06:53)

(Screengrabbed from Senator Rodante Marcoleta / Facebook) WATCH:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1NaCPAHMSw/> MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Rodante Marcoleta on Tuesday alleged that the impending plunder case against him was part of a coordinated effort to prevent him from participating in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, which is set to begin on July 6. Marcoleta claimed

- [LPA off Masbate likely to become tropical cyclone in next 24 hours](#) (2026-06-30 06:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The low pressure area (LPA) off Masbate has a high chance of developing into a tropical cyclone within the next 24 hours, according to the state weather bureau. Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) weather specialist Chenel Dominguez, in an early morning update, said the LPA was spotted over the

- [White Plains Avenue in QC closed due to Tuesday morning rally](#) (2026-06-30 06:27)

MANILA, Philippines — White Plains Avenue in Quezon City is temporarily closed to vehicular traffic due to an ongoing rally, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) announced Tuesday morning. In an advisory on social media, the MMDA said White Plains Avenue is been temporarily closed as of 5:15 a.m. An estimated 500 rallyists and 30

- [Shooting threats surface in Batangas, Negros campuses](#) (2026-06-30 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — At least two schools in Batangas and Negros Occidental provinces tightened security measures and suspended classes after separate shooting threats surfaced online, reflecting heightened concern following the deadly Tacloban City school attack on June 22. Batangas City Integrated High School (BCIHS) suspended classes and on-site activities on Monday to allow authorities to

- [Bam Aquino seeks strict age limits on video games](#) (2026-06-30 05:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Bam Aquino is pushing for a stricter enforcement of age restrictions on video games instead of proposals to ban them, saying these games have become a “convenient scapegoat” for campus violence such as the school shooting in Tacloban City on June 22. Three students were killed and at least 15 others

- [Baldwin admits: No required permit to work in PH](#) (2026-06-30 05:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Resigned Ateneo de Manila University men’s basketball head coach Thomas Anthony “Tab” Baldwin on Monday admitted not having an alien employment permit (AEP) while employed as a coach by several employers since 2013, including Ateneo. Every foreign national employed in the Philippines is required to have a valid AEP issued by the

- [Remulla: Ex-DPWH chief Bonoan to be used as state witness](#) (2026-06-30 05:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan will turn state witness as the government pursues cases against several individuals linked to the flood control scandal.

“We already have a signed agreement for the cooperation of former Secretary Manuel Bonoan to be a state witness,” Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said at a press briefing

- [Multiple raps filed vs 3 robbery suspects](#) (2026-06-30 05:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Frustrated murder, direct assault, drugs, and illegal possession of firearms and explosives charges have been filed against three robbery suspects who were wounded in a shootout with police officers on the North Luzon Expressway on June 26. “They have been charged,” Philippine National Police public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co said

- [Group says ‘e-waste’ shipments in Subic expose legal loophole](#) (2026-06-30 04:40)

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT, Philippines — An environmental coalition has warned that alleged shipments of electronic waste (e-waste) from the United States to this free port could violate the

Philippines’ obligations under the Basel Convention by exploiting a legal loophole covering recyclable materials. The Environmental Task Force Against Illegal E-Waste Imports to the Philippines (END E-WASTE

- [Kin seek justice for soldier slain in Lanao del Sur ambush](#) (2026-06-30 04:35)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — The grieving family of an Army corporal killed in an ambush in Malabang, Lanao del Sur, on Saturday has appealed to the government to bring those responsible to justice. Cpl. Jayson Castro, a native of Barangay Diplo in Molave, Zamboanga del Sur, was assigned to the 64th Infantry

- [Few specialists, high costs widen transgender healthcare gap](#) (2026-06-30 04:30)

(Last of two parts) DUMAGUETE CITY, NEGROS ORIENTAL, Philippines — For many transgender Filipinos, the decision to transition does not begin inside a doctor’s clinic—it begins in Facebook groups, chat conversations or recommendations from friends. Outside major cities, where access to doctors trained in transgender healthcare remains limited, many rely on online advice and self-medication,

- [Senate impeachment court OKs 92 trial days, 17 shared witnesses](#) (2026-06-29 23:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate court for Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial approved the 92 trial days proposed by the prosecution and the defense teams, who will also share 17 witnesses. This was contained in a 15-page pretrial order promulgated on Monday, signed by Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian. “The proposed number of trial dates

- [Flood advisories up as LPA threatens Bicol, Visayas, Caraga regions](#) (2026-06-29 22:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The state weather bureau on Monday evening placed several areas in Bicol, Mimaropa, the Visayas, and Caraga under general flood advisories as a low-pressure area (LPA) east-northeast of Borongan City in Eastern Samar continued to enhance rains over large parts of the country. In separate General Flood Advisories issued at 6 p.m.,

- [Ombudsman rejects DOJ recommendation on Villanueva’s flood mess case](#) (2026-06-29 22:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman has rejected the recommendation of the Department of Justice in the flood control-related case against Sen. Joel Villanueva. Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Monday said they found the DOJ case buildup “lacking” so the antigrift body will instead conduct its own preliminary investigation before filing a possible case in the

- [2 foreigners nabbed for robbing nearly P200,000 from condo lessor](#) (2026-06-29 22:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Two foreign individuals were arrested for allegedly robbing nearly P200,000 from the owner of the condominium unit they were renting, the Southern Police District (SPD) said on Monday. The two arrested suspects were identified by the SPD as a

29-year-old Chinese individual with the alias “Yanchi” and a 31-year-old Chinese individual with

- [CIDG nabs 2 in Pasig for alleged illegal recruitment scheme](#) (2026-06-29 22:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) arrested two individuals for an alleged illegal recruitment scheme in Pasig City, the unit said on Monday. In a statement, the CIDG said its Anti-Transnational Crime Unit caught the suspects inside a fast food restaurant along Concepcion Avenue in Barangay San Joaquin last

- [Angara kicks off school feeding, literacy drive in Nueva Ecija](#) (2026-06-29 21:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Education Secretary Sonny Angara on Monday led a simultaneous hot meal distribution and reading campaign in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, to kick off the drive of the Department of Education (DepEd) to counter undernutrition and boost foundational literacy. According to a DepEd statement, the twin initiatives serve as the department’s response to mitigating

- [PCSO lotto results: No jackpot winners in June 29 draws](#) (2026-06-29 21:51)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpots for the Grand Lotto 6/55 and Mega Lotto 6/45 draws on Monday, June 29, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). The Grand Lotto 6/55 winning combination was 01-17-50-25-26-12, carrying a jackpot prize of approximately ₱53.06 million. PCSO said no ticket matched all six numbers to claim the

- [Bicol authorities enforce travel restrictions due to LPA](#) (2026-06-29 21:36)

LEGAZPI CITY — Authorities across the Bicol region enforced travel restrictions and heightened disaster preparedness measures on Monday, June 29, as a low-pressure area (LPA) continued to threaten the region. Masbate Gov. Richard Kho ordered all small sea vessels and watercraft operating within the province to remain in port due to heavy rains and rough

- [PNP seeks uploader of viral video involving gun-toting ex-AFP general](#) (2026-06-29 21:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is looking for the uploader of the now-viral video in which a retired Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) general was allegedly seen toting his gun. “The Mandaluyong City Police Station is already looking at the possible cases against the retired AFP general,” PNP public information chief

- [Misamis Occ. cop regrets viral gun-toting, faces Napolcom raps](#) (2026-06-29 21:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Misamis Occidental-based cop caught in a now-viral video allegedly brandishing his gun during an argument said he regretted the incident as he faced the National Police Commission (Napolcom) on Monday. Napolcom Commissioner Rafael Calinisan identified the officer as Police Corporal Henry Boquida Jr., who allegedly pointed his gun at a civilian

- [12-year-old student surrenders after Bacolod school stabbing](#) (2026-06-29 21:26)

BACOLOD CITY — A 12-year-old student surrendered to police on Monday, June 29, less than an hour after allegedly stabbing a fellow student outside a public high school in Barangay Sum-ag. The victim, a 14-year-old Grade 8 student, sustained minor stab wounds to his left arm and left side during the incident, according to a

- [Lacson: Those who dealt with Bonoan must be ‘quaking in their boots’](#) (2026-06-29 20:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson on Monday, June 29, said those who had direct dealings with former Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan must be “quaking in their boots.” Lacson, a former chair of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC), made the remark after Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla announced that Bonoan, who is facing a

- [Tinio urges Remulla to disclose state witness deal with Bonoan](#) (2026-06-29 20:30)

MANILA, Philippines – ACT Teachers Rep. Antonio Tinio on Monday urged Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla to disclose the terms of the agreement that allowed former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) chief Manuel Bonoan to serve as a state witness in exchange for immunity from plunder charges tied to the flood control scandal. In

- [EXPLAINER: DMW’ s free health screening: Who can join, what to bring](#) (2026-06-29 20:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Current and former overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), along with their families, can avail themselves of free health services and medical consultations during the Migrant Workers Health Summit 2026, which will be held from June 30 to July 1 at the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) in Quezon City, the Department of

- [Bicam-approved voucher bill to ease classroom crowding – Legarda](#) (2026-06-29 20:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The proposed Basic Education Voucher Program Act, approved by the bicameral conference committee, will expand school choices and give more Filipino students access to better learning environments, Sen. Loren Legarda, co-author and co-sponsor of the bill, said in a statement on Monday. The bill institutionalizes a unified private education voucher system to

- [Marala Bridge in Navotas temporarily closed after electric post falls](#) (2026-06-29 20:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The Marala Bridge in Navotas City was temporarily closed to all types of vehicles on Monday night, June 29, after an electric post collapsed, local authorities said. In an advisory issued at 7:28 p.m., the local government said motorists should avoid the area and take alternative routes to prevent traffic congestion while

- [Man slain, another arrested in Cotabato police operation](#) (2026-06-29 19:37)

COTABATO CITY — An armed man was killed after he allegedly resisted arrest during a law enforcement operation in Barangay New Panay, Aleosan, Cotabato province at dawn on

Monday. Police authorities implementing a search warrant also arrested another man, seized five pistols and confiscated 22 sachets of suspected shabu during the 4:30 a.m. operation. Brig.

- [Dy seeks stronger protection of kids from social media threats](#) (2026-06-29 19:29)

MANILA, Philippines — House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III is pushing for stronger measures to protect Filipino children from the growing dangers of social media, ensuring it allows their healthy development without exposing them to harm, according to a statement his office issued on Monday. So, together with Majority Leader Ferdinand Alexander “Sandro” Marcos, Dy

- [DOH: Only 55 cases of mpox recorded so far in 2026](#) (2026-06-29 19:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) on Monday said it has only so far recorded 55 cases of mpox (formerly monkeypox) in the country as of June 13, which is 79 percent lower than the previous year. READ: Mpox: What is it, how it spreads, care for patients According to DOH spokesperson Albert

- [DOH: Only 44 cases of mpox recorded so far in 2026](#) (2026-06-29 19:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) on Monday said it has only so far recorded 44 cases of mpox (formerly monkeypox) in the country as of June 13, which is 79 percent lower than the previous year. READ: Mpox: What is it, how it spreads, care for patients According to DOH spokesperson Albert

- [3 fugitives fall in Bukidnon police operations](#) (2026-06-29 18:40)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Three top-tier fugitives wanted for parricide and illegal drugs were arrested in Bukidnon following a series of joint police operations across the province, an official said on Monday. Major Joann Navarro, Police Regional Office-10 (PRO-10) spokesperson, said the separate apprehensions of the suspects on June 25 were “not just about

- [Mpox case confirmed in Mandaluyong City; contact tracing launched](#) (2026-06-29 18:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Mandaluyong City government on Monday, June 29, confirmed a case of mpox, prompting health officials to launch contact tracing and other disease surveillance measures to prevent transmission. The City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (Cesu) said in an advisory that it is managing the confirmed case in coordination with the City Health

- [Illicit cigarettes seized in Isabela have P82.33M in tax liabilities – BIR](#) (2026-06-29 18:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Internal Revenue in Cagayan Valley has seized over 100,00 packs of suspected illicit cigarettes with an estimated floor price of P9.02 million but with tax liabilities of at least P82.33 million – P81.8 million in excise tax and P1.53 million in value-added tax, according to a BIR statement on Monday.

- [Bantug: Pretrial order sent to parties in Sara Duterte impeachment case](#) (2026-06-29 18:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Ahead of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment trial on July 6, the pretrial order has been sent electronically to the House prosecution panel and Duterte’ s defense team, impeachment clerk of court Renato Bantug said. When asked whether the pretrial order has already been sent, Bantug answered in the affirmative via text message

- [Palace: Mabanta’ s apology a ‘lesson’ on creating baseless intrigue](#) (2026-06-29 18:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Monday said PGMN founder Franco Mabanta’ s apology to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos serves as a “lesson” against making baseless accusations. Mabanta released an apology video addressed to the First Couple, as well as Vice President Sara Duterte and Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo, for his

- [Negros school shifts to remote learning over alleged shooting threat](#) (2026-06-29 18:14)

BACOLOD CITY — Escalante National High School (ENHS) in Escalante City, Negros Occidental shifted to remote learning on Monday, June 29, after a social media post alleging a school shooting plot sparked safety concerns among students, parents, and school officials. The decision was made during an emergency meeting involving the Department of Education (DepEd), school

- [Heavy rains to persist as LPA may become cyclone – Pagasa](#) (2026-06-29 17:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The state weather bureau on Monday said heavy rains are expected over parts of Luzon and the Visayas as a low-pressure area (LPA) near Eastern Samar may develop into a tropical depression within 24 hours. In its 5 p.m. Weather Advisory No. 6, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa)

- [VP lawyers’ nod to BIR box opening OK for transparency – Tolosa](#) (2026-06-29 17:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The agreement of Vice President Sara Duterte’ s defense team to allow the opening of a sealed Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) box containing her records is a positive step toward transparency, Benjamin “Jay” Tolosa Jr., House prosecution panel spokesperson, said on Monday. “Last Thursday, as reported, the defense vehemently objected to opening and

- [5 NPA rebels surrender in Masbate; arms cache recovered](#) (2026-06-29 16:35)

LEGAZPI CITY — Five alleged members of the New People’ s Army (NPA) surrendered to government forces on Sunday in Palanas, Masbate, authorities said. Col. Angelo Lutera, commander of the Army’ s 903rd Infantry Brigade, told the Inquirer in a Viber message on Monday that the group included the vice commanding officer and a squad leader of

- [Remulla: Ex-DPWH chief Bonoan to be state witness](#) (2026-06-29 16:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) chief Manuel Bonoan, despite being a respondent in a plunder case before the Sandiganbayan, will soon become a state witness, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said on Monday. “We already have a signed agreement for the cooperation of former secretary Manuel Bonoan to be a

- [Mother, 3 children killed inside house in Zamboanga del Sur](#) (2026-06-29 16:26)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – A mother and her three children were found gruesomely killed inside their house, shocking residents of Barangay Litapan, Josefina, Zamboanga del Sur, on Monday. Lt. Julito Pamalaran, police chief of Josefina town, said the bodies of the mother and her children, bearing stab wounds, were discovered inside their house.

- [Liza Marcos teases Francis Zamora, Joy Belmonte as 2028 Senate bets](#) (2026-06-29 16:23)

MANILA, Philippines — While President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has not yet officially announced who will be part of the administration’s senatorial ticket, his wife may already be giving the public a sneak peek. First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos has teased San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora and Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte as possible senatoriables in

- [Court dismisses P1-B civil case vs QC Rep. Vargas](#) (2026-06-29 16:16)

MANILA, Philippines — A local court dismissed the P1-billion civil suit filed against Quezon City Rep. Patrick Michael Vargas over his alleged involvement in anomalous flood control projects, citing lack of jurisdiction over the complaint alleging “abuse of rights and unjust enrichment.” Vargas on Monday called the ruling a “major victory” against what he described

- [DILG: No reason to charge Ateneo student-athletes over drownings](#) (2026-06-29 16:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) maintained that there was no reason to charge the Ateneo de Manila University student-athletes who were present at the Aurora training activity in which players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili died. The DILG previously recommended to the Department of Justice that resigned Ateneo

- [Cops probe possible abduction of ex-Abuyog vice mayor, son](#) (2026-06-29 16:10)

TACLOBAN CITY — Police in Eastern Visayas are investigating the disappearance of former Abuyog, Leyte vice mayor James Bohol and his son after reports emerged that the two were allegedly taken by unidentified men in Mayorga, Leyte, on Saturday afternoon, June 27. Lt. Col. Annaliza Armeza, spokesperson of the Police Regional Office (PRO)-8, said authorities

- [DILG: DOJ probe must determine if Ateneo liable over drownings](#) (2026-06-29 15:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said the Department of Justice’s (DOJ) preliminary investigation into the fatal drowning of two Ateneo de Manila University student-athletes must determine whether the institution is liable. “Under the law, they have the duty to stand in loco parentis, or in the place of the students’ parents, to ensure

- [Palace on Dumanjug schools' phone ban: Can't say if reasonable](#) (2026-06-29 15:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Monday pushed back on the “total ban” on cellphones in Dumanjug, Cebu, noting that while the intention is well-meaning, the penalty appears unreasonable. The rule, effective June 29, states that if students bring their phones to school, the devices will be confiscated and returned only at the end of the

- [Liza Marcos leads rice aid distribution for 8,900 San Juan residents](#) (2026-06-29 15:40)

MANILA, Philippines — First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos on Monday reaffirmed the administration's commitment to supporting vulnerable sectors, especially senior citizens, as she joined Mayor Francis Zamora in distributing rice aid in San Juan City. A total of 8,898 senior citizens in San Juan City benefited from rice assistance program under the first lady's Mula sa Puso,

- [Pagasa warns Luzon areas of thunderstorms, possible flash floods](#) (2026-06-29 15:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The state weather bureau on Monday afternoon warned of moderate to heavy rainshowers, lightning, and strong winds over Luzon, urging residents to take precautions against possible flash floods and landslides. In Thunderstorm Advisory No. 7, issued at 3:05 p.m., the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the weather disturbance

- [Palace: Don't register with groups praying for others' death](#) (2026-06-29 15:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Palace press officer Claire Castro has called on Filipinos not to “register” themselves for activities that wish ill on others, such as praying for their death. At a press briefing in Malacañang on Monday, Castro said, “And let us always remember, the new Filipino does not pray for the death of others.” READ:

- [2 areas in Rizal, Cavite log dangerous heat index](#) (2026-06-29 15:20)

LUCENA CITY – The local governments of Taytay, Rizal, and Imus City, Cavite, urged their residents to take precautionary measures after the two localities recorded “dangerous” heat index levels on Monday. In an advisory posted on its official Facebook page, the Taytay Public Information Office (PIO) said the town's heat index reached 44.32°C as of

- [DILG: Up to DOJ if Ateneo ball boys, managers included in raps](#) (2026-06-29 15:07)

MANILA, Philippines — It is up to the Department of Justice (DOJ) whether it will include the student managers and ball boys in the hazing charges against several Ateneo de Manila University men's basketball team officials, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said. In a press briefing in Camp Crame on Monday, Remulla explained that Republic Act

- [Drowning probe continues: 3 more Ateneo personalities appear at NBI](#) (2026-06-29 15:03)

MANILA, Philippines — As the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) continues its investigation into the drowning incident that killed Ateneo student-athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili, three more Ateneo de Manila personalities appeared before the bureau's Homicide Division on Monday. These are former assistant coach Francisco Alas, athletics director Emanuel Fernandez, and physical therapist Jerick

- [Ombudsman: Plunder raps to be filed vs Marcoleta in Sandiganbayan](#) (2026-06-29 15:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Rodante Marcoleta will be charged with a non-bailable case of plunder in the Sandiganbayan this week in connection to campaign donations worth P75 million, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said on Monday. “Senator Marcoleta, it's for resolution, we're about to file it already,” Remulla said. Asked if he is referring to a

- [Flooding hits several Quezon City roads amid heavy rain](#) (2026-06-29 14:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Heavy rain triggered flooding along several roads in Quezon City on Monday, June 29. In its latest road status update as of 2:20 p.m., the local government reported gutter-deep flooding at the corner of V. Luna Avenue and Matimpiin Street in Barangay Sikatuna Village; Malumanay and Maalalahanin Streets in Barangay Teachers Village

- [Slain Lanao del Sur soldier brought home to Zamboanga del Sur](#) (2026-06-29 14:35)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – The remains of an Army corporal killed in an ambush in Lanao del Sur province have been brought to his hometown in Molave, Zamboanga del Sur, on Sunday. Cpl. Jayson Castro, a native of Barangay Diplo, Molave town, and assigned to the 64th Infantry Battalion based in Bayang, Lanao

- [Batangas City school to resume classes after shooting threat scare](#) (2026-06-29 14:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Classes at Batangas City Integrated High School (BCIHS) will resume on Tuesday, June 30, after school administrators and local authorities declared the campus safe following an assessment prompted by an alleged shooting threat that forced the suspension of classes a day earlier. In an official statement released Monday, the BCIHS administration said

- [Marcos releases P453.8M aid for Sulu, Zamboanga barangays](#) (2026-06-29 14:26)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday turned over a total of P453.8 million in financial assistance to barangays in Sulu, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, and Zamboanga Sibugay to expand access to essential services and strengthen local development. The funds were sourced from the Socio-Civic Projects Fund administered by the Office

- [Ongoing quakes force class suspensions in GenSan, 2 provinces](#) (2026-06-29 14:17)

KORONADAL CITY – Classes in public elementary and secondary schools in General Santos City (GenSan), Glan in Sarangani, and Davao Occidental have remained suspended for at least three weeks now since the start of classes on June 8, when a powerful 7.8 earthquake rocked

southern Mindanao, officials said. Isagani dela Cruz, GenSan Schools Division superintendent,

- [Impeach court can force ex-sheriff punched by Sara Duterte to testify](#) (2026-06-29 13:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate as impeachment court can compel the court sheriff who was punched by Vice President Sara Duterte to testify, a member of the House prosecutorial team said on Monday. Atty. Mae Divinagracia made the remark after former Davao City court sheriff Abe Andres appeared to have begged off in his inclusion

- [Robin Padilla urges passage of ‘toughest’ anti-political dynasty measure](#) (2026-06-29 13:51)

MANILA, Philippines— Sen. Robinhood “Robin” Padilla on Monday prodded his colleagues to pass his proposed anti-political dynasty law, which he dubbed as the strictest and most comprehensive measure ever filed in Congress. “It is time to put an end to the inheritance of political power and return it to the people,” Padilla said in a press

- [DSWD-8: Younger suspect in Tacloban shooting not criminally liable](#) (2026-06-29 13:48)

TACLOBAN CITY — The 14-year-old suspect involved in the killing of three students at the San Jose National High School, this city, cannot be charged with a criminal case, as the law exempts children below the age of criminal responsibility from criminal liability, according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Eastern

- [Tab Baldwin admits not having required permit to work in PH](#) (2026-06-29 13:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Resigned Ateneo de Manila University men’ s basketball head coach Thomas Anthony “Tab” Baldwin on Monday admitted not having an alien employment permit (AEP) while working as a coach for several employers since 2013, including Ateneo. Every foreign national employed in the Philippines is required to have a valid AEP issued by the

- [PNP: Frustrated murder, other raps filed vs 3 suspects in NLEX shootout](#) (2026-06-29 12:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Frustrated murder and other charges have been filed against the three suspects whom police had a shootout against along the Northern Luzon Expressway (NLEX), according to the Philippine National Police (PNP). “Cases have been filed against them,” PNP public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co said in a press briefing in Camp

- [4 dead after Pampanga shootout; ‘leader’ linked to gun-for-hire ops](#) (2026-06-29 12:06)

MANILA, Philippines — The four individuals whom police had a shootout with in Pampanga are now all dead, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Monday. The shootout stemmed from the police’ s response to concerned citizens’ reports that the group was allegedly indiscriminately firing their guns in a remote area in Arayat town while under

- [Ceiling collapses at Candaba trade center in Pampanga](#) (2026-06-29 12:03)

CANDABA, Pampanga — Part of the ceiling of the Candaba Municipal Trade Center collapsed at around 8 a.m. on Monday after the lighting system inside the covered court gave way, police said. No one was killed or injured, Pampanga police director Col. Ricardo David told the Inquirer. He said the incident occurred after the lighting

- [PNP: Dela Rosa to be arrested if he resurfaces for impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-29 11:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday said that if Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa resurfaced anew for the Senate impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, the law enforcement agency would arrest him. “We are mandated to effect the arrest of Senator Bato,” PNP public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co

- [Brown spot remains top rice disease in Western Visayas](#) (2026-06-29 11:45)

ILOILO CITY — Brown spot remained the most common rice disease in Western Visayas in May, while stem borer damage and increasing weed infestation emerged as the region’s primary crop protection concerns, according to the latest monthly pest surveillance report of the Department of Agriculture’s Regional Crop Protection Center (RCPC). Based on the Rice Pests

- [PNP: Alleged Batangas school shooting threat came from ‘bullied’ student](#) (2026-06-29 11:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The purported threat of an attack against a public school in Batangas province came from an individual who identified themselves as a “bullied” student, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Monday. The threat was received through the school’s social media page late Sunday night, prompting the management to suspend classes on

- [Ex-SC spokesperson, top lawyers join House prosecution panel](#) (2026-06-29 11:35)

MANILA, Philippines — A former Supreme Court spokesperson and several prominent lawyers from leading law firms were named as new members of the House prosecution panel in the impeachment trial against Vice President Sara Duterte. Mamamayang Liberal party-list Rep. Leila de Lima announced on Monday that former SC spokesperson Theodore Te, also of the Free

- [Video games ‘convenient scapegoat’ for school violence, says Bam Aquino](#) (2026-06-29 11:34)

MANILA, Philippines – Video games are a “convenient scapegoat” behind minor-inflicted violence despite many studies finding no correlation between games and school shootings, Sen. Bam Aquino said on Monday. Aquino, who heads the Senate basic education, and science and technology panels, remarked amid discussions of banning violent video games after fatal incidents involving shooting and

- [Valencia bids to become Mindanao’s 7th highly urbanized city](#) (2026-06-29 11:09)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon – Known as the “City of Golden Harvest,” this city is hoping to become Bukidnon’s first and Mindanao’s seventh highly urbanized city (HUC), in a bid for

greater administrative and fiscal autonomy as it strives to make the locality even more investment-friendly. Mayor Amie Galario said they sought the city council's support

- [Ex-communist rebel surrenders to police in Oriental Mindoro](#) (2026-06-29 11:07)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — A former member of the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) has surrendered to authorities in Oriental Mindoro, marking what police described as another step in the government's campaign to encourage former rebels to return to civilian life. The Oriental Mindoro Police Provincial Office (OMPPO) said the surrender took place on June

- [Peasant group urges gov't to act urgently as 'super' El Niño looms](#) (2026-06-29 10:45)

LUCENA CITY – A national peasant organization on Monday urged the government to take immediate action as forecasts indicate that El Niño could intensify to very strong levels and persist until early 2027. “The latest El Niño forecast should serve as a serious wake-up call for the government,” the Kilusan Para sa Tunay na Repormang

- [Senate allows visitors but still under heightened security](#) (2026-06-29 10:40)

MANILA, Philippines – Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian announced on Monday that visitors are allowed to enter the Senate once again, amid heightened security. The Senate has been under heightened security alert since June 4 when a supposed threat to the chamber was reported. Under the alert, visitors were initially barred from entering the premises of

- [Bukidnon teenage girl slain allegedly by neighbor](#) (2026-06-29 10:27)

MALAYBALAY CITY, Bukidnon — Police have launched a manhunt for a man accused of hacking to death a 17-year-old girl in a remote village in Talakag town, Bukidnon, on Sunday. Capt. Shiela Joy Jangad, Bukidnon police spokesperson, identified the victim only as “Christine,” who had gone to a river in Sitio Nataring, Barangay Dagundalahon, with

- [Deep well rehab, upgrade pushed to fix Puerto Galera water supply](#) (2026-06-29 10:07)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Authorities are prioritizing the rehabilitation of existing deep wells and seeking funds for a major water system upgrade amid an acute water shortage that prompted the municipality of Puerto Galera to declare a state of calamity. The coordinated action plan was discussed during a recent meeting among Office of Civil

- [PNP heightens security monitoring for Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-29 09:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) heightened its monitoring for security measures ahead of the Senate impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. “At this time, the PNP has not monitored any specific or credible threat directly related to the impeachment proceedings,” the national police chief, Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr., said in

- [Batangas City school suspends classes over alleged shooting threat](#) (2026-06-29 09:53)

LUCENA CITY – The administration of Batangas City Integrated High School (BCIHS) in Batangas City has suspended classes and all on-site school activities starting Monday, following reported threats of shooting against the school. “In view of the reported shooting threats involving Batangas City Integrated High School (BCIHS), all classes and on-site school activities are suspended

- [Bicol solons push disaster-ready evacuation hubs after Mindanao quake](#) (2026-06-29 09:48)

IRIGA CITY — Bicol lawmakers urged the government on Sunday to fast-track the construction of permanent, disaster-resilient evacuation centers after the magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Mindanao displaced more than 75,000 families. Reps. Miguel Luis “Migz” Villafuerte (5th District) and Vincenzo Renato Luigi Villafuerte (2nd District) called for full implementation of Republic Act No. 12076, or

- [Soldier, teacher killed in Lanao del Sur ambush](#) (2026-06-29 09:29)

COTABATO CITY – A soldier and a volunteer teacher were killed after still unidentified armed men ambushed a pick-up truck carrying government forces along Malabang, Lanao del Sur, on Saturday afternoon, police confirmed Monday. Capt. Steffi Salanguit, spokesperson for the Police Regional Office Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO-BAR), identified the fatalities as Cpl. Jayson Castro, a

- [Remains of 2 workers at Las Piñas road excavation site collapse found](#) (2026-06-29 09:00)

[Updated June 29, 2026, 11:12 a.m.] MANILA, Philippines — The remains of two workers who went missing after a portion of a road excavation site collapsed in Barangay Pamplona Dos, Las Piñas City, have been found. In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Assistant Chief for Operations of the Las Piñas City Police PLTCOL Teoson

- [Maynilad confirms QC condo no longer under residential rate](#) (2026-06-29 08:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Maynilad Water Services Inc. has confirmed it reclassified Smile Citihomes Condominium’s water account from residential to semi-business in March, resulting in higher water bills for the Quezon City residential complex. In a statement sent to INQUIRER.net, Maynilad said the reclassification complied with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Regulatory Office’s 2023

- [PNP orders info campaigns to fight bullying, boost online safety](#) (2026-06-29 08:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) has ordered its units to conduct information campaigns to push back against bullying and to bolster online safety in the wake of the fatal Tacloban City school shooting. In a statement on Monday, PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said he directed all of the agency’s

- [LPA may develop into cyclone by Wednesday, says Pagasa](#) (2026-06-29 07:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The low pressure area (LPA) being monitored inside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) may develop into a tropical cyclone on Wednesday, according to the state weather bureau. Currently, the LPA has a medium chance of developing into a tropical cyclone. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the

- [Solcom cites peace gains in Southern Luzon](#) (2026-06-29 06:35)

MANILA – The Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) peace campaign has achieved major gains after Calabarzon was declared a Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS) region following the decline of the communist insurgency. Aside from Calabarzon being declared SIPS on June 12, the provinces of Mindoro, Marinduque and Romblon, and the Bicol Region continue making steady

- [‘Bloody’ bicam seen over antidynasty bill](#) (2026-06-29 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin “Win” Gatchalian said he expects heated and “bloody” debates when members of the bicameral committee finally meet to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the long-awaited antidynasty law, due to major differences between the two bills. “I know it will be bloody when it comes to the bicam

- [Gatchalian to push social media curbs for minors](#) (2026-06-29 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Sunday renewed his call to ban children aged 16 and below from using social media, saying stronger safeguards against harmful online content should be among Congress’ top priorities following the deadly June 22 shooting in Tacloban City and other reports of school violence. Two leading medical organizations

- [Practice makes perfect for doable solutions to waste management](#) (2026-06-29 05:35)

(Last of two parts) MANILA, Philippines — For environmental groups, landfill disasters such as the April 10 fire in Navotas point to deeper systemic failures in the country’ s waste management. Kweyn Tagaduar, campaigner for reuse of EcoWaste Coalition, said this crisis shows the “poor implementation” of Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste

- [PNP asks schools to coordinate off-campus events](#) (2026-06-29 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police on Sunday urged schools to be in close coordination with law enforcement authorities regarding major off-campus events. PNP chief Police Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. sought this cooperation amid the continuing outrage over the June 8 drowning of Ateneo Blue Eagles rookies Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili during

- [House impeachment body eyes ‘unwilling’ witnesses](#) (2026-06-29 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court has the authority to compel the attendance of reluctant witnesses, and the House prosecution team may invoke that power by

requesting subpoenas for those deemed crucial to its case, a lawmaker said on Sunday. ManilaRep. Joel Chua said “unwilling” and “hostile” witnesses may be compelled to attend

- [Fear lingers as Tacloban school poised to resume classes](#) (2026-06-29 04:40)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — Some students and parents of San Jose National High School remain hesitant to return to campus following the June 22 mass shooting that killed three students and injured 20 others, even as school officials prepare to resume in-person classes on July 6 with tighter security measures and continuing psychosocial support.

- [Transgender Filipinos face risks from self-medication, experts warn](#) (2026-06-29 04:35)

(First of two parts) DUMAGUETE CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — For years, Angel, a transgender woman from Negros Oriental, bought contraceptive pills from pharmacies, ordered hormones online and injected herself based on advice from Facebook groups and friends—all without ever consulting a doctor. “I sometimes experience headaches and shortness of breath, but I never consulted

- [BOC clears 10 more overstaying containers in Subic Freeport](#) (2026-06-29 04:30)

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has removed 10 overstaying refrigerated containers loaded with spoiled, foul-smelling cargo from the Port of Subic as part of efforts to decongest the port and address environmental and public health concerns. Subic District Collector Geniefelle Lagmay said seven of the containers had already been disposed

- [Legarda: MSMEs everyday lifeblood of Filipino communities](#) (2026-06-28 23:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Loren Legarda joined the nation in celebrating Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day on June 27, affirming the role of small businesses as the everyday lifeblood of Filipino communities. She shared that MSMEs are more than enterprises; they are living stories of perseverance and hope, carrying with them the dreams

- [PCSO: No jackpot winners in June 28 Ultra, Super Lotto draws](#) (2026-06-28 21:42)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpot prizes in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office’ s (PCSO) Ultra Lotto 6/58 and SuperLotto 6/49 draws on Sunday, June 28. According to the PCSO, the winning combination for Ultra Lotto 6/58 was 46-56-08-01-03-05, carrying a jackpot of about ₱128 million. No ticket matched all six numbers to claim the top

- [Man with P13.6-M shabu nabbed in Maguindanao del Norte drug bust](#) (2026-06-28 20:18)

COTABATO CITY – A 42-year-old driver from this city was arrested after authorities seized about two kilograms of alleged shabu worth P13.6 million during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Sarmiento, Parang, Maguindanao del Norte, at 7 a.m. on Saturday. Edgar Jubay, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (PDEA-BARMM) director, identified the suspect

- [White Ribbon March ‘generally peaceful,’ says PNP](#) (2026-06-28 19:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Sunday said the White Ribbon March at the Edsa People Power Monument was “generally peaceful,” with participants orderly exercising their right to assembly. The PNP issued its assessment after deploying almost 10,000 police personnel and placing concerned units under full alert from 5 p.m. on June

- [Beyond games, socmed, Legarda urges deeper look into youth violence](#) (2026-06-28 19:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Referencing the tragic shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, Sen. Loren Legarda urges the public to look beyond simple explanations and treat the tragedy as a warning about deeper and interconnected challenges facing Filipino youth today. “Social media and online games may be part of the story, but

- [Duterte impeachment trial: Prosecutors seek leeway to present evidence](#) (2026-06-28 17:40)

MANILA, Philippines – The House prosecution panel in Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial hopes the Senate Impeachment Court will give it leeway to present evidence throughout the proceedings so the public can grasp the weight of the allegations against her, Manila Rep. Joel Chua said Sunday. “What we are asking from the impeachment court

- [P40-M drugs seized, 110 suspects nabbed in June 18-25 ops](#) (2026-06-28 17:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Authorities confiscated P40.06 million worth of illegal drugs and arrested 110 suspects in nationwide operations conducted from June 18 to 25, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said over the weekend. PDEA Director General Isagani Nerez said 83 operations were carried out across the country during the period. “These accomplishments reflect the

- [GenSan suspends in-person classes after powerful earthquake](#) (2026-06-28 17:20)

COTABATO CITY – In-person classes in all public elementary and secondary schools in General Santos City will remain suspended on Monday, June 29, following the magnitude 6.5 earthquake that jolted the city and nearby provinces last Friday. Isagani dela Cruz, GenSan Schools Division superintendent, said the suspension was necessary to ensure the safety of learners

- [Lanao del Norte police seize P7.6-M smuggled cigarettes](#) (2026-06-28 16:26)

ZAMBOANGA CITY — The police seized P7.6 million worth of smuggled cigarettes and arrested an individual in an operation in Lanao del Norte province early Sunday. Col. Leo Sua, Lanao del Norte police director, identified the arrested individual as alias “Ab,” 37, of Barangay Claro M. Recto, Maigo town. “The suspect was arrested shortly before 1

- [White Ribbon March participants told: Ensure peace, cleanliness](#) (2026-06-28 16:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City Police District (QCPD) on Sunday reminded participants of the White Ribbon March at the Edsa People Power Monument to observe peace and order

and help keep the venue clean, as at least 10,000 people are expected to take part in the event. QCPD spokesperson Maj. Jennifer Gannaban issued the

- [‘Risa Na’ drive starts in Bacolod for Hontiveros’ 2028 presidential bid](#) (2026-06-28 15:42)

BACOLOD CITY, Philippines — About 3,000 Negrenses on Sunday (June 28) launched the “Risa Na” movement, formally kicking off a campaign to support Sen. Risa Hontiveros’ potential presidential bid in the 2028 elections. The multisectoral gathering at Gonzaga Gym in Barangay Taculing here brought together supporters from various sectors to express their commitment to Hontiveros

- [Student threats prompt probes in 2 schools in Leyte, Northern Samar](#) (2026-06-28 15:39)

TACLOBAN CITY — Authorities in Leyte and Northern Samar are investigating alleged student threats against their schools, prompting officials to tighten security following last week’s deadly shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City. The alleged threats surfaced on social media over the weekend, although officials said there is no indication of any

- [P2.1-M smuggled cigarettes left in Lanao del Sur highway](#) (2026-06-28 15:00)

COTABATO CITY – Police recovered P2.1 million worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes abandoned along the highway in Marantao, Lanao del Sur, shortly after midnight Sunday during an anti-criminality operation. Brig. Gen. Christopher Abecia, Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO-BAR) director, said personnel of the Marantao Municipal Police Station responded to information from village officials that

- [PNP: Forest ranger, 3 others arrested after Pampanga gunfight](#) (2026-06-28 14:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Four individuals, including a forest ranger who previously headed the Ka Arlet Group (Pintados Group), were arrested after an armed encounter in Pampanga, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Sunday. According to the PNP, the four were arrested after the Pampanga Provincial Investigation Unit, Provincial Mobile Forces Company, and Special Weapons and

- [Bulacan youth mark 128th liberation anniversary with ‘Goyo’ musical](#) (2026-06-28 13:41)

BULAKAN, Bulacan — More than a century after Gen. Gregorio “Goyo” del Pilar sacrificed his life for the country’s freedom, his legacy continues to inspire young Filipinos to uphold courage, honor, and responsibility. Hundreds of students watched “Goyo @150: Para sa Bayan,” Dulang Musikal ng Kabayanihan on Wednesday, June 24, as part of Bulakan town’s

- [Mother of abandoned newborn comes forward in Mountain Province](#) (2026-06-28 12:44)

TUGUEGARAO CITY — The mother of a newborn baby who was abandoned inside a bag in Sitio Khefa, Barangay Samoki, Bontoc, Mountain Province, on the evening of June 25 has come

forward, the Bontoc local government announced on Saturday, June 27. According to the municipal government, the mother, who was described as remorseful and emotional,

- [Group alarmed by review of Oriental Mindoro GMO ban](#) (2026-06-28 12:39)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro, Philippines — An advocacy group has expressed concern over the ongoing review of Oriental Mindoro's long-standing ban on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), warning that the province's safeguards could be weakened or repealed without sufficient public consultation and transparency. In a statement sent to the Inquirer on Saturday, June 27, Magsasaka at

- [3 nabbed for illegal mining, P5-M equipment seized in Surigao del Sur](#) (2026-06-28 12:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Three individuals were arrested in Barobo, Surigao del Sur for failing to present proper documentation for mining activities, the Philippine National Police said on Sunday. Police made the arrests and confiscated equipment worth P5,092,000, on Saturday.

“Local police and personnel from the (Department of Environment and Natural Resources or) DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau

- [Soldier nabbed for firing rifle outside brother-in-law's house in Cagayan](#) (2026-06-28 12:22)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Philippines— A 28-year-old Army corporal was arrested for allegedly firing his high-powered firearm outside his brother-in-law's house in Barangay Luzon, Claveria, Cagayan, in the early hours of Sunday, June 28, police said. Col. Mardito Angoluan, director of the Cagayan Police Provincial Office, identified the suspect only by his alias, Bugoy, from Calanasan, Apayao.

- [Forest ranger, 3 others wounded in 'shootout' with Pampanga cops](#) (2026-06-28 11:13)

MABALACAT CITY, Pampanga — A forest ranger and three of his companions were wounded in an alleged shootout with police during an operation in Arayat town, Pampanga, on Saturday, June 27. In a statement, the Pampanga Police Provincial Office identified the forest ranger only by his alias, “Ka Arlet,” a former leader of an armed

- [PNP asks schools to coordinate with authorities for off-campus events](#) (2026-06-28 11:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Sunday urged schools to have close coordination with law enforcement for major off-campus events. This comes after Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili, two Ateneo Blue Eagles athletes, drowned during a team-building and training activity in a resort in Dipaculao, Aurora. “We encourage schools to coordinate with local

- [Iligan turns waste into fuel](#) (2026-06-28 10:48)

ILIGAN CITY — The local government unit (LGU) of Iligan City has tapped the Quezon City-based recycling firm Mark Anthony Agsalud (MAA) Integrated Solutions Corporation to process waste

materials into refuse-derived fuel. Aldwyn Cabornay, MAA public services division chief, said they put up a processing plant within the 12-hectare Central Material Recovery and Composting Facility

- [Iloilo Pride March celebrates authenticity, calls for equality](#) (2026-06-28 10:30)

ILOILO CITY — Benigno Aquino Avenue, affectionately known to locals as Diversion Road, was transformed into a sea of rainbow colors on Saturday evening as hundreds of LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies marched to celebrate Pride Month. The colorful march was one of the highlights of “Price Pyesta Sadya 2026,” a grand celebration organized by the

- [Fisherman gunned down in Pangasinan](#) (2026-06-28 10:18)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — A 63-year-old fisherman from Santiago Island in the town of Bolinao, Pangasinan, was shot dead by a fellow resident on Saturday night, police said. According to a police report, the victim was drinking with two companions when the suspect arrived on a motorcycle and suddenly opened fire. READ: Barangay chair shot dead

- [Antipolo bishop urges Senate to continue probe of flood control projects](#) (2026-06-28 10:10)

LUCENA CITY — Antipolo Bishop Ruperto Cruz Santos has called on the Senate to continue its investigation into the alleged anomalies involving multimillion-peso flood control projects. In a message titled “A Call to Conscience, Truth, and Justice,” posted on the diocese’s official Facebook page on Saturday (June 27), Santos said the Senate blue ribbon committee

- [QC condo residents alarmed over Maynilad disconnection notice](#) (2026-06-28 09:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Residents of Smile Citihomes Condominium in Barangay Kaligayahan, Quezon City were alarmed by a Maynilad Water Services Inc. disconnection notice over nearly P1.3 million in unpaid bills. Hundreds of angry residents stormed the condominium’s administration building on Saturday night, demanding an explanation from the board of directors of the medium-rise condominium on

- [Senate panel to review age of criminal liability](#) (2026-06-28 08:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Following three fatal incidents involving minors across the country, the Senate panel on social justice, welfare, and rural development will assess the age of criminal liability. Sen. Erwin Tulfo, who heads the panel, stated on Sunday, that a review will be made to address the “glaring gaps” in the implementation of Republic Act

- [Pagasa: LPA in PAR not likely to develop into cyclone in next 24 hours](#) (2026-06-28 07:36)

MANILA, Philippines — A low-pressure area (LPA) inside the Philippine area of responsibility has a low chance of developing into a cyclone in the next 24 hours, state meteorologists said on Sunday. Based on the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration’s (Pagasa) 5 a.m. forecast, the LPA affecting Eastern Visayas and parts of

Mindanao

- [Gov't proposes P7.2-T spending bill for 2027](#) (2026-06-28 05:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Marcos administration has asked Congress to allocate more than P7.2 trillion for its 2027 national budget when the legislature convenes for its second regular session on July 24, according to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). The proposed budget is P407 billion, or 6 percent, more than the P6.793-trillion national

- [DOT unveils 3,000 deals for local tourism drive](#) (2026-06-28 05:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Tourism (DOT) on Friday rolled out a domestic tourism campaign offering more than 3,000 discounted travel deals as it seeks to boost travel during the industry's lean season, according to a department statement. Dubbed "Discover More to Love," the campaign will run from July to November and features discounted

- [Everything ube: DA moves to cash in on 'purple gold rush'](#) (2026-06-28 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The government is moving to institutionalize the Philippine ube industry to capitalize on a surging global "purple gold rush." To shape its long-term strategy, government officials tackled in a recent meeting the creation of a Steering Committee and Technical Working Group that will serve as the sector's coordinating backbone. Among others, the

- [Experts warn of lingering pollutants from Navotas landfill fire](#) (2026-06-28 05:39)

(First of two parts) MANILA, Philippines — It took 30 days for the April 10 fire at the Navotas landfill to be extinguished, but experts warn that dangerous pollutants released into Metro Manila's air could persist in the environment for decades, posing long-term health risks. The blaze which spanned more than half of the landfill's

- [Slain girl's kin seek raps vs younger suspect in school shooting](#) (2026-06-28 05:38)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — The parents of 14-year-old Ayessha Nicole Dazo, one of the three students killed in the June 22 shooting at San Jose National High School, are urging authorities to include the 14-year-old suspect in the criminal complaint, insisting that he should also be held accountable for the attack that also wounded

- [NBI files human trafficking raps vs Defensors, others](#) (2026-06-28 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation has filed a complaint for qualified human trafficking against former Anakalusugan Rep. Mike Defensor and his wife, Julie Defensor, using a bar and a hotel they allegedly owned in Pasig City in sexually exploiting women. The complaint filed on Friday at the city prosecutor's office followed the

- [Docs' prescription: Keep kids off social media](#) (2026-06-28 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Two medical groups warned against the unsupervised use of social media by children aged 16 years old and below, saying that it poses risks to a child's mental health and development. In a statement on Facebook on Friday, the Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS) said it does not recommend social media use among

- [Press pause: Experts, gamers caution vs blaming video games](#) (2026-06-28 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Cris, a 38-year-old insurance company employee, has been losing sleep of late over the online activities of his son Richard, 13. His worries grew following the June 22 shooting incident at a Tacloban City high school, which authorities partly blamed on one of the two underage suspects being hooked on violent video

- [PRC suspends vlogger's medical license over Red-tagging](#) (2026-06-28 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) has suspended physician Lorraine Badoy-Partosa, who is also a political vlogger and a former government official, from medical practice for half a year over her remarks five years ago which “Red-tagged” or branded some healthcare workers as communist sympathizers without any proof. In a 14-page decision dated

- [Kutawato Cave: Hidden heart of Cotabato reopens](#) (2026-06-28 05:15)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Hidden beneath a hill in the heart of this bustling city lies a world of winding passageways, underground streams, limestone formations, fruit bat colonies, and centuries of history. The legendary Kutawato Cave—believed to be the Philippines' only natural cave system located within a city proper—has reopened to visitors after months

- [MCIA opens dedicated OFW lounge, facilitation center in Cebu](#) (2026-06-27 23:38)

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL, Philippines — The Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA) on Friday, June 26, officially opened its dedicated Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) Lounge and Facilitation Center, providing enhanced services and a more convenient travel experience for departing and returning overseas workers. The new facilities were launched through a partnership among the Department of Migrant Workers

- [Negros Occidental LGUs intensify biosecurity measures to ward off ASF](#) (2026-06-27 23:28)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — To protect the multi-million peso local livestock industry and secure the livelihoods of small-scale and commercial hog raisers, local government units (LGUs) in Negros Occidental have scaled up their biosecurity defenses against African Swine Fever (ASF). Through a mix of strict border inspections, temporary bans, and localized task forces,

- [P800,000 smuggled cigarettes seized in Ozamiz checkpoint](#) (2026-06-27 23:18)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — Police operatives intercepted a mini van carrying an estimated P800,000 worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes during a late-night checkpoint operation in Barangay Labinay, Ozamiz City on Thursday, June 25. At around 11:10 p.m., personnel of the Ozamiz City police station, in coordination with the 2nd Provincial Mobile Force

- [Task Force Zamboanga turns over loose firearms to city government](#) (2026-06-27 23:03)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — The Philippine Army's Task Force Zamboanga (TFZ) turned over eight surrendered loose firearms to Zamboanga City Mayor Khymer Adan Olaso on Friday, June 26, highlighting the city's continuing campaign for peace and public safety. The ceremonial turnover, held at the City Hall conference room, was facilitated by the

- [Shipping lines roll back fares on Batangas-Calapan route](#) (2026-06-27 22:52)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — Two major shipping operators serving the vital Batangas–Calapan gateway reduced their passenger and vehicle fares effective June 22, responding to persistent calls from the provincial government of Oriental Mindoro, while a third carrier has signaled it will implement similar adjustments shortly. Governor Humerlito Dolor confirmed the development, noting that

- [Long-delayed Udalo Bridge in Occidental Mindoro opens to light vehicles](#) (2026-06-27 22:33)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — After more than three years of delays, the Udalo Bridge in Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro was opened to light vehicles on Thursday, June 25, providing long-awaited relief to residents who had risked crossing the river daily while the bridge remained unfinished. Earlier, Department of Public Works and Highways

- [No jackpot winners in Grand Lotto, Lotto 6/42 draws on June 27](#) (2026-06-27 21:59)

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 on Saturday, June 27. According to the PCSO, no ticket matched the six-number winning combination for Grand Lotto 6/55, leaving the jackpot prize of about P50.31 million unclaimed. The winning combination

- [P6M worth of imported e-bike batteries, chargers seized in Pampanga](#) (2026-06-27 21:55)

MABALACAT CITY, Pampanga — Operatives from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) have confiscated some P6 million worth of electric bike batteries and chargers in Mexico, Pampanga. In a statement, the CIDG said the batteries and chargers have no Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) stickers and Philippine Standard (PS) marks. The imported products were seized

- [DepEd sustains support for Tacloban school shooting victims](#) (2026-06-27 20:59)

DepEd said two wounded victims have been discharged from medical care, while 11 injured learners remain confined in hospitals but are out of immediate danger and steadily recovering. Three other patients in the intensive care unit are now stable, fully conscious, and responsive, it added. “As instructed by President Bongbong Marcos, we will not abandon

- [Cauayan City celebrates Pride Month with parade, fashion show](#) (2026-06-27 20:34)

CAUAYAN CITY — Members of the LGBTQIA+ community took center stage in a colorful Pride Month celebration featuring a parade, drag performances, and a fashion show at a mall here on Friday, June 26. The event, which ran from afternoon until evening, highlighted the community’s advocacy for love, diversity, equality and self-expression through music, performances

- [Ortega questions ‘double standard’ in VP Duterte threat case](#) (2026-06-27 20:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Deputy Speaker Paolo Ortega V on Saturday questioned what he called a “double standard” in the handling of Vice President Sara Duterte’s statement that she had instructed someone to kill President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos and former Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez if she were killed. Ortega compared Duterte’s case

- [Adiong: Senate court to decide if ex-sheriff can skip Sara Duterte trial](#) (2026-06-27 19:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court, not the House prosecution panel, will decide whether former Davao City court sheriff Abe Andres can be excused from testifying in Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial after he sought to be excluded from the proceedings, House prosecution panel spokesperson and Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong

- [1 student hit in Tacloban school shooting still in ICU, others recovering](#) (2026-06-27 19:09)

MANILA, Philippines — One of the learners injured in the shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City on June 8 remains in the intensive care unit (ICU). This learner is conscious, coherent and on a soft diet. On the other hand, 11 other victims are recovering. The information comes from the Department

- [Pride Month: More LGUs embrace anti-discrimination policies](#) (2026-06-27 19:04)

DUMAGUETE CITY, Negros Oriental — For decades, efforts to pass a national anti-discrimination law in the Philippines have remained in limbo, repeatedly failing to secure approval in Congress. In the absence of national legislation, however, several local government units (LGUs) have stepped in to fill the gap by enacting anti-discrimination ordinances and gender-inclusive policies within

- [2 village execs, 49 others nabbed for illegal cockfight in Cagayan](#) (2026-06-27 18:41)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan—Two village councilors and 49 other cockfight aficionados in Cagayan were arrested for allegedly managing, engaging and participating in an illegal cockfight

or “tupada.” The apprehensions took place in Coastal 2, Barangay Casambalangan in Sta. Ana town on Friday, June 26 at 2:30 in the afternoon, police said on Saturday. Police Brig. Gen.

- [3 Filipino archbishops off to Vatican to seal appointments with Pope Leo](#) (2026-06-27 18:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Three Filipino archbishops are set to seal their appointments by receiving the pallium (vestment) from Pope Leo XIV at St. Peter’s Basilica on June 29. The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) made the announcement. Annually, newly appointed metropolitan archbishops travel to the Vatican to receive the pallium, a white vestment

- [LTFRB suspends EV taxi’s operation after driver joined viral robbery prank](#) (2026-06-27 18:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The operation of an electric vehicle taxi company was suspended by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for 30 days after its driver got involved in a viral robbery prank. According to the LTFRB on Saturday, a show cause order will be issued against the Green and Smart Mobility Philippines

- [Pedia group: Kids must not use social media without adult supervision](#) (2026-06-27 17:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Children aged 16 years and below should not have unsupervised access to social media, the Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS) said on Saturday. It cited growing evidence that unregulated digital exposure poses risks to children’s mental health, sleep, behavior and development. In a position statement, the PPS said that while digital platforms provide

- [Sharmaine Bill: How an internet meme turned into bill for gender rights](#) (2026-06-27 17:07)

MANILA, Philippines — What started as a viral internet joke about an orange wanting to be named “Sharmaine” has inspired the drafting of a House bill that seeks to make legal gender recognition more accessible for transgender, intersex, and non-binary Filipinos. In time for Pride Month, Akbayan Representatives Perci Cendaña, Chel Diokno, Dadah Kiram Ismula

- [PRC suspends Badoy as doctor for red-tagging health workers](#) (2026-06-27 16:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Board of Medicine has suspended licensed physician and former anti-insurgency task force spokesperson Lorraine Marie Badoy from medical practice for six months. This is in connection with her public statements linking health workers to the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People’s Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF). PRC Resolution

- [DOTr, Cebu launch provincial gov’t-led transport service contracting program](#) (2026-06-27 16:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Cebu Provincial Government have launched a provincial government-led transport service contracting program. This is to enable Cebuanos have access to public transportation while providing support to drivers and operators. According to the DOTr, the program titled “Tabang Pangbyahe Program” is a “first-of-its-kind” led by a

- [Suspect in slaying of ex-village councilor in Bataan nabbed](#) (2026-06-27 15:07)

BALANGA CITY, Bataan — A suspect in the killing of a former village councilor in Hermosa, Bataan was arrested by police in San Fernando, Pampanga before midnight on Friday, June 26. The suspect was identified as Alvin Vitangcol, 46, a native of San Ildefonso, Bulacan who had been residing in Hermosa. Police said they have

- [1 dead, 1 injured in Laguna road mishap](#) (2026-06-27 14:49)

LUCENA CITY — A female motorcycle passenger was killed, while the driver was injured in a road accident on Friday, June 26, in Cabuyao City, Laguna. In a report released on Saturday, the Police Regional Office 4A said the motorcycle, driven by a 33-year-old man identified only by the alias “Rex,” was struck by a

- [4 nabbed in e-sabong raid in Misamis Occidental; cockfighting arena closed](#) (2026-06-27 14:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Four individuals were arrested in a raid of a site allegedly used for online “sabong” or cockfighting in Misamis Occidental. The operation also resulted in the closure of the arena, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Saturday. The move took place on Friday, prompted by an information received by the police

- [Marcos, ‘as a father,’ appeals for united effort to protect children](#) (2026-06-27 14:06)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Saturday said he was speaking, not only as the country’s leader but also “as a father,” as he called for stronger efforts to protect the Filipino children. He made the appeal following the recent tragedies involving students. According to Marcos, no parent should have to fear sending

- [Compliance with gun storage rules sought after Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-27 14:05)

LIGAO CITY — Former Albay 2nd district Rep. Joey Salceda has urged stricter enforcement of firearm storage requirements following the recent school shooting in Tacloban City, saying preventing minors from accessing guns should be the government’s immediate priority. In a statement, Salceda called for firearm license applicants and those seeking renewals to submit sworn affidavits

- [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

- [Philippine eagle faces higher risk of extinction, study finds](#) (2026-06-27 13:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine eagle has exceptionally low genetic diversity, making the critically endangered species fragile and more likely to face extinction when confronted by disease, environmental changes or other threats, scientists found in a study. The study, led by Dr. Cynthia Saloma of the University of the Philippines Diliman College of Science's National

- [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 Taganait Cabatlao, 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 ECOmmitments](#) (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 schoolshooting. 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 highschool. “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: Higd) 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

- [Lustro: 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

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- [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

- [Luistro: 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 Bateria 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. MegaLotto6/45 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 BARMN 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 Cagfu 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 (Cagfu) 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 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

Source: The Manila Times

- [Yellow alert up again for Visayas on July 1](#) (2026-07-01 05:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) has again issued a yellow alert warning for the Visayas grid on Wednesday, July 1, as major coal plants continue to be unavailable while demand is expected to be high. In its 8 a.m. advisory, the NGCP said that the yellow alert will be between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. as peak demand is expected to reach 2,411 megawatts (MW) while available supply is only at 2,599 MW. It added that currently 26 plants are on forced outage, while 17 plants are running on derated capacities for a total of 935.3 MW unavailable to the grid. The major coal plants that are offline again 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.

- [NHA distributes over P48M aid to Mindanao quake victims](#) (2026-07-01 05:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Housing Authority (NHA) has released P48.270 million in financial assistance to hundreds of families affected by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Mindanao in June. NHA General Manager Joeben Tai said on Wednesday that the assistance came from the agency's Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) and was released and distributed in General Santos City and Sarangani province on June 26, 2026. In a

message to The Manila Times, Tai said that 998 families in General Santos City received P30,000 each, for a total of P29.940 million. Meanwhile, 333 families from Malapatan and 278 families from Glan — both in Sarangani province — also received P30,000 each, for a total of P18.330 million. "The events mark the NHA's second EHAP payout to the affected provinces following the first distribution on June 18, 2026," Tai said. He added that the agency is set to conduct similar distributions for other affected families in the coming days as part of its commitment to provide shelter assistance to quake-hit communities. Assistant General Manager Alvin Feliciano said that, as one of the NHA's priority programs, EHAP aims to provide immediate financial assistance to families whose homes were damaged by disasters, enabling them to repair or rebuild their residences and accelerate their recovery.

• [Forecasters cite 'dangerous' conditions as heat scorches Midwest while on its way to the East](#) (2026-07-01 04:38)

DETROIT — Nature's oven was on high Tuesday for millions of people in the Midwest and Great Lakes states as intense heat and humidity baked the regions with no immediate relief before the misery shifts to the eastern U.S. The National Weather Service was blunt: Conditions were "dangerous" as the heat index, a combination of air temperature and humidity, exceeded 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.8 degrees Celsius) in some areas. It warned about a risk for heat-related illnesses, especially among people without air conditioning. Detroit's air temperature was in the high 90s, the Weather Service said, and could even reach 100 at some point through Thursday. The city said a dozen recreation centers were open, some until 11 p.m., for people to cool off. Big chunks of Michigan, as well as Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and much of Iowa, were under an extreme heat warning. The Northeast, including New York City and Boston, will next feel major heat through the Fourth of July holiday. Norristown, Pennsylvania, 20 miles (32 kilometers) from Philadelphia, canceled a Saturday parade because of the weather. Philadelphia declared a heat emergency, Wednesday through Saturday, and said 50 cooling centers will operate with extended hours. The city said visitors will find misting tents, water refill stations and medical stations at the free World Cup fan festival at East Fairmount Park. When the heat's on, people adjust. The Chicago History Museum offered free admission to state residents who wanted a cool space Tuesday. Roads in a few places in Illinois buckled under the heat. When the surface has no room to expand in the heat, it can rise and crack. At 9:15 a.m., window washer Stephen Mason, 72, was wiping mayflies off glass at a Detroit convenience store. He got an early start to avoid the worst conditions of the day, but it was already 85 (29.4 C). "It's the only way to beat it. But it's already starting to cook out here," Mason said. Adam Schubatis, 36, a runner who was shirtless in Detroit's Indian Village neighborhood, said he was cutting his route to 6 miles (9.6 kilometers). "I know where all the drinking fountains are," he said. "My wife thought I was crazy. She offered to pick me up if I got tired or if there was anything I was doing that wasn't safe." A dog's day can be 'miserable' In Milwaukee, more than 100 firefighters spent hours controlling a fire at a school in the extreme heat. Fire Chief Aaron Lipski said crews were rotating and shedding their thick coats while they rehydrated. Overnight low temperatures were in the 70s (21-26.7 C) in

many places, which doesn't give the body a chance to cool down naturally, said Dr. Kisha Davis, health officer for Montgomery County, Maryland. "The heat stress will compound day after day," said Davis, who added that alcohol and soda, popular holiday drinks, are dehydrating. In Jackson, Mississippi, where the afternoon heat index exceeded 100 F (37.7 C), massive fans tried to keep about 100 dogs cool at an old mattress warehouse that serves as a shelter for Community Animal Rescue and Adoption. "It's miserable. ... We try to keep everybody hydrated back there. Dogs and people," said kennel manager Raquel Burney. Cooling it forward George Liller, 64, was a hero in Grosse Pointe Park, a Detroit suburb. He added air conditioning to his home, so he offered a window unit for free on Facebook — extension cord and remote control included. "It was probably on my porch maybe 15 minutes," Liller said. "That air conditioner was given to me. I thought, 'Somebody needs it.' I know how it feels to be in an old house when it's this hot."

- [Trump announces midterm convention for Republicans in Dallas in September](#)
(2026-07-01 03:46)

President Donald Trump announced Tuesday that Republicans will hold their first-ever national convention ahead of November's midterm elections, an unusual event aimed at boosting turnout in races that will decide whether the party maintains control of Congress. The convention will be held in Dallas on Sept. 9 and 10. Although both major parties traditionally hold blockbuster conventions during presidential campaigns, Trump has long floated the idea of a similar gathering this year to focus voters' attention on a sprawling collection of House and Senate races. If Democrats regain control of either chamber, they will be empowered to block Trump's agenda and launch investigations into his administration for the final two years of his term. Republicans have only slim majorities in Congress, and the party in power normally loses ground in the midterms. And without Trump on the ballot, Republican leaders worry that it could be hard to galvanize their voters. Trump hopes the convention would help change that dynamic, and he's been talking about it since last year. He floated in a social media post that Republicans would use the event "to show the great things we have done since the Presidential Election of 2024." "We will also have lots of Great Entertainment — It will be a RALLY like none other!" Trump wrote in a Truth Social post announcing the convention details. The Democratic National Committee considered hosting a similar midterm convention but ultimately rejected the idea. An expensive soiree could have strained the DNC's finances, which are struggling with lackluster fundraising and millions in debt. Democrats have said the GOP convention will be a chance for them to tie Republican House and Senate candidates to Trump, whose approval rating is underwater. Locating the convention in Texas places a spotlight on the state's Senate race, which pits Democratic nominee James Talarico against Republican nominee Ken Paxton. Paxton is the state attorney general who, with Trump's backing, defeated longtime Sen. John Cornyn in a primary earlier this year. Republican Senate leaders fear that Paxton's history of scandals — including an extramarital affair, an impeachment and a securities fraud case that did not lead to a conviction — could undermine his candidacy and turn a winnable race into a drain on party resources. It also highlights the aftereffects of

Trump's mid-decade redistricting push that began in Texas, an effort to secure more seats for Republicans in this fall's elections. The Republican National Committee began laying the groundwork earlier this year, voting at its winter meeting in January to make such an event possible by amending procedures centered around quadrennial presidential nominating conventions. Democrats considered holding a similar gathering ahead of the midterms but tabled the idea. However, the party did hold such conferences in the 1970s and 1980s.

- [EDSA traffic moderate to slow as INC holds rally for second day](#) (2026-07-01 02:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The second day of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) rally prompted road closures and traffic buildup early Wednesday along EDSA after the religious group secured a rally permit from the Quezon City government. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) closed the EDSA Ortigas northbound service road and White Plains Avenue in both eastbound and westbound directions. As of its latest traffic monitoring, traffic was moderate to slow moving on the southbound lanes of EDSA from Camp Crame to White Plains. Northbound traffic was also moderate to slow moving from EDSA Ortigas to White Plains. The MMDA advised motorists to expect delays in the affected areas, take alternate routes whenever possible, and said traffic personnel remained deployed to manage vehicle flow.

- [Senate starts investigation into Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-07-01 02:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Six of the relatives of the students who were killed in the shooting at a high school in Tacloban, Leyte were invited in the Senate investigation on Wednesday. The Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality leads the inquiry into the incident at the San Jose National High School and the link of online gaming platforms on violence among the youth. Two of the victims' relatives will be present while the four others will participate online. Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian confirmed his attendance to the public hearing to be led by Sen. Risa Hontiveros, the committee chairman. Education Secretary Sonny Angara, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla, acting Justice Secretary Frederick Vida, Information Secretary Henry Aguda, Philippine National Police chief Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. will not be able to attend but will send their representatives.

- [LPA turns Tropical Depression Henry; Signal 1 up over 3 Luzon areas](#) (2026-06-30 23:03)

MANILA, Philippines – The low-pressure area (LPA) off Bataan has become a tropical depression named 'Henry,' as the state-run weather agency on Wednesday quickly raised storm signal in at least three Luzon areas. Areas under Wind Signal 1 include the southwestern portion of Zambales (San Antonio, Castillejos, Subic, Olongapo City), the western portion of Bataan (Morong, Bagac, Mariveles), and Lubang Islands in Occidental Mindoro, weather specialist Chenel Dominguez of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. Moving northwestward at 25 kilometers per hour (kph) while packing maximum sustained winds of 45kph and gustiness of up to 55kph, Henry was estimated to be 115 kilometers west-southwest of Abucay, Bataan, Dominguez said during a 5 a.m. briefing. Likely to gradually intensify while traversing the West Philippine Sea, the weather

disturbance may reach tropical storm category by Thursday morning, the national weather bureau said. “Forecast to move generally west-northwestward while moving away from landmass, it may then exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility also Thursday morning,” according to the Pagasa forecaster. Pagasa said Henry, the eighth cyclone to hit the country in 2026, is also affecting Metro Manila, CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), Bulacan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, and Marinduque, bringing overcast skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms. Meanwhile, the southwest monsoon or ‘habagat’ has been bringing overcast skies over the Western Visayas, Negros Island Region, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, BARMM (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao), the rest of MIMAROPA (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan), Lanao del Norte, Misamis Oriental, and Misamis Occidental. The rest of the country could experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms, it added.

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- [Govt weaponized justice system against those who speak against corruption - Sara](#) (2026-06-30 20:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte said that the government has weaponized the justice system by filing cases against and imprisoning individuals who speak out against corruption and abuses of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Her statement comes after supporters of the Iglesia ni Cristo held a lightning rally on Tuesday morning calling out corruption in government and lamenting the possible arrest of Sen. Rodante Marcoleta, an INC member. In a statement, Duterte said that the people who are gathering at the People Power Monument and the Liwasang Bonifacio reflects a growing sentiment that she has expressed since 2024. "This administration has been defined by poor governance and its failure to acknowledge and address the country's real problems," Duterte said. "While countless of our kababayans struggle with rising prices, job insecurity, and the increasing cost of daily life, the President has remained detached from the hardships confronting Filipinos," she added. Duterte further said that instead of confronting these challenges with solutions, the Marcos administration chose to silence dissent under the guise of accountability. "It has weaponized the justice system by filing cases against and imprisoning individuals who dare speak out against alleged corruption and abuses in Malacañang, question the administration's competence, or criticize the President, including allegations concerning his drug use," she said. She also said that Marcos's failures of character and leadership have fostered an "increasingly oppressive political environment," "A government that answers criticism with intimidation undermines the very democratic institutions it is sworn to protect," she said. Duterte said that it is not anymore a matter of politics, but a "matter of the honor of the State and a future of a people who continue to bear the weight of economic hardship while their voices are increasingly met with repression,"

- [Migrant workers' health highlighted in summit](#) (2026-06-30 19:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at prioritizing the health and well-being of migrant workers. The MOU was signed during the 2026 Migrant Workers' Health Summit held in Quezon City on Tuesday. During the summit, Health Secretary Ted Herbosa said it is important that health services remain accessible and responsive throughout the entire migration cycle—from pre-departure to overseas deployment and eventual return to the Philippines. "This reflects our shared commitment to improve coordination, strengthen our service deliveries, and ensure that the health and well-being of Filipino migrant workers remain a national priority," said Herbosa, highlighting the necessity of the collaboration. The 2-day summit provides free medical services for migrant workers, including hypertension, diabetes, and nutrition assessments; cancer screening; and tuberculosis and HIV testing.

- [Palace distances from deal to make Bonoan a state witness in flood control scandal](#) (2026-06-30 18:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday insisted it will not interfere with the decision of the Office of the Ombudsman in dealing with former public works chief Manuel Bonoan in connection with the flood control scandal. Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla earlier bared that

they are dropping charges against Bonoan en route to utilizing him as a state witness in the flood control cases. “We will not interfere with what the Ombudsman's policy will be because we know that it is an independent body,” Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said in Filipino in a press briefing. The OMB has reportedly secured signed agreement for Bonoan’s cooperation in the probe with a motion now filed before the Sandiganbayan to discharge him as an accused. The former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) secretary is currently facing a non-bailable P573-million plunder charge alongside Sen. Jinggoy Estrada for allegedly receiving kickbacks from anomalous flood control projects. Castro stressed that Remulla has free rein on how to proceed with Bonoan’s case including the required restitution to be formally recognized as a state witness. “We’ve also heard that proposal when he was still Secretary of the Department of Justice, that restitution was required,” the official said. “So, again, we do not know what the policy of the Office of the Ombudsman will be, maybe it will be the same as his view when he was Secretary of Justice,” she added.

- [How did the INC rally affect your EDSA commute today?](#) (2026-06-30 17:12)

MANILA, Philippines — A surprise rally by members of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) near the People Power Monument caused road closures and traffic adjustments along EDSA on Tuesday, affecting one of Metro Manila’s busiest transport corridors. The gathering affected motorists and commuters who rely on EDSA, a major route that carries more than 427,000 vehicles daily based on data from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA). The MMDA said earlier Tuesday that the rally had no prior coordination with the agency, prompting traffic management adjustments as road closures were implemented along the affected areas. The rally, which organizers said was held in support of Senator Rodante Marcoleta, who is facing Ombudsman-recommended plunder and bribery complaints over alleged campaign donations, and for transparency and better democracy under the Marcos administration, prompted the MMDA to implement closures along the EDSA Ortigas Service Road northbound, EDSA Ortigas Flyover northbound and southbound, and White Plains Avenue eastbound and westbound. Traffic conditions remained a challenge throughout the day, with the MMDA monitoring moderate to heavy traffic along affected portions of EDSA. In an interview with The Manila Times, the MMDA said traffic slowed along key portions of EDSA, with northbound congestion stretching from near the EDSA William Street crossing toward White Plains Avenue. The southbound traffic stretch reached Liberty Avenue before Main Avenue, with delays beginning around EDSA Connecticut, affecting workers, commuters, and motorists traveling through major commercial and employment hubs in Ortigas and Quezon City, as well as business districts and transport routes connected to EDSA. The Philippine National Police (PNP) estimated the rally crowd at around 15,000 on Tuesday evening, while MMDA personnel remained deployed in the area and continued traffic management operations as of press time. Beyond the traffic delays, the disruption also highlighted the wider impact of activities along EDSA, where even temporary road changes can affect thousands of daily commuters and motorists. The rally also raised a broader question among road users and the public: did the

cause behind the uncoordinated gathering justify the impact experienced by commuters affected by the traffic disruption?

- [Bonoan may boost case vs Romualdez](#) (2026-06-30 16:11)

THE Office of the Ombudsman on Tuesday said it was willing to hear what former Public Works secretary Manuel Bonoan has to say to strengthen the case it was preparing against former speaker Martin Romualdez, who has been embroiled in the flood control bribery scandal. “The case of former speaker Martin Romualdez is getting stronger by the day,” said Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano during a press briefing. Clavano said Bonoan was in “a unique position” to shed light on how the budget process was abused. “If he is willing to cooperate, we are willing to see also what he has to say to strengthen our case,” Clavano said. The assistant ombudsman said Bonoan’s intention to cooperate was “for that case specifically.” In a press briefing in April, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said they were preparing a case of plunder against Romualdez and former Senate president Francis Escudero. “It’s actually the way that the budget was passed upon by the two houses and how many things happened to be have been implemented because of that,” Remulla said. Romualdez, the congressional representative of Leyte’s first district, said in a statement last September that he never authorized, instructed, or allowed anyone to engage in any conduct that would betray the people or taint his name. He denied receiving any kickback for any infrastructure project. Escudero said that for over 27 years as a public servant, he has never been charged with corruption. “That record speaks for itself,” he said in a statement in September. No cases have yet been filed against Romualdez and Escudero before the Sandiganbayan. Remulla on Monday said that a motion to discharge Bonoan as an accused was filed “so that he can be a witness for the prosecution.” The motion was filed before the Sandiganbayan, where Bonoan is facing charges along with Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and several other people. On May 28, the Office of the Ombudsman filed a graft case against Estrada and Bonoan and another graft case against them and former DPWH-National Capital Region officials Denryl Caesar Cortuna, Manny Bulusan, and Arturo Gonzales Jr. The Office of the Ombudsman also charged these five with plunder. In a press briefing conducted after the cases were filed, Clavano said the cases stemmed from “an intricate mechanism involving illegal budgetary insertions and project allocations within the DPWH infrastructure portfolio” for fiscal year 2025. “Our evaluation shows that substantial public funds were deliberately funneled into designated infrastructure projects in exchange for predetermined commission fees or kickbacks. Case records point to an accumulated sum of illicit payouts amounting to an aggregate sum of over P573 million which were systematically delivered to the principal respondent, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada,” Clavano said. Bonoan and Estrada have denied any role in corrupt deals. The senator is under a 90-day preventive suspension, which started on June 22, 2026, pending litigation of the graft case filed against only him and Bonoan. The Sandiganbayan Second Division, to which the case was raffled, had ordered the preventive suspension. Clavano described the Office of the Ombudsman’s decision to make Bonoan a state witness as “a tough decision for the office.” “And there was a lot of consideration that had to go into that decision,” Clavano

said. He said that before the Office of the Ombudsman charged Bonoan, it reached out to him about being a possible witness but that this offer was “met with resistance.” “Now, they’ re willing to cooperate,” Clavano said. Malacañang on Tuesday said it will not interfere with the decision of the Office of the Ombudsman to treat Bonoan as a state witness against Romualdez, who is a cousin of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “We will not interfere with what the Ombudsman’ s policy will be because we know that it is an independent body,” Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said in Filipino in a press briefing. Castro said Remulla has free rein on how to proceed with Bonoan’ s case. The Palace previously said it believes Bonoan “will speak only the truth” on what he knows about the massive corruption supposedly tied to the government’ s flood mitigation measures. Sen. Panfilo Lacson, meanwhile, said those who have dealt kickbacks with Bonoan could be “quaking in their boots” due to the information the former official can disclose. Lacson said Bonoan may have much to disclose as a potential state witness in the flood control scandal, but he must also make restitution for the billions in public funds lost to the anomalies. The senator said Bonoan “certainly has a lot to reveal — from allocables to anomalous flood control and other defective infrastructure projects,” including but not limited to the P500 million he allegedly offered in exchange for his Commission on Appointments confirmation as Department of Public Works and Highways secretary in November 2022. “With this new development, those who had direct dealings with him must be quaking in their boots,” Lacson wrote on X on Tuesday. He said this should take into account at least P1 billion based on the testimony of former DPWH undersecretary Roberto Bernardo, and a 2 percent “standard operating procedure” based on the testimony of former Bulacan district engineer Henry Alcantara. Bernardo, in his supplemental affidavit dated Nov. 10, 2025, had said that Bonoan would ask him to take charge of part of his reserved allocations from time to time, and that the value of the projects he handled for Bonoan was at least P5 billion per year for 2023 to 2025, with a 15 percent average commitment. “At the very least, the amount must be based on earlier testimonies by resource persons of the Blue Ribbon Committee under my watch,” Lacson said.

- [Marcoleta cries persecution; Lacson says he's gaslighting](#) (2026-06-30 16:10)

SEN. Rodante Marcoleta on Tuesday alleged that moves against him are aimed at silencing his investigations into corruption and preventing him from participating in the Senate’ s upcoming impeachment trial against Vice President Sara Duterte, with who he is closely allied. The Palace, however, urged the senator to face the plunder charges to be filed against him by the Office of the Ombudsman in court and allow the justice system to work instead of encouraging a surprise rally that disrupted traffic for hours near the People Power Monument on Tuesday. Sen. Panfilo Lacson, meanwhile, chided Marcoleta for claiming that his impending arrest on plunder charges is linked to Duterte’ s impeachment trial, writing on X “It’ s gaslighting time once more.” In a statement Tuesday, Marcoleta claimed authorities were selectively prosecuting individuals seeking to expose alleged wrongdoing while failing to pursue cases against those he described as the principal figures behind alleged corruption. “There is a pattern that has become evident

over the past few days,” Marcoleta said. “They are targeting those who seek to uncover the truth, while those allegedly responsible for these crimes remain unprosecuted.” The senator pointed to a pending complaint, which he said had been filed in April 2026 against former House speaker Martin Romualdez, alleging that no significant action had been taken. He also questioned the decision of the Office of the Ombudsman to drop charges against former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) secretary Manuel Bonoan in exchange for his testimony as a state witness. Marcoleta asserted that he has become a target because of his efforts to expose alleged irregularities and hold public officials accountable. “If they arrest me, everything we have started will be stopped,” Marcoleta said. “They believe these issues will simply fade away, and at the same time, I will no longer be able to participate in the impeachment trial. That is two birds with one stone.” Marcoleta also alleged that the developments had been planned, citing remarks made two weeks before by Lacson, who suggested that several more senators could face imprisonment, a statement that suggested prior knowledge of what was to happen. In his post on X, however, Lacson said his statement on the possibility of nine senators being incarcerated was a hypothetical statement in the context of determining the base number to compute the constitutional requirement of 2/3 vote of all senators actively participating or not in the impeachment trial. Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Monday said the case against Marcoleta was “for resolution” and they were about to file it. The case stemmed from the P75 million in gifts or donations that Marcoleta received from three people in January 2025 when he was a congressman. Lacson earlier voiced concern that the Supreme Court may need to intervene to address the possible “absurdity” of the impeachment court being reduced to a mere formality for acquittal if at least nine out of 24 senator-judges were hypothetically detained and suspended as in the case of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada. From the Palace, Press Officer Claire Castro said that if Marcoleta believes the justice system is working, he should allow it to resolve his plunder case through the law and not through a surprise rally. “He admitted that he received P75 million while he was a congressman. That’s what the case is all about,” Castro said during a press conference. “Our justice system is working. So, why don’t we let our justice system work and let the process work?” she said. JAVIER JOE ISMAEL, BERNADETTE TAMAYO AND CATHERINE VALENTE

- [INC lightning protest causes traffic gridlock](#) (2026-06-30 16:09)

THREE people were arrested and three policemen were injured during the surprise protest rally staged by the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) that paralyzed traffic flow along EDSA and streets around the People Power Monument in Quezon City. Thousands of INC members were bused to the monument along White Plains Avenue, arriving as early as 4 a.m. to protest the impending arrest of Sen. Rodante Marcoleta on plunder charges. Protesters used the buses to block the northbound lanes of EDSA, including the EDSA Carousel bus lane, causing massive traffic snarls across Metro Manila all day. A scuffle broke out between police and protesters when the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) ordered the arrest of a bus driver who was blocking the roadway. Among those arrested was a bus driver who refused to obey officers who told him to stop hitting a policewoman. Two others were arrested for punching police officers.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said it would file charges of direct assault against the suspects, who have yet to be identified. Col. Allen Rae Co, PNP spokesman, said police would “exhaust all possible peaceful means of dispersing [the crowds] and ensuring that the situation returns to normal.” About 6,000 personnel from the NCRPO, Central Luzon, Calabarzon and Mimaropa were deployed to monitor the crowd that had swelled to 10,000 before noon. Police were also sent to secure the Senate, Mendiola, Ayala Bridge, the US Embassy, Liwasang Bonifacio, and other identified locations, Co said. Earlier in the day, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) implemented road closures and traffic adjustments near the People Power Monument in Quezon City. An MMDA official said the protest organizers did not have a rally permit. The protesters had not dispersed by late afternoon Tuesday, and report said the Quezon City government granted them a permit to rally on Wednesday.

Rage over rally

The internet exploded with rage over the chaos caused by the INC rally. In a Facebook post, Akbayan reminded Filipinos Marcoleta had admitted receiving P75 million in donations and did not include these contributions in his election spending report. “Just a reminder: Marcoleta admitted the allegations against him. He is the strongest evidence against himself,” the opposition party-list said. Former lawmaker Gary Alejano said the protesters blocked EDSA intentionally and their intention was to protect Marcoleta and Vice President Sara Duterte, whose impeachment trial is due to start on Monday next week. “Can people legally shout and protest without disturbing others?” Alejano asked in Filipino. Political vlogger and activist Lovely Granada also expressed her anger toward the INC supporters. “You pretend to care for the struggles of the poor, but you’ve disrupted the lives of countless people who simply want to earn a living. You have every right to protest, but you do not have the right to make the public suffer even more. You are NOT above the law,” she wrote on Facebook. Social and behavior change specialist Vonn Tanchuan said the protests disrupted his morning routine. “Because of this ‘emergency rally’ by the Iglesia ni Cristo to defend a corrupt politician, many of us ordinary citizens are stranded here on EDSA. What would normally be a 30- to 40-minute trip to my destination in Mandaluyong has now turned into an hour and a half (and counting). It’s an enormous inconvenience,” Tanchuan wrote on Facebook. “I support — and have even joined — protests because they are essential to a functioning democracy. But when a ‘rally’ is used for something pointless, like defending crooks in government, it serves no meaningful purpose. It’s so early in the morning, and it’s incredibly frustrating,” he added. Lawyer Edward Chico from the Asian Center for Legal Excellence said the rally is a “crucible test” for the INC and the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “Whether or not the INC this time around can force Malacañang to drop the charges against Marcoleta or at the very least delay the preliminary investigation as regards his plunder case remains to be seen. It seems that the administration has already passed the proverbial point of no return where it couldn’t care less anymore about public perception and sentiment. 2028 is just around the corner. There is little time left to accomplish its political agenda,” Chico said on Facebook. The rally was joined by several anti-administration politicians such as former lawmaker Mike Defensor, who is also facing plunder charges, Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste and Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano. No threat

Despite the beefed up security, the Palace said President Marcos does not consider the unannounced rally a threat. Palace Press Officer Claire

Castro said Marcos has ordered maximum tolerance and decided to cancel his morning engagements to monitor the possible impact of the rally on the public and the economy. “The president is monitoring developments, not only for the Palace but also for the people affected and stranded in traffic because of this rally,” Castro said during a Palace press briefing. Castro said the surprise rally does not just affect Malacañang but the public whose daily travel to work, school, and even emergency vehicles was disrupted. She assured the public that the government is ready in case the INC decides to extend their rally on EDSA beyond Tuesday. “The president respects every person’s right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. However, the president does not condone any abuses committed under the guise of exercising these rights,” Castro said. Meanwhile, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he is confident that Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla would not cave in to the pressure from the INC rally in support of Marcoleta. Despite the traffic gridlock caused by Marcoleta’s supporters, the Philippine National Police (PNP) would maintain peace and order, he said. “Ombudsman Boying is tough as a Caviteño will always be. I trust that he won’t cave in to the INC rallies and pressure -- not today, not tomorrow and certainly not when Sen. Marcoleta’s plunder case is filed in court as earlier announced,” Lacson wrote on X. “His INC backers may block EDSA all they want and cause traffic jams and chaos to the discomfort of ordinary commuters. Surely, the PNP will be there to maintain peace and order,” he added. MRT, Busway still working Operations of the MRT-3 and EDSA Busway remained uninterrupted on Tuesday, as authorities intensified security and traffic management measures during the rally. Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez inspected key MRT-3 stations to assess the readiness of security personnel and ensure that train services would continue despite the large gathering along EDSA. Lopez, accompanied by MRT-3 General Manager Michael Capati, visited the North Avenue and Santolan stations, where he checked security arrangements and the deployment of personnel tasked with assisting commuters. EDSA Busway operations continued despite heavier traffic caused by the mass gathering.

- [Senate ready for impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-30 16:08)

THE Senate said it is ready to convene as an impeachment court for the trial of Vice President Sara Duterte on Monday, July 6. “The preparations are almost complete,” Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said, adding that Senate officials have been working closely with various agencies to ensure that all logistical, administrative, and security requirements are in place. Gatchalian said there are no plans to postpone the trial. The high-profile legal proceeding is expected to draw widespread public attention, with lawmakers, legal experts, political observers, and members of the diplomatic community closely monitoring the process. Gatchalian said security has been significantly enhanced inside and around the Senate complex. These include dry runs to regulate the movement of people and the use of designated access routes for senators, prosecution and defense teams, court personnel, members of the media, and visitors. The Senate will allow a limited number of observers to witness the proceedings, with the courtroom accommodating up to 150 members of the public, subject to security protocols and available seating. Media organizations are likewise expected to provide

extensive coverage of the proceedings, which are anticipated to become one of the country's most closely watched political events. Senators will serve as senator-judges tasked with hearing the evidence and ultimately deciding the impeachment case. Gatchalian said he is prepared to serve as presiding officer of the impeachment court and oversee the proceedings in accordance with constitutional provisions and the Senate's Rules of Procedure on Impeachment Trials. He noted that the impeachment trial is expected to run for seven to eight months, depending on the presentation of evidence, witness testimonies, motions filed by both parties, and other procedural matters. Under the 1987 Constitution, conviction in an impeachment trial requires the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all members of the Senate. A conviction would result in the removal of the impeached official from office and may also carry the penalty of perpetual disqualification from holding any public office, while an acquittal would allow the official to remain in office.

- [ICC clarifies Duterte assets freeze order](#) (2026-06-30 16:07)

GILBERT Andres, a lawyer representing victims of the drug war of former president Rodrigo Duterte, said the International Criminal Court's (ICC) order to freeze money connected to the former head of state does not cover his bank accounts but only cash and items taken from him at the time of his arrest. Andres, Victims' Common Legal Representative before the ICC, said public discussions about the court's action had resulted in a misunderstanding of the scope of the ICC Trial Chamber order. He said that based on the public redacted version of the defense filing dated June 26, 2026, the Trial Chamber granted the prosecution's request to freeze any money that had been seized from Duterte and directed the ICC Registry to prepare an inventory of items obtained from him upon his arrest. "The Trial Chamber granted the prosecution's request to freeze any money that had been seized and further ordered the Registry to provide an inventory of the items obtained from Mr. Duterte upon his arrest," Andres said, stressing that the order refers only to money physically in Duterte's possession when he was arrested. "It refers to the money that Mr. Duterte actually had with him. This is not a freeze order on any of Mr. Duterte's bank accounts. That is incorrect," Andres said. The amount and details of the money seized were not disclosed publicly.

- [Hontiveros denies call to ban online gaming](#) (2026-06-30 16:06)

SEN. Risa Hontiveros on Tuesday clarified that she never recommended or even thought about banning any online games, including Gorebox, which were being linked to violent behavior among the youth. The senator dismissed as fake news social media posts about her alleged proposal to ban online games. "There's no recommendation yet, or findings from the Senate Committee on Women because we are still to hold the hearing tomorrow (July 1)," Hontiveros wrote on Facebook. "So, wag pangunahan nung mga nag fake news over the weekend. Dun po tayo sa totoo (So, it should not be preempted by peddlers of fake news. Let's side with the truth)," she added. Hontiveros raised the need to hear the side of Gorebox's developer "because it seems, this NVE or nihilistic violent extremism, ang operation nito ([based on] its operation) there are malign actors who enter into the games." "They spot and target;

sinusubukan nilang kaibiganin ‘yung ilang mga batang naglalaro doon (they try to befriend some of the young players there),” she said. “And then apparently they lure them out of the gaming platform and on to other spaces like Messenger, as in the case of the [earlier] Roblox hearing. It is there where they groom the child to commit violence,” she added. “So, I would have wanted the Gorebox developer to be there,” Hontiveros said, referring to Felix Felip, who earlier declined the committee’s invitation to participate in the inquiry. She said that when the Department of Justice said that the case bears the markings of the possible influence of NVE.” The committee invited officials from the Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare and Development, the parents of the three students killed during the Tacloban school shooting, and the aunt of one of the shooters who owns the gun used by the suspect. “We invited the Game Developers Association of the Philippines, PNP Tacloban, and many others because this issue is very broad. It is about parental control; it is about gun access; there are many factors [in this case],” she said.

- [Children’s social media bill filed in House](#) (2026-06-30 16:05)

A BILL that seeks to penalize social media platforms that fail to comply with mandatory child online safety standards, including age verification, parental controls, and safeguards against harmful content, has been filed at the House of Representatives. House Bill 9965, or the Children’s Social Media Safety Act, was filed by Speaker Faustino Dy III and Majority Leader Rep. Ferdinand Alexander Marcos. Under the measure, social media platforms would be fined up to P50 million if they violate the law. The bill allows the government to temporarily restrict access to social media platforms in the Philippines or prohibit them from operating in the country in cases of repeated and serious violations, subject to due process. The measure would prohibit children below 13 years old from creating, maintaining, or using social media accounts. The bill aims to establish the country’s first comprehensive regulatory framework governing children’s access to and use of social media platforms and promote responsible, age-appropriate digital engagement through stronger safeguards, greater platform accountability, enhanced parental supervision and digital literacy. “In the digital age, this duty extends to ensuring that children are protected from risks arising from the use of social media and other digital platforms. At its core, this bill recognizes that every child deserves a safe environment to grow, learn and develop free from harm both in the physical and digital world,” the lawmakers said in the bill’s explanatory note. The bill will mandate social media platforms to implement reliable age verification systems, immediately disable prohibited accounts upon discovery, and adopt safeguards to prevent children from repeatedly creating new accounts to evade the prohibition.

- [Marcos says Korean vessel to boost Manila Bay rehab](#) (2026-06-30 16:03)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday said the deployment of the Korea-donated cleanup vessel MV Nilad would significantly improve the country’s capability to collect floating debris and respond to oil spills, key components in ongoing efforts to restore Manila Bay. In a speech during the inauguration of MV Nilad at South Harbor in Port Area, Marcos said the MV Nilad,

donated by the government of the Republic of Korea through the Korea International Cooperation Agency, would help accelerate Manila Bay's ecological recovery. "The MV Nilad is a working vessel built for real and urgent tasks. It can collect, sort, and store up to ten tons of marine litter in a single operation. It can operate for as much as 300 to 400 hours annually. It is equipped not only for waste retrieval but also for oil spill response and environmental monitoring," Marcos said in a speech delivered by Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez. "MV Nilad will also aid our research. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources personnel can conduct environmental monitoring and litter assessment, turning every cleanup operation into an opportunity to learn more about our bay," he added. The MV Nilad is a 101-ton, 25-meter-long vessel specifically designed for cleanup operations. It is equipped with specialized tools, including a trash skimmer to collect floating debris, a deck crane to handle and unload heavy waste, and an oil boom for rapid response to oil spills. The Nilad is part of a five-year, \$8.2-million partnership known as the Enhancement of Marine Litter Management (EMLM) in Manila Bay Project. The project aims to improve solid waste management, strengthen environmental protection mechanisms, and encourage behavioral change to lessen marine pollution. The MV Nilad will be jointly operated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Transportation, and Philippine Coast Guard under a memorandum of agreement to be signed during the inauguration. A crane-equipped truck provided under the project will also support the transport and handling of waste collected from coastal and marine cleanup activities. Marcos called on the DENR and the Philippine Coast Guard to "take care of MV Nilad so that it may continue to take care of Manila Bay." Marcos said that Manila Bay, despite being "an iconic body of water," remained one of the country's "most environmentally stressed water bodies." He said that floating plastics and marine debris have accumulated in its waters, threatening marine life, affecting the health of nearby communities, and disrupting economic activities that depend on a clean and safe environment. "For a long time, our government agencies have lacked a dedicated vessel capable of continuous marine litter collection, waste retrieval, and emergency oil spill response in Manila Bay," Marcos said. "I look forward to seeing clearer waters in Manila Bay for ourselves and our children, and a stronger friendship between our two nations in the years ahead," he added. According to the DENR, the project aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 14.1 on reducing marine pollution and the Philippine Development Plan's objective of building resilient and sustainable communities. It also supports the Philippines' Asean+3 commitment to strengthen regional integration, resilience, connectivity and sustainable growth. Results of the Marine Litter Monitoring Survey conducted by De La Salle University-Dasmariñas under the EMLM Project showed that more than 6.5 million litter items remain scattered along Manila Bay's 190-kilometer coastline, with a combined weight of more than 203,000 kilograms. Plastics accounted for 91 percent of the collected waste, consisting mainly of single-use packaging, sachets, plastic bags, beverage containers, and cigarette butts. The DENR said the 2024 survey recorded a 36 percent reduction in litter volume and a 42 percent decrease in total waste weight compared with 2023, indicating gains from sustained cleanup efforts and interagency cooperation.

- [Marcos receives credentials of new US ambassador](#) (2026-06-30 16:03)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday received the credentials of United States Ambassador to the Philippines Lee Lipton in Malacañang, officially welcoming the new diplomat and formalizing his deployment to the country. According to the Palace, Marcos and Lipton discussed shared priorities, including economic cooperation, defense and security, maritime affairs, regional developments and the Philippines' chairship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). The Philippines and the United States are treaty allies under the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty and have expanded cooperation in recent years through agreements covering defense, economic security, infrastructure, energy and people-to-people exchanges. Marcos also expressed optimism that the Philippines and the United States would continue expanding cooperation across strategic, economic and people-to-people initiatives. Lipton arrived in Manila on June 28. He replaced former US ambassador MaryKay Carlson. Prior to his appointment to the Philippines, Lipton served as chief of staff to the US Mission to the Organization of American States (OAS) beginning January 2025, where he helped lead American engagement on regional security concerns, including the situation in Haiti and efforts to counter malign foreign influence in the Western Hemisphere. US President Donald Trump confirmed Lipton's nomination in May. In a statement following his nomination, Lipton identified strengthening Philippine-US security cooperation as among his key priorities, alongside enhancing supply chains, advancing the Luzon Economic Corridor initiative, and promoting fair and transparent trade.

- [First lady brings rice aid to Valenzuela City](#) (2026-06-30 16:02)

FIRST lady Liza Araneta-Marcos' "Mula sa Puso para sa Pamilya" rice distribution program was rolled out in Valenzuela City on Tuesday, with a total target of 34,653 Valenzuelanos as beneficiaries. Araneta-Marcos, however, failed to show up at the People's Park amphitheater along MacArthur Highway, where 2,645 beneficiaries waited to see and mingle with her. Mayor Wes Gatchalian and his brother, 1st District Rep. Kenneth Gatchalian, said that the first lady was represented by San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora, Metro Manila Council president and national president of the League of Cities of the Philippines. The entire members of the city council, led by Vice Mayor Marlon Paulo Alejandrino and 2nd District Rep. Gerard Galang, were also in attendance at the distribution of 10-kilo rice packs to beneficiaries. Both Gatchalian and Zamora lauded the first couple's efforts and support for the Filipinos in times of crisis, including the distribution of rice packs. They shared the first lady's message of solidarity, compassion and hope as she has cited the importance of helping families meet their daily food needs. During her visits to at least three villages in Quezon City last week, where she led a similar program with Mayor Joy Belmonte, Araneta-Marcos expressed hope that the "modest assistance" would help ease the burden of the people in the days to come. Mayor Gatchalian said the rice distribution program was funded through the Local Government Support Fund, released by the Office of the President to the city government. Congressman Gatchalian said each beneficiary stands to receive a total of 40 kilos of rice as the program involves four tranches.

- [Cayetano asks SC to rule on June 3 session](#) (2026-06-30 16:02)

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano's minority bloc has reiterated its plea to the Supreme Court (SC) to nullify the June 3 session that eventually resulted in the change of Senate leadership. In a 15-page motion dated June 29, the petitioners argued that "the Senate special session on June 17 did not render the petition moot and academic." The erstwhile majority bloc, headed by Cayetano, asked the high court to declare the June 3 Senate proceedings null and void and to hold that these were undertaken without the constitutionally required quorum. "If these issues are not resolved at the earliest opportunity before the impeachment trial commences on July 6, 2026, the impact on the institutional integrity and practical workings of the Senate of the Philippines, both as the upper chamber of the Congress of the Philippines and as the impeachment court, is far-reaching," the group said. The then-minority group, now headed by Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, broke a three-day legislative deadlock by holding a plenary session on June 3 following the surprise appearance of Senator Chiz Escudero. With Escudero's decision to attend the session, a majority group was formed and elected Gatchalian as Senate President Pro Tempore and later as acting Senate President. During the June 17 session, the required 13-senator quorum was met, leading to the election of Gatchalian as Senate President. Cayetano and his group claimed that the subsequent election of Gatchalian on June 17 "neither erases nor retroactively cures the constitutional infirmities that have attended the rump session on June 3, 2026." "Ultimately, this case is not about who controls the Senate. Rather, it is about safeguarding the constitutional order from which all public authority derives and reaffirming to the Filipino people that no branch of government, however powerful or politically situated, is above the Constitution," the group added.

- [Metro Manila workers get P85 daily wage hike](#) (2026-06-30 16:01)

METRO Manila workers will receive the biggest minimum wage increase in the region's history after the government approved an P85 daily wage hike for private sector employees, Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino announced Tuesday. Tolentino said the wage adjustment will raise the minimum daily pay of non-agricultural workers from P695 to P780. Agricultural workers, meanwhile, will see their minimum wage increase from P658 to P743 per day. Tolentino described the wage order as a historic move, noting that it marks the highest wage increase ever granted to private sector workers in Metro Manila. The increase will be implemented in two tranches. The first tranche of P60 will take effect on July 19, 2026, while the remaining P25 will be implemented on Jan. 20, 2027. Tolentino said the wage hike was based on several economic factors, including inflation, rising electricity rates, increasing prices of basic goods, and the need to provide workers with a decent standard of living. He said the decision followed extensive studies and consultations involving employers, workers, and government representatives under the country's tripartite wage-setting mechanism. "Many factors were considered. There were consultations and studies involving the tripartite sectors — employers, employees, and government," Tolentino added. The Labor chief said the increase was a collegial decision of the National Wages and Productivity Commission and the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) for Metro Manila. "Many stakeholders did not expect the wage

adjustment process to be completed so quickly,” he said. For other regions, Tolentino said wage consultations remain ongoing, particularly in Regions 3 and 7, with authorities continuing to follow the prescribed process before issuing wage orders. The wage increase will also cover domestic workers in Metro Manila who currently receive minimum wage rates, as well as employees of small establishments, including those with 15 workers or fewer. Tolentino said around 1.1 million minimum wage earners in Metro Manila will directly benefit from the wage order. In addition, about 1.9 million workers earning above the minimum wage may benefit through wage distortion adjustments, collective bargaining agreements, and company-level wage negotiations triggered by the increase. ‘Historic but infuriating’ Organized labor criticized the P85 minimum wage increase, saying it falls far short of what employees need to cope with rising prices. The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), the country’s largest labor federation, took issue with Tolentino for calling the increase “historic,” saying it was “historic but infuriating” since workers have already lost hundreds of pesos in purchasing power due to inflation. It said the increase becomes even less meaningful because it will be implemented in two tranches rather than given in full immediately. The labor federation said workers should not have to wait months to receive the full adjustment amid continuing increases in the prices of food, electricity, transportation, and other essentials. According to TUCP, the issue is not the size of the increase alone but the government’s decision to portray it as a landmark achievement despite its limited impact on workers’ daily lives. The group made the statement on the same day that the House Committee on Labor and Employment held its first hearing on proposals seeking a legislated P200 nationwide wage increase. Lawmakers agreed to continue deliberations after the president’s upcoming State of the Nation Address (SONA) to finalize a substitute bill for committee approval and eventual plenary debate. TUCP also questioned Tolentino’s absence from the congressional hearing, suggesting that the labor chief chose instead to defend the regional wage board system. The labor group argued that the wage board mechanism has failed for decades to lift workers out of poverty and continues to create disparities between regions. It noted that workers in the Visayas and Mindanao are still waiting for possible wage adjustments, raising concerns about unequal treatment based on location. TUCP said the Metro Manila increase highlights what it described as the limitations of the current wage-setting system, especially since the highest increase it could produce was only P85 that will still be released in installments. The federation reiterated its call for Congress to pass a legislated P200 nationwide wage hike, arguing that a uniform increase would provide fairer and more meaningful relief to workers across the country. Business unhappy, too Business groups on Tuesday opposed the P85 wage hike for workers in Metro Manila. “The wage hike is too high,” said Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP). Ortiz-Luis said the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), who account for 90 percent of businesses, would be hurt by the wage hike. Faced with higher costs, these companies would lay off workers or close, he said. “That’s the effect,” he added in Filipino. This view was also echoed by the Management Association of the Philippines. “While businesses will respect and comply with the new wage order, many MSMEs will face additional cost pressures that could affect hiring, expansion, and pricing decisions,” MAP President Donald Lim told The Manila Times in a text message. “The

focus should now be on helping both workers and businesses by improving the ease of doing business, lowering logistics and energy costs, investing in skills and technology, and creating an environment where wage growth is driven by productivity rather than mandated increases alone,” Lim added.

- [Oman removes HIV certificate requirement for Filipino travelers](#) (2026-06-30 16:01)

FILIPINO travelers to Oman availing of the visa-free entry privilege for 14 days’ stay are no longer required to present a negative HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) medical certificate, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Tuesday. The DFA said Oman’s move “is a testament to the excellent relations between the Republic of the Philippines and the Sultanate of Oman.” The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAids) and the World Health Organization (WHO) support the Philippine government, its partners and communities in their urgent efforts to reverse the rising trend of HIV cases. Both agencies also support the Department of Health’s request for President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to sign an executive order that would declare HIV a high-priority public health concern, requiring urgent action from all levels of government and society. The Philippines has the fastest-growing number of HIV cases in the Asia-Pacific region, the WHO said. Around 252,800 Filipinos are estimated to be living with HIV in 2025, it added. “Every day this year, at least 57 Filipinos have found out they have HIV. The number of new HIV cases went up by 550 percent from 4,400 in 2010 to 29,600 in 2024,” the WHO said.

- [Legislation support sought for 'ube' industry](#) (2026-06-30 16:00)

PINOY Workers Rep. Karl Fernandez Legazpi proposed an inquiry in aid of legislation to strengthen the country's ube industry. Ube is widely regarded as a Philippine product and an important part of Filipino culinary heritage, even though the plant itself (*Dioscorea alata*, purple yam) is found elsewhere in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Ube “has gained increasing international recognition in recent years due to growing consumer demand for unique, visually distinctive, and value-added food products, resulting in expanding opportunities in global markets,” Legazpi said in a resolution filed on Monday. “Now, therefore, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the House Committee on Agriculture and Food to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the state of the Philippine ube industry, with the end in view of recognizing its cultural, agricultural, and economic significance, assessing its competitiveness in the global market, and identifying measures to strengthen the industry for the benefit of Filipino farmers and rural communities,” he said. The resolution, citing a Philippine Information Agency article, said the Department of Trade and Industry reported that the country's exports of ube reached about US\$3.06 million in 2025. The resolution added that the country's ube production fell to 12,483.31 metric tons in 2025 from over 15,000 metric tons in 2021, citing the Philippine Statistics Authority OpenSTAT website. The global ube market is currently estimated to be worth approximately \$455 million and is projected to reach \$1 billion by 2035, highlighting the growing potential of the industry. Ube production, Legazpi said, supports the livelihoods of farmers, workers, traders, processors, and small enterprises across the

agricultural value chain and presents growing opportunities for rural economic development and export growth.

- [Better healthcare for migrant workers pushed](#) (2026-06-30 16:00)

THE Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Migrant Workers signed a Memorandum of Understanding for better healthcare access for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families during the 2026 Migrant Workers' Health Summit in Quezon City on Tuesday. "This reflects our shared commitment to improve coordination, strengthen our service delivery, and ensure that the health and well-being of Filipino migrant workers remain a national priority," Health Secretary Ted Herbosa said during the summit. "Migration creates opportunities for millions of Filipinos, but it also presents unique health challenges, including occupational risks, communicable diseases, mental health concerns, and barriers to accessing health services," Herbosa added. Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac said OFWs deserve support not only when they are earning and sending money, but more so when they need help. Herbosa noted that the DOH's telemedicine services were meant to support the mental health of migrant workers. "So our psychiatrists from the National Center for Mental Health provide online psychosocial support," said Herbosa. The two-day summit provides free medical services for migrant workers, including screening for hypertension, diabetes, cancer, tuberculosis, and HIV, as well as nutrition assessments.

- [Ex-Abuyog vice mayor, son found dead in Southern Leyte](#) (2026-06-30 13:41)

TACLOBAN CITY — Former Abuyog Vice Mayor James Bohol and his son, Carlou James "Jimbo" Bohol, were found dead in Silago, Southern Leyte, on Tuesday. Abuyog Mayor Lemuel Gin Traya condemned the killings, saying such violence has no place in a community that values peace and security. Traya also expressed his condolences and assured the Bohol family of the local government's prayers and support during their time of grief. Police have yet to release details about the incident. Bohol, a businessman, had unsuccessfully sought re-election in this year's polls.

- [Marcos does not consider INC rally as 'threat' — Palace](#) (2026-06-30 13:16)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. does not consider the unannounced rally staged by the members of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) along EDSA People Power Monument in Quezon City as a "threat," Malacañang said Tuesday. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said Marcos has ordered maximum tolerance and decided to cancel his morning engagements to monitor the possible impact of the rally on the public and the Philippine economy. "In a way, he [Bongbong Marcos] was surprised. He was surprised that because Senator Marcoleta is being charged or is involved in a case, the brethren of the INC, our respected brethren, would already launch such a large rally, Castro said. "But still, the President is listening and respects them. His only request is that we all respect those who are affected, especially those who should not be affected. Castro said the surprise rally does not just affect Malacañang but the public whose daily travel to work, school, and even emergency vehicles were halted. She also assured the

public that the government is ready in case the INC will decide to extend their rally in EDSA beyond Tuesday.

- [Pinoys dream job? Virtual assistant — study](#) (2026-06-30 13:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Filipinos find being a virtual assistant as their top dream job, more than any other career, according to a research conducted by digital services provider Remitly. In previous research by Remitly in 2022 and 2024, Filipinos previously dreamed of becoming doctors. “The dream job in the Philippines is virtual assistant, followed by doctor and vlogger,” Remitly said in its key findings for the country. “The top 10 list of jobs Filipinos dream of shows a mix of traditional professions such as lawyer and doctor, and more modern careers within the digital space, such as vlogger, content creator and social media manager,” it added. Ranked from one to 10, the top 10 dream jobs for Filipinos are as follows: Virtual assistant, doctor, vlogger, lawyer, actor, astronaut, flight attendant, diplomat, content creator, and social media manager. The world’s top 10 dream jobs, ranked from one to 10, are as follows: Actor, pilot, firefighter, lawyer, YouTuber, veterinarian, flight attendant, police officer, estate agent, and disc jockey (DJ). Acting took the top spot for the first time in the Remitly dream career rankings, taking over from pilot which went to second place. “While careers like actor and pilot continue to rank among the world’s most aspirational jobs, it’s notable to see traditionally stable professions such as lawyer and veterinarian climbing the rankings this year. One trend emerging from the data is that people may be placing greater value on financial security. At the same time, dream-driven careers like DJ and YouTuber are also gaining popularity, suggesting many are still prioritizing passions,” Ryan Riley, Remitly vice president for European, Middle East and Africa and Asia Pacific, said in a statement. “Perhaps the most striking finding is the growing influence of artificial intelligence on career aspirations. Just three years ago, virtually no one was searching for roles like ‘Prompt Engineer.’ Today, AI-related careers are beginning to appear in the data, reflecting how quickly new technologies are reshaping the way people think about work. As AI continues to evolve, we expect this area of the study to change dramatically from year to year,” he added. Remitly said that the search volume was attributed to search data from Google from May of last year to May of this year. “Google search data was used to establish the annual search volume (May 2025 to May 2026) in each country for ‘how to be a [job]’ search terms associated with dreaming of a new job or career for every country in the world, searched in each country’s respective language,” Remitly said. “The most searched-for job was then used as the top career for the specific country. Not all countries provided enough search data to be featured, meaning we have analyzed data for 145 out of 195 countries... Having conducted this research first in 2022, then again in 2024, we have expanded the 2026 list of job titles from previous iterations. We compared the results to our previous analysis from 2024 to examine how the rankings have changed since then. Job titles that were not included in the 2024 research have been flagged wherever relevant to ensure comparisons have not been made,” it added. Remitly also said that data was correct as of June of this year.

- [Ombudsman says also fighting for accountability, will follow evidence](#) (2026-06-30 13:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Tuesday said it was also fighting for accountability and transparency and that it would follow the evidence, amid the Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) rally supporting Sen. Rodante Marcoleta. Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said on Monday that his office was about to file a plunder case against the senator. This was in connection with three amounts totaling P75 million that investigators said Marcoleta had accepted. "The placards we saw there, their battlecry now is accountability and transparency. . . If they are fighting for accountability and transparency, that is also what we in the Office of the Ombudsman are fighting for, that all who err will be held accountable by law", Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano said in Filipino and English on Tuesday. Clavano noted that in the Monday briefing, Remulla had mentioned not only the matter pertaining to Marcoleta but also others pertaining to other people. "I think it will show through our actions that we are not selective here. Evidence is there and we will always follow the evidence no matter what", Clavano said. Marcoleta had said in a post on Facebook that the complaint was "without evidence of public injury, official favor, corrupt consideration, or abuse of office".

- [EDSA still moderate to heavy traffic due to INC rally](#) (2026-06-30 12:54)

MANILA, Philippines — EDSA remained under moderate to heavy traffic on Tuesday evening as the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) rally continued near the People Power Monument in Quezon City. In a phone interview with The Manila Times, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said the northbound traffic tail end reached the area near the EDSA William Street crossing and extending up to White Plains Avenue. Traffic flow beyond White Plains Avenue toward Cubao remained normal, according to the agency. For the southbound lane, MMDA said the tail end of traffic was observed at Liberty Avenue before reaching Main Avenue, while the start of the traffic stretch was at EDSA Connecticut. The MMDA said the Philippine National Police (PNP) estimated the rally crowd at around 15,000 as of 8:06 p.m. MMDA personnel will continue to stay in the area until rally participants leave to help manage traffic flow.

- [Belgian officials in Manila for three-day visit to boost ties](#) (2026-06-30 12:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Maxime Prévot arrived in Manila on Tuesday for a three-day visit to further enhance ties between Belgium and the Philippines. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Prévot's visit comes after 33 years since the last visit of a Belgian foreign minister. The Philippines and Belgium celebrate this year the 80th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro and Prévot proposed a new cooperation in trade and investment, creative industries, science and technology, maritime, labor mobility, information and communications technology, and people to people exchanges. The DFA said they also exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues of mutual concern, including the Philippines' 2026 chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and developments in the Middle East and Europe. Belgium is the Philippines' 30th biggest trading partner in 2025, "with a full trade figure amounting to \$480.14 million," the DFA said. Belgium is also host to over 18,000 Filipinos.

- [INC secures rally permit for July 1](#) (2026-06-30 12:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City government approved a rally permit for Iglesia ni Cristo on July 1, 2026, police said on Tuesday. Maj. Jennifer Gannaban, Quezon City Police District spokesman, confirmed this to reporters in a text message. The permit allowed the religious group to hold their rally at EDSA White Plains up to Temple Drive, excluding the People Power Monument, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The permit also said that the number of participants would not exceed 100,000 and that the main stage should be 200 meters away from the People Power Monument. Acts of rebellion, insurrection, or sedition or any incitement are prohibited and permits authorities to disperse the crowd and apprehend offenders in accordance with the revised penal code.

- [Ateneo drowning case: Family explores supplemental legal options](#) (2026-06-30 11:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Despite the possibility that the number of persons of interest under investigation in the drowning of Ateneo de Manila University athletes may be reduced, a lawyer for the family of one of the victims said they would explore other legal remedies, including the filing of supplemental complaints against all respondents. Lawyer Israelito Torreon said they have yet to receive a copy of the case referred by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) before the Department of Justice recommending the filing of hazing charges against former Blue Eagles head coach Tab Baldwin and 10 others. Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Monday clarified his earlier statement, saying student managers, as well as utility / ball boys, could be dropped from the list of the accused and eventually become witnesses if their innocence could be proven. “I really could not comment fully, 'noh? I have not seen the complaint...” Torreon said in an ambush interview with reporters on Tuesday. “Be that as it may, it also opens for us a remedy... If certain respondents can still be withdrawn from the complaint then there is likewise no prohibition on our part to file a supplemental complaint, including certain persons whom we view uh to be likewise responsible for the incident,” Torreon said. He, however, emphasized that the filing of any supplemental complaint remained under study pending their review of the complaint. “Pero that would still be under study para makita muna namin 'yung complaint (so that we can first see the complaint),” he said. The family of Rene Baterbonia arrived at the CIDG on Tuesday to hear the full investigation report of the CIDG. Torreon, however, was not allowed to enter the conference room where the CIDG met the family.

- [INC protest leads to arrests, traffic disruption on EDSA](#) (2026-06-30 09:58)

MANILA, Philippines – Three people were arrested and three policemen were injured during a rally in Quezon City on Tuesday calling for “transparency and accountability” in government, which also paralyzed traffic flow along EDSA. Members of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) gathered at the People Power Monument (PPM) along White Plains Avenue in opposition to the filing of a plunder case against Sen. Rodante Marcoleta over an undisclosed P75 million campaign-related fund. Marcoleta was one of several candidates supported by the INC in the last 2025 senatorial elections. Among those arrested was a bus driver who refused to listen to authorities telling him

to stop hitting a policewoman while two others were arrested for punching police officers. The Philippine National Police (PNP) is looking at filing charges of direct assault against the suspects who have yet to be identified. Rallyists were also called out for blocking roads that snarled traffic along EDSA. Col. Allen Rae Co, PNP spokesman, said in Filipino that they were apprised of the protesters' plans but assured the public that the PNP would "exhaust all possible peaceful means of dispersing and ensuring that the situation returns to normal." About 6,000 personnel from the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), Central Luzon, Calabarzon and Mimaropa were deployed to monitor the crowd that had swelled to 10,000 before noon. Apart from the EDSA Shrine, the Senate of the Philippines, Mendiola, Ayala Bridge, the US Embassy, Liwasang Bonifacio, and other identified locations were also secured by the PNP. Co told reporters that the commanders on the ground were coordinating with those conducting the protest. Earlier in the day, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) implemented road closures and traffic adjustments near the People Power Monument in Quezon City. The MMDA said the affected roads include the EDSA Ortigas Service Road northbound, EDSA Ortigas Flyover northbound and southbound, and White Plains Avenue eastbound and westbound. The agency reported moderate to slow-moving traffic along EDSA southbound from Scout Borromeo to Ortigas Split, while EDSA northbound from Guadalupe to White Plains was also experiencing delays. MMDA said one lane was occupied by vehicles parked by rally participants, affecting traffic flow in the area. Motorists were advised to expect delays and take alternate routes whenever possible, while MMDA personnel remained deployed on site to manage traffic.

- [Pinoys voice anger over INC protest](#) (2026-06-30 09:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The internet exploded with rage amid the ongoing protest led by religious group Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) on Tuesday. In a Facebook post, Akbayan reminded Filipinos of Sen. Rodante Marcoleta's admission of the allegations against him. "Just a reminder: Marcoleta admitted the allegations against him. He is the strongest evidence against himself," the opposition party-list said. Former lawmaker Gary Alejandro said the protesters blocked EDSA intentionally and their intention was to protect Marcoleta and Vice President Sara Duterte, whose impeachment trial is due to start on Monday next week. "Can people legally shout and protest without disturbing others?" Alejandro asked in Filipino. Political vlogger and activist Lovely Granada also expressed anger toward the INC supporters. "You pretend to care for the struggles of the poor, but you've disrupted the lives of countless people who simply want to earn a living. You have every right to protest, but you do not have the right to make the public suffer even more. You are NOT above the law," she wrote on Facebook. According to Social and Behavior Change Specialist Vonn Tanchuan, the protests disrupted his morning routine. "Because of this 'emergency rally' by the Iglesia ni Cristo to defend a corrupt politician, many of us ordinary citizens are stranded here on EDSA. What would normally be a 30- to 40-minute trip to my destination in Mandaluyong has now turned into an hour and a half (and counting). It's an enormous inconvenience," Tanchuan wrote on Facebook. "I support—and have even joined—protests because they are essential to a functioning

democracy. But when a ‘rally’ is used for something pointless, like defending crooks in government, it serves no meaningful purpose. It’s so early in the morning, and it’s incredibly frustrating,” he added. Lawyer Edward Chico from the Asian Center for Legal Excellence said the rally was a “crucible test” for the INC and the current administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “Whether or not the INC this time around can force Malacanang to drop the charges against Marcoleta or at the very least delay the preliminary investigation as regards his plunder case remains to be seen. It seems that the administration has already passed the proverbial point of no return where it couldn’t care less anymore about public perception and sentiment. 2028 is just around the corner. There is little time left to accomplish its political agenda,” Chico said on Facebook. The rally of the INC started around 4 a.m. on Tuesday and was attended by several politicians such as former lawmaker Mike Defensor, Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste and Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano.

- [Taal Volcano erupts](#) (2026-06-30 09:29)

MANILA, Philippines – A minor phreatomagmatic eruption occurred at the main crater of the Taal Volcano on Tuesday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said. In a bulletin posted on its Facebook page, Phivolcs said that the eruption happened at 2:34 p.m. and lasted for four and a half minutes based on seismic, infrasound and visual observations. Phivolcs recorded “three pulses that produced jets of dark gray ash and steam-rich plumes that rose 1,200 meters above the crater.” The agency also said the Alert Level 1 prevailed over the volcano. Earlier in the day, the Phivolcs reported a mild burst at about 7:13 a.m. According to Phivolcs, phreatomagmatic eruption occurs when magma interacts with water, causing explosive events that produce a mix of steam, ash, and fragmented volcanic materials. On one hand, a phreatic eruption happens when water comes into contact with hot volcanic materials (either rocks or gases), producing steam, ash and sometimes fragmented volcanic materials, the agency explained.

- [Hontiveros clarifies: 'I never recommended' banning online games](#) (2026-06-30 09:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros on Tuesday clarified that she has “never recommended” or even thought about banning any online games, including Gorebox, which were being linked to violent behavior among the youth. The senator dismissed as fake news social media posts about her alleged proposal to ban online games. “Wala pang recommendation, ni findings na lumalabas sa (There’s no recommendation yet, or findings from the) Senate Committee on Women because we are still to hold the hearing tomorrow (July 1),” Hontiveros wrote on Facebook. “So, wag pangunahan nung mga nag fake news over the weekend. Dun po tayo sa totoo (So, it should not be preempted by peddlers of fake news. Let’s side with the truth),” she added. But Hontiveros raised the need to hear the side of Gorebox’s developer “because it seems, this NVE or nihilistic violent extremism, ang operation nito ([based on] its operation) there are malign actors who enter into the games.” “So, I would have wanted the Gorebox developer to be there,” she said, referring to Felix Felip who declined the committee’s invitation to participate in the inquiry.

- [Metro Manila workers get record P85 daily wage increase](#) (2026-06-30 04:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Private sector workers in Metro Manila will receive a record P85 daily wage increase, the largest ever approved in the National Capital Region, Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino announced on Tuesday. The wage adjustment will raise the minimum daily pay of non-agricultural workers from P695 to P780. Agricultural workers, meanwhile, will see their minimum wage increase from P658 to P743 per day. Tolentino described the wage order as a historic move, noting that it marks the highest wage increase ever granted to private sector workers in Metro Manila. The increase will be implemented in two tranches. The first tranche, amounting to P60 per day, will take effect on July 19, 2026. The remaining P25 per day increase will be implemented on Jan. 20, 2027.

- [New Calax segment opens, to benefit 50,000 daily travelers](#) (2026-06-30 04:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Travel between Cavite and Laguna will become faster, cheaper, and more convenient following the opening of Governor' s Drive exit along the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (Calax). The newly opened 7.8-kilometer section connects Aguinaldo Highway in Silang, Cavite to Governor' s Drive in General Trias, creating a more direct route for motorists traveling across Southern Luzon. Public Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon on Tuesday described the project as a major boost to regional connectivity, helping improve the movement of people, goods, and services between Cavite, Laguna, and Metro Manila. Dizon said the new segment significantly reduces travel time, cutting trips that previously took much longer to approximately 30 minutes. "For those working in Taguig or BGC and living in Cavite, Calax is now the route to take. It' s a huge relief," Dizon said. The opening of Governor' s Drive exit further expands Calax' s role as a critical transport corridor linking key residential, commercial, and industrial hubs in the region.

- [No Filipinos affected, so far, in France heatwave](#) (2026-06-30 02:53)

MANILA, Philippines — There were no Filipinos affected by the heatwave in France, Philippine Ambassador to Paris Eduardo Jose de Vega said on Tuesday. The Philippine Embassy in Paris last week advised the Filipinos to exercise caution amid the "unprecedented heatwave" sweeping across the country. "Pinakamainit na naramdaman ko sa buhay ko [eh] dito, for the past several days (It was here that I experienced the hottest days in my life)," de Vega said in a radio interview. "[Ang] Maganda rito walang naapekto na Pilipino so far (The good thing about it was that no Filipino was affected [by the extreme heat]," he added. The embassy said exposure to high temperatures posed a significant risk to everyone and particularly to the most vulnerable: the elderly, young children, pregnant women, people with disabilities or chronic diseases or those taking certain medications and people in precarious situations. Dizziness, malaise, muscle cramps, dehydration are among the effects of the heatwave, the embassy said in an advisory on June 18. Unless avoidable, stay indoors and keep hydrated, in cases where going out cannot be avoided, make sure to wear light clothing providing proper ventilation, carry water, wet wipes or towel, and other items that may help provide relief. The embassy advised Filipinos to protect themselves from the heatwave by staying cool, drinking water, and avoiding high-caffeine

beverages such as coffee, tea, or high-sugar beverages such as sodas."Wet your body, close shutters and windows, favor soft activities, eat fresh and balanced, avoid alcohol, and avoid crowded and poorly ventilated areas," it added.

- [MRT-3 remains fully operational amid Iglesia ni Cristo rally at EDSA](#) (2026-06-30 02:50)

MANILA, Philippines — All stations of the MRT-3 remained open and fully operational on Tuesday, despite the ongoing Iglesia ni Cristo rally at the Edsa People Power Monument, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) said. In an advisory, the DOTr said MRT-3 stations from North Avenue to Taft Avenue continued to serve commuters as personnel and security teams were deployed across the line to maintain order and ensure passenger safety. “Despite the ongoing Iglesia ni Cristo rally at the Edsa People Power Monument, all MRT-3 stations—from North Avenue to Taft Avenue—remain open and fully operational to serve our commuters,” the agency said. The DOTr added that its station personnel and security teams were closely monitoring operations to keep train services running smoothly amid the expected increase in commuter activity in the area. The agency reminded passengers to cooperate with authorities and follow safety measures while using the rail line.

- [Rallyists pose traffic, security concerns at People Power Monument in Quezon City](#) (2026-06-30 02:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Members of the Iglesia ni Cristo gathered at the People Power Monument in Quezon City on Tuesday in support of a senator it helped win in the last elections and who is now facing arrest for plunder. The INC rally has become a security and traffic concern in the area. As of 9 a.m., the number of people swelled to 9,000 with 900 police officers deployed, Maj. Gen. Anthony Aberin, National Capital Region Police Office Regional director, said. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on Tuesday, reaffirmed its commitment to protecting the constitutional right of Filipinos to peacefully assemble and express their views. In a statement, the agency said it instructed the PNP to exercise maximum tolerance while implementing security and traffic management measures in coordination with local authorities to maintain public safety and minimize disruptions during the activity. The DILG called on rally participants and other stakeholders to exercise their rights responsibly, follow existing laws, and cooperate with authorities deployed to manage the event. The department said it would continue to balance the protection of public safety with the need to uphold the constitutional freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly. THE INC threw its support behind Sen. Rodante Marcoleta in the 2025 national elections. Marcoleta is facing arrest allegedly for plunder.

- [Lacson calls out Marcoleta for linking impending arrest to impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-30 01:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson called out Sen. Rodante Marcoleta for claiming that his impending arrest over plunder charges was linked to the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. Marcoleta on Tuesday claimed that the case against him had long been

planned, citing Lacson's remarks weeks earlier that nine more senators could be arrested and jailed. "It's gaslighting time once more," Lacson wrote on X in reaction to Marcoleta's accusation. "The mention of nine senators being possibly incarcerated was a hypothetical statement in the context of determining the base number to compute the constitutional requirement of 2/3 vote of all senators actively participating or not in the impeachment trial," Lacson said. Marcoleta on Facebook said the plunder case that the Office of the Ombudsman was preparing to file against him before the Sandiganbayan was aimed at stopping him from exposing corruption and taking part in the impeachment trial which starts on July 6. Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said the case against Marcoleta was "for resolution" and they were "about to file it already." The case stemmed from the P75 million in gifts or donations that Marcoleta received from three individuals in January 2025 when he was a congressman. Meanwhile, the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) questioned the charges against Marcoleta. In a statement on news channel NET25 also on Tuesday, INC spokesman Edwil Zabala said in Filipino why the senator should be "prosecuted and jailed" when he was the one "responsible for exposing the victims of the biggest robbery in the Philippines." "How did the acceptance of campaign contribution become plunder?" he added.

- [LPA set to become a tropical depression, to hit Southern Luzon, Visayas](#) (2026-06-29 22:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The state-run weather agency reiterated on Tuesday that the low pressure area (LPA) off Masbate has a big chance to intensify into a tropical cyclone anytime of the day and is forecast to hit Southern Luzon and the Visayas. Weather specialist Chenel Dominguez of Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) chief, said the LPA was estimated to be over the coastal waters of San Pascual, Masbate. Once it develops into a tropical depression it would be named 'Henry' and Signal No. 1 would be immediately raised over areas in Southern Luzon and the Visayas, Dominguez said during a 5 a.m. briefing. The LPA, she said, has already been affecting Metro Manila, Visayas, CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), Bicol Region, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, and Romblon where cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms would prevail. The Pagasa forecaster warned that flash floods or landslides due to moderate to heavy rains would be possible in these areas. Meanwhile, the southwest monsoon or 'habagat,' which has been on its weakening stage, is only affecting Palawan at which overcast skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms would be likely. The rest of the country, according to the national weather bureau, would be experiencing partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to the localized thunderstorms.

- [Unidentified rally group occupies EDSA area, MMDA closes White Plains amid traffic disruption](#) (2026-06-29 22:13)

MANILA, Philippines — An unidentified group of around 500 rallyists in about 30 vehicles occupied portions of EDSA and White Plains Avenue early Tuesday, prompting the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to temporarily close roads and manage traffic in the area. According to the MMDA, the group marched from EDSA-Corinthian northbound to

EDSA-White Plains northbound at around 3:48 a.m. Police were deployed to maintain peace and order, while MMDA personnel managed traffic. White Plains Avenue, in both eastbound and westbound directions, was temporarily closed to motorists as of 5:15 a.m. due to the ongoing rally. By 5:40 a.m., the MMDA said the tail end of the procession had reached EDSA-Reliance northbound and EDSA-Kamuning Flyover southbound. Motorists were advised to expect traffic delays and take alternate routes whenever possible.

- [EDSA-White Plains closed to traffic due to large gathering](#) (2026-06-29 21:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Authorities have closed both directions of EDSA-White Plains to motorists because of a large gathering near the EDSA People Power Monument. It remains unclear who the participants are or what they are protesting. This is a developing story

- [PBBM inaugurates new RMFB headquarters in Sulu to boost peace and security](#) (2026-06-29 19:23)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday led the inauguration of Camp Hadji Suod B. Tan, the new headquarters of the Regional Mobile Force Battalion (RMFB) 9B in Maimbung, Sulu, as part of the government's commitment to strengthening peace and security efforts in the province. Named after the former mayor of Maimbung, the camp is built on a 1.8-hectare property donated by the Sulu provincial government in 2021, the camp features a four-story administration building, barracks, a firing range, and support facilities to enhance the battalion's operational readiness. Construction began in February 2024. It will likewise serve as the permanent base of RMFB 9B, the Philippine National Police's mobile reaction force responsible for operations in Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Isabela City. The commander-in-chief witnessed the turnover of 195 voluntarily surrendered high-powered firearms from Sulu's municipalities, highlighting the government's campaign against loose firearms. He also inspected the camp's facilities and received a handcrafted Tausug kris as a symbol of the province's rich cultural heritage. Sulu Governor Abdusakur A. Tan II, Vice Governor Abdusakur M. Tan, Maimbung Mayor Shihla Tan-Hayudini, all 19 municipal mayors, and military and police officials joined the inauguration. Following the event, President Marcos proceeded to Camp Gen. Teodulfo Bautista in Jolo to visit the headquarters of the Army's 11th Infantry Division before continuing his engagements in Zamboanga City.

- [Grade 10 student in Batangas threatens to shoot at school for being bullied - PNP](#) (2026-06-29 18:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Just a week after the tragic school shooting in Tacloban, Leyte, an anonymous Grade 10 student from a public school in Batangas City threatened to shoot at students because of being bullied, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Monday. The threat was received through the school's social media page late Sunday night, prompting the management to suspend classes on Monday, PNP public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co said in a press briefing in Camp Crame. “Saksak at baril ko kayo mga Grade 78910. Holan niyo kung kelan aha.hahahaha. Ako ay Grade 10. Binubully niyo ako ha.” and barelan tau bukas,

Patay kayo sakin,” the exact post of the student who remains anonymous as of writing. (I will stab and shoot you Grades 7,8,9 and 10. Guess when? [laughs] I am a Grade 10 [student] You are bullying me, let's shoot each other tomorrow. You will pay.) “It was read by one of the advisers of the school and tagged as a threatening message... So, they suspended classes. Our police officers went to the school immediately to coordinate with them to check the veracity of this report,” he explained. Co said the post is now under investigation by the Anti-Cybercrime Group to identify the individual who posted the message who could be using a fictitious name to avoid detection. Not funny anymore Co mentioned that certain rumors came out that the threat was just a prank by some students trying to avoid examinations or some just copying the Tacloban shooting. “Sa unang tingin po talagang maiisip natin na copycat. Pwede pa ngang may nagsasabi, baka meron lang exam na 'di ba, uh, non napuno 'to ng mga bomb threats, etc. na para lang hindi mag-exam, hindi nakapag-aral siguro,” Co said. (At first glance, we might really think it's a copycat case. Some people might even say that maybe there was just an exam, right? There have been so many bomb threats and similar incidents that were made just to avoid taking an exam—perhaps because someone didn't study.) “But it's not funny anymore, 'di ba? ' Di na nakakatawa. Nakakalungkot na 'yung ganito, lalo na kung 'yun lang naman ang ano,” Co said. (But it's not funny anymore, right? It's no longer something to laugh about. It's sad that things have come to this, especially if that's the only reason behind it.)

- [Imee Marcos raises need to strengthen security in schools](#) (2026-06-29 17:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Imee Marcos raised the need to strengthen security in schools, including the installation of more closed circuit televisions (CCTVs) and metal detectors, following the series of violent incidents involving young students. She deplored the shooting incident at the San Jose National High School in Tacloban City on June 22 which led to the killing of three students and the separate stabbing incidents in schools in Cavite. “Bilang isang Waray, masakit ito para sa akin {As a Waray, it saddened me},” Marcos said in a statement. The senator's mother, former first lady Imelda Marcos hails from Tacloban City, “We should ask whether there is enough security [in schools]. There is a need to study a stricter screening, installation of CCTV, clearer emergency protocols, and if budget permits, set up metal detectors or conduct bag inspection,” she said. “Dapat sana nag-eensayo ang mga bata para sa parada sa piyesta, pero nauwi sa trahedya (The children were supposed to have been practicing for the fiesta's parade but it led to tragedy),” she said. “Hindi ko matanggap na mga bata ang biktima, tapos mga menor de edad din ang may gawa (I can't accept that the victims are young, and the perpetrators are minors also),” Marcos added. Sen. Raffy Tulfo on Monday echoed Marcos' proposal as he welcomed the directive of Education Secretary Sonny Angara to implement school safety measures nationwide, including the use of hand-held metal detectors and installation of CCTVs. “Bagama't umakasyon na ang DepEd (Department of Education), ang tanong ay 'bakit ngayon lang' (Although the DepEd already acted [on the matter], the question was, 'why only now')?,” Tulfo asked. “Dati ko pang iminungkahi ang mga ito. Pero bakit kinailangan pang maraming buhay ang masayang bago sila kumilos (I've been proposing these [measures] before. But why wait for lives to be lost before they would act)?” he added.

- [Women’ s group urges stricter laws after spread of AI-generated images of content creator](#) (2026-06-29 17:37)

MANILA, Philippines — A women’ s rights group called for stricter policies on artificial intelligence, following the viral AI-generated images of content creator Lans spread online. In a statement on Monday, Gabriela Women’ s Party said the incident highlights the need for a “broader conversation on consent, accountability, and the responsible use of artificial intelligence.” “Whatever the intention of the content creator who spread the images was, AI should not be used to manipulate the image of a person without their consent,” the group stated. Gabriela is calling for the immediate passage of the expanded Safe Spaces Act, which covers AI and other emerging technologies that propagate gender-based online sexual harassment.

- [PH urges concerned parties to remain committed to peace in the Middle East](#) (2026-06-29 17:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines, through the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), has urged concerned parties to “remain committed” to the initial peace agreement between the United States and Iran. In a statement, the DFA on Monday said the Philippines is “gravely concerned” with the recent developments in the Strait of Hormuz and the reported attacks in the Middle East, “We continue to urge all involved parties pursue constructive dialogue in finding a negotiated diplomatic solution to the conflict, as well as refrain from actions that could undermine the progress of the peace talks,” the DFA said.

- [NAMFREL calls for stronger law to keep dynasties, contractors out of Party-List System](#) (2026-06-29 17:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Election watchdog National Citizens’ Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) has thrown its support behind proposed party-list reform measures in Congress, saying the system intended to empower marginalized sectors has instead been captured by political dynasties, wealthy elites, and vested interests. For more than four decades, NAMFREL said it has witnessed how the seats intended for farmers, fisherfolk, laborers, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and the urban poor and other marginalized sectors have often been occupied by individuals linked to political dynasties, government contractors, and wealthy families. “This long-standing distortion must end,” it added as it expressed its support to House Bill (HB) 9906 and Senate Bill (SB) 2090 as a significant step toward restoring the integrity of the party-list system. The group expressed belief that both proposed measures contained the needed reform reforms that would strengthen representation for marginalized sectors before the next election cycle. HB 9906, filed by House Speaker Faustino Dy III and identified as a Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) priority measure, seeks to reorganize the party-list system into Sectoral, Advocacy, and Regional categories. The House measure also proposes disqualifying nominees connected to political dynasties, government contractors, incumbent public officials, and former defeated candidates. Meanwhile, SB 2090, authored by a bipartisan group of senators including Vicente Sotto III, Ronald dela Rosa, Imee

Marcos, Paolo Benigno Aquino IV, Risa Hontiveros, Loren Legarda, Joseph Victor Ejercito, Francis Pangilinan and Robin Padilla, reserves half of all party-list seats for traditionally marginalized sectors. The Senate proposal also requires nominees to genuinely belong to and represent the sectors they claim to serve. NAMFREL stressed that the two measures are complementary rather than conflicting and urged the Bicameral Conference Committee to merge them into a stronger, unified reform law. Among its recommendations, the watchdog called for expanding the proposed anti-dynasty provision to cover relatives of all incumbent elected officials, not just members of Congress.

- [Plunder charge poised vs Marcoleta, Defensor](#) (2026-06-29 16:23)

(UPDATE) THE Office of the Ombudsman is set to file a plunder case against Sen. Rodante Marcoleta before the Sandiganbayan over his failure to declare P75 million in campaign donations, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said Monday. “We’re about to file it already,” Remulla said, as he confirmed that former lawmaker Mike Defensor and others would be included. On May 18, Ombudsman field investigators filed a complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman against four people. The investigators alleged in the complaint that Marcoleta’s acceptance of donations amounting to P75 million on three separate occasions when he was still a congressman constituted the crime of plunder. “Aside from the lack of a clear purpose or pending transaction for which the amounts received may be a consideration, there is no showing that the gifts would still be given were it not for respondent’s position on government. Hence it cannot be denied that the P75 million was given by respondents Defensor, [Joseph] Espiritu, and [Aristotle] Viray by reason of respondent Marcoleta’s office,” the investigators said. Aside from plunder, Marcoleta faces charges of indirect bribery and violations of Presidential Decree 46, which prohibits gift-giving to public officers. Both Defensor and Marcoleta have denied the charges. “There was no illegal act, no corrupt transaction, no favor sought, and absolutely no conspiracy to commit any crime,” Defensor said. Marcoleta said in a post on Facebook that the complaint was “without evidence of public injury, official favor, corrupt consideration, or abuse of office.” The investigators cited donor’s tax returns and deposit slips in saying that Marcoleta received P30 million on Jan. 6, 2025 from Defensor and P25 million on Jan. 8, 2025 from Espiritu. He then received P20 million on Jan. 9, 2025 from Viray. The Sandiganbayan last month granted the Office of the Ombudsman’s request to issue a precautionary hold departure order against Marcoleta, Defensor, and businessmen Espiritu and Viray. The Commission on Elections earlier investigated the campaign donations obtained by Marcoleta, which he failed to disclose in his statement of contributions and expenditures in January 2025. But the poll body cleared him of election violations, saying because the donations were received before the campaign period.

- [Impeachment court issues pre-trial order](#) (2026-06-29 16:22)

(UPDATE) THE Senate, sitting as Impeachment Court, on Monday released the pre-trial order (PTO) containing the guidelines for the trial of Vice President Sara Duterte on July 6. The PTO contained the trial dates and the key points of the recently concluded pre-trial conference

during which the defense and prosecution teams marked their respective evidence. “Released to the parties by electronic mail. Printed copies to be hand delivered [to the concerned parties],” Senate Secretary Renato Bantug Jr. said in a text message. Bantug, also the impeachment court’s clerk of court, said the PTO was emailed to the defense team at 5:23 p.m. and the prosecution team a minute later. Bantug on Sunday said the Senate premises will be open to the public for those who would want to watch the impeachment trial, which is set start on July 6, as some seats would be allocated to the public. Walk-ins are allowed but they need to register at the Senate’s Visitor Management. Reservations can be made online, he said. However, Bantug said the plenary hall has limited seating capacity, with only 340 in the gallery and 30 at the VIP box. More prosecutors House prosecutors, meanwhile, announced that former Supreme Court spokesman Theodore Te and three other seasoned lawyers would join the private prosecution panel. Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima, a member of the prosecution team, identified the others as Reynaldo Robles, Arnold Labay, and Mae Divinagracia. Te has argued major constitutional and human rights cases before the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, de Lima said. Robles, who finished in 10th place in the 1990 bar exams, has experience in criminal and civil litigation, corporate law, election law, labor, taxation and public-private partnership work. Labay has decades of litigation practice under his belt. Divinagracia has handled commercial, civil and criminal litigation, arbitration, product liability, corporate rehabilitation, intra-corporate disputes, labor and family law. House prosecutors also named former lawmaker Ace Barbers as an additional spokesman and as impeachment adviser. “He (Barbers) brings to the team decades of legislative experience, a strong record in public accountability work, and a clear, direct communication style that will help explain the impeachment process and its significance to the Filipino people,” de Lima said. Police are ready The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday said they are ready with their security deployment to ensure safety within Senate premises as the impeachment trial approaches. “We will be deploying appropriate number of personnel to ensure the peaceful conduct of the impeachment trial,” PCol. Allen Rae Co, PNP spokesman said in a briefing at Camp Crame on Monday. “We’ve also closely coordinated with the Senate and other concerned agencies to ensure there will be no problem,” Co added. The PNP said it is up to the Senate leadership to decide if it wants to have police personnel inside the premises. As of this time, Co said they have not monitored any threat. Co also said the PNP said it will have to enforce the arrest warrant on Sen. Ronald dela Rosa should he decide to appear at the Senate during the impeachment trial. After six months in hiding, dela Rosa appeared at the Senate on May 11 to cast his vote in favor of the change in Senate leadership. Duterte is set to stand trial before the Senate as an impeachment court to face allegations of misusing public funds, amassing unexplained wealth, bribing public officials and threatening the life of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

- [Schools install CCTV, use metal detectors](#) (2026-06-29 16:21)

THE Department of Education (DepEd) on Monday welcomed the efforts of local government units (LGUs) and private partners to heighten security in public schools nationwide, following

the deadly June 22 shooting at the San Jose National High School in Tacloban City. The department has launched a nationwide School Safety Campaign, following the incident reports of school violence in public schools across the country. Education Secretary Sonny Angara thanked those behind the external funding of upgraded security equipment like closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and metal detectors. Angara issued the statement after a school safety inspection at Alfonso Castañeda National High School in Nueva Vizcaya. Other senior DepEd officials also conducted parallel school inspections and localized evaluations across different regions. In Eastern Visayas, the Tacloban Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce Inc. pledged to donate 20 metal detectors to the Tacloban City Schools Division Office (SDO) following the shooting incident at the San Jose National High School. The Maasin City LGU, meanwhile, passed a resolution to purchase metal detectors for its high schools and large campuses, while its parent-teacher associations (PTAs) donated one metal detector to Cabadiangan Elementary School and three metal detectors and four CCTV cameras to Maasin Central School. The Zamboanga Peninsula region also logged donations, including six metal detectors across various campuses in the Schools Division Office (SDO)-Dipolog City, from individual benefactors and the Brgy. Estaka Council. The Aboitiz company also donated four CCTV units to Mabini Elementary School in SDO Zamboanga Sibugay. In Iriga City, the Iriga Central School PTA raised P100,000 to install 24 CCTV cameras with a monitoring system. In SDO Catanduanes, Panganiban National High School acquired four CCTV units worth P32,000, while Magnesia National High School installed four CCTV units funded under the Special Education Fund (SEF). In Binmaley, Pangasinan, the LGU pledged to allocate metal detectors for all local schools, while Malolos City provided public schools with handheld metal detectors. Similar plans are underway to seek funding for handheld metal detectors for public school security guards through the local school board in Cebu City. In Metro Manila, Marikina City said it will provide metal detectors in public and private schools and increase police and Office of Public Safety and Security (OPSS) personnel deployment as part of strengthened campus security measures. Mayor Marjorie Ann Teodoro announced the additional interventions on Monday, after inspecting several of the city's large public schools to assess existing security measures. Teodoro said police officers and OPSS personnel were already assigned in schools even before the recent incidents were reported, but the city government wants to further strengthen their presence to reassure parents. Aside from metal detectors, the city government will deploy additional police personnel and roving police officers in private schools in coordination with the Marikina Private Schools Association Inc. Another threat just a week after the school shooting in Tacloban, Leyte, an anonymous Grade 10 student from a public school in Batangas City threatened to shoot at students because of bullying, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Monday. The threat was received through the school's social media page late Sunday night, prompting the management to suspend classes on Monday, PNP public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co said in a press briefing in Camp Crame. "Saksak at baril ko kayo mga Grade 7, 8, 9, 10. Holan niyo kung kelan aha. hahahaha. Ako ay Grade 10. Binubully niyo ako ha. and barelan tau bukas, Patay kayo sakin (I will stab and shoot you Grades 7, 8, 9 and 10. Guess when? [laughs] I am a Grade 10 [student] You are bullying me, let's shoot each other tomorrow. You will pay)," the post said. "It was read by one of the advisers of the school and

tagged as a threatening message.... So, they suspended classes. Our police officers went to the school immediately to coordinate with them to check the veracity of this report,” he said. Co said the post is now under investigation by the Anti-Cybercrime Group to identify the person who posted the message who could be using a fictitious name to avoid detection. The school said classes would resume Tuesday. Principal IV Aida Gutierrez said in a statement that the school administration, in coordination with the LGU and concerned authorities, “has undertaken the necessary safety and security protocols to ensure the protection of students, teaching and non-teaching personnel, parents, and other stakeholders.” Shooter acted with discernment. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Monday said its social workers’ initial assessment found that one of the shooters, the 15-year-old, in the Tacloban City school shooting acted with discernment, subject to verification by the court. DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian said the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act provides that minors ages 15 to below 18 may incur criminal liability if they are found to have acted with discernment. “Under the law, if you are 15 years old plus one day until below 18 years old, you may have criminal liability if you have discernment, which means you understood what you were doing, planned it, tried to conceal it, knew the difference between right and wrong, and understood the consequences,” Gatchalian said. He said the initial assessment made by social workers still requires formal verification by the court. The DSWD is also awaiting the official results of the psychological evaluations of the 15-year-old and the 14-year-old shooter, who remain under the custody of the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth in Tacloban City. Also on Monday, Sen. Imee Marcos raised the need to strengthen security in schools, including the installation of more CCTV cameras and metal detectors, following the series of violent incidents involving young students.

- [DOLE probes Baldwin's authority to work in PH](#) (2026-06-29 16:20)

FORMER Ateneo de Manila basketball coach Thomas Anthony “Tab” Baldwin is unauthorized to work in the country and has not applied for an exemption, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said Monday. Baldwin’s alleged illegal status cropped during Monday’s hearing by the DOLE to determine whether he possesses the legal authority to engage in gainful employment in the country. Baldwin resigned as head coach after two of his players, Rene Clert Baterbonia and Divine Adili, died in a training exercise in the waters off a resort in Dipaculao, Aurora, on June 8, 2026. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino pointed out that the labor department’s investigation is separate from the other probes being conducted by other government agencies, stressing that his department’s focus is strictly limited to labor and employment issues, particularly Baldwin’s authority to work in the Philippines. “We find it imperative to conduct this motu proprio investigation to inquire into his authority,” Tolentino told the panel. During the hearing, DOLE disclosed that its records show Baldwin has not applied for an alien employment permit (AEP). The AEP is a permit issued by the DOLE to a foreign national who has the capacity and qualifications to be engaged in gainful employment by an employer in the Philippines in a position which no Filipino national is competent, able and willing to perform at the time the application for AEP is filed. The department also found no

application for exemption or exclusion under existing labor regulations, including Department Orders (DOs) 221-22 and 248-25. Baldwin attended the proceedings accompanied by legal counsel, who argued that the coach holds permanent resident status in the Philippines and therefore does not require an AEP. His camp argued that no employment permit was necessary when his permanent resident visa status was granted. DOLE also examined the nature of Baldwin's contractual relationship with his former employer, Ateneo de Manila University. Following the conference, the department announced it would issue a subpoena directing Ateneo representatives to appear before labor authorities on July 9. Baldwin's camp was likewise asked to submit copies of previous employment contracts to help determine the duration of his engagements, commencement dates, compensation arrangements, and specific duties. The inquiry stems from an earlier subpoena requiring Baldwin to appear before the Labor secretary and present documents supporting his authority to work in the Philippines and serve as head coach of the Ateneo men's basketball team. DOLE said the proceedings will continue as the department reviews the submitted documents and gathers additional information from concerned parties. Student managers, ball boys

Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said the student managers and ball boys of the Ateneo men's basketball team who were among those recommended to be charged for violation of the Anti-Hazing Law may be taken off the list of accused and become witnesses if their innocence can be proven. "Although this was our recommendation, some of the individuals who participated in the activity may still be removed from the list of those to be charged, especially if it can be shown that they were unaware of its unlawful intent," Remulla said in Filipino. Of the 11 accused, Paolo Manuel Maceda Adevosio and Andrew Lorenzo Bondoc Salud were student managers while Aris Ramos Ponce and Joel Palmiano Rapa were ball boys. Remulla said they made the recommendation because the Anti-Hazing law is a special law whose expanded definition of hazing now includes physical or psychological suffering, harm, or injury inflicted on a recruit, neophyte, applicant, or member as a prerequisite for admission or requirement or continuing membership in an organization. This includes forced calisthenics, exposure to weather, or other brutal forced physical activity likely to adversely affect the physical and psychological health of such recruits. Also under the significantly broadened liability of the 2018 version of the law, people who were present during hazing or initiation may face criminal liability even without participation in the activity if certain standards were met such as having knowingly attended, participated in, consented to, or failed to prevent the hazing despite having a legal duty to act.

- [Philippines leads world in rush to solar as power rates soar](#) (2026-06-29 16:19)

PEOPLE in the Philippines are flocking to install solar power on rooftops and escape the burden of soaring electricity prices, making it the world's biggest spender on solar panels since the war in Iran started. Top power distributor Meralco has raised prices by 10 percent since the Middle East war began in late February. Now, a median household spends around 12 percent of monthly income on electricity, assuming it consumes 200 kilowatt-hours — about the monthly average for three people. The Philippines is one of the few countries in Southeast Asia with

barely any power subsidies, and its residential power prices are the highest in the region. Only Singapore comes close, but its citizens' average purchasing power is nearly 13 times higher. Adrian Sabatera, a 39-year-old software engineer, thought about getting solar for years but found it too costly. That changed as costs came down and electricity prices kept rising. "I wouldn't be shocked if a third of the middle-class population eventually finds their way to this setup," Sabatera said after recently pulling the trigger on a P570,000 installation at the Manila house he shares with three others. The rooftop solar rush has resulted in \$407 million in panel imports in the three months through May, a 145-percent increase from a year earlier, according to trade data from China, which accounts for most global supply. Even when Chinese panel shipments fell 13 percent in May after a tax rebate removal, exports to the Philippines rose by almost a third. On paper, the Netherlands remains a larger market for panels, but experts say that's because it is a transshipment hub. Surge in inquiries Philergy German Solar, a Manila-based installer, received more than 2-1/2 times the number of customer inquiries in the first five months of this year compared to last year. At one point it fielded 3,000 inquiries a day, according to managing partner Jochen Staudter. Customers are deciding to buy "much faster than before," Staudter said. "Demand will continue to be driven by high electricity prices." In two years, distributed solar capacity could nearly triple to 3,500 megawatts (MW), matching the current size of the Philippines' utility-scale solar fleet, as loan payback times shrink to 3.1 years from 4 years, said Alnie Demoral, analyst at energy think tank Ember. Solar accounts for under 4 percent of national power consumption, government data shows. Supply challenges A weakening currency has compounded the increase in power prices because the Philippines relies on imported coal and gas to generate power. That has pushed inflation to multi-year highs and slowed growth. Manila entrepreneur Jason Porciuncula installed a 12-kilowatt system with battery storage in January. As prices hit record highs in May, his monthly bill dropped to a fifth of last summer's P21,000. But it's not all smooth sailing. Installations are lagging behind demand due to component hoarding, volatile equipment costs and inadequate quality checks, said Brenda Valerio, Philippines director at New Energy Nexus. The government provides loans for solar of up to P500,000 at 5 percent interest, below market rates. But it excludes private-sector workers. Another deterrent: high upfront costs, usually above average annual household incomes of P353,200. "The opportunity is real, but the upfront cost is often too high for a household or business, no matter how quick the payback time is," Ember's Demoral said.

- [PH to still use diplomacy in dealing with China](#) (2026-06-29 16:18)

THE Philippine government will continue to address issues related with China in a diplomatic manner despite Beijing's provocation in disputed waters and harsh criticisms against Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., Malacañang said Monday. In a briefing, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said Malacañang still views Philippine-China relations as robust despite the hiccups. "On the part of the Philippines, relations with China are still considered good. There is no rift or conflict because of the messages of our Defense secretary," Castro said in Filipino on Monday. Beijing

admonished Teodoro anew after he called out the Chinese government for refusing to recognize the decade-old international arbitral ruling that upheld the Philippines' rights in the South China Sea. Prior to this, the Defense chief and members of immediate family were banned from entering the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong, and Macau. Castro defended Teodoro's actions and remarks as simply doing his duties and responsibilities as a duly appointed official. "China adheres to its laws and policies, and so does the Philippines. Secretary Gibo is simply fulfilling his mandate as a Philippine official," she said. Castro said the president's directive that dealing with China "should be done through diplomatic means. We can protect our rights, we can protect our interests in a diplomatic manner."

- [First lady continues rice aid in San Juan](#) (2026-06-29 16:17)

(UPDATE) First lady Liza Araneta-Marcos led the Bawat Bayan Makikinabang Rice Distribution program at the FilOil Centre in San Juan City on Monday. She was assisted by Mayor Francis Zamora. A total of 8,898 senior citizens identified by the San Juan City government are set to receive 10 kilograms of rice four times this year under the Local Government Support Fund-backed program. For Monday's distribution, 4,400 beneficiaries received their second wave of rice assistance, while the remaining beneficiaries are expected to receive theirs within the week, according to Zamora's office.

- [Aquino rejects ban on video games](#) (2026-06-29 16:16)

SEN. Bam Aquino rejected a blanket ban on video games following the Tacloban City school shooting, saying the proposal is not the solution to violence involving the youth. Malacañang earlier said that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is open to proposals restricting or banning violent online games amid concerns over their possible influence on minors. The chairman of the Senate Committees on Basic Education and Science and Technology, said some studies found no link between video games and school shootings. He said that video games, as an art form and entertainment medium, do not cause violent behavior. "Banning video games in general or as a whole, I don't think that's a good solution to our problems," he said on Monday. "Mas maraming studies na ginawa na nagsasabing walang (There are studies that showed that there was no) correlation between video games and school shooting," Aquino said in a statement. Aquino called for stricter enforcement of age restrictions on mature-rated games, similar to existing rules for films and television programs instead of imposing a blanket ban on video games.

- [Ombudsman wants Bonoan as state witness](#) (2026-06-29 16:15)

THE Office of the Ombudsman wants former Public Works and Highways secretary Manuel Bonoan as a state witness in the criminal cases involving the flood control scam. "We filed already a motion to discharge him as an accused so that he can be a witness for the prosecution," Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said on Monday. "The knowledge that he has about the whole institution is something very important to us to be able to prove many cases," Remulla said. "We will be benefiting from his testimony with regards to so many of the cases

that we are filing.” Last May 28, the Office of the Ombudsman filed a graft complaint against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and Bonoan, and another graft case against them and former DPWH-National Capital Region officials Denryl Caesar Cortuna, Manny Bulusan, and Arturo Gonzales Jr. The Office of the Ombudsman also charged the five individuals with plunder. Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano said the cases stemmed from an intricate mechanism involving illegal budgetary insertions and project allocations in 2025. “Our evaluation shows that substantial public funds were deliberately funneled into designated infrastructure projects in exchange for predetermined commission fees or kickbacks. Case records point to an accumulated sum of illicit payouts amounting to P573 million, which were systematically delivered to Senator Jinggoy Estrada,” Clavano said. Bonoan has denied any involvement in irregularities.

- [Padilla pushes passage of 'strict' anti-dynasty bill](#) (2026-06-29 16:14)

SEN. Robinhood Padilla renewed his call for the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 1901 which he described as the “strictest and most comprehensive” anti-political dynasty measure ever filed in Congress. The senator said SB 1901 or the proposed Anti-Political Dynasty Act seeks to finally implement the constitutional provision prohibiting political dynasties that remains unenforced nearly four decades after the ratification of the 1987 Charter. Padilla on Monday said that political dynasties have long been identified as one of the major obstacles to genuine political competition and equal access to public service. “If we’re really serious about political reforms, it’s not enough to just issue statements against political dynasty,” he said. He said that SB 1901 aims to close “many of the loopholes commonly exploited to perpetuate political control, including succession by relatives, party-list substitutions, and even the use of common-law relationships to evade the restrictions.” Unlike previous proposals, he said SB 1901 imposes an “absolute prohibition” on spouses and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity from simultaneously holding elective office within the same jurisdiction, immediately succeeding one another in office, or circumventing the law through substitutions, appointments, resignations, or party-list nominations. The bill also covers common-law relationships and civil unions “to prevent the use of technicalities to perpetuate political control,” Padilla said. SB 1901 requires candidates and party-list nominees to submit sworn declarations regarding familial relationships, authorizes the Commission on Elections to cancel certificates of candidacy for violations, and imposes election offense penalties on those who falsify information or deliberately evade the law.

- [Customs donates seized diesel to coast guard](#) (2026-06-29 16:13)

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) office in Legazpi City has turned over 1,783 liters of confiscated diesel fuel to the Philippine Coast Guard’s (PCG) Bicol district to strengthen maritime security and operational readiness in the region. The donated diesel originated from unmarked fuel seized during an enforcement operation conducted by a composite team from the BOC and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). Under Section 1141 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), forfeited goods may be donated to another government agency upon approval by

the secretary of finance. The donation received the necessary clearance after Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno secured approval from the Department of Finance. Finance officials raised no objection to the transfer, noting that the confiscated fuel would be used specifically for government operations. Legazpi District Collector Guillermo Pedro Francia IV underscored the Coast Guard's crucial role in customs enforcement and maritime security. Francia described the PCG District Bicol as a key partner in combating smuggling, human trafficking, and other illicit activities in the country's maritime corridors. He said the fuel donation would help intensify sea patrols, strengthen maritime law enforcement, and support disaster response missions throughout the Bicol Region. The PCG welcomed the donation, saying it would directly enhance its operational capability and sustain patrol, inspection, and emergency response activities. The initiative aligns with the BOC's Integrity, Accountability, and Modernization (IAM) agenda and supports the administration's push to strengthen border security, curb smuggling, and deepen cooperation among government agencies in advancing public service and national security.

- [Jeepney consolidation case not moot – Piston](#) (2026-06-29 16:12)

TRANSPORT group Piston has asked the Supreme Court to continue hearing its petition against the mandatory jeepney consolidation policy, arguing that the case remains an active controversy despite the issuance of a new Department of Transportation (DOTr) order. In a nine-page compliance and manifestation filed on June 29, 2026, Piston maintained that DOTr Department Order 2023-022, which lays down guidelines for the Public Transport Modernization Program (PTMP), did not render the case moot and academic. The group said the new order merely superseded earlier issuances while retaining and institutionalizing the mandatory consolidation requirement that petitioners challenged before the court. "Far from extinguishing the controversy, the Order deepens and institutionalizes the assailed consolidation requirement," Piston said in its pleading. The case stemmed from a December 2023 petition filed by Piston Chairman Modesto Floranda and other transport groups seeking to nullify various DOTr and LTFRB issuances related to the jeepney modernization program. The petitioners challenged the constitutionality of forced franchise consolidation, which they said violates drivers' and operators' freedom of association, as well as their rights to livelihood, due process, and equal protection. Piston argued that small operators and drivers remain compelled to join cooperatives or corporations if they wish to continue operating public utility vehicles. According to Piston data cited in the filing, up to 300,000 jeepney units were operating prior to 2017, but that number has dwindled to about 130,000 due to the modernization program, representing significant loss of economic productivity for drivers and operators. The group also invoked exceptions to the mootness doctrine, arguing that the issue is "capable of repetition yet evading review." It noted that the government has repeatedly modified, reopened, or extended consolidation deadlines through various department orders, board resolutions, and memorandum circulars — preventing the core legal issue from being fully litigated before new policies take effect. Piston further argued that the case involves matters of paramount public interest, as jeepneys remain the country's dominant public transport mode.

According to the filing, as of October 2023, there were 150,867 public utility jeepneys providing services in the Philippines, accounting for 79 percent of total registered land transportation services. The group noted that in Metro Manila alone, almost nine million passengers use jeepneys daily. The DOTr has claimed that the jeepney franchise consolidation rate stands at 85.42 percent as of November 2024. However, Piston pointed to DOTr data showing that 321 routes nationwide have zero consolidation rate, and only about 11,000 PUVs fit the policy's modernization standards perfectly. The petitioners asked the Supreme Court to note their compliance and eventually declare the questioned DOTr and LTFRB issuances null and void. They also reiterated their prayer for injunctive relief.

- [Namfrel calls for stronger party-list law](#) (2026-06-29 16:11)

Election watchdog National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) has thrown its support behind proposed party-list reform measures in Congress, saying the system intended to empower marginalized sectors has instead been captured by political dynasties, wealthy elites, and vested interests. For more than four decades, the group said it has witnessed how the seats intended for farmers, fisherfolk, laborers, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and the urban poor and other marginalized sectors have been occupied by individuals linked to political dynasties, government contracts, and wealthy families. "This long-standing distortion must end," it added as it expressed its support to House Bill (HB) 9906 and Senate Bill (SB) 2090 as a significant step toward restoring the integrity of the party-list system. The group expressed belief that both measures contained the needed reform reforms that would strengthen representation for marginalized sectors before the next election cycle.

- [Labor presses Malacañang, Congress for P200 pay hike](#) (2026-06-29 16:10)

WITH public trust in the administration at a historic low, organized labor is pressing both Malacañang and Congress to prioritize a legislated P200 daily wage hike, saying that economic relief is the only way to restore worker confidence. The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) made the appeal on Monday ahead of the June 30 hearing of House Bill (HB) 88 before the House Committee on Labor and Employment. HB 88 seeks to grant workers a P200 across-the-board increase in the daily minimum wage. The bill is returning to the legislative agenda a year after it was refiled, despite having already secured third and final reading approval in the House during the 19th Congress. The TUCP, the largest labor center in the country, said the government's efforts to rebuild public trust should begin by addressing the economy. It criticized the current wage-setting system, arguing that regional wage boards continue to grant small and staggered increases that fail to keep pace with rising living costs. It also questioned a process in which public consultations are conducted, but final wage determinations are made behind closed doors. The group called on the president to certify HB 88 as urgent and direct economic managers to support the proposed legislation. TUCP urged Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino to engage with labor groups and commit to implementing the measure once enacted. The latest Social Weather Stations survey conducted from March 24 to 31 showed the Marcos administration posting a net satisfaction rating of -13, its lowest since

taking office in 2022 and the lowest recorded by any administration since 2010. The TUCP noted that both the Senate and the House had approved legislated wage hike measures in the previous Congress, and that House rules allow priority bills previously approved on third reading to be fast-tracked.

- [Navotas launches official digital gateway](#) (2026-06-29 16:09)

THE Navotas City government has launched NavApp — its official digital gateway — a significant step for faster, more accessible and more responsive public service for Navoteños. Navotas Mayor John Rey Tiangco and his brother, Rep. Toby Tiangco, on Monday led key city officials in launching the new app at the Navotas Convention Center as part of the weeklong celebration of the 19th Navotas Cityhood anniversary. With the app, residents can easily transact with the local government — from booking appointments and processing business permits to paying city transactions and receiving important news and announcements, Mayor Tiangco said. Congressman Tiangco encouraged the city residents to create their NavoRehistro account to start taking advantage of the various services offered by the city government. The Tiangco brothers thanked all who took part in the launch, including city councilors, department heads, barangay officials, partners and city government employees.

- [Pasig sends P5M aid to quake-hit LGUs in Mindanao](#) (2026-06-29 16:08)

THE Pasig City government has extended P5 million in financial assistance to three local government units in Mindanao affected by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake. Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto said Monday the assistance came from the city's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund-Quick Response Fund. Sarangani and Davao Occidental received P2 million each, and General Santos City, P1 million. The financial assistance was released following the approval of the Pasig City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Resolution 1, 2026, which was also adopted through a resolution by the Sangguniang Panlungsod. A Pasig delegation composed of representatives from the Management Information Systems Office, Tricycle Operations and Regulatory Office, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office delivered the assistance to the three local governments. The delegation also visited the emergency operations centers of the recipient LGUs to check their condition following the earthquake. Sotto thanked Pasigueños and city personnel who helped deliver the financial aid.

- [Manila milk feeding project to benefit 60,000 students](#) (2026-06-29 16:07)

THE city government of Manila has relaunched its milk-feeding project, expanding its coverage to more than 60,000 public school students to address stunting and malnutrition in the city. During the launch of "Yormilk 2.0" at the Dr. Alejandro Albert Elementary School on Monday, Mayor Isko Moreno said the initiative, which provides regular milk supplies to students from daycare to Grade 1, is being expanded after its initial rollout covered children aged 3 to 5 years old in more than 400 daycare centers. "So from 20,000, we are now going to address more in 60,000-plus students, public school students in the city of Manila," Moreno said. The program was conceived after a study by the Manila Department of Social Welfare found 1,593

children in the city's child development centers to be “wasted” or “severely wasted,” which refers to children who are dangerously underweight for their height due to acute malnutrition. The milk used in the program was sourced directly from local cattle farmers, supporting agricultural livelihoods while ensuring nutritious milk for students. Moreno is optimistic that investing in children’s nutrition and education will yield long-term benefits for the city, envisioning a future where these young beneficiaries could become leaders, professionals, and contributors to society. “No child will be left behind when it comes to health, nutrition and education,” the mayor said in Filipino. The program forms part of the city’s pillars of Manila’s broader Minimum Basic Needs (MBN) strategy, which prioritizes housing, education, health care and job creation. During its first rollout back in January, the program received criticism from those who said the name “Yormilk” was a play on Moreno’s nickname, “Yorme” and milk, and accused him of using the initiative for self-promotion and for violating the “anti-epal” policy. Moreno has ignored the criticism and defended the program.

- [Govt to deploy vessel for Manila Bay cleanup](#) (2026-06-29 16:06)

A SPECIALIZED vessel will be deployed beginning today, June 30, to clean up Manila Bay, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The MV Nilad is a 101-ton, 25-meter-long vessel specifically designed for cleanup operations. It is equipped with specialized tools, including a trash skimmer, to collect floating debris, a deck crane to handle and unload heavy waste, and an oil boom for rapid response to oil spills. The Nilad was donated by the South Korean government through the Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica). It is part of a five-year, \$8.2-million partnership known as the Enhancement of Marine Litter Management in Manila Bay (EMLM) Project. The project intends to improve solid waste management, fortify environmental protection mechanisms, and encourage behavioral change in order to lessen marine pollution. The DENR said the government is using a whole-of-government approach for marine litter management. Three government agencies will team up to operate and maintain the vessel: the DENR, the Department of Transportation (DOTr), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). Aside from the Nilad, the project also includes a specialized crane truck on land to help transport waste once the vessel brings it to the shore. The DENR said the vessel would improve the government’s ability to respond to pollution crises, gather floating waste, and safeguard coastal ecosystems. A study by De La Salle University Dasmariñas found there are still over 6.5 million pieces of garbage weighing over 203,000 kilograms scattered along the bay’s 190-kilometer coastline. Some 91 percent is plastic, mostly consisting of single-use items like sachets, plastic bags, plastic bottles and cigarette butts. While pollution is a big issue, the DENR said the current cleanup efforts show positive results. A 2024 survey showed a 36 percent drop in the volume of waste and a 42 percent decrease in the total weight of waste compared to 2023. The deployment of the Nilad is a significant step toward expanding on-water cleanup efforts. “The MV Nilad strengthens even more our ability to address marine litter in Manila Bay,” Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna said. Cuna also underlined the significance of internal cooperation in addressing environmental issues that transcend national borders. He said internal collaboration remains essential to addressing

marine litter, which continues to affect coastal ecosystems throughout the region. The deployment of the Nilad is expected to help the Philippines' intervention for Asean+3, which aims to strengthen regional integration and promote resilience, connectivity, and sustainable growth. This is in line with Sustainable Development Goal 14.1 on reducing marine pollution and supports the Philippine Development Plan's goal of building resilient and sustainable communities.

- [Quezon City issues 3 road safety policies](#) (2026-06-29 16:05)

QUEZON CITY Mayor Joy Belmonte on Monday said that the city government has launched three new road safety policies aimed at creating safer streets and protecting residents from road traffic injuries and deaths. Belmonte said the new policies are the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for the city's Comprehensive Road Safety Code, Safe School Zone ordinance, and an executive order that would establish Quezon City's Road Safety Working Group (QC-RSWG). "We will continue working to ensure that everyone is safe on Quezon City roads. We are also proud that Quezon City has prepared for this next phase by training assessors who will help conduct school road safety audits and identify opportunities for road safety engineering interventions," Belmonte said. In 2018, the city government enacted the Comprehensive Road Safety Code to create safer roads. "This ordinance — a first of its kind in the Philippines — adopts the Safe System Approach, a global road safety framework that calls for designing safer road systems to prevent serious injuries and fatalities," Belmonte said. With the signing of its IRR, she said the policy now moves toward implementation, coordination, and effective and sustained enforcement. Data from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) showed that Quezon City has the highest number of road crash incidents in Metro Manila. The Safe School Zone ordinance, meanwhile, aims to strengthen measures that will ensure the welfare and protection of students within and around school premises, including protection from road and traffic injuries, according to Councilor Julianne Alyson Rae Medalla. "The ordinance mandates the implementation of safer speed limits, improvement of pedestrian facilities, and enhancement of traffic management around schools," Medalla said. According to Traffic and Transport Management Department head Dexter Cardenas, the QC-RSWG will be responsible for planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the city's road safety action plan, communications plans, and other road safety-related policies, programs and initiatives. Sophia San Luis, ImagineLaw executive director, praised Belmonte and her administration for continuously championing safer roads for all. "As a pioneer in enacting a comprehensive road safety code, we hope that Quezon City inspires more cities and municipalities to do the same," San Luis said. Belmonte said the initiative forms part of the city's collaboration with the Partnership for Healthy Cities, a global network of more than 70 cities committed to preventing noncommunicable diseases and injuries.

- [No Filipinos hurt in Hormuz - Palace](#) (2026-06-29 16:04)

No Filipino seafarers were hurt in the latest attacks on two vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz, with both ships able to continue sailing after the incidents, Malacañang said on

Monday. Citing the report submitted by Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) Secretary Hans Leo Caddac, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro noted that the Philippine government is continuing its close monitoring of the situation. “No one was hurt from the 21 Filipino crew, including the vessel's captain. The vessel remains seaworthy and continues its voyage,” she said in Filipino, referring to the all-Filipino manned MV Ever Lovely. The ship is expected to dock in Singapore on July 5, she added. Castro said that the Panama-flagged oil tanker Kiku was also attacked while transiting the waterway. All 19 Filipino sailors onboard were unscathed. “The authorities are monitoring the condition of the vessel and the passengers and are contacting the Filipino crew in case they need onboard psychosocial assistance,” she said. To date, 85 ships with more than 2,000 Filipino seafarers onboard have traversed the Strait of Hormuz, while around 3,800 sailors remain on ships in the Persian Gulf, Castro said.

- [Quantum computing key in protecting healthcare systems](#) (2026-06-29 16:03)

An expert said quantum computing could help address critical issues in the healthcare sector, particularly in clinical manipulation as artificial intelligence (AI) becomes more advanced. Speaking at the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development's (DOST-PCIEERD) 16th anniversary celebration in Makati City on Monday, Nardo Nadal Manaloto Jr., managing partner of Qubits Ventures, an early-stage venture capital firm that specializes in investing in quantum computing, warned that the rapid evolution of AI has heightened the risk of clinical manipulation through compromised or hijacked AI systems. Manaloto said malicious actors could tamper with medical processes, research, and even clinical operations, posing serious risks to patient safety and the integrity of healthcare systems. “The bigger threat is AI hijacking—where there could be clinical manipulation, there could be research manipulation, there could be operational manipulation,” Manaloto said. Quantum technologies, he said, can enhance cybersecurity and data integrity by leveraging quantum random number generation and quantum encryption, both of which are far more secure than traditional methods. He stressed the importance of integrating quantum computing into healthcare systems, which can help secure data and processes, as the healthcare sector becomes increasingly reliant on data and AI technologies. Manaloto also delved into the other application of quantum computing, which can revolutionize drug discovery, diagnostics, and medical devices. He cited examples of companies using quantum biology to analyze vibrational frequencies inside cells, unlocking new biological datasets that can be used to develop next-generation drugs and treatments. Such datasets could target diseases like cancer and address inflammation at unprecedented levels of precision, he said. Another example is how quantum sensing—another emerging application—is enabling the creation of precision biosensors that measure oxidative stress within cells. This data can help scientists better understand the root causes of diseases and create targeted therapies to combat them. To maximize its use in addressing gaps in the healthcare sector, Manaloto called for collaboration among governments, private organizations, and academic institutions. “Let's co-build a divergent path through the event history,” he said Manaloto

outlined a roadmap for integrating quantum technologies into healthcare, starting with near-term goals such as quantum cybersecurity, quantum sensing, and workforce development. In the medium term, he proposed focusing on semiconductor components and advanced testing, while long-term goals include the establishment of quantum networks and infrastructure.

- [Transparency agency warns against fake surveys](#) (2026-06-29 16:02)

THE National Institute for Transparency and Accountability (NITA) has launched an investigation into fake governance surveys following complaints from politicians who say they are being targeted by misleading polling data and fraudulent operations. NITA said the complaints suggest that fabricated surveys are being circulated to shape public perception rather than provide an objective measure of governance performance and public sentiment. NITA spokesman Carlos Ayala pointed to a recent case involving Cebu Gov. Pamela Baricuatro, whose official provincial Facebook page reportedly shared survey findings that were later flagged during NITA's verification process. Ayala said the incident illustrates how even government offices can inadvertently amplify misleading survey materials when proper verification procedures are not observed. The probe focused on a purported governance survey released by a group identifying itself as "Transparency Good Governance and Accountability." The group used the "Visayas Social Pulse" as its survey arm. Ayala said the survey materials prominently carried the "Bagong Pilipinas" logo, creating the impression of official government affiliation and credibility. However, NITA's verification found several red flags that cast doubt on the legitimacy of the organization behind the survey. Ayala said the Facebook page used to promote the survey was created only in August 2025 and that the group was not registered with either the Department of Trade and Industry or the Securities and Exchange Commission. He added that investigators found no evidence that the organization employed statisticians, research executives, or designated spokespersons typically associated with professional survey institutions. "They are using Facebook to circulate fake information disguised as governance surveys. Without transparency, legal registration, scientific methodology, and qualified researchers, these surveys have no credibility and only mislead both public officials and the public," Ayala said. Ayala said legitimate surveys serve as gauges for governance performance and provide valuable feedback that can help leaders improve public service delivery. He warned that fabricated polls reduce scientific research into mere publicity exercises and tools for political mind conditioning. NITA urged public officials, government communication offices, and the public to verify a survey organization's legal registration, methodology, sample size, survey period, margin of error, and responsible officials before accepting its findings. "Public opinion research should strengthen transparency and democratic accountability — not become a vehicle for misinformation. Surveys should help improve governance, not manufacture perception," Ayala said.

- [Mabanta apology a lesson against spewing allegations— Palace](#) (2026-06-29 15:52)

MALACAÑANG on Monday said the public apology issued by political operator Franco Mabanta underscores the importance of refraining from making allegations without evidence. Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro issued the statement after Mabanta publicly apologized for past criticisms hurled against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos by Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN), an online news outlet he founded. “Apologizing is admitting a mistake. The lesson here: don’t create intrigue, especially if there is no basis,” Castro said in Filipino in a press briefing. “Making unnecessary noise only makes unsuspecting Filipinos victims. And baseless slander only makes our countrymen look foolish,” she added. In a lengthy video posted by PGMN last June 25, Mabanta apologized to the first couple for “any feelings that have been hurt now and in the past”. Castro reiterated that any claim against anyone must be backed up by facts. “If you are going to do any investigation, make sure you have evidence,” she said. In the same video, Mabanta continued to blast former House Speaker Martin Romualdez for purported orchestrating political turmoil within the government and betraying many of his allies including the chief executive. Romualdez was also tagged as the mastermind behind the Marcos’ rift with Vice President Sara Duterte which eventually led to the destruction of the UniTeam alliance. Meanwhile, asked about the current relationship between Marcos and Romualdez, who are cousins, Castro stated that she hasn’t seen the lawmaker near the president or in the premises of the Palace since the flood control scandal broke out last year. “As of now, none. I cannot say what their relationship is,” she said. I’m

- [Cayetano: Proposed basic education program upholds Filipino child's right to education](#) (2026-06-29 13:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano on Monday said proposed Basic Education Voucher Program Act would uphold every Filipino child’s right to accessible and quality education. The measure seeks to institutionalize a government-funded voucher program that may be used by qualified K to 12 learners to enroll in any Department of Education (DepEd)-recognized private school of their choice. The senator said the bicameral conference committee last week approved the reconciled version of the measure, harmonizing Senate Bill 1981 and House Bill 4744. Once ratified by both chambers, the bill will be transmitted to Malacañang for the signature of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “The Constitution guarantees the right of every Filipino to accessible and quality education at all levels and mandates the State to take appropriate steps to make such education available to all,” Cayetano said in a statement. “I’d like to see the day when we were born in the Philippines, regardless of your surname, whether your rich or poor, if you want to go to the best private school sa inyong province or city, you’ll have the opportunity to do that,” Cayetano said in Filipino and English. Unlike the expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE) program, the proposed voucher system will give learners and their families “more say in choosing a school” and will cover all levels from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The measure also includes a quality assurance framework, as well as safeguards and penalties proposed by Cayetano against “ghost” learners, delays, and other fraudulent

practices. To help families make informed school choices, the Department of Education will maintain a public database of participating private schools, covering their tuition, program offerings, capacity, and key performance indicators.

- [OVP says showed efficient 2025 budget use](#) (2026-06-29 13:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Vice President (OVP) on Monday said it showed sound fiscal management and efficient budget use in 2025. An OVP report for 2025 said the office obligated 92.32 percent of the P913.243 million allocated to it under current and continuing appropriations. The OVP said in a statement that it ensured that "government resources were directed toward priority programs and services that reached communities across the country, including geographically isolated areas." The OVP logged a disbursement rate of 81 percent, "reflecting the timely conversion of budget obligations into actual payments and the effective implementation of programs and projects", the office said.

- [No monkeypox outbreak — DOH](#) (2026-06-29 12:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) on Monday said there is no outbreak of monkeypox in the country. It issued the statement after a case was confirmed in Mandaluyong City. The DOH said the number of cases from January 4 to June 13, 2026 is only 44, 79 percent lower than last year's count of 205. "The DOH does not discuss individual case circumstances to avoid stigma and to comply with data privacy laws, especially in the context of a markedly lower case count," the agency said. It added that local government units are empowered under Republic Act 11332, or the Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act, to issue their own advisories in the interest of public health in their area.

- [LPA affects Metro Manila, may turn into tropical depression](#) (2026-06-29 12:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The low pressure area (LPA) off Eastern Samar that is affecting Metro Manila may develop into a tropical depression within 24 hours, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Monday. Weather specialist Charmagne Varilla said that if it intensifies, the LPA would be given the name "Henry." The LPA is bringing cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in Visayas, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), Bicol Region, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque and Romblon, Varilla said. Pagasa chief Nathaniel Servando told The Manila Times via Viber that Signal No. 1 may be raised in some Luzon areas due to the impact of the LPA. He said the entire Visayas could also be affected by the tropical cyclone.

- [Catholic traditionalists risk schism in Church](#) (2026-06-29 11:09)

VATICAN CITY — The Society of Saint Pius X, a traditionalist Catholic community, plans to ordain its own bishops on Wednesday without Vatican approval, raising the risk of schism within the Church. What is the Society of St. Pius X? Founded in 1970 in Ecône, Switzerland, by the French

bishop Marcel Lefebvre (1905-1991), the group follows a stricter interpretation of doctrinal and liturgical tradition. It received significant media attention in 1988 after illegally ordaining four bishops, resulting in immediate excommunication. The Society has a presence in nearly 80 countries and is "well established" in France, Switzerland and the United States, according to Martin Dumont, Secretary General of the Institute for Research on the Study of Religions. It has 730 priests and more than 260 seminarians today and approximately 600,000 members, Dumont told AFP. Rejecting outright the changes within the Church since the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, it defends a traditional patriarchal model of society and an ideal of a theocratic state. Although influential in certain conservative circles, it remains a minority within the Catholic Church and its approximately 1.4 billion faithful. What is the pre-Vatican II rite? This rite, codified in the 16th century and known as the "Tridentine" rite, is characterized by the use of Latin, a highly codified and symbolic liturgy. It is celebrated with the priest facing the altar and his back to the congregation. The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), which ushered the Church into modernity, introduced mass in different languages and encouraged the participation of the faithful. For the Society of Saint Pius X, these reforms represent an alteration of tradition. What is the disagreement about? On Wednesday at 9:00 am, the new bishops are expected by organizers to be ordained in front of several thousand faithful. The open-air ceremony, which is due to last several hours, will be held at Ecône, the very spot where Lefebvre consecrated four bishops 38 years ago. For the Vatican, consecrating a bishop without the Pope's approval is a direct act of insubordination. Such a move, entails the automatic excommunication of the bishops involved and constitutes a "schismatic act." Broader excommunication? "It's complicated because they're putting Pope Leo in a difficult position," Dumont said. "He's concerned about not making things worse, about healing wounds... but he's also obliged to take action." The historian also noted that the Society risks "cutting itself off from potential allies within the Church" at a time when "bridges were beginning to be built." How have recent popes reacted? The 1988 excommunication was lifted in 2009 by Pope Benedict XVI. And his successor, Francis, reinstated the validity of confessions and marriages celebrated by priests of the Society in 2015. Leo XIV also extended an olive branch to traditionalists last October by celebrating mass in Latin in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, even though Francis had severely restricted this tradition. Why now? The Society says naming new bishops is a "necessity". It currently has only two active bishops, which limits its capacity for growth. It says it has asked the pope for permission to proceed with new ordinations, without receiving a satisfactory response. But Dumont said there are also internal disagreements between more radical members of the Society and others who favour greater dialogue with the Vatican. Faced with a new pope whose decisions the Society's leaders may disapprove of, "it is very clear that they are establishing a power dynamic", he said. The Vatican, for its part, is trying to avoid a rupture. In mid-June, Leo XIV said he was "saddened" by this decision, specifying that he intended to issue a new "appeal" before the deadline.

- [Maynilad confirms two workers killed in Las Piñas excavation site collapse](#) (2026-06-29 08:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Water concessionaire Maynilad confirmed on Monday that two workers died when an excavation site collapse in Barangay Pamplona Dos, Las Piñas City. Work has been suspended as authorities investigate the incident. The incident happened at a construction site for a wastewater pumping facility under the Las Piñas Conveyance System Package 2 along Aquarius Street, Pamplona Park Subdivision. In a radio interview, Lieutenant Colonel Teoson Rosarito, assistant police chief of Las Piñas, said the 18-meter-deep excavation collapsed on five men while they were working at the site on Sunday, June 28. Rosarito said rescue teams retrieved the last trapped worker at around 4:30 p.m. on the same day, but two of the workers were already dead. Maynilad said it is “deeply saddened by the unfortunate incident” and extended its condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of the two workers. “We are coordinating with our contractor to extend assistance to the affected families and are working closely with the authorities in the investigation,” the company said.

- [Ombudsman to file plunder complaint vs Marcoleta](#) (2026-06-29 08:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman will soon file a plunder complaint before the Sandiganbayan against Sen. Rodante Marcoleta, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said on Monday. Remulla said that the case was up for resolution. “We’re about to file it already,” Remulla said. He confirmed that former lawmaker Mike Defensor and several others will be included in the complaint. Ombudsman field investigators filed a complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman against four people last May 18, alleging that “Marcoleta’s acceptance of gifts with an aggregate amount of P75 million on three separate occasions constitute the crime of plunder.” “Aside from the lack of a clear purpose or pending transaction for which the amounts received may be a consideration, there is no showing that the gifts would still be given were it not for Respondent’s position in government. Hence it cannot be denied that the P75 million was given by Respondents Defensor, [Joseph] Espiritu, and [Aristotle] Viray by reason of Respondent Marcoleta’s office,” the investigators said.

- [After six years offline, Sunog Apog Pumping Station back in service](#) (2026-06-29 06:36)

MANILA, Philippines — After sitting idle for six years, three vital pumping stations are back online following a rapid six-month rehabilitation blitz by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) as part of the government’s aggressive nationwide push to protect low-lying and flood-prone communities. Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon said on Monday that the move follows the directive of the President to modernize drainage areas in Metro Manila and in other areas by rehabilitating and upgrading an estimated 36 pumping stations. Three of the four Sunog Apog Pumping Stations in Tondo, Manila were rehabilitated in a bid to reduce recurring flooding in the capital during typhoons and the southwest monsoon season. The facility forms part of the Blumentritt Interceptor System, one of Metro Manila’s key flood-control networks. Dizon said the station’s flood pumps were designed to drain excess water from the Estero de Sunog Apog and nearby waterways, helping prevent prolonged flooding during heavy rains. “This was non-operational for six years. In six months, thanks to our cooperation, we got it working,” he said.

- [Dermalog thanks Filipinos for supporting digital transformation of land transportation services](#) (2026-06-29 06:33)

MANILA, Philippines — A leading global provider of biometric identification and digital security solutions has expressed its appreciation to the Filipino people, particularly the motoring public, for their trust in the continued implementation and use of the Land Transportation Management System (LTMS). The Dermalog Identification Systems GmbH said in a statement that it has been an honor to have contributed technology and technical expertise to a project that serves millions of motorists and land transportation stakeholders in the Philippines. Günther Mull, Dermalog Identification Systems GmbH CEO, said that the company would always value the opportunity to contribute to projects that promote efficiency, integrity, safety and public trust. “We hope that we can be of service to the Filipino people again in the future,” Mull said. He stressed that the Filipino people’s acceptance and cooperation remain essential to the digitalization of land transportation services. “We are proud to have supported a system designed to make public services faster, safer, more transparent and more accessible,” he added. Dermalog’s LTMS supports the government’s modernization of public services related to land transportation, he said in a statement. Through an integrated digital platform, the system helps streamline transactions, improve public access to services, strengthen document security, and promote greater transparency and accountability, the company explained. He emphasized that such technology can only deliver meaningful results when people are willing to adopt and use it. “The participation of Filipino citizens has been essential to advancing the digitalization of land transportation services,” Mull said. In the same statement, Dermalog also cited the efforts of concerned government agencies and other stakeholders involved in the development, implementation, and continued operation of the LTMS. “Their dedication has helped translate technology into public service,” Mull said. Committed to continue helping governments and institutions develop secure, reliable, and citizen-focused digital infrastructure, Mull said Dermalog develops technologies for secure identity management, document authentication, border control, civil registration, banking, and government digitalization projects worldwide.

- [Senate again allows visitors](#) (2026-06-29 06:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Short of saying the Senate security threat has diminished, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said outsiders are now allowed through the visitor management system to be implemented by the Office of Sergeant-at-Arms. The senator on Monday shared some details about the security measures being implemented at the Senate. The Senate chief said he continues to coordinate with security agencies to ensure the chamber’s protection and safety. Senate security had been placed on heightened alert since the first week of June amid reports from the intelligence community of “serious threat” against the chamber. “As Senate President, it is my duty to maintain the stability of the institution and ensure the safety of all [personnel],” Gatchalian said. He said the security measures will still be implemented such as the inspection of vehicles at the entrances and requiring employees to wear their IDs. “Our objective is clear: ensure the safety of senators, employees, media, visitors, and the public,” he

said. Gatchalian said his office "is open to any suggestions" on Senate security measures. "We will listen and try to address these [suggestions] while ensuring the right balance between security and [public] accessibility)."

- [Gasoline, kerosene prices to go up Tuesday](#) (2026-06-29 05:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Energy (DOE) on Monday said that gasoline and kerosene prices will increase this week but the cost of diesel will go down. The DOE said that gasoline prices are expected to increase by up to P1.90 per liter, while kerosene prices will be raised by around P1.22 per liter. The cost of diesel will go down by up to P1.16 per liter. Oil companies adjust their pump prices every Tuesday. Last week, oil companies lowered diesel prices by P9.04 per liter, gasoline by P3.90 per liter, and kerosene by P11.00 per liter.

- [PNP to deploy troops to secure Senate during VP Sara impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-29 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday said troops will be deployed to ensure safety within the Senate premises during the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte which will begin on July 6. "We will be deploying appropriate number of personnel to ensure the peaceful conduct of the impeachment trial," Col. Allen Rae Co, PNP spokesman, said in a briefing at Camp Crame on Monday. "We've also closely coordinated with the Senate and other concerned agencies to ensure na wala po magiging aberya (there will be no problem)," Co added. The Senate heightened security early this month because of the reported threat to the chamber following a series of controversial events such as the sudden appearance of Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa on May 11 and the shooting on May 13 inside the Senate premises.

- [Marikina to install metal detectors, boost security in schools](#) (2026-06-29 04:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Marikina City will install metal detectors in public and private schools and increase police and Office of Public Safety and Security (OPSS) personnel deployment as part of strengthened campus security measures following recent violent incidents involving learners, including the shooting at a school in Tacloban City last week. Mayor Marjorie Ann "Maan" Teodoro announced the additional interventions on Monday, after inspecting some public schools to assess existing security measures. "During the past few days, we personally went around some of our large public schools to look at the security measures and find out what else we can add so that our students will be safer," she said. Teodoro said police officers and OPSS personnel were deployed in schools even before the Tacloban school shooting but the city government wants to further strengthen security to reassure parents. Aside from metal detectors, the city government will deploy additional police personnel and roving police officers in private schools in coordination with the Marikina Private Schools Association, Inc. The city will also tap 70 newly hired OPSS personnel to support public safety operations. Teodoro said schools must remain safe spaces for learners, teachers, and other members of the school community. The mayor said the additional security measures aim to keep schools safe for

learners and school personnel, with the city government overseeing security preparations in 17 public elementary schools, 16 public high schools, and private institutions. “These places should be safe havens for children, and we will do our part in the city government so students and other school faculty remain unharmed,” the mayor said.

- [Batangas school suspends classes over shooting threats](#) (2026-06-29 03:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Batangas City Integrated High School suspended classes and on-site school activities on Monday, June 29, 2026, "until further notice" over "reported shooting threats." "This precautionary measure is being implemented to ensure the safety and security of all learners, teaching and non-teaching personnel, parents, and other members of the school community. Everyone is advised not to enter or proceed to the school premises while the suspension remains in effect," the school's disaster risk reduction and management coordinator said in an announcement. "The school administration is closely coordinating with the appropriate law enforcement authorities regarding the matter," it added. The incident came a week after three students died and dozens were injured in a school shooting in Tacloban City.

- [PHLPost brings postal ID processing, other services closer to public in Cagayan de Oro](#) (2026-06-29 02:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Residents and visitors in Cagayan de Oro City can access Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) services, including postal ID applications, during the Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations’ (GOCCs) Service Caravan on June 29 to 30 at SM CDO Downtown Mall. The two-day activity, organized in partnership with the Department of Finance, aims to bring essential government services closer to the public by allowing individuals to process transactions in one location. Admission is free and no prior registration is required. PHLPost said the public may visit its booth to apply for a postal ID, inquire about available services, and receive assistance for various postal transactions. Visitors may also avail themselves of other services such as the purchase of philatelic stamps and personalized “Selfie Stamps,” as well as the acceptance and processing of letters, documents, and parcels. Customers may also access PHLPost’s Express Mail Service (EMS), a premium delivery option that offers faster and more reliable shipment of domestic and international packages. “The Service Caravan is an excellent opportunity for the public to conveniently access PHLPost services in one location. We encourage everyone to visit our booth, apply for their Postal ID, and discover the various postal services that can help make their transactions easier and more accessible,” PHLPost Area 8 Marketing Specialist Cecil Cotapte said in a statement. PHLPost said the postal ID application fee is P550, which already covers taxes and delivery charges for regular issuance. Applicants are required to submit a duly accomplished application form, proof of identity, and proof of address.

- [NGCP again issues yellow alert for Visayas](#) (2026-06-29 01:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) has again issued a yellow alert for the Visayas grid on Monday, June 29, as major coal plants continue to

be unavailable while demand is expected to be high. In its 8:30 a.m. advisory, the transmission firm said that the yellow alert will be between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. as peak demand is estimated to reach 2,288 megawatts (MW) while available capacity is only at 2,571 MW. NGCP said that 30 plants are on forced outage, while 16 plants are running on derated capacities, for a total of 963.4 MW unavailable to the grid. The major 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.

- [First lady teases Zamora, calls him 'senator' during San Juan rice aid program](#) (2026-06-29 01:41)

MANILA, Philippines — First Lady Liza Araneta Marcos jokingly called San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora “senator” during the rollout of the government's rice assistance program in the city on Monday. Marcos made the remark while joining Zamora in leading the Bawat Bayan Makikinabang Rice Distribution program at the FilOil Centre, where thousands of senior citizens received rice assistance. “I am not here because of the injection, I am here because of your mayor—senator?” Marcos said. The first lady was recalling her visit to San Juan with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to get their COVID-19 vaccination. A total of 8,898 senior citizens are set to receive 10 kilograms of rice four times this year under the Local Government Support Fund-backed program. On Monday, 4,400 beneficiaries received their second wave of rice assistance, while the remaining beneficiaries are expected to receive theirs within the week, according to Zamora's office.

- [LPA to bring scattered rains in Visayas, Mindanao](#) (2026-06-29 01:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Visayas and Mindanao and some parts of Luzon will have scattered rains and thunderstorms due to a low pressure area (LPA), the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Monday. Weather specialist Aldczar Aurelio said the LPA was estimated at 495 kilometers east of Surigao City, Surigao del Norte. Likely to become a tropical depression within two to four days, the LPA has been bringing cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms in Visayas, Bicol Region, Caraga, Quezon, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, and Romblon. The southwest monsoon has weakened and is only affecting the rest of Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan), Pagasa said. Aurelio said the National Capital Region and the rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to the effects of the localized thunderstorms.

- [Impeach trial could drag for 7 months](#) (2026-06-28 16:18)

(UPDATE) SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian on Sunday said the senators are finding ways to speed up the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, which he anticipates could stretch until February 2027. The Senate, sitting as the Impeachment Court, will start the trial on July 7. Gatchalian said the Senate could take seven or eight months because the chamber has

also key legislative measures to tackle, including the proposed 2027 national budget. The Senate also plans to schedule hearings on proposals amending the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act following recent school violence. The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, meanwhile, will resume investigation of the flood control fund scandal. “Actually, based on our estimates, the impeachment trial will run from seven to eight months. If we are going to start in July, we may be able to finish by February,” Gatchalian said in a radio interview. “That’s why we are studying how we can expedite the impeachment trial because the Senate is not only occupied with the impeachment. We also have to tackle proposed laws,” he said. “But we will insist on finishing all the preliminaries. Tomorrow (June 29) we will issue the pre-trial order,” Gatchalian said. Senate Secretary Renato Bantug Jr., who serves as the clerk of court for the impeachment trial, said the pre-trial serves as the “roadmap” or guide for the proceedings. “We will give both camps three days to file their comments. And then after that we will prepare for the impeachment this coming July 6,” Gatchalian said. He said deliberating the budget measure “is one of the most difficult activities of the Senate” and will take up most of the chamber’s time. “So we are really studying that and of course, we will consult the prosecution and defense on how we can shorten the process and if they can lower the number of witnesses,” Gatchalian said. He said there is a need to consult with the prosecution and defense on how to sift through the 10,000 pieces of evidence that have been marked. “So just imagine the time that would be spent if these 10,000 pieces would all be presented,” he said. The pre-trial conference ended June 25 with the House prosecution panel blaming the defense for the delay in terminating the procedure. The proceedings, which started on June 18 and wrapped up after five working sessions, revolved mainly around the preliminary marking and evaluation of evidence. “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 heads the House prosecution team. 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 the same documents had been presented by the prosecution. “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. On Sunday, Rep. Joel Chua said the prosecution team will see the trial through regardless of how long it may take. “No letting go,” Chua, one of the prosecutors, said in Filipino in a radio interview. “We will just do it to the best of our ability, all we can to present to our countrymen and impeachment court the evidence based per article.” Duterte is facing charges over misuse of confidential funds, amassing unexplained wealth, bribery, and uttering remarks to assassinate President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. If found guilty in any of the charges, she will be ousted as vice president and banned from holding any future public office. The prosecutors had asked the Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, to allot 62 trial dates to present its evidence and witnesses.

- [Senate starts school shooting probe on Wednesday](#) (2026-06-28 16:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Two Senate committees will start this week the investigation on the Tacloban school shooting incident as some sectors sought to further amend the juvenile justice law. Sen. Risa Hontiveros, chairman of the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations, and Gender Equality, said she will hold the inquiry on July 1. The senator aims to determine the circumstances that led to the shooting incident at San Jose National High School that led to the death of three students. Hontiveros said she hopes to examine the broader chain of failures that may have contributed to the June 22 shooting, including possible grooming, radicalization, and normalization of violence in online platforms. She invited the Germany-based developer of Gorebox, the video game linked by authorities to the Tacloban school shooting investigation. But Felix Filip, who identified himself as a Germany-based independent game developer, informed the committee through email that he would not attend the hearing, either in person or through Zoom. Hontiveros said she will seek the assistance of the German Embassy in Manila to facilitate the participation of Filip in the Senate inquiry. Sen. Erwin Tulfo, chairman of the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare, and Rural Development, said he will "conduct a total review" of the implementation of Republic Act 9344 or the "Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006." He said the legislative scrutiny comes in the wake of alarming, high-profile crimes involving minors such as the Tacloban shootout and the stabbing incidents in Negros Occidental and Cavite. "This review will cover all bases. We are actively getting insights from law experts, law enforcement, social welfare groups, the church, medical professionals, and parents themselves," Tulfo said in a statement. The senator noted that he had repeatedly raised the alarm about the implementation of this law because on a practical sense, there are really glaring gaps in its implementation. He said the panel's review will "zero in on the severe shortage" of functional Bahay Pag-asa (House of Hope) facilities, the effectiveness of intervention programs for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) and children at risk, and the enforcement of strict parental accountability, among other issues. "Is the age threshold on criminal liability still realistic given the signs of the times? Are parents of these CICLs being held accountable enough? Are the rehabilitation facilities even existing, let alone working?" he asked.

- [1,400 dead, 50,000 missing in Venezuela](#) (2026-06-28 16:16)

LA GUAIRA, Venezuela — Rescue crews raced Saturday to find survivors in the rubble of Venezuela's powerful earthquakes as the death toll reached 1,430 and hopes dwindled more than three days after the earth roared and rumbled. Tens of thousands of people were reported missing as collapsed buildings dotted cities in a country already enduring an economic crisis and political upheaval after US special forces captured authoritarian leader Nicolas Maduro in January. Millions of people were also feared to lack sanitation and other basic needs. Experts say the first 72 hours after natural disasters are the key, narrow window for finding the living. After that, the search becomes one of recovering bodies. A Salvadoran rescue worker who declined to give his name put it this way: "At this point, they are probably dead bodies. Thanks to God, maybe we can find people still alive." An 11-year-old boy was rescued from the rubble in Caraballeda, in the north of the country, late Saturday, interim leader Delcy Rodriguez

said. “Every life is a source of hope for Venezuela,” she said in a post on X, accompanied by a video of the rescue. UN aid chief Tom Fletcher on Friday told AFP the death toll could continue to soar, adding that more than 50,000 people were missing. Facing public outrage at the response by local officials, US-backed Rodriguez thanked other countries for the outpouring of aid. The United States said one runway at Simon Bolivar International Airport was partially functioning to receive C-17 US military planes, while a naval ship had arrived off the coast. The search for survivors saw desperate attempts by local residents to claw away rubble from buildings that collapsed in Wednesday’s two quakes. “It’s just very chaotic, hot and unorganized,” said Australian firefighter Craig Demeillon, 43, who traveled alone to La Guaira from Miami to help. “Hopefully there’s more people to find.” There was joy in the hardest-hit coastal area of La Guaira, north of Caracas, when locals pulled an infant alive out of the wreckage on Friday, around 32 hours after the magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 tremors. In one social media video, a man welled up in tears as he held the baby in his arms. The UN migration agency said it had examined available population and damage data and had determined that “up to 6.76 million people could be affected,” and would “require emergency shelter, safe water, sanitation and hygiene services, health care, protection support and essential relief items.” National Assembly President Jorge Rodriguez reported on Saturday 1,430 dead and 3,238 people injured, while the UN estimated \$6.7 billion in physical damage — equivalent to 6 percent of Venezuela’s GDP. Venezuelans — already battered by years of a failing economy and the turbulence of the US intervention to topple Maduro in January — were furious at the government. Yessica Mendoza was forced to transport her own daughter to a morgue in Caracas after 25-year-old Yesimar Rodriguez and her husband Jhomel Anaya, 26, did not survive the tumbling debris of their home in La Guaira on Wednesday. “We were the ones who pulled them out ourselves. No help ever came,” the bereaved mother, 43, told AFP, adding that the couple would be cremated without a wake due to the rapidly advancing decomposition of their bodies. The government has restricted access to La Guaira state, deployed the military to the area and made it obligatory for volunteers to obtain a safe-entry pass. Anger among those impatiently waiting to volunteer surged as they waited for passes outside a concert hall in the capital. “You need a permit to save lives — just imagine,” complained Carlos Itriago, 27. “I’ve been here since dawn standing in line so I can go rescue people,” said Ezequiel Rivero, 53. “Look at what time it is... how many lives have we already lost by now?” Rodriguez said she had spoken with US President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who “reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the response efforts.” The US said earlier it was sending a disaster response team of more than 250 personnel, including three special search-and-rescue units with dogs trained to locate people trapped beneath the rubble. Twenty-one countries were sending search-and-rescue teams, parliament chief Rodriguez said. Venezuela’s worst earthquakes in more than a century have come after the oil-rich country endured more than a decade of economic collapse. The crisis has hollowed out hospitals and public services, driving millions to leave the country. And the country remains in a fragile political transition six months after the US ouster of Maduro. Earthquakes of similar magnitude claimed more than 200,000 lives in Haiti in January 2010 and 73,000 lives in Kashmir in October 2005. Those killed in Venezuela included 28 Portuguese nationals, six Spaniards, two

Brazilians, seven Chinese nationals, one Chilean, one Italian-Venezuelan and one Uruguayan.

• [Asia's vendors grapple with rising costs of plastics](#) (2026-06-28 16:15)

TAIPEI — Food vendors across Asia who rely on plastics for everything from bags to cups and containers are grappling with their rising costs, the result of the energy crisis sparked by the Middle East war. While the United States and Iran have reached a deal to halt the conflict, it will take time for markets to recover and supply flows to return to normal, with persistent concerns over traffic through the economically vital Strait of Hormuz. At Taipei's Songjiang market, chicken vendor Li Yu-ping, 52, said in early June that the price of plastic bags had jumped nearly 60 percent, while the cost of plastic trays had risen by a third. "We use them everywhere," she said of the bags. "Our food containers are also plastic, all disposable." Wary of hiking prices, "all of this has become a cost for the vendors," she said. A key raw material for many of these plastic goods is ethylene, which is derived from naphtha, an oil by-product. Around 60 percent of the naphtha imported to Asia comes from the Gulf. Faced with tight supply and soaring prices due to the months-long closure of the Strait of Hormuz, petrochemical companies mainly in South Korea and Japan have scaled back production capacity, sending the cost of basic goods such as plastic bags surging. In Bangkok, Nikorn Sai-inthara, a 60-year-old selling vegetables from a street cart, estimated his operating costs had risen by 30 percent. "I rely on plastic bags for my work because I sell vegetables on the go to busy people and office workers," said Nikorn, who wraps individual portions in plastic and secures them with a rubber band. "Ever since the fighting started in the Middle East, my profits have fallen, but I don't dare raise prices for my customers," he told Agence France-Presse (AFP). "No choice" Several vendors across the region told AFP they do not have a practical alternative to the plastic products they use on a daily basis. "We have no choice. If you don't give customers plastic bags, they complain," said Chang Chiu-hsiang, a 78-year-old grocer in Taipei. "I think you can't really avoid using them," added Li, the chicken vendor, noting, however, that some customers have started to use reusable bags. Somsak Jaidee, 62, who sells rice porridge in bags secured with rubber bands at a Bangkok market, said that while "everything is more expensive.... I have to endure it." "I can't think of anything else that offers the same convenience for my customers as plastic bags." A cautious reopening of the Strait of Hormuz since the US-Iran deal was signed last week has yet to fully impact naphtha prices, which have dipped only slightly. And manufacturers continue to process naphtha purchased when prices were higher. In early June, Taiwanese manufacturer Formosa Petrochemical reported cutting the utilization rate of its ethylene steam cracker to 35 percent, down from 53 percent in March at the very start of the war. "At this point, the situation is not entirely due to lack of feedstock. The bigger issue now is that the feedstock has become extremely expensive, and some of our customers simply can't bear the higher prices," Formosa's president, Lin Keh-yen, told AFP. Diversification In South Korea, supply tensions remained acute in early June. "Normally, if we order 10,000 plastic bags, they arrive within about a week. Now suppliers are telling us that we may have to wait more than a month," with prices 30-percent higher, said a shop employee in Seoul. A nearby dry cleaner said the price of plastic garment covers had more than doubled, while a cafe owner

noted a 50-percent increase in the cost of plastic cups. South Korea's plastics industry association said the Middle East war had forced manufacturers to hike prices, although "alternative" supply routes have helped stabilize the situation. Fajar Budiyo, secretary-general of the Association of Olefin, Aromatic, Plastic and Chemical Industries in Indonesia, said a shift to suppliers in places like China and Africa has helped keep prices at bay. In the Philippines, meanwhile, manufacturers said they had absorbed some of the additional costs. "Our profits got squeezed. We could not simply raise prices as we would be swamped by imports," said Steve Tavera, a member of the Philippine Plastics Industry Association. As a result, price hikes have so far been "conservative," he said.

- [BuCor blends prison reform, commercial devt](#) (2026-06-28 16:14)

In the past four years, the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) has undergone a major transformation that has expanded its role beyond custodial confinement, linking prison reform with land development, food production, infrastructure modernization, and regional economic planning. At the center of this shift is a dual agenda — easing congestion in correctional facilities while developing new opportunities outside them. Since mid-2022, BuCor has released 32,388 persons deprived of liberty (PDLs). Thousands more have been transferred to penal farms and satellite facilities as part of efforts to reduce overcrowding in major institutions, including the New Bilibid Prison. BuCor has projected that more than 6,000 additional PDLs could be released by the end of 2026. The figures reflect the agency's move toward restorative justice and a more structured rehabilitation system. Beyond the numbers, however, the effort represents an attempt to recalibrate correctional management. The transformation extends far beyond inmate management. One of BuCor's most ambitious undertakings is the modernization and expansion of correctional facilities. Construction projects have been launched to improve facilities, strengthen security systems, and provide better conditions for both PDLs and correctional personnel. In Palayan City, Nueva Ecija, and Inagawan in Puerto Princesa City, new concepts in penal management and reform are being developed. Alongside them is the expansion of housing and community facilities for correctional employees in areas such as the New Bilibid Prison, and the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm, Sablayan. BuCor Director General Gregorio Pio Catapang Jr. described these initiatives as part of creating "self-sustaining correctional communities" — environments where correctional facilities are supported by integrated residential, administrative, and development infrastructure. Perhaps the most far-reaching and closely watched component of BuCor's transformation is its move into large-scale land development. During a market sounding activity in May 2026 involving the New Bilibid Prison reservation, government stakeholders and private developers explored possible long-term lease and development arrangements for the sprawling compound. The initiative reflects a strategy to make full use of underutilized prison lands and generate resources that could support facility modernization and institutional programs. The development model often cited is Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm in Palawan, where thousands of hectares are being readied for agricultural and eco-focused development. The approach is also being considered for other penal reservations, including Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro. In Sablayan, irrigation

and agricultural programs are being expanded to increase production capacity, positioning the facility not only as a correctional institution but also as a contributor to local food security. Portions of the Iwahig reservation are being envisioned as an eco-zone that could attract investment, create employment opportunities, and contribute to regional growth. The strategy, however, has also drawn scrutiny over governance, land-use priorities, and the possible risks of blending correctional management with commercial development. Beyond agriculture and infrastructure, BuCor has also aligned its long-term plans with broader regional development initiatives, particularly in Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan). The bureau has also been in discussions involving tourism and investment expansion in Palawan's major destinations, including El Nido, Coron, and nearby island municipalities. The convergence of corrections, tourism, and economic planning represents a significant departure from traditional penal administration. It places BuCor in a wider development framework — not only as a custodial institution but also as a participant in regional growth strategies. Taken together, these initiatives represent what Catapang described as modernization anchored on reducing congestion, expanding correctional infrastructure, improving agricultural productivity, and exploring new uses for extensive government land holdings. The result is an institution undergoing a fundamental shift — one no longer defined solely by confinement and rehabilitation, but increasingly by its role in land management, food production, and national development. Whether this model becomes a sustainable blueprint or remains a subject of debate will depend on how BuCor balances its expanding economic role with its primary mandate of correction, rehabilitation, and public safety. For now, the transformation continues, reshaping not only the bureau but also the understanding of what a correctional system can become in the 21st century. FRANCO JOSE BAROÑA

- [‘Chinese rejection of 2016 ruling shows insincerity’](#) (2026-06-28 16:13)

DEFENSE Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on Sunday said the Chinese Embassy in Manila's rejection of the Department of Foreign Affairs' (DFA) statement on the 2016 arbitral award is an outright display of “insincerity and duplicity.” “The Chinese Embassy statement replying to our Department of Foreign Affairs is a window into the true intentions of the Chinese Communist Party in dealing with our country,” Teodoro said in a statement. Last week, the DFA condemned China's refusal to recognize the 2016 ruling, but the embassy said it rejects as “a political manipulation in disguise.” It also said the ruling “distorted and abused” the dispute-settlement mechanisms of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos). “It clearly shows their insincerity and duplicity, which are amply personified by their Embassy officials. We condemn the arrogant display of deceitful indignation by them,” Teodoro said. “What they are saying is no longer believable; hence, they are resorting to agitation,” he said. Teodoro said the Philippines will not be cowed by such actions. The landmark ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration favored the Philippines and invalidated China's sweeping “nine-dash line” claims. The court affirmed Manila's sovereign rights within its 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

- [Badoy won't appeal PRC suspension](#) (2026-06-28 16:12)

FORMER National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) spokesman and physician Lorraine Badoy doubled down on her claims against health workers and said she won't appeal the six-month suspension of her medical license by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). The suspension stemmed from Badoy's public statements linking health workers to the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF). She claimed this was initiated by the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW), which she alleged is a front organization of the left. "Because, that, indeed, is what and who they are: a front of the terrorist CPP NPA NDF," she said in a statement on Sunday. "The Alliance of Health Workers is directly linked to the Makabayang Samahang Pangkalusugan or Masapa, an illegal underground mass organization that was designated as a terrorist organization by the Anti-Terrorism Council in January 2022," she said. Badoy noted that the PRC's Board of Medicine did not declare her statements false but ruled that she lacked formal documentation from the appropriate government agencies at the time she made the remarks. Despite this, she said she chose not to contest the ruling, saying there are "bigger battles" facing the country. Badoy also rejected the concept of "red-tagging," calling it an invention of the CPP-NPA-NDF to silence critics. She accused the mainstream media of coordinating coverage of her suspension to discredit and humiliate her and to shield AHW from scrutiny. "They have blown this up for one purpose and one purpose alone: to put back the mask of deception on the Alliance of Health Workers so they can continue to recruit doctors, nurses, medical students, etc. to be members of the terrorist organization," she said. "In the greater scheme of things, this is just another day in the office for those of us who dream of a CPP-free country and fight for us to get there," she said.

- [Speaker bats for inclusive future this Pride Month](#) (2026-06-28 16:11)

SPEAKER Faustino "Bojie" Dy III urged Filipinos to build a more inclusive future as he greeted the LGBTQIA+ community this Pride Month. LGBTQIA+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual/aromantic/agender, plus other related identities. Dy, the congressional representative of Isabela's sixth district, made the push in a video message. "This Pride Month, we celebrate the courage of being true to oneself and the right of everyone to live with dignity, respect, and equal opportunity," he said. Dy added that wherever we come from and whatever our beliefs or identities, we all have a place in society. "No one should experience discrimination or belittlement because in a just and modern country, respect for a person's dignity is not a privilege of a few but a right of all," he said. "Equality means ensuring that every person is seen, heard, respected, and allowed to thrive. When people are free to live authentically and contribute their talents without fear or prejudice, our communities become stronger, more compassionate, and more united," he said.

- [SLEX, STAR toll hikes to take effect July 1](#) (2026-06-28 16:10)

MOTORISTS using the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) and the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR) Tollway will pay higher fees beginning July 1 as the second tranche of approved rate increases takes effect, the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) said over the weekend. The adjustment

follows the implementation of the first tranche in January 2026 and is based on a consolidated petition covering toll rate adjustments for 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024. The TRB said the increase was approved to support the continued operations and maintenance of the two major expressways, including efforts to maintain safer, faster, and more efficient travel for motorists. For SLEX, motorists traveling the full Alabang-to-Sto. Tomas route will pay an additional P14 for Class 1 vehicles, P27 for Class 2 vehicles, and P41 for Class 3 vehicles. Under the new rates, the Alabang-to-Calamba section will cost P137 for Class 1 vehicles, P274 for Class 2 vehicles, and P411 for Class 3 vehicles. The Calamba-to-Sto. Tomas section will charge P37 for Class 1 vehicles, P74 for Class 2 vehicles, and P111 for Class 3 vehicles. The increases for the Alabang-to-Calamba segment amount to an additional P11 for Class 1 vehicles, P21 for Class 2 vehicles, and P32 for Class 3 vehicles, while the Calamba-to-Sto. Tomas segment will increase by P3, P6, and P9 for the same vehicle classes. For STAR Tollway, motorists traveling from Sto. Tomas to Batangas City will see an end-to-end increase of P8 for Class 1 vehicles, P17 for Class 2 vehicles, and P26 for Class 3 vehicles. The approved rates for the Sto. Tomas-to-Lipa section will be P64 for Class 1 vehicles, P128 for Class 2 vehicles, and P192 for Class 3 vehicles. The Lipa-to-Batangas City section will have new toll rates of P57 for Class 1 vehicles, P114 for Class 2 vehicles, and P171 for Class 3 vehicles. For the entire Sto. Tomas-to-Batangas City route, motorists will pay P121 for Class 1 vehicles, P242 for Class 2 vehicles, and P363 for Class 3 vehicles. The increases for STAR's first section are P4, P9, and P13 for Class 1, 2, and 3 vehicles, respectively, while the second section will increase by P4, P8, and P12. The rate adjustments will be implemented by Star Infrastructure Development Corp. and San Miguel Corporation's SLEX Inc. SLEX is a 36-kilometer expressway connecting Muntinlupa City and Sto. Tomas, Batangas, serving as a major link between Metro Manila and the provinces of Laguna and Batangas. STAR Tollway, meanwhile, spans about 42 kilometers from Sto. Tomas to Batangas City and provides a key route to southern Batangas, including the Port of Batangas and major tourism and industrial areas.

- [China-flagged vessel monitored near Batanes](#) (2026-06-28 16:09)

A CHINA-FLAGGED vessel has been monitored operating near the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Batanes, with its movements raising questions over its purpose and activities in the area, according to maritime monitoring group SeaLight. SeaLight identified the vessel as the 46-meter Mu Shan Zi (MMSI 412425790), a China-flagged ship that reportedly departed from a berth in Dongshan, Fujian, China, before sailing toward waters northwest of Itbayat, Batanes. Based on vessel tracking data shared by SeaLight, the ship has remained about 30 nautical miles northwest of Itbayat since June 12, moving at low speeds of around 1 to 3 knots while repeatedly circling, turning, and doubling back. The vessel does not appear to have an International Maritime Organization (IMO) number and broadcasts its vessel type as "Other," leaving its ownership, classification, and exact purpose unclear. SeaLight said it could not confirm whether the vessel is engaged in commercial operations, seabed surveying, or possible state-linked reconnaissance activity. The monitoring group noted that surveying the seabed or conducting marine scientific research within another country's EEZ requires the

consent of the coastal state under international maritime law. The Philippines' EEZ extends up to 200 nautical miles from its baselines, giving the country sovereign rights over the exploration and use of marine resources within the area.

- [US ambassador to Manila Lee Lipton arrives in the Philippines](#) (2026-06-28 16:07)

UNITED States Ambassador to the Philippines Lee Lipton arrived in Manila on Sunday to start his tour of duty as Washington's top envoy to the country. "Mabuhay and welcome back to the Philippines, U.S. Ambassador Lee Lipton!" the US Embassy in Manila posted on X. "We look forward to your leadership as we continue to mark #USPH80 and #Freedom250," the embassy added. The US and the Philippines are celebrating 80 years of relations in 2026. On July 4, America will celebrate 250 years of independence.

- [Make switching faster, ERC urged](#) (2026-06-28 16:06)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian on Sunday urged the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to shorten the turnaround time for switching electricity suppliers. The senator said this was crucial to "ensuring more consumers benefit from the expanded retail electricity market." The ERC earlier lowered the contestability threshold from 500 kilowatts to 100 kilowatts, allowing more small businesses, schools, and households to choose a retail electricity supplier instead of remaining with their distribution utility. "Opening the market is a big step, but we need to make switching faster and easier. Right now, it can take weeks," Gatchalian said in a statement. "This reform comes at a critical time as we accelerate our transition to renewable energy," the Senate chief added. He said making switching seamless "will help drive demand for cleaner and more affordable power." "Inaasahan nating mas marami ang makikinabang sa mas murang kuryente at mas malinis na enerhiya (We expect that more [consumers] would benefit from cheaper electricity and cleaner energy)," Gatchalian said.

- [329 Collective Negotiation Agreements processed in 2025 – CSC](#) (2026-06-28 16:05)

CIVIL Service Commission (CSC) Chairman Marilyn Yap said on Sunday that it has recorded a 100-percent efficiency rate in processing public sector labor agreements, reinforcing its mandate to protect government workers' right to self-organization. Yap said that the right to self-organization empowers state workers to form unions, negotiate collective agreements, and actively participate in policy decisions that shape their rights, benefits, and workplace welfare. Last year, the CSC chief said at least 74 new public sector employee organizations registered with the commission and Department of Labor and Employment-Bureau of Labor Relations, pushing the nationwide total of registered organizations to 2,156. "Some 67 of these unions successfully earned official accreditation, granting them the exclusive authority to represent and negotiate on behalf of rank-and-file employees within their respective agencies," Yap said. Moreover, Yap said the agency has recorded an ideal processing timeline for Collective Negotiation Agreements (CNAs), which are the legally binding contracts that improve workplace terms and employee benefits not fixed by law. The commission received and processed all 329 CNA applications submitted in 2025, hitting a 100-percent efficiency rate, she

said. “These high efficiency rates underscore CSC’s commitment to ensuring that negotiations between labor and management remain orderly, constructive, and aligned with existing rules and regulations,” she added. The central personnel agency of the government said the 2025 data builds on a steady, multi-year upward trend of government unions successfully registering their CNAs. This momentum began in 2021 with 275 registered CNAs, steadily climbed to a combined total of 348 across 2022 and 2023, and reached a peak of 404 registered agreements in 2024, the CSC records showed. “By promoting employee welfare while upholding accountability within government organizations, we continue to foster a professional work environment where labor and management work together toward improved public service delivery,” the top CSC official said.

- [LTFRB to summon Grab](#) (2026-06-28 16:04)

THE Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) is set to issue a show-cause order against Grab Philippines over a video posted by a Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS) driver who claimed that ride-hailing drivers are allowed to decline passenger bookings. LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said on Sunday that the agency will require Grab to identify the driver behind the vlog and explain whether its platform permits TNVS partners to refuse bookings, particularly based on a passenger’s destination. Mendoza stated that after receiving inquiries from netizens seeking clarification on the claims made by the TNVS driver, who alleged that drivers could reject bookings if they were uncomfortable with passengers’ destinations. The LTFRB chief stressed that refusing to transport passengers violates the conditions attached to the authority granted to public transportation operators, including TNVS units operating under a provisional authority or Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC). “Ride-hailing services, just like other public utility vehicles, are bound by the rules and regulations that include a provision that refusing to convey passengers is a violation and is punishable,” Mendoza said in a statement. He emphasized that the authority given to TNVS operators and partners is for public service and convenience, not the personal preferences and comfort of drivers. “The authority to operate TNVS and other PUVs is granted not for the comfort of the drivers and operators but the riding public,” Mendoza said. The LTFRB chairman said the claim made in the vlog was incorrect and could undermine the regulations governing ride-hailing services. “I do not know how or where this TNVS driver got that wrong idea. This is wrong and dangerous since it compromises the rules and regulations that govern TNVS,” he said. Mendoza also reminded transport network companies (TNCs) to ensure that their partner drivers understand existing regulations, particularly provisions requiring them to provide safe, reliable, and convenient public land transportation services.

- [LTFRB summons ride hailing app](#) (2026-06-28 16:04)

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- [FFW seeks full relief for dismissed worker](#) (2026-06-28 16:03)

A LABOR group urged the Supreme Court to reconsider parts of its ruling that recognized the circumstances surrounding the dismissal of a worker, but stressed that a finding of illegal dismissal must automatically result in reinstatement and full back wages. The Federation of Free Workers (FFW) on Sunday said that while it welcomed the high court ruling penned by Justice Filomena D. Singh that reaffirmed the rights of worker Ariel Carpio to security of tenure and protection from unjust termination, the decision should go further by granting the full remedies provided under labor laws. FFW president Sonny Matula said that Article 294 of the Labor Code is clear: workers who are illegally dismissed are entitled to reinstatement without loss of seniority rights and payment of full back wages. "These are not optional remedies but mandatory protections under the law," Matula pointed out. FFW also encouraged Carpio's camp to file a motion for reconsideration, arguing that the legality of the contracting arrangement involved in the case deserves closer examination. The group questioned the reliance on an earlier ruling that recognized Great Value as a legitimate contractor, saying that each labor dispute must be decided on its own facts and evidence. "A contractor does not become legitimate forever simply because it prevailed in a previous case," according to the FFW. The labor federation further argued that the facts cited in the ruling point to a broader issue involving workers' rights to organize. It noted that Carpio and several co-workers were reportedly transferred from Green Era Biotech to Great Value in January 2017, later joined a union, and sought regularization before the labor dispute escalated. The federation added that the sequence of events raises concerns about possible retaliation against workers who

exercised their constitutional right to self-organization. Also, the FFW disagreed with the dissenting opinion that Carpio's absences constitute serious misconduct, arguing that Carpio had cited illness and recurring toothaches for his absences and informed his supervisors of his condition. Moreover, the labor group argued that many low-income workers cannot afford regular medical or dental consultations and should not automatically be deemed dishonest simply for failing to produce medical certificates. "The Constitution commands full protection to labor, not perfect paperwork from poor workers," Matula said. He added that courts should consider the broader employment environment, including workers' efforts to organize and seek regularization, instead of evaluating attendance issues in isolation. FFW maintained that workers transferred to manpower agencies and facing uncertain employment conditions may experience stress and anxiety that affect attendance and performance. The group emphasized that serious misconduct requires deliberate and wrongful intent, which it believes was not established in Carpio's case. FFW called on the high court to issue a definitive ruling that clearly affirms Carpio's illegal dismissal and orders his immediate reinstatement, full back wages, and all related benefits. "Justice is incomplete when a worker is declared illegally dismissed but denied the full relief guaranteed by law," the federation said.

- [Cebu Pacific honors 5 outstanding Hong Kong OFWs](#) (2026-06-28 16:02)

CEBU Pacific (CEB) celebrated 25 years of flying to Hong Kong by honoring five exceptional overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) for their meaningful contributions to the Filipino community. The airline presented the CEB Values Awards during the Philippine Tourism Festival, organized by the OFW group Philippine Alliance. The awards honor individuals who embody the airline's core values: trust, integrity, courage, service, and the best of the Filipino spirit. "Over the past 25 years, Hong Kong has been an important part of Cebu Pacific's international network and story. More importantly, it has been home to generations of OFWs whose hard work and dedication continue to inspire us," said Candice Iyog, CEB Chief Marketing and Customer Experience Officer. "Through the CEB Values Awards, we recognize individuals who embody the values we aspire to live by as an airline." This is the second time the carrier has held the awards in Hong Kong. Each awardee received a round-trip international ticket with a 20-kilogram baggage allowance. Additionally, three round-trip international tickets were raffled off to OFWs attending the festival, giving more overseas Filipinos the opportunity to reunite with loved ones or explore the airline's international network. Hong Kong has been part of CEB's network since 2001 and remains one of its key international destinations, serving OFWs along with a growing number of leisure and business travelers.

- [First lady to continue rice distribution in key cities](#) (2026-06-28 16:01)

FIRST lady Liza Araneta-Marcos will continue her nationwide rice distribution initiative by visiting communities in several cities. The "Mula sa Puso Para sa Pamilya" project will resume on Monday in San Juan City, followed by Valenzuela City on June 30. The drive will resume after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s official trip to Canada from July 1 to 5, where Mrs. Marcos will accompany her husband. The campaign's next stops are Muntinlupa City on July 8,

Parañaque City on July 9, Mandaluyong City on July 10, and will conclude in Bacolod City on July 11. Last week, Mrs. Marcos visited communities in Manila and Quezon City, where she conveyed the president's message to the public. "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.

KRISTINA MARALIT

- [OSAP warns against fake fund solicitation schemes](#) (2026-06-28 16:01)

THE Office of the Special Assistant to the President (OSAP) has warned against individuals and groups falsely claiming to be connected with the office to solicit money or financial aid from local government units (LGUs) and the public. In a public advisory posted online, the OSAP stressed that neither the office nor its officials and staff solicit funds, request financial assistance, or conduct official transactions through SMS or private messaging applications. "Local government units, their executives, officials, and staff are advised to exercise extreme caution and verify any funding or project-related directives claiming to originate from the OSAP by validating them exclusively through established institutional channels," it said. The OSAP called on the public to report suspicious communications or solicitations falsely representing the office through osap@malacanang.gov.ph. Kristina Maralit

- [Caloocan gets COA's unmodified opinion](#) (2026-06-28 16:01)

FOR the second time, the Caloocan City government obtained an unmodified opinion from the Commission on Audit (COA) on its 2025 financial statements for transparency and accuracy. Mayor Dale Gonzalo Malapitan said that the latest COA recognition affirms the fair presentation of the city government's financial position and compliance with accounting and ethical standards. "COA's unmodified opinion highlights the city government's commitment to transparency and accountability, which the dedication and competence of the City Hall workers made possible," Malapitan said. He expressed gratitude to the commission for the positive assessment of the city's fund use. "This recognition reflects our sustained dedication to managing the city's funds with order and accountability," the city chief executive said. An unmodified opinion is the highest audit opinion COA may issue, indicating that the financial statements are presented in accordance with applicable government accounting standards. The Caloocan mayor reiterated that the local government upholds transparency and ensures public resources are used effectively for programs and services that benefit residents. "My administration will continue to strengthen a government rooted in integrity and compassion for every Caloocan resident," he said.

- [Senate committee to probe Tacloban school shooting](#) (2026-06-28 11:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations, and Gender Equality will start this week its investigation on the Tacloban school shooting incident as some sectors sought to further amend the juvenile justice law. Sen. Risa Hontiveros, chairman of the panel, said she will hold the inquiry on July 1. The senator aims to determine the

circumstances that led to the shooting incident at San Jose National High School that led to the death of three students. Hontiveros said she hopes to examine the broader chain of failures that may have contributed to the June 22 shooting, including possible grooming, radicalization, and normalization of violence in online platforms. She invited the Germany-based developer of Gorebox, the video game linked by authorities to the Tacloban school shooting investigation. But Felix Filip, who identified himself as a Germany-based independent game developer, informed the committee through email that he would not attend the hearing, either in person or through Zoom. Hontiveros said she will seek the assistance of the German Embassy in Manila to facilitate the participation of Filip in the Senate inquiry.

- [PH leads adoption of initiatives for Asean higher education](#) (2026-06-28 11:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Southeast Asian higher education chiefs adopted three initiatives which the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) said would "guide cooperation on digital transformation, teacher development, research collaboration, and academic mobility." The initiatives were unanimously adopted last June 26 during the Ministers' Roundtable on Access and Sustainable Development in Higher Education which the Philippines, the 2026 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) chairman, convened through the CHED. The first was the establishment of a "policy framework that promotes equitable access to higher education through AI-enabled learning, ethical AI governance, lifelong learning opportunities, faculty development, and stronger collaboration among higher education institutions." The second was the Terms of Reference for the Asean Centre of Excellence for Teacher Education and Development. The third was the Asean GEMS Plus which, the CHED said, expands the Asean Global Exchange for Mobility and Scholarship "beyond scholarships and student mobility to include regional research grants, researcher mobility, innovation partnerships, and collaborative projects anchored on the Sustainable Development Goals."

- [Focus should be on boosting digital access — Globe exec](#) (2026-06-28 11:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Globe president and CEO Carl Cruz said on Sunday that the challenge for technology providers was to ensure the Filipino people have access to a reliable connectivity wherever they are. Cruz issued the statement as he stressed that there is no single technology that can connect a nation. Cruz said Globe believes the focus should remain on expanding digital access, protecting consumers, promoting fair competition, and ensuring that innovation benefits more Filipinos. Supporting technology-neutral policies that encourage innovation, he said there is a need to ensure that all connectivity providers uphold high standards for service reliability, security and consumer protection and fair competition. Cruz said collaboration among industry players, regulators, technology providers, and policymakers is vital to ensure that every Filipino would have access to reliable, secure, and accessible digital services. "No single technology can connect a nation. The challenge is not deciding which technology wins. The challenge is ensuring every Filipino has access to reliable connectivity wherever they are," he reiterated. "Mobile networks, fiber infrastructure, submarine cables, and satellite technologies each have a role to play in building a more connected, resilient, and inclusive

Philippines. And this is exactly what we hope to fully achieve as we map out our footprint in the country," he pointed out. Cruz explained how connectivity was critical to modern society as other basic utilities. Education, healthcare, financial services, government transactions, and emergency response all depend on reliable digital access, he said. At the same time, he said satellite technology is opening new opportunities to reach areas where traditional network deployment remains challenging. Cruz said Globe sees satellite and terrestrial networks as complementary components of a broader connectivity ecosystem rather than viewing them as competing technologies. This approach is reflected in Globe's efforts to build a multi-network platform that integrates mobile, fiber, wireless, submarine cable, and satellite technologies, the top Globe executive said. He cited the company's partnership with Starlink which offers satellite-to-mobile capabilities that can help extend connectivity beyond the reach of traditional cellular infrastructure and provide additional resilience during emergencies and disaster response. Starting to integrate satellite capabilities into its connectivity ecosystem, Globe has already deployed satellite-based connectivity solutions during emergency response efforts in Mindanao, providing an additional layer of communications support in affected areas while network restoration activities were underway, Cruz said. By combining multiple technologies, he said the industry can help close coverage gaps, strengthen network resilience, and bring digital opportunities to more communities across the country. "For Globe, the future is not satellite versus mobile. It is about building a seamless connectivity ecosystem where technologies work together to ensure every Filipino can stay connected and participate fully in an increasingly digital world," Cruz said.

- [Schools in Cebu municipality to ban cell phones](#) (2026-06-28 08:00)

MANDAUE CITY — Beginning Monday, June 29, schools in a municipality in Cebu will confiscate cell phones brought by students and will return these only when the academic year ends. Dumanjug Mayor Efren Guntrano "Gungun" Gica ordered schools to confiscate cell phones beginning Monday and return them to their owners at the end of the school year. The security measure was introduced after the deadly school shooting in Tacloban City last week. In a Facebook post on Sunday, June 28, addressed to school heads, Gica said the municipality would implement a total ban on cell phones inside schools without exception. "To all school heads: No, in Dumanjug, it is a total ban," Gica said. "There are no phones allowed in school. Starting Monday, if a student brings a phone, it will be confiscated and only returned at the end of the school year. If you do not wish to follow this policy, you have the option to transfer your children to another municipality," the mayor said. The mayor said the policy aims to help students focus on reading, studying and interacting with classmates instead of spending time on gadgets. "We want our kids to read, study, and interact with their classmates," Gica said. He also urged parents to do their part at home by talking with their children, monitoring what they learned in school, and encouraging healthy relationships among family members. Gica assured parents that the municipality would ensure students' safety despite the cell phone restriction. The mayor said he would meet with all school heads at 1 p.m. Monday, June 29 to discuss the implementation of the policy. He also said the local government plans to purchase

school buses for students, although the initiative will be rolled out gradually.

• [Thousands of Vespas swarm Rome's historic center to mark iconic scooter's 80th anniversary](#) (2026-06-28 07:56)

ROME — More than 10,000 Vespas putt-putt-putted around the Colosseum and past the Roman Forum on Saturday, marking the 80th anniversary of the iconic scooter. Enthusiasts came from all over; the AP spoke to people from across continental Europe, northern England, San Francisco, Australia's Gold Coast, the Philippines and more. Vespa-borne visitors converged on the Eternal City's cobblestone streets to celebrate a brand they likewise view as timeless. If for only a day, Ferrari and Ducati were forgotten as the little Vespa left them in its dust. "The passion for Vespa is for the Italian style, freedom, the '60s," said Natalie Dunand, a retiree from France who was celebrating her own 61st birthday, too. "I love it." The two-wheeled vehicle to provoke a smile Made world-famous by the film "Roman Holiday" in 1953, when Gregory Peck gave Audrey Hepburn a romantic lift through Rome's center, Vespas have since featured in others, including "The Talented Mr. Ripley" and more recently the animated "Luca." With curved lines evoking a bygone era, plus an ability to produce smiles among onlookers, Vespa — which means "wasp" in Italian — is to two-wheeled transport what the Volkswagen Beetle is to cars. Its invention was a bit of chance as Italy rebuilt from the rubble after World War II. Piaggio, a major aircraft manufacturer that saw its Pontedera factory destroyed by bombings, had to change gears. Downshifting considerably, Piaggio started churning out scooters. Women were among initial target clients, according to Davide Zanolini, Piaggio's executive vice president of marketing, since they could ride them while wearing long skirts and without showing their legs. That's reflected in the Vespa's design. "The shape, the elegance. This very charming attitude of Vespa is much more of a lady than a man," Zanolini told The Associated Press in an interview. That little two-wheeler helped kickstart Italy's economy, and soon enough they were everywhere. An AP article from 1950 said that Vespas had become so prevalent that their "staccato exhaust racket" had downtown Rome sounding like the Indy 500. "There probably isn't a noisier scooter in all the world," it said. "Scooters darting loudly around Rome are said to impress motor-minded Americans as strongly as St. Peter's or the Colosseum. The scooter quickly teaches visitors to look four ways at once at street crossings." A vision of the past Such scenes have again become commonplace since Vespa aficionados started arriving on Thursday, flooding streets all over the city and with traveling groups making their presence known in matching T-shirts. The parking lot outside Rome's Stadium of the Marbles on Thursday had rows upon rows of Vespas of all makes from the past eight decades. It was like a motorcycle rally — except adorable. Some Vespas featured flowers and stuffed animals. Dunand's Westie terrier rode behind her, its fur cut short to cope with the heat. A man from Tokyo, with his 8-year-old daughter behind him, swapped his hometown club's banner with an Italian. Others traded stickers. And the Vespa logo tattooed on a German man's meaty left calf appeared next to three words in flowery cursive: "La Dolce Vita" — The Sweet Life. Aficionados spoke about how the brand taps into nostalgia for a certain time, even among those who weren't alive then. Many also noted that they traded bigger

motorcycles for nimbler and more manageable Vespas because they're lighter and automatic, with the accelerator on the hand grip. "You get on, twist, go. Doddle. Easy," said Andrew Walton, a 59-year-old truck driver who bought his first Vespa almost 20 years ago and never looked back. He had just spent eight days riding from Newcastle, first with a ferry to Rotterdam then following the Rhine River through Germany to Austria's "Romantic Road", and finally down along Italy's coast. Buy all the accessories in Vespa Village. Once Rome's mayor cut the ribbon at the Stadium of the Marbles, visitors streamed in singing, chanting, waving flags. Many made a beeline for the gift shop, where they could snap up anything from Vespa jackets and hats to Vespa blankets, Vespa water bottles and Vespa umbrellas. But most early comers had their eyes on the limited-edition helmet, with "80 Years of an Icon" emblazoned on its side. A photo retrospective showed Vespas in classic scenes — couples picnicking in a flowering field, seaside escapes with bikinis and a beachball, road trips under the Mediterranean sun — plus others one might not imagine, like explorer Soren Nielsen reaching the Arctic Circle on a Vespa in 1963. There were also pristine Vespas from Piaggio's collection displayed like posing models to admire, and soaking up attention usually directed toward the nearby marbles with idealized physiques. The company has sold about 20 million Vespas worldwide since 1946, and today sells in 110 countries, Zanolini said. In the U.S., they're popular in Florida and California and gaining traction in some other places like Austin. But it's still a niche product in America, he said. Burke Sandman, whose family owns a 108-year-old car dealership in Indiana, told the AP in Rome that he bought his first Vespa about two decades ago — captivated by its sidecar. He quickly realized there were no resellers around and got in touch with Vespa to get in the game. He has since moved about 1,000 of them across the U.S., snagging 15 for himself. "No one ever says anything bad about a Vespa. You know, it's crazy," Sandman said inside the Vespa Village. "Everyone that trades other brands for a Vespa, they never go back. It's just something about it. And everyone likes Italian stuff. I get a lot of people that come back from Europe, and they've got the bug."

- [Independent CNMI governor bet eyes Filipinos' 'swing vote'](#) (2026-06-28 07:47)

SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands — Independent gubernatorial candidate Lawrence Camacho said the Filipino community will play an important role in the Commonwealth's future, describing it as a vital contributor to the CNMI economy. He pledged that if elected, his administration would continue engaging with Filipinos alongside other sectors of society. His running mate, Edith Deleon Guerrero, echoed that message, saying the campaign wanted to hear firsthand the concerns of Filipino residents because "it's really what's affecting our people every day, and that's what we want to hear from them." She added that "everybody is important to us," and the campaign intends to meet with all sectors throughout the election season. The significance of the Filipino electorate was underscored during the forum by businessman Mar Masilungan, who described Filipino voters as the CNMI's "swing vote" and urged candidates to maintain an open dialogue with the community beyond the election campaign. "We're the swing vote. We can make you win," Masilungan said, while encouraging Camacho to continue holding town hall meetings with Filipinos if elected. There are over 15,000 Filipinos in CNMI, which has a

population of over 42,000. Camacho said the meet-and-greet at Bravo Kitchen in Garapan last June 27 was organized after members of the Filipino community sought an opportunity to engage directly with the independent ticket. "The way I operate and the way she and I have been talking is that every sector of the community is important," Camacho said. "Every sector of the community can reach out to us. We would love to reach out to all the sectors as well." He also credited Filipinos with helping build the Commonwealth's economy. "This community... has contributed so much to the economy, to the Commonwealth," Camacho said. "We wouldn't be here if it weren't for a lot of the hard work that our people... had worked alongside the Filipino community." The discussion covered a range of issues affecting Filipinos and other residents, including the future of the Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker program, Employment Authorization Documents for longtime foreign workers, the proposed Guam-CNMI visa waiver for Filipino travelers, and strategies to revive the economy following Super Typhoon Sinlaku. Much of the conversation focused on labor, immigration and economic recovery. Masilungan, who is a member of the CNMI Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, urged local leaders to pursue more permanent immigration solutions for longtime foreign workers instead of another extension of the CW program. He argued that many Filipino workers have spent decades in the CNMI, raised families and deserve an opportunity to obtain more permanent legal status, while also raising concerns about delays in Employment Authorization Document processing. Camacho, who described himself as "a rancher and scholar," said he believes his background gives him a practical perspective on solving the Commonwealth's challenges. The candidates also voiced support for continued discussions with the US government on a visa waiver for Filipino citizens traveling between the Philippines, Guam and the CNMI, while acknowledging immigration policy ultimately rests with federal authorities. They also outlined broad priorities for economic recovery, including restoring investor confidence, improving infrastructure and strengthening tourism and agriculture.

• [Impeachment trial may take seven months — Gatchalian](#) (2026-06-28 07:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Sunday said the senators are finding ways to expedite the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte as it may drag on until February 2027. The Senate, sitting as Impeachment Court, will start the trial on July 7. The senator said the Senate might be able to finish the trial in seven months as the chamber has to pass important legislative measures, such as the proposed 2027 national budget. The Senate would soon conduct public hearings on some proposals amending the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act following recent school violence. The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee is also set to resume investigation on the flood control fund scandal. "Based on our estimates, the impeachment trial will run from 7 to 8 months. If we are going to start in July, we may be able to finish by February [2027]," Gatchalian said in a radio interview. "That's why we are studying how we can expedite the impeachment trial because the Senate is not only occupied with the impeachment. We also have to tackle proposed laws," he said. "But we will insist on finishing all the preliminaries. Tomorrow (June 29) we will issue the pre-trial order," Gatchalian said. "We will give both camps three days to file their comments. And then after that we will

prepare for the impeachment this coming July 6,” he said. Gatchalian said the Senate will start tackling the 2027 General Appropriations Bill. “And we know the budget is one of the most difficult activity of the Senate.” “So we are really studying that and of course, we will consult the prosecution and defense on how we can shorten the process and if they can lower the number of witnesses,” he said. Gatchalian raised the need to consult with the prosecution and defense regarding the matter “because there were 10,000 pieces of evidences that were marked.” “So just imagine the time that would be spent if these 10,000 pieces would all be presented,” he said.

- [New US ambassador arrives in Manila](#) (2026-06-28 05:41)

MANILA, Philippines — United States Ambassador to the Philippines Lee Lipton arrived in Manila on Sunday to start his tour of duty as Washington's top envoy to the country. “Mabuhay and welcome back to the Philippines, U.S. Ambassador Lee Lipton!” the US Embassy in Manila posted on X. “We look forward to your leadership as we continue to mark #USPH80 and #Freedom250,” the embassy added. The US and the Philippines are celebrating 80 years of relations in 2026. On July 4, America will celebrate 250 years of independence.

- [NGCP again issues yellow alert for Visayas grid](#) (2026-06-28 05:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) has again issued a yellow alert for the Visayas grid on Sunday, June 28, as major coal plants continue to remain offline while demand is expected to be high. The yellow alert will be between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. as peak demand is estimated to reach 2,292 megawatts (MW), while available supply is only at 2,560 MW. NGCP said that 32 plants are on forced outage, while 14 plants are running on derated capacities for a total of 974.8 MW unavailable to the grid. The major 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.

- [Parts of Metro Manila and Cavite to have water interruptions this week](#) (2026-06-28 04:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila and Cavite will have water interruptions this week due to maintenance works and high demand, Manila Water Company Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. said on Sunday. Manila Water said that some parts of Brgy. Forbes Park, Makati City will have no water on June 29-30 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of the replacement of a line meter in a water system at Banyan cor. McKinley Road. In Quezon City, some areas in Tivoli Royale Subdivision, Vista Real Phase 1, Vista Real Phase 2 and Capitol Homes will have water service interruptions on June 30-July 1 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of cutting and plugging works in a water system at Don Antonio Royale Estates. Some sections of Brgy. Pasong Tamo, Quezon City will have service interruptions on June 30-July 1 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to interconnection activities at Himlayan Road cor. St. Anthony. Meanwhile, Maynilad said in Quezon City, several areas in the villages of Apolonio

Samson, Baesa, Bagbag, Bahay Toro, Balong Bato, Bungad, Damayan, Dangay, Del Monte, Katipunan, Mariblo, Paltok, Paraiso, San Antonio, San Bartolome, Sauyo, Talipapa, Unang Sigaw, Veteran's Village, Bagong Silangan, Greater Fairview, Gulod, Kaligayahan, North Fairview, Pasong Putik, Payatas, San Agustin, San Bartolome, Sauyo, Sta. Lucia and Sta. Monica will have water interruptions on June 29-30 between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. due to urgent network maintenance and system optimization activities. Some places in the villages of Bagbag, San Bartolome, Bagong Silangan, Batasan Hills, Commonwealth, Greater Fairview, Gulod, Holy Spirit, North Fairview, Payatas, San Bartolome, Sauyo, Sta. Lucia, Sta. Monica, Sauyo and Talipapa will have water interruptions on June 30-July 1 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of a water audit at Regalado Avenue. Also, some parts of Brgy. Apolonio Samson will have service interruptions on June 29-30 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. due to leak detection and pressure test activities at Toctocan corner Malac. Some portions of Brgy. Siena will have water interruptions on June 29-30 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of decommissioning activities at Sta. Catalina cor. Biak na Bato (West). Some parts of Brgy. Balingasa in Quezon City; some areas in the villages of Bangkulasi, NBBS Dagat-Dagatan, NBBS Kaunlaran, NBBS Proper, North Bay Boulevard North and San Rafael in Navotas City; and several places in the villages of 1 to 12, 14 to 20, 22 to 24, 27, 28, 30, 31, 35, 49, 52, 53, 56 to 71, 73, 74, 75, 77 to 80, 86 to 96, 99, 101, 105, 148, 149, 152 to 155, 161, 178 and Longos in Caloocan City will have no water on June 29-30 between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of urgent network maintenance and system optimization activities. Some portions of Brgy. 176 in Caloocan City will have service interruptions on June 29-30 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. due to network maintenance activities. Several locations in the villages of 167 to 173, 175 to 180 in Caloocan City will have water interruptions on June 29-30 between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of urgent network maintenance and system optimization activities. Also, some areas in the villages of Dagat-Dagatan and Longos in Caloocan City and some places in the villages of Longos, Potrero and Tonsuya in Malabon City will have no water on June 29-30 between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. due to urgent network maintenance and system optimization activities. In Valenzuela City, some parts of Brgy. Ugong will have water service interruptions on June 29-30 between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of urgent network maintenance and system optimization activities. Some places in Brgy. Ugong will have no water on June 30-July 1 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of a water audit. Some areas in the villages of Gen. T. De Leon and Parada will have water interruptions on June 29-30 between 12:01 a.m. and 4 a.m. because of network maintenance activities at Prodon Street and Independence Street. In Manila City, several areas in the villages of 48 to 55, 72, 73, 76 to 78, 81 to 84, 86 to 93, 98 to 101, 105, 106, 123, 125 to 127, 147 to 153, 155, 160, 163, 168 to 172, 178 to 183, 221 to 233, 310 to 316, 329, 330, 335 to 341, 343 to 382, 383, 384, 388, 390 to 416, 420, 429 to 438, 440, 442, 443, 446 to 448, 450, 452, 454, 456 to 461, 462 to 469, 472, 474 to 478, 482 to 501, 504 to 511, 514, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 587 to 625, 649, 719, 722 to 762, 769, 803, 807, 830, 832 to 834, 842, 844 to 848, 850, 851, 855 to 859 and 587-A will have water interruptions on June 29-30 between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of urgent network maintenance and system optimization works. Some locations in Brgy. Palanan in Makati City; some places in the villages of BF Homes, BF International/CAA, Merville and Moonwalk in Parañaque City; and some parts of Brgy. 201, Pasay City will have water service interruptions on June 29-30 between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

because of urgent network maintenance and system optimization activities. Some areas in the villages of CAA, Manuyo Dos, Pamplona Uno to Pamplona Tres, Pulang Lupa Uno, Pulang Lupa Dos, Talon Uno, Talon Dos and Zapote in Las Piñas City; and some places in the villages of Poblacion, Putatan and Tunasan in Muntinlupa City will have service interruptions on June 29-30 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of urgent network maintenance and system optimization activities. In Imus City, Cavite, several places in the villages of Alapan I-C, Anabu I-A, Anabu I-B, Anabu I-C, Anabu I-D, Anabu I-E, Anabu I-F, Anabu II-A, Anabu II-B, Anabu II-C, Anabu II-D, Anabu II-E, Bayan Luma I, Bayan Luma II, Bayan Luma III, Bayan Luma IV, Bayan Luma V, Bayan Luma VI, Bayan Luma VII, Bayan Luma VIII, Bayan Luma IX, Bukandala III, Bukandala IV, Bukandala V, Carsadang Bago I, Carsadang Bago II, Malagasang 1-A, Malagasang I-B, Malagasang I-C, Malagasang I-D, Malagasang I-E, Malagasang I-F, Malagasang I-G, Medicion I-B, Poblacion III-B, Poblacion IV-B, Poblacion IV-D, and Tanzang Luma VI will have no water on June 29-July 2 between 5 a.m. and 1 a.m. because of high water demand at the Patindig Araw pumping station. Several places in the villages of 1 to 62, 10 A-B, 22-A, 36-A, 37-A, 38-A, 42-A, 42-B, 42-C, 45-A, 47-A, 47-B, 48-A, 49-A, 53-A (Sangley), 53-B (Sangley), 54-A, 58-A, 61-A, 62-A, Fort San Felipe, Fort San Felipe (Phil Navy), and Sangley Point in Cavite City; some areas in the villages of Bagbag I, Magdiwang, Poblacion, Salcedo I, Salcedo II, San Antonio I, San Antonio II, San Juan I, San Juan II, San Rafael I to San Rafael IV, Sta. Rosa I and Sta. Rosa II in Noveleta; and some places in the villages of Bagbag I, Bagbag II, Kanluran, Muzon I, Muzon II, Poblacion, Sapa I to Sapa IV, Silangan I, Silangan II, Tejeros Convention and Wawa I, Wawa II and Wawa III in Rosario will have no water on June 29-30 between 10:30 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of a water audit at Kalero Bridge, Manila-Cavite Road. Several sections in the villages of Alima, Aniban II, Aniban IV, Banalo, Bayanan, Camposanto, Daang Bukid, Digman, Habay I, Kaingin, Ligas I to Ligas III, Mabolo I, Mabolo II, Maliksi I to Maliksi III, Mambog I to Mambog IV, Molino III, Niog I, Niog II, Niog III, Panapaan II, Panapaan III, San Nicholas I, San Nicholas III, San Nicholas III, Seneguelasan, Tabing Dagat (Poblacion), Talaba I, Talaba II, Talaba III, Talaba IV, Talaba VI, Talaba VII, Zapote I, Zapote II, Zapote IV and Zapote V in Bacoar City; some areas in the villages of Buhay na tubig, Medicion II-C, Medicion II-D and Palico IV in Imus City; and some locations in the villages of Balsahan-Bisita, Batong Dalig, Binakayan-Aplaya, Binakayan-Kanluran, Congbalay-Legaspi, Gahak, Kaingen, Magdalo, Manggahan-Lawin, Marulas, Panamitan, Poblacion, Pulvorista, Samala-Marquez, Sta. Isabel, Tabon 1, Tabon 2, Tramo-Bantayan, Wakas 1 and Wakas 2 in Kawit will have water interruptions on June 29-30 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of urgent network maintenance and system optimization activities.

- [For second time, Caloocan gets COA' s unmodified opinion](#) (2026-06-28 02:47)

MANILA, Philippines — For the second time, Caloocan City obtained an unmodified opinion from the Commission on Audit (COA) on its 2025 financial statements which were found to be transparent and accurate. Mayor Dale Gonzalo Malapitan said that the latest COA recognition affirms the fair presentation of the city government' s financial position and compliance with accounting and ethical standards. "COA' s unmodified opinion highlights the city government' s commitment to transparency and accountability which are made possible due

to the dedication and competence of the City Hall workers,” Malapitan said. “This recognition reflects our sustained dedication to managing the city's funds with order and accountability.” An unmodified opinion is the highest audit rating issued by COA, indicating that the financial statements were presented in accordance with applicable government accounting standards. The Caloocan mayor said that the local government has been upholding transparency and ensuring that public resources are utilized effectively for programs and services that benefit the residents. “My administration will continue to strengthen a government rooted in integrity and compassion for every Caloocan resident,” Malapitan said.

- [Mindoro's Udalo Bridge 94% complete — DPWH \(2026-06-28 02:22\)](#)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said that Udalo Bridge, a major infrastructure project expected to transform travel and connectivity between Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, will be finished soon. DPWH Secretary Vince Dizon who inspected the project over the weekend, said the bridge in Barangay Udalo, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro is 94 percent complete. The bridge has been partially opened to light vehicles. It will be opened to all types of vehicles on July 15. “The partial opening is expected to significantly improve mobility and safety in the area,” Dizon said. The 115-meter bridge forms part of the Abra de Ilog–Puerto Galera Road and serves as the final bridge that will complete the northern route connecting the two provinces. Once the bridge is fully operational, motorists will no longer need to cross the riverbed, significantly improving safety and ensuring uninterrupted travel.

- [Some areas in Metro Manila and Bulacan to have power interruptions due to maintenance works \(2026-06-28 00:54\)](#)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila and Bulacan will have power interruptions this week due to scheduled maintenance works, Meralco said on Sunday. In Metro Manila, some places in the villages of Poblacion, Putatan and Bayanan in Muntinlupa City will have no electricity on June 30–July 1 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of line reconductoring work and replacement of electricity facilities along Rizal St. and San Guillermo St. Some areas in the villages of Fairview and Greater Fairview in Quezon City will have power interruptions on June 30–July 1 between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of line reconductoring works and replacement of electricity poles along Pearl Drive Ave. In Pasig City, some parts of Brgy. Santolan will have no power on June 30–July 1 between 11:30 p.m. and 1 a.m. due to line reconstruction works along Evangelista St. Also, some locations in Pandacan, Paco, and Sta. Ana in Manila City will have no electricity on June 30–July 1 between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. due to line reconstruction work along Beata St. and Tomas Claudio St. In Bulacan, some sections of Brgy. Caingin I, Meycauayan City will have no electricity on June 30 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. because of line reconductoring works along Centro Timog Road in Brgy. Caingin. In Bocaue, some parts of Brgy. Duhat will have power interruptions on June 30 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. because of the replacement of electricity facilities along Mendoza St.

- [New LPA spotted off Mindanao may become tropical cyclone \(2026-06-28 00:43\)](#)

MANILA, Philippines – The state-run weather agency said Sunday it is closely monitoring the movement of a low-pressure area (LPA), estimated at 890 kilometers east of northeastern Mindanao, and is likely to become a weather disturbance in a few days. Weather specialist Robert Badrina of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that the LPA was not yet expected to intensify into a tropical depression within 24 hours. He said Western Visayas, Caraga, and Davao Region are already experiencing cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms due to the LPA. Meanwhile, the southwest monsoon, locally known as 'habagat', will likely bring overcast skies, scattered rain showers and thunderstorms over the Ilocos Region, Zambales, Bataan, Occidental Mindoro, and Palawan, Pagasa said. Metro Manila and the rest of the country would have partly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms.

- [VP Sara: Junk 'flawed' impeachment case](#) (2026-06-27 16:16)

VICE President Sara Duterte's camp said the impeachment complaint against her should be dismissed for being "fundamentally flawed," while the prosecution maintained that her answer did not engage with the articles, concentrating instead on procedural, jurisdictional and constitutional objections. The Senate, constituted as an impeachment court, on May 18 gave Duterte 10 calendar days to respond to the charges against her. Her reply on May 25 was uploaded to the Senate's impeachment website this week. In her reply, Duterte said that the entire impeachment process in the House of Representatives Committee on Justice was "tainted by evident bad faith." The defense also said that the House usurped the Senate's power by conducting a "mini trial" or a "fishing expedition" to build a case, rather than just initiating it. It also said the articles violated the doctrinal ruling in Duterte vs. House of Representatives, which required that the basis of any charge must be for any impeachable acts or omissions committed in relation to their office and during the current term of the impeachable officer. Her camp also said that the articles of impeachment and the evidence transmitted by the House of Representatives are the product of a proceeding that "bears all the hallmarks of grave abuse of discretion at its very foundation." "The televised coverage of the committee hearings made it clear that the birth of the articles of impeachment was a foregone conclusion, and the hearings were staged performances and a trawling search for justification for a pre-ordained result," the defense said. The reply also included answers to the four articles of impeachment filed against the vice president. On the first article over the misuse of confidential funds, her camp has denied any culpable violation of the Constitution or graft regarding the use of the funds, noting that the findings of the Commission on Audit are not yet final and no evidence exists showing she personally gained from these funds. The defense also said that the allegations regarding her unexplained wealth, covered in the second article, involved her time as mayor and vice mayor of Davao City, which are "non-impeachable offenses." They also said that the inclusion of assets belonging to her spouse, lawyer Manases Carpio, was a "malicious attempt to manufacture unexplained wealth" and that the data used violated bank secrecy laws. The defense also denied giving monetary gifts to Department of Education officials to circumvent procurement laws, as outlined in the third article of bribery, saying that the prosecution

misrepresented witness testimony to "lend color" to the accusation. It also said that Duterte's statement that she hired an assassin to kill President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., first lady Liza Marcos, and former speaker Martin Romualdez was part of her freedom of speech in opposition to the administration's policies and should not constitute a crime. The defense also included a motion to exclude evidence, noting that much of the evidence attached to the articles was obtained through "constitutionally impermissible means" during the Justice Committee's "fishing expedition" and should therefore be excluded as "fruit of the poisonous tree." Her camp concluded that the articles of impeachment failed to meet the constitutional requirements for an impeachment proceeding and lacked sufficient factual or legal bases, thus praying for dismissal. The prosecution, in their manifestation, said that while Duterte repeatedly asserted that she committed no impeachable offense, her answer offered no coherent factual narrative that directly refuted the charges set forth in the articles of impeachment. It also said that the answer did not function as a genuine response to the charges, but as an attempt to secure the case's dismissal on constitutional and procedural grounds. Also over the weekend, Sen. Panfilo Lacson dismissed claims that the forthcoming impeachment trial would derail the Senate's ongoing investigation into alleged irregularities in government flood control projects, saying such assertions are politically motivated and driven by early campaigning for the 2028 national elections. Speaking in an interview with IBC News on Friday, Lacson said members of the Senate majority bloc have chosen not to respond to suggestions that the impeachment proceedings would interfere with the chamber's oversight functions. "We'll just leave them to their campaigning. Everyone knows the impeachment trial will not derail the flood control probe. Such tales are not surprising because we have colleagues in the Senate who are running in 2028, thus their heavy use of Facebook Live and other social media platforms, and media interviews," Lacson said. "We understand their plight and their need to go into early campaign mode. So, our position in the majority is not to dignify their claims with a response," he added. Lacson's remarks came after Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said the impeachment trial should not halt the Senate's flood control investigation. The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, now chaired by Sen. Erwin Tulfo, is leading the inquiry into alleged anomalies in flood control projects across the country. The committee is expected to continue the work initiated under Lacson's leadership, with lawmakers scrutinizing government agencies, contractors and the implementation of flood control programs amid recurring flooding that has affected several communities nationwide. The impeachment proceedings against Duterte are expected to become one of the Senate's most significant constitutional responsibilities in the coming months. Under the Constitution, senators will sit as judges to hear the case after the articles of impeachment are transmitted to the Senate. Despite concerns that the trial could consume much of the chamber's legislative calendar, several senators have expressed confidence that committee hearings and legislative inquiries can proceed alongside the impeachment process through careful scheduling and coordination. The Senate Impeachment Court has set the schedule for Duterte's impeachment trial, starting on July 6 at 2 p.m. every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday until President Marcos' fifth State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 27. Thursdays will be reserved for hearing motions and procedural matters, with no sessions on Fridays. After the SONA, proceedings will continue on Tuesdays, Wednesdays,

and Thursdays at 2 p.m., while Mondays may be used for Senate committee hearings. Senate Secretary Renato Bantug Jr. emphasized the importance of balancing legislative duties and the impeachment trial.

- [Lawyers object to prosecution's access to Duterte's belongings](#) (2026-06-27 16:15)

THE defense team of former president Rodrigo Duterte has opposed a request by International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors to access personal items seized after his arrest, accusing the prosecution of pursuing a “fishing expedition” and warning that the move could infringe on the privacy rights of his family members. In a filing dated June 26, 2026, before Trial Chamber III, lead defense counsel Peter Haynes argued that the prosecution’s request to examine materials held by the ICC Registry, including “all keys in the Registry’s custody,” came “far too late” in the proceedings and lacked a clear link to the charges against Duterte. “The request is, in substance, a fishing expedition,” the defense said, arguing that prosecutors should not be allowed to inspect the items first in order to later establish a possible evidentiary basis for examining them. The dispute involves personal belongings taken from Duterte following his arrest in Manila on March 12, 2025, and his transfer to the ICC detention facility in The Hague. The ICC Registry has confirmed that it is holding several items from Duterte’s personal inventory, including money, keys, and other materials that were documented upon his admission to the court. The Registry said the items were recorded under its detention regulations and remained under its custody. A public redacted filing dated June 25 showed that an inventory was prepared after Duterte’s arrival, while other personal belongings were retained by the former president. Privacy concerns The defense specifically objected to the prosecution’s request for access to all keys in the Registry’s possession, arguing that investigators had not shown how the items were connected to the alleged crimes against humanity case. Haynes said the keys were seized while Duterte was traveling with family members and could potentially provide access to personal property belonging to or involving his relatives. “It is entirely possible that the keys provide access to material belonging to, or concerning, his relatives, such that their examination would intrude upon the privacy rights of third parties,” the defense argued. The lawyers maintained that without a clearly identified investigative purpose that outweighs the privacy interests of Duterte and his family, allowing access to the keys would not be necessary or proportionate. Timing questioned The defense also criticized prosecutors for seeking access to the materials more than a year after Duterte entered ICC custody, pointing out that the prosecution had been aware of the seized items since March 14, 2025, when the Registry submitted its initial report following the arrest. “Such requests are usually made within days of the arrival of the suspect in custody, or at the earliest opportunity,” Haynes said. The prosecution’s request, filed on June 9, 2026, sought access to several materials listed in the Registry’s inventory. The request followed an earlier May 1 motion asking the court to provide access to seized materials, prepare an inventory, and freeze any money found among Duterte’s belongings. On May 28, Trial Chamber III partially granted the prosecution’s request by ordering the freezing of seized money and directing the Registry to prepare an inventory. However, the chamber found that a wider request to inspect all seized

materials was premature. Registry ready to release items The ICC Registry said it was prepared to comply with any order from Trial Chamber III. If the chamber approves the prosecution's request, the Registry said the seized materials would be transferred from the Detention Section to the Court Management Section, secured in the Registry vault, and made available to the prosecution for consultation or as otherwise directed by the chamber. The Registry's submission was filed confidentially and ex parte, meaning it was accessible only to the prosecution, defense and Registry. A public redacted version was later released to protect sensitive information. Defense seeks deadline The defense asked Trial Chamber III to impose a June 30 deadline for any further prosecution requests involving materials held by the Registry, arguing that continued requests could delay preparations for Duterte's trial. Haynes said a cutoff was necessary to preserve the "expeditiousness of the proceedings" and allow the defense sufficient time to prepare its strategy before trial. The case against Duterte stems from allegations of crimes against humanity linked to killings during his administration's anti-drug campaign and his earlier tenure as mayor of Davao City. Duterte's 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.

• [Banning video games not enough to stop school violence, experts say](#) (2026-06-27 16:14)

EXPERTS said over the weekend that banning violent video games would not deter school violence, saying that it takes more than exposure to such games to influence someone to commit a heinous crime. They also said that multiple factors could have influence on children toward violent behavior, including bullying and the environment in which they live. Their comments come after police said that one of the shooters in the Tacloban school rampage was an addict of the video game Gorebox. Its developer, F2Games, has declined to appear before a planned Senate investigation into the shooting on July 1 but emphasized that the game is not recommended for minors aged 18 and below. Several lawmakers and even the Department of Interior and Local Government have proposed banning violent video games. But in an interview with The Manila Times, Dr. Therese Bustos, former dean of the University of the Philippines College of Education and a standing committee member of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2), said that kids playing video games or watching animated shows with fantasy violence do not lead them to be violent. Banning the games would not work, she added, because the underage could simply lie about being 18. She added that games are just only one part of the problem, saying that children would be "detached" if they dwell on fantasy all the time without meaningful engagement with adults and their peers. "It is also important that they have responsible adults to guide them throughout that process. Otherwise, they will follow what they see or whatever is available to them," Bustos said. Prof. Yeng Gatchalian, chief psychologist of the Mind Care Center of Perpetual Help Medical Center-Las Piñas, said that studies have already proved that there is no evidence that video games can induce violence among children. She added some parents tend to blame their children for being too focused on playing on their gadgets. "What I'm asking is whether there is someone at home your child can talk to and who that person is. What other activities can you offer your child?"

Because if we blame gadgets, isn't it possible that gadgets have become the child's way of coping with those losses?" Gatchalian said. "For example, if they have no one to talk to at home and no one to share their problems with, that's when they turn to violent games, other games, movies, or whatever activities they engage in," Gatchalian said. Gatchalian suggested parents "enter the world" of children by listening to them and to see how they play the game and understand their character. "Just speak with your child casually so that they can share it. By the time you give advice, for example, that character does not tell you good things, he will listen to you that it won't look like you are against him," Gatchalian said. Bustos said that teaching habits, including the language teachers use, could also have an effect on why students tend to become bullies. "There are teachers who can teach properly, but there are also who curse and insult... so it all boils down to making sure that everybody is comfortable to begin with," Bustos said. She also said that class sizes also have an effect on the behavior of students, citing a study by De La Salle University commissioned by Edcom 2 noting that bullying is prevalent in large class sizes. "There should also be a visible presence of adults, with enough of them relative to the number of students. Again, one way to achieve that is by reducing class sizes so that more teachers can be assigned," Bustos said. Both Gatchalian and Bustos also acknowledged the fact that the country needs more guidance counselors and school psychiatrists, which was also noted by Edcom 2. Gatchalian said that guidance counseling could have helped prevent the incident in Tacloban City. "Our guidance counselors are a tremendous help in guiding our students and ensuring that they have a positive school life. I hope we can have more guidance counselors and school psychologists. We really need licensed guidance counselors who are trained for this work and know how to handle cases like these," Gatchalian said.

- [Philippines stresses Unclos central role](#) (2026-06-27 16:13)

THE Philippines called on the international community to reaffirm the central role of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos) as the legal framework governing all activities in the world's oceans and seas during the 36th Meeting of States Parties to the Law of the Sea (Splos 36) held from June 15 to 19 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. In its national statement under Agenda Item 12, the Philippines underscored the significance of the 10th anniversary of the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award, describing it as a guidepost for states on key maritime issues, including the invalidity of excessive or historical maritime claims, the proper classification of maritime features, the protection of the rights of coastal states, and the obligation to conserve and protect the marine environment. The Philippine delegation emphasized that decisions and rulings rendered through Unclos' compulsory dispute settlement mechanisms, including the 2016 arbitral award, should be respected and complied with by all states. It also highlighted the importance of advisory opinions issued under the convention, including the 2024 International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (Itlos) Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and International Law, in providing authoritative guidance on the interpretation and application of Unclos. The Philippines stressed that judicial decisions and arbitral awards under the convention benefit the entire international community by clarifying international law, strengthening legal certainty, and promoting the peaceful, stable and

predictable governance of the oceans. Defense posture Also on Saturday Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. outlined the Philippines' push for a more advanced defense posture built around high-tech deterrence, combining traditional military assets with hybrid capabilities and digital systems that would improve the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) ability to detect, respond to, and deter threats. Teodoro said the country's future defense capabilities would not rely solely on conventional platforms such as ships, aircraft and weapons systems but would also include advanced information networks, cyber capabilities, and real-time operational data. "There will be a lot of deterrence capabilities on the brick-and-mortar sense, and then a lot of hybrid capabilities, the whole gamut of hybrid capabilities," Teodoro said. He said a key part of this transformation would be the creation of a robust digital information system that would allow the military to gather and process critical information across different operational areas. The system, he said, would support cyber operations and provide commanders with better awareness of battlefield conditions, military readiness, medical requirements, and the maintenance status of key assets. "Be it domain awareness, be it battlefield situations, be it medical conditioning, be it the maintenance condition and readiness of your ships or aircraft," Teodoro said. The defense chief said expanding maritime domain awareness remains a priority as the Philippines seeks to protect its interests within its exclusive economic zone and strengthen its ability to monitor surrounding waters. The AFP has been upgrading its maritime capabilities through new vessels, missile systems, and surveillance assets as part of efforts to develop a more credible deterrent force. Recent additions include the commissioning of the Philippine Navy's Miguel Malvar-class guided missile frigates. Teodoro said the country's maritime security requirements would eventually require greater operational reach beyond Philippine waters, citing the global presence of Filipino seafarers. "Mind you, we'll have to have greater reach because of the fact that one in every three international seafarers is a Filipino," he said. He described Filipino maritime workers as a national asset that must be protected, saying the Philippine Navy must continue evolving to respond to security challenges on the high seas. The Philippines has also pursued upgrades to its air capabilities, including the acquisition of additional FA-50 Block 70 light combat aircraft intended to strengthen air defense and support the country's broader archipelagic defense concept. The defense secretary said the goal is to build a force capable not only of responding to immediate threats but also of protecting Philippine interests in an increasingly contested regional security environment.

- [Blue Eagles student managers, ball boys to get legal assistance](#) (2026-06-27 16:12)

ATENE0 de Manila University said on Friday that it offered legal support to its basketball team student managers and two ball boys who may face hazing charges after the death of two student athletes in a team-building activity on June 8. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) recommended on Friday that resigned Blue Eagles basketball head coach Tab Baldwin and 10 other people, including student managers Paolo Manuel Adevos0 and Andrew Lorenzo Salud and ball boys Aris Ramos Ponce and Joel Palmiano Rapa, be charged for violating the Anti-Hazing Act during the team-building activity in which players Rene Baterbonia

and Divine Adili died from drowning."Recognizing the unique circumstances and needs of those affected, the university has reached out to them and their families to offer appropriate support and accompaniment throughout the legal process, while respecting that each respondent's rights and interests must be represented independently."Our foremost concern is the welfare of our students and staff, and the assurance that each of them receives the support, fairness, and due process they deserve."The other six people on DILG's recommendation list are strength and conditioning coaches Grant Dearn and Ceasar Vincent Javellana Elumba; assistant coaches Dean Caesar Castaño, Sandro Nicholas Romero Soriano, and Reynaldo Jacinto; as well as physical therapist John Eric Quiambao Rueca. Baterbonia family gets condo Meanwhile, the National Housing Authority (NHA) granted Baterbonia's family a condo unit in Davao City worth P2.26 million, the Municipal Information Office-LGU Talacogon Facebook page announced on Friday."When the National Housing Authority (NHA), under the leadership of General Manager Joeben A. Tai, learned about the family's situation, they demonstrated the true meaning of public service — bringing hope to those in need," wrote Talacogon LGU in Filipino."Many thanks to the officials of the National Housing Authority in Butuan City, led by Regional Director Ma'am Erasme G. Madlos, for providing a new condominium unit to the Baterbonia family."The charitable act gave the Baterbonia family a chance to start over after living in an ancestral home in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur, that experiences flooding. Rene, also known as "Bobet," drowned during Ateneo's team-building activity in Dipaculao, Aurora, on June 8. Bobet was laid to rest on Wednesday. Bobet's teammate Divine Adili also drowned in the same activity and was laid to rest in his home country, Nigeria, on Friday.

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- [Marcos commends security command](#) (2026-06-27 16:11)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. commended the Presidential Security Command (PSC) over the weekend, 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 the 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 also that 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. Marcos also stressed the importance of the PSC's role in the face of evolving security challenges. During the event, the president also led the recognition of outstanding members of the Security Task Action Group for their exemplary service. The PSC, formerly known as the Presidential Security Group, is tasked with ensuring the physical security and safety of the president, the first family, and the seat of government at Malacañan Palace. The armed unit originated from the ragtag squad established by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo around March 1897, when he was elected president of the revolutionary government, according to a statement from the Presidential Communications Office. It underwent transformations since then, but when the late Ferdinand Marcos Sr. assumed power, it was expanded to the PSC. In 1986, then-president Corazon Aquino disbanded the command and replaced it with a "leaner" PSG. In 2023, Marcos reorganized and expanded the presidential security unit from a group to a command, reverting its name to the PSC. Rear Admiral Andro Val Abayon of the Philippine Navy currently serves as the head of the PSC.

- [Marcos Orders School Safety Upgrades After Tacloban Shooting](#) (2026-06-27 16:10)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered on Saturday the strengthening of safety measures in schools across the country following a series of violent incidents involving students, including the fatal school shooting in Tacloban City.” Today, I speak not only as President, but as a father, a fellow Filipino, and as someone deeply concerned about the safety of our children,” Marcos said in his vlog, noting it is heartbreaking and horrifying that youth can commit such acts because of bullying.” I have directed our agencies in education, law enforcement, health and local government to further strengthen measures for the safety of students throughout the country,” he added. Marcos said the string of tragedies involving youths — the Tacloban City shooting, two separate stabbing incidents in Cavite and the drowning of two student-athletes of Ateneo de Manila University — was a wake-up call.” While these incidents may be different, they all send us one message: we must protect our youth. We must protect them from violence. We must protect them from negligence. We must protect them from danger. And we must protect them from the silent struggles and burdens that so many of them carry,” he said. The president said a strong collective action is required in facing such challenges.” As a society, we need to restore the value we place on human life and reinforce the teaching of proper conduct, good values and sound thinking, more than any lecture taught in classrooms,” he said. Marcos urged teachers to fulfill their roles, not only as educators, but also as mentors and counselors, especially for students who may be struggling with mental health concerns. The president appealed to parents to spend time talking to and checking on their children. Meanwhile, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said the investigation into the Tacloban City school shooting could lead to a review of existing safeguards on police-issued firearms as authorities determine how a service weapon ended up in the hands of a minor allegedly involved in the deadly attack. The police traced one of the firearms used in the shooting at San Jose National High School — a 9-mm Glock pistol — to a police officer assigned to the Police Regional Office in Eastern Visayas. The weapon was allegedly used by a 14-year-old suspect, while a second firearm, a .38 caliber revolver, was linked to a private security agency in Cebu. Reports identified the police officer as the aunt of the minor suspect. The PNP said the officer had been placed under restrictive custody and that administrative proceedings would be pursued as authorities investigate the circumstances that allowed the firearms to be accessed and used in the incident. Investigators are looking into how the minors gained access to the firearms, including the police-issued handgun. Nartatez said the probe would determine whether there were lapses in the custody, safekeeping and accountability of the service firearm, and whether existing policies are sufficient to prevent unauthorized access to police-issued 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.” 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. Nartatez said the incident points to the need for stronger cooperation among law enforcement agencies, educators, parents and local communities to help ensure the safety of schools and prevent similar tragedies.

- [LGBTQ+ group calls for gender-inclusive school policies in the Philippines](#) (2026-06-27 16:09)

PANTAY, an LGBTQ+ advocacy group, called for more gender-inclusive schools, noting that discrimination persists in academic institutions.” Inclusion must be institutionalized and visible in student handbooks, representation in student councils and the way staff addresses students,” said Pantay national convenor Anna Cubacub during a Pride Month celebration at Instituto Cervantes, done in collaboration with the Embassy of Spain in the Philippines. Cubacub added that the lack of uniform policies across educational institutions in the country was a recurring issue. She shared contrasting stories of two transgender students — one who was forced to drop out due to discrimination and another who thrived in a supportive school environment.” It’s disheartening to see institutions that are quick to police haircuts and uniforms but fail to include protections for LGBTQ+ students in their handbooks,” Cubacub said.” Administrations need to see how important and life-saving these policies are. When inclusion wins, everyone wins — even the institutions themselves,” Cubacub added. Despite the existence of anti-discrimination ordinances and the Safe Spaces Act, Cubacub said there were schools that deliberately ignore these laws. Nadine Umali, a former teacher, said LGBTQ+ awareness must start early, ideally before students reach college.” It’s easier to legislate policies than it is to change culture; that’s why we need to start fostering awareness and inclusion as early as elementary school,” she said.” When we start these conversations at the college level, the culture is already set,” she added. On June 2, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. became the first Philippine president to openly express his support for the LGBTQ+ community when he released a statement in support of the community. However, critics alleged his declaration as lacking substance because of his failure to prioritize policies that advance LGBTQ+ rights. Cubacub urged the administration to take concrete steps toward institutionalizing LGBTQ+ protections. This includes the passage of comprehensive anti-discrimination policies and the implementation of guidelines to ensure that all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, feel safe and supported.” The lack of national policies leaves LGBTQ+ students at the mercy of individual schools, many of which do not prioritize inclusion,” she added.

- [Philippine Pediatrics Society Warns Against Independent Social Media for Under-16s](#) (2026-06-27 16:06)

THE Philippine Pediatrics Society (PPS) said children below 16 should not use social media without supervision.” 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 a position paper posted on the Facebook page of the Philippine Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics on Friday. The PPS said unsafe online hazards include exploitation by online predators, including adults posing as peers to gain children’s trust, and exposure to harmful or age-inappropriate content. The PPS warned of harmful platform features, such as algorithms that promote compulsive use, disrupt sleep and expose children to health-damaging content. These features, it noted, capitalize on children’s developmental vulnerabilities and can have long-term negative impacts on their well-being. It added that parents and caregivers are in the best position to assess each child’s readiness to use social media.” 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,” PPS said.” Children and adolescents are in a sensitive and critical period 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. PPS stressed the shared responsibility among parents, guardians, schools and the government to protect children from online dangers, citing the vulnerability of young people to such risks. The Child Neurology Society Philippines (CNSP) supported the PPS position on Friday.” Screen time impacts brain development depending heavily on the quality of content, how it is used and the age of the user. Despite being marketed to have advantages for education, communication and connectivity, children require continued guidance and protection from the many unintended disadvantages and negative consequences of unsupervised, independent screen time and use of social media,” CNSP said in a Facebook post. The statements come amid the occurrence of violent incidents in schools across the nation, including the fatal school shooting in Tacloban City. In other countries, such as Australia, measures are in place to prohibit children below 16 years from social media use.

- [DOT Launches 'Discover More to Love' Campaign With Over 3,000 Travel Deals](#)
(2026-06-27 16:05)

THE Department of Tourism (DOT) launched “Discover More to Love,” a local tourism campaign offering more than 3,000 travel deals to encourage Filipinos to explore destinations across the country. Running from July to November 2026, the campaign brings together over 70 hotels and resorts, airlines, tour operators, online travel platforms and payment partners offering up to 70-percent discounts. The DOT said travelers can access direct booking options, staycation packages, bundled experiences, flexible booking arrangements and curated seasonal promotions from accredited tourism enterprises on its website. Tourism Secretary Bernardita

Angara-Mathay said the initiative complements, rather than replaces, the country's official tourism brand by encouraging more Filipinos to discover attractions closer to home." Love the Philippines is still our national tourism brand, while 'Discover More to Love' is a domestic tourism campaign under that same brand, created to encourage Filipinos to explore more of our own country and discover even more reasons to love the Philippines," Angara-Mathay said. She added that the campaign was developed by the DOT's in-house branding team at no additional cost to the government." True to its mandate, the DOT will promote destinations, provide tourism information and connect travelers with accredited tourism enterprises; we will not be involved in booking trips or selling travel packages because 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 said. The DOT said domestic tourism remains a major economic driver, citing Philippine Statistics Authority data showing tourism expenditure reached P3.26 trillion in 2025 while the industry generated 7.7 million jobs and accounted for 15.7 percent of total employment. Tourism industry groups, including the Hotels Sales and Marketing Association, Tourism Congress of the Philippines, Philippine Tour Operators Association and Philippine Hotel Owners Association, expressed support for the campaign, describing it as a coordinated effort that will strengthen collaboration between government and the private sector. The campaign was formally launched during the Central Philippines Tourism Expo 2026 in Nuvali, Santa Rosa, Laguna.

- [LTFRB suspends EV taxi operator for robbery prank](#) (2026-06-27 16:04)

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, and 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. 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 will 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 sends the wrong message to the public and could affect efforts to restore trust and confidence in public transportation. The investigation comes as the LTFRB 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 constitute 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 to improve the country's transport system.

and keep commuters' confidence. "Public transportation should provide safety and security, not fear, to our riding public," Mendoza said.

- [Badoy suspended from practicing medicine](#) (2026-06-27 16:03)

LORRAINE Badoy, a well-known supporter of former president Rodrigo Duterte, was suspended for six months by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Board of Medicine after being found guilty of violating the Revised Code of Ethics of the Medical Profession. The PRC also suspended her 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 stemmed from her public statements linking the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW), its members and community physician Dr. Ma. Natividad "Naty" Castro to the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF). In 2022, the AHW requested the revocation of Badoy's medical license over her alleged red-tagging, with 17 doctors seeking her suspension because of her "deeply unprofessional" remarks. "This decision matters because it brings the issue back to proof... The Board found that Badoy's statements clearly referred to AHW and its members without any official document proving AHW's alleged CPP-NPA-NDF affiliation and also found that Dr. Castro was branded a terrorist before any such designation. That is the core of the ruling: grave accusations cannot stand without evidence," MAD founding chairman Rico Domingo said. "A medical license carries public trust... It cannot become a shield for reckless, evidence-free vilification... The Board understood the real-world stakes: these statements targeted health workers at the very time they were risking their lives in the pandemic and answering allegations from a public official who belonged to the same profession," he added. The PRC Board of Medicine said that Badoy "admitted to posting the statements that are the subject of the complaints, including the public identification of Dr. Castro as an active member, recruiter, trainer and fundraiser of the CPP-NPA-NDF," and added that she "failed to protect not only the good name of a colleague, but also the reputation and dignity of physicians and allied health professionals engaged in community health service." MAD President Tony La Viña said the PRC decision "strengthens the ethical line between legitimate expression and unsupported public accusation." "The Board was clear: physicians remain bound by professional responsibilities even outside the strict practice of medicine... That principle is vital. Public speech may be free, but a professional who uses status, platform and office to attach dangerous labels to real people must answer to professional standards," he said. La Viña said the PRC decision was about accountability, not censorship. "The PRC decision recognizes what victims of disinformation have long known: unsupported labels can endanger lives, damage reputations and poison the public trust... For MAD, the message is direct: facts must defeat fear, and institutions must impose consequences when falsehoods place people at risk," La Viña, a veteran lawyer, said. "The PRC Decision sends a clear message: professional privilege carries public responsibility and no public platform should excuse allegations that lack evidence and harm the safety, reputation and dignity of health workers," he added. The anti-disinformation movement called on professional regulatory bodies, public officials, the media and platforms to

treat red-tagging and disinformation as matters of accountability rather than mere political noise. During the Duterte administration, Badoy served as a spokesman for the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict.

- [Roads closed for Sunday Market in Manila](#) (2026-06-27 16:02)

THE Manila Police District (MPD) announced on Saturday that several roads will be closed for the Queer Kalye Escolta Pedestrian Sunday Market, starting 9 p.m. In a Facebook post, the MPD said the road closure covers the stretch of Escolta Street from T. Pinpin Street to Banquero Street; the stretch of Burke Street from Dasmariñas Street to Muelle del Nacional; and the stretch of Martinez Street from T. Pinpin Street to Burke Street. Also, the MPD released rerouting schemes to guide motorists around the road closures. Vehicles coming from Jones Bridge that intend to pass through Escolta Street toward Plaza Sta. Cruz will not be allowed to proceed and will instead be redirected to turn left onto T. Pinpin Street. Meanwhile, motorists coming from San Vicente Street will also be required to turn left onto T. Pinpin Street to reach their destinations. Authorities urged motorists to plan their trips and cooperate with traffic enforcers to minimize congestion during the event. The MPD noted that road reopening will depend on the traffic situation in the affected areas.

- [De Lima files House Bill 9904 for informal women workers' maternity benefits](#) (2026-06-27 16:00)

MAMAMAYANG Liberal Partylist Rep. Leila de Lima has filed House Bill 9904, or the Maternity Benefit for Women in the Informal Economy Act, to amend Republic Act 11210, or the Expanded Maternity Leave Act. If enacted, the measure will expand the coverage of maternity benefits for women working in the informal sector in the country. It aims to provide a one-time maternity cash benefit per delivery to female workers who are nonmembers of the Social Security System, equivalent to 44 days' worth of the prevailing daily minimum wage in the mother's region of residence. De Lima's bill adopts Senate Bill 1579, filed by Sen. Risa Hontiveros. "By providing optimal maternal health care in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, we are not only protecting mothers' rights but also ensuring the survival and development of Filipino children," de Lima said in a statement on Saturday. Under the measure, the proposed cash benefit distribution will be administered by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The amounts necessary to fund the maternity benefit would be taken from excise taxes on sweetened beverages, alcohol, tobacco products, heated tobacco products and vapor products, which may be augmented under the General Appropriations Act. "Many of our women earn an honest living as street vendors, domestic workers, seamstresses, laundry workers, drivers, microentrepreneurs and through other forms of livelihood. However, their hard work and tireless efforts are not matched by adequate benefits or job security," de Lima said.

- [Google.org Invests \\$10 Million to Boost AI Literacy in Asia Pacific via AVPN](#) (2026-06-27 16:00)

THE Asian social investor network AVPN announced the expansion of the AI Opportunity Fund: Asia-Pacific with an additional contribution of \$10 million from Google.org to improve artificial intelligence literacy among educators and the youth. AVPN said the initiative entails sustained adoption and real-world application of artificial intelligence (AI) skills across classrooms, workplaces and enterprises.” We believe education is actually the right segment that we will just put our efforts on because if we equip one teacher, he or she will reach out to hundreds of thousands of students in her or his tenure. So we believe this will basically shift the entire next generation to be more AI fluent and more AI ready,” Young Park, director of the AI Opportunity Fund project for AVPN, told The Manila Times, noting the fund will primarily benefit teachers from K-12 schools, university students and faculty members.” Some of our existing grantees are already supporting teachers, some are supporting university students, vocational schools. So it basically shows that there is a huge demand from the ground especially for the education sector,” Park added. Park said AVPN will continue its partnership with the Asean Foundation in the implementation of the program that includes customized training content for teachers and K-12 students on AI use.” We’ ll also be coordinating to connect the content pool existing in our own AVPN database as well as Google’ s own. For example, Google has developed a great content tool sitting under Google Skills, and they also developed different content from different Google entities like Google DeepMind and Google for Education,” Park said. Park said that they aim to train at least 5.5 million individuals in the region, including 4.7 million learners, to have basic AI literacy.” And with this new phase, we also would like to develop a live playbook for teachers because we understand a lot of teachers are trying to use AI and introduce some new technology for their own students in the classroom. They want to improve their efficiency as well. The thing is, teachers are so busy — everyone is so busy — that they always say they don’ t have enough time to upskill themselves,” Park said. In a statement, AVPN Chief Executive Officer Naina Subberwal Batra said that the AI Opportunity Fund would equip the people who will shape the future every day, such as teachers, young people who are to enter the workforce, and the micro, small and medium enterprises that keep economies moving.” We partner with those who will shape this future so that AI becomes a trusted part of how our region learns, works and does business. Our ambition is clear: to help build AI-ready generations and AI-ready enterprises across Asia, so communities can harness AI for innovation and inclusive growth in the years to come,” Batra said. Google Asia-Pacific President Sanjay Gupta added that if teachers are empowered to use AI in “thoughtful, responsible ways, they not only transform their own practice, but also unlock opportunity for every learner who passes through their classroom.”

- [Gatchalian Urges DOE to Cut Red Tape for Solar Permits](#) (2026-06-27 16:00)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian urged the Department of Energy (DOE) to simplify the permit requirements for solar panels installation, saying excessive red tape discourages consumers from investing in renewable energy. “The problem with solar rooftops is red tape. DOE should reduce the number of steps and requirements that those who want to install solar panels must go through,” Gatchalian said. He said expanding rooftop solar installations would

not only help consumers reduce their monthly electricity bills but also lessen pressure on the country's power grid, particularly during periods of peak demand when electricity consumption surges. Greater use of solar energy would likewise reduce the Philippines' dependence on imported fossil fuels, whose volatile global prices often contribute to higher electricity rates. Gatchalian stressed that these benefits will remain beyond the reach of many Filipinos unless government agencies and power distributors work together to standardize documentary requirements, shorten processing times, and eliminate unnecessary procedures for securing permits and grid interconnection approvals. He said Pakistan's recent rooftop solar expansion is an example of how consumer-driven investments can rapidly grow when governments remove regulatory barriers. "Pakistan has shown that when consumers are given a practical and affordable way to reduce electricity costs and lessen their dependence on an unreliable power grid, rooftop solar can expand rapidly," Gatchalian said. "The Philippines can draw lessons from this experience by making rooftop solar more accessible to households, businesses and public institutions." The Philippines has been promoting renewable energy to diversify its energy mix and improve energy security amid rising electricity demand and continued reliance on imported coal and fuel. The government has set ambitious renewable energy targets under the Philippine Energy Plan, with solar expected to play a significant role in expanding clean energy capacity over the coming decades. Under the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 and the government's net-metering program, consumers who install eligible rooftop solar systems may export excess electricity to the distribution grid in exchange for credits that help offset their power bills. Industry stakeholders, however, have long raised concerns over varying permit requirements among local governments and lengthy approval processes, which they say discourage potential investors and homeowners from adopting rooftop solar.

- ['Habagat' Brings Rain to Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas Provinces](#) (2026-06-27 16:00)

THE Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Saturday that the southwest monsoon, or habagat, is affecting Luzon and the Visayas. In its early morning weather bulletin, the weather bureau said that the southwest monsoon will bring cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms to Metro Manila, La Union, Pangasinan, Batanes, Babuyan Islands, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite, Batangas, Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Antique, Iloilo and Guimaras, while the rest of Luzon and Visayas are forecast to have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. Meanwhile, Eastern Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Caraga and Davao Region had cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms because of the intertropical convergence zone. The rest of Mindanao had localized thunderstorms. This weather bulletin followed the departures of storms Francisco and Gardo from the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Thursday and Friday.

- [85% of takers passed architects test – PRC](#) (2026-06-27 15:22)

THE Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) announced late on Friday that 2,799 of the 3,290 (85.08 percent) passed the June 2026 Licensure Examination for Architects (LEA). It is the highest

overall passing rate in recent years. Results were released two working days after the examinations. Several passers in the top 10 were from universities and colleges in Mindanao. The top 10 passers include: 1. Eloisa Marie Tan Plana — University of the Philippines (UP)-Mindanao (90.60 percent). 2. Michael Bryan Barredo Gacer — University of San Agustin (89.70 percent). 3. Krystyn Isabelle Bacig Remedios — Notre Dame of Dadiangas University Inc. (89.10 percent). 4. Katrina Isabel Muriel Hingpit Templa — University of Mindanao-Davao City; Jessie Jave Gorgonio Wahing — Mapúa Malayan Colleges-Mindanao (89 percent). 5. Khurtz Herbert Quiñones Gatus — Mapúa Malayan Colleges-Mindanao (88.60 percent). 6. Peter Zanjao Zarriz — Iloilo Science and Technology University (88.50 percent). 7. Joash John Gasmin Montealegre — UP Mindanao (88.40 percent). 8. Chriza Maye Devero Peñaflor — University of Mindanao-Davao City (88.30 percent). 9. Glynry Lozano Tubidan — UP Mindanao (88.20 percent). 10. Hans Icasiano Tubiola — Saint Louis University; Krisha Angeli Potente Raquiz — Iloilo Science and Technology University (87.70 percent). The June 8–10 LEA was conducted in testing centers in the National Capital Region, Baguio, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Legazpi, Lucena, Palawan, Pampanga, Rosales, Tacloban, Tuguegarao and Zamboanga.

- ['Move As One' coalition takes part in Pride celebration, pushes safer mobility for LGBTQIA+ communities](#) (2026-06-27 13:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The Move As One Coalition took part in the Pride celebration on Saturday, June 27, highlighting how safety, inclusion, and freedom of movement affect the way LGBTQIA+ communities experience public spaces. The coalition said mobility is not only about transportation systems, roads, and sidewalks but also about whether people feel safe enough to travel, gather, connect, and belong. Move As One said LGBTQIA+ communities continue to face challenges in public spaces, where daily movement can involve concerns over safety, visibility, and possible discrimination. The group said some LGBTQIA+ people make everyday decisions based on safety, including what to wear, whether to hold a partner's hand in public, which routes to take, or whether certain places feel safe to pass through. Move As One said mobility justice is queer justice because a person's ability to move freely is shaped not only by infrastructure but also by the social environment they navigate. The coalition added that public spaces are not experienced equally, as a place that feels ordinary to one commuter may become a source of anxiety for another who has experienced harassment, discrimination, or unwanted attention. It said roads, sidewalks, and public transport can connect communities but cannot, by themselves, remove exclusion. Move As One said truly inclusive spaces are those where everyone can move freely and participate in public life without fear.

- [Pinoy 'Peeping Tom' jailed for 6 weeks in Singapore – report](#) (2026-06-27 12:32)

MANILA, Philippines — A Filipino tourist was jailed six weeks in Singapore after taking upskirt videos of six women in under three hours, during a vacation in the city-state. Singaporean media outlets revealed the Filipino tourist as 27-year-old Usi Christian Jior Orlino, who faced six counts of voyeurism, and pleaded guilty to three of those charges, with the remaining counts “to be taken into consideration by the judge during sentencing.” Orlino was staying in the city-state

with his girlfriend at the time of the incident. Charge sheets that were obtained by Singaporean news outlet AsiaOne revealed that the Filipino tourist “filmed six different women in under three hours” on Nov. 6, 2025. Five of these were filmed at the city-state’s Chinatown Point and another one at a train station. At a cafe in Chinatown Point, the Filipino placed his mobile phone under the skirt of a woman wearing a blue dress and filmed her for 33 seconds. Another incident was at a train station at Outram Park, where he spotted a woman in a black dress, took photos of her, and secretly filmed her between her legs. Two commuters caught Orlino and handed him to the station’s staff. Police arrived and arrested him on the spot, upon seeing the videos on his phone. Prosecutors urged the local judge to sentence the Filipino to six weeks in prison, while the defense pleaded for leniency because it was his first offense and all the filming happened on the same day.

- [Articles of Impeachment](#) (2026-06-27 12:20)
- [Ateneo urges public to refrain from cyberbullying amid discussions over deaths of athletes](#) (2026-06-27 11:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Ateneo de Manila University appealed to the public not to resort to cyberbullying amid discussions on the deaths of its athletes Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. In a statement on Saturday, the university said that “many of those whose names and images have circulated online are young students who are now living through an extraordinarily difficult experience.” “We respectfully urge everyone to refrain from cyberbullying, online harassment, the spread of unverified information, and personal attacks against those involved. Let us allow the appropriate processes to determine the facts, remembering that the pursuit of accountability must never come at the expense of our shared humanity,” the university said. “Whatever the outcome of the ongoing investigations, they deserve to be treated with fairness, dignity, and humanity. Public criticism should never descend into harassment, threats, ridicule, or online abuse directed at students or their families,” it added. The university said both accountability and our shared humanity should go hand in hand. Both Baterbonia and Adili, who both drowned in a training session in Aurora earlier this month, were laid to rest last Wednesday and Friday.

- [Mandaluyong police probe ‘general’ who brandished gun in parking dispute](#) (2026-06-27 11:20)

MANILA, Philippines — A man who allegedly brandished a firearm and claimed to be a “general” during a confrontation with a motorist over a parking dispute in Mandaluyong is now being investigated by the City Police Station, on Saturday. The confrontation reportedly started when the man approached the motorist over a vehicle parked in front of his residence and demanded that it be moved. A video uploaded by Edz Beley showed the man appearing to prepare a firearm before crossing the street and confronting the driver. “You know, I’m already mad, this is the third time someone has parked here,” the man said during the confrontation. He allegedly told the motorist that he was a “general” while insisting that the vehicle be removed and warned that vehicles parked in front of their residence would be

towed. The motorist tried to explain that he had just arrived and that the man may have mistaken his vehicle for another, but the confrontation continued until the driver moved the vehicle. The Mandaluyong police said investigators were reviewing the footage, identifying the parties involved, and gathering statements from witnesses to verify the circumstances of the incident, including the legality of the firearm. Authorities said they were treating the matter with urgency, particularly due to the alleged display of a firearm in a public or residential area. The police reminded the public that firearms must be used responsibly and that using a weapon to threaten or intimidate others may lead to legal and administrative action.

- [Free HIV testing offered in Pride celebration](#) (2026-06-27 11:05)

MANILA, Philippines — In line with National HIV Testing Day, several organizations offered free HIV tests during the “Love Laban” Pride celebration in Quezon City on Saturday. Patrick Lopez, partnership leader of the HIV and AIDS Support House (HASH), a non-profit organization dedicated to combatting the spread of HIV, told The Manila Times that the Pride event served as an opportunity to offer “non-judgmental spaces” for people to get tested. “To be a part of this celebration is important because we give people a space to know their status,” said Lopez. Aside from HASH, the Quezon City Health Department and Building Youth Empowerment Tondo also offered free HIV testing during the event.

- [BSP honors Tacloban student who saved classmates during shooting](#) (2026-06-27 08:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) posthumously conferred its highest honor to Scout Chris Lorenz T. Fabian, the student who sacrificed his life while trying to protect his classmates during the deadly shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City. The BSP awarded Fabian, 16, the Gold Gallantry and Heroism Award, recognizing his “exceptional courage” and selfless act during the June 22, 2026 attack where he and two other students were killed and injured several more. International Commissioner Mark Roy L. Boado and Deputy Secretary General David Dominic M. Lanuza presented the award to Fabian’s family on June 26. The organization said the recognition was a tribute to Fabian’s bravery and the way he embodied the values of the Scout Oath by putting the safety of others above his own. Fabian, who was a Boy Scout, was among the students caught in the shooting inside the school campus after two armed minors allegedly opened fire, according to authorities. Witnesses said Fabian helped protect his classmates by attempting to stop the armed attacker from entering their classroom. The BSP described the Gold Gallantry and Heroism Award as its most sacred tribute for Scouts who display extraordinary courage in the face of danger. The organization also expressed its condolences to the Fabian family and said the Scouting community would continue to honor his courage and service. “The brotherhood of Scouting bows its head. One final, enduring Scout Salute to you, Scout Chris Lorenz T. Fabian. Your name is written in honor, your courage is eternal, and you will never, ever be forgotten,” the BSP said.

- [Sara's defense team calls for dismissal of 'flawed' impeachment articles](#) (2026-06-27 07:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte said that her impeachment complaint should be dismissed for being "fundamentally flawed" while also answering the four articles filed by the House of Representatives against her. In her reply dated May 25, 2026 and which was uploaded to the Senate's impeachment website, Duterte's camp said that the entire impeachment process in the House of Representatives Committee on Justice "were tainted by evident bad faith." The defense also said that the House has usurped the power of the Senate by conducting a "mini trial" or a "fishing expedition" to build a case, rather than just initiating it. The reply also included the answers to the four articles of impeachment that were filed against the Vice President. On the first article over the misuse of confidential funds, the defense denied any culpable violation of the constitution or graft regarding the use of the funds, noting that the findings of the Commission on Audit are not yet final and no evidence exists showing she personally gained from these funds. The defense also said that the allegations regarding her unexplained wealth, which is in the second article, involved her time as mayor and vice mayor of Davao City which are "non impeachable offenses." They also said that the inclusion of the assets of her spouse, lawyer Manases Carpio, was a "malicious attempt to manufacture unexplained wealth" and that the data used violated bank secrecy laws. The defense also denied giving monetary gifts to officials of the Department of Education to circumvent procurement laws, which was outlined in the third article of bribery, saying that the prosecution misrepresented witness testimony to "lend color" to the accusation. It also said that Duterte's statement that she hired an assassin to kill President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Marcos, and former speaker Martin Romualdez, was part of her freedom of speech against the administration's policies and should not be constituted as a crime. The defense also included a motion to exclude evidence, noting that much were attached to the articles that were obtained through "constitutionally impermissible means" during the justice committee's "fishing expedition" and should therefore be excluded as "fruit of the poisonous tree." Her camp concluded that the articles of impeachment failed to meet the constitutional requirements for an impeachment proceeding and lacked sufficient factual or legal bases, thus praying for its dismissal.

- [Marcos orders govt agencies to fortify school safety measures after series of violent incidents](#) (2026-06-27 07:44)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Saturday directed relevant agencies and local government units to strengthen safety measures in schools following a series of violent incidents involving minors in recent weeks. In his vlog, the President said it was "heartbreaking and horrifying" that the youth could commit crimes due to underlying issues such as bullying. "Today, I speak not only as President, but as a father, a fellow Filipino, and as someone deeply concerned about the safety of our children," Marcos said. "I have directed our agencies in education, law enforcement, health, and local government to further strengthen measures for the safety of students throughout the country," he added. Marcos cited a shooting incident inside a school in Tacloban City and two separate stabbing incidents involving bladed weapons inside schools in Cavite. He also mentioned the deaths of two student-athletes from

Ateneo de Manila University, who drowned during a team-building activity."While these incidents may be different, they all send us one message: we must protect our youth," the President said."Schools should be places of learning, dreams, and growth — not places where parents fear for the safety of their children," he added.

- [Roads closed for Sunday Market in Manila](#) (2026-06-27 07:22)

MANILA, Philippines —The Manila Police District (MPD) announced that several roads would be closed for the Queer Kalye Escolate Pedestrian Sunday Market starting 9 p.m. on Sunday.In a Facebook post, the MPD said the road closure covered the stretch of Escolta St. from T. Pinpin St. to Banquero St.; the stretch of Burke St. from Dasmariñas St. to Muelle del Nacional; and the stretch of Martinez St. from T. Pinpin St. to Burke St.The MPD said that the opening of the roads would be based on the traffic situation.

- [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 Baclig 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 LTFRB 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 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.

- [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)

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 Bateria 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 Bateria 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 Bateria 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 Bateria’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 Bateria’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 Bateria’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 fraud](#)
[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.”

- [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.”

- [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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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.

- [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 Lecciones, 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 "Pangatang 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 Filipino 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 the 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 Bateria 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 Bateria 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 Bateria 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 measuresThe 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 responseThe 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 documentsDespite 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 Bicolano 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.