

# BPMCs roll its wheels to CALABARZON, MIMAROPA and Bicol Regions

## Remulla to rallyists: Keep it peaceful

Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla on Friday reminded protesters to remain peaceful in demonstrations and avoid directing violence on innocent persons.

"The State unconditionally respects the right of the people to peaceably assemble and petition the government for redress of their grievances. However, in the name of justice and fair play, this right must end once the right

>> P2



To mark a significant step towards a healthier Philippines, the Cavite province, under the leadership of Governor Jonvic Remulla, was given the privilege of host the Turnover Ceremony and Distribution >> P2 of Bagong Pilipinas Mobile Clinics (BPMC) to 16 provinces of Regions IV and V at Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City, on July 17, 2024. The event was

## NIA-Calabarzon monitors dams in Cavite, Batangas amid bad weather

The National Irrigation Administration-Region 4A (NIA-Calabarzon) is closely monitoring dams in Cavite and Batangas as water levels rose due to heavy rains brought about by the southwest monsoon enhanced by Typhoon Carina.

In a phone interview on Tuesday, Vince Santoalla, public relations officer of NIA-4A, said staff are monitoring various dams in the region, particularly Cavite and Batangas provinces. "Our field personnel

>> P2

## Marcos: 3 major Luzon infra projects to be completed this year



Construction site of the NLEX-SLEX Connector Project along Antipolo St. in Sampaloc, Manila (PNA file photo by Joey Razon)

Three major projects under the Luzon High-Standard Highway Network are set to be completed this year, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said Monday.

"The C-LEX (Central Luzon Link Expressway), NLEX-SLEX Connector, and the Plaridel Bypass will be fully completed by the end of this year," Marcos said in his third State of the Nation Address (SONA) at the Batasan Pambansa Complex in Quezon City. The CLEX,

>> P2

## 64-MW solar power plant in Cavite inaugurated

By Dennis Abrina

MARAGONDON, Cavite — Prime Solar Solutions Corp. achieved a milestone of sorts in its infra energy portfolio following the inauguration of its 64-megawatt solar power plant in Barangay Pantihan 2 here on Wednesday.

The inauguration was witnessed by Department of Energy Renewable Energy Management Bureau (DoE-REMB) Director Marissa Cerezo, Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Monalisa Dimalanta, Cavite Gov. Jonvic Remulla, Maragondon Mayor

>> P3



CAVITE'S FIRST SOLAR POWER PLANT This 64-megawatt solar power plant in Cavite, constructed by Prime Solar Solutions Corp. in Barangay Pantihan II, Maragondon, was inaugurated on July 17, 2024. PHOTO BY DENNIS ABRINA

## Construction begins on 12-storey building at Cavite State University

The Philippines' Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has broken ground on a new 12-storey building at the Cavite State University-Bacoor City Campus in Barangay Molino 3.

The groundbreaking event was attended by Cavite State University Research and Extension vice-president

>> P3



Ground being broken on the 12-storey building project. Credit: Republic of the Philippines DPWH.

## DENR's 'whole-of-society' project launched to boost climate action

Protecting the environment and enhancing community resilience to the impacts of climate change require a collective effort from various government agencies and stakeholders, most importantly the private sector.

During the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas episode, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) IV-A Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tamoria highlighted the significance and progress of its newly launched initiative, Project TRANSFORM, which seeks to employ a whole-of-society approach to increase capacities for environment and natural resource

>> P2

## DENR's "Whole of Society" << P1

management, climate and disaster resilience, and socio-economic development.

"Project TRANSFORM is a strategy for mobilizing other sectors in environmental projects. Typically, the mindset for protecting nature, utilizing resources, and safeguarding the environment is that it is not solely the government's job. It requires a whole-of-society approach. Now,

various sectors can contribute to realizing that mandate," Tamoria stated.

The project stands for Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilience and Environmental Sustainability through Multi-stakeholder Engagement, with Rizal as the pilot province to test the environment, infrastructure, local economy, and sustainable development.

The project also

addresses existing issues and challenges within the area, which the DENR has previously handled solely. It contributes to enhancing DENR Field Office organizations by institutionalizing project implementation mechanisms to guide and facilitate the project. "This is the concept of Project TRANSFORM. We ensure that the project is participatory and that its success, especially in terms of the environment, depends on having many people working together." The project aims to address poverty, enhance community resilience, and foster public-private partnerships across the country's provinces, municipalities, and cities through environment protection initiatives. In Rizal province, the project specifically aims to increase the forest cover of the

Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape, reduce its vulnerability to erosion and landslides, and increase the water supply in the lowland communities.

Aside from Rizal, the project has been rolled out in Limay, Mariveles, and Orion in Bataan province; Ormoc City in Leyte; Malimono, San Francisco, and Burgos in Surigao del Norte province. The DENR continuously aims to replicate the project nationwide, particularly in the Calabarzon region, to yield good results.

"Here in Calabarzon, the Secretary has announced that the next target site will be the coastal area of Batangas. So that will be next, and once it is institutionalized and produces good results, it can be replicated in various locations here in CALABARZON and nationwide." Tamoria affirms

the continued meetings, comprehensive plan for training sessions, and consultations with other stakeholders to develop a developing a responsive and sustainable environmental plan. (CO/PIA-4A)

## Promoting good hygiene among young boys



As part of the Filipino culture and traditions, the young boys of Tanza welcomed the Provincial Government of Cavite's medical mission team, headed by Ms. Charlene Ann P. Samala, for the conduct of Operation Tuli program in the locality of Brgy. Capipisa, Tanza, on July 12, 2024.

The free circumcision procedures were performed by the technical team from Tanza Rural Health Unit, circumcising a total of 92 adolescents. Likewise, the Office of the Provincial Governor led the provision of the needed medicines.

Through this program, the health and hygiene of Caviteño young males were ensured.--- OPIO

## EDITORIAL KARAPATAN NILA IYON...

Noong Lunes, Hulyo 22, 2024 ginanap ang ikatlong State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Presidente Bongbong Marcos sa House of Representatives, Batasan Hills, Quezon City Isang linggo bago ito, nag anunsyo si Vice President Sara Duterte na hindi siya dadalo sa SONA, Kasunod nito, may lumabas ding balita na 3 dating bise presidente ang hindi rin umano dadalo sa nasabing okasyon. Maraming nagpahayag ng ibat ibang reaksyon, may pabor, may hindi, may nagsabing pulitika na naman iyan.

Sabi ng isang senior citizen na retired teacher, "Ay karapatan nila iyan at walang makakapilit sa kanila kung ayaw nila sa SONA. Iyong 3 ex-vice presidents, wala na sa eksena, lipas na ang panahon nila kaya ngayon ay ordinaryong mamamayan na lang din sila. Kaya walang problema kung ayaw nilang dumalo sa SONA. HINDI SILA KAWALAN. KAYA PWEDE BA, HUWAG NANG GAWAN NG ISSUE IYAN?"

Tahimik lang ang Pangulo, hindi siya nagbibigay ng anumang reaksyon o pahayag. Marahil, okay lang sa kanya, at iginagalang niya ang saloobin at kagustuhan ng ibang tao.

"Eh ano naman kung hindi sila dumalo sa SONA? Wa naman silang papel doon!," pahabol na komento ng isang empleyado sa isang LGU. Ang bawat tao ay may kanya-kanyang sariling kaisipan, kagustuhan, saloobin at karapatan. Hangga't hindi gumagawa ang bawat isa ng mga bagay na makakasama sa kanyang kapuwa, maglalagay sa buong bansa sa panganib at hindi rin labag sa Diyos, walang dahilan para pigilan sila sa kanilang kagustuhan, o pilitin sa ayaw nilang gawin...

## Marcos: 3 major luzon infra << P1

also known as the Central Luzon Link Freeway, will connect the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) and the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway.

The NLEX-SLEX Connector Road connects those coming from and going to North and South Luzon and vice versa.

The Arterial Road Bypass (Plaridel) Project Phase III, with a length of 22.46 kilometers, is 92 percent completed. Once finished, it will cut travel time between Borol, Balagtas, Maasim, and San Rafael in Bulacan from 69 minutes to 24 minutes and will benefit around 15,000 motorists per day.

At the same time, Marcos reported that Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) and the C5 South Link would be fully operational by next year.

Aside from the three major projects under the Build Better More (BBM) program), the President said thousands of roads and bridges have been constructed.

"As of May this year, 12,000 kilometers worth of roads and more than 1,200 bridges have been built and upgraded across the country," he said.

"Of note, we have provided the budget to upgrade 367 tbridges and almost 1,600 kilometers of

road along our country's longest thoroughfare - the Maharlika Highway - from Luzon down to Mindanao,"

Under the Inter-Island Linkage Bridge Program, he noted that two major bridges are to be opened to motorists within this year.

"One is the Panguil Bay Bridge - touted as the longest water-spanning bridge in Northern Mindanao. This will connect Lanao del Norte to Misamis Occidental. The other is the Guicam Bridge in Zamboanga Sibugay, which shall connect Olutanga Island to the mainland of Mindanao," he said.

"We will make sure that right of way issues are resolved in the most

equitable, efficient, and expeditious manner so that these will not get in the way of our infrastructure development," the President added.

Likewise, he acknowledged Congress for passing the Public-Private Partnership, a crucial funding mechanism for big-ticket projects.

"PPP is seen to facilitate strategic investments and the timely development of projects under our Build Better More program, especially since around one-fourth of our flagship projects have been envisioned to be funded through this modality," Marcos added. (PNA)

## NIA-Calabarzon monitors << P1

are actively monitoring irrigation systems to take early action and prevent potential damage caused by the typhoon," he said.

In Batangas, Santoalla identified the Palico River Irrigation System (RIS) in Nasugbu town as one of the major systems under close observation.

In Cavite, attention is focused on the Balayungan RIS and Sahing RIS in Naic town; Butas RIS in Gen. Trias City; Tres Cruzes RIS and Matanda RIS in Tanza town; and Pasong Kastila RIS and Makuling RIS in Imus City.

"As of 10 a.m. today, the intake gates of the dams remain open to facilitate

water flow into irrigation canals, while the sluice gates near the dams have been closed," Santoalla reported. "Currently, water levels in the dams have not reached spilling point."

Further, he disclosed that proactive measures by the agency, including Senior Water Resource Facility

Technicians, gatekeepers, and irrigators associations, have included canal cleanup efforts to maintain uninterrupted water flow to rice fields.

"Up to this morning, there have been no reports of damages or water spills in the monitored areas," Santoalla said. (PNA)

## Remulla to rallyists: keep << P1

of others begins," Remulla said in a statement. He issued the statement following an incident where a Department of Justice (DOJ) security guard sustained a head injury after being attacked by rallyists. On Thursday, Bayan Timog Katagalugan

and other groups rushed to the DOJ main office in Ermita, Manila to express their supposed dissent over the government's handling of the case of Bayan Laguna member Elizabeth Camoral, who was arrested during the infamous "Bloody Sunday"

incident last year. Remulla said the DOJ will go "all-out" in supporting the injured security guard and his family until justice is served. In a separate statement, DOJ spokesperson and Assistant Secretary Jose Dominic Clavano IV urged rallyists

to avoid the rage rhetoric culture in protests.

"Understand what your true reason and motive why you are demonstrating, drop the anger and violence; let's talk peacefully, convince rather than coerce," he said. (PNA)

## BPMCs roll its wheels to << P1

initiated by the First Lady of the Philippines, Atty. Liza Araneta Marcos, through the Department of Health, as a response to the much-needed medical care of the Filipinos, especially those in the underserved communities and remote areas.

These BPMC vans are equipped with machines

and aparatusto bring vital healthcare services closer to the constituents. The services include X-ray, Ultrasound-Electrocardiogram test, Blood screening, and other laboratory tests and procedures. Senator Francis Tolentino, Governor Jonvic Remulla, Vice Governor Athena Tolentino and the

Mayors of Cavite graciously welcome the First Lady, honorable governors and DOH representatives upon their arrival at the venue, expressing their enthusiasm for hosting such an important event in the province. Cavite is one of the 16 provinces' recipients of the Bagong Pilipinas mobile clinics.

The BPMC project is part of the LAB for ALL initiative of the First Lady, underscoring their support and commitment for the delivery of accessible primary healthcare services across the country. "Samasama tayong babangon muli para sa Bagong Pilipinas." FL Marcos stated.--- OPIO

Southern Tagalog email: herald\_group@yahoo.com

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# Construction begins on << P1

Dr Melbourne Talactac and DPWH Region IV-assistant regional director Isidro O Encarnacion, among others. The project aims to enhance education in Bacoor City by providing facilities for the students and staff of Cavite State University. Spanning a total area of 40,000m<sup>2</sup>, the building is intended to accommodate the university's increasing student body.

It will feature a basement, various recreational areas, and a school terminal to support a broad range of academic and extracurricular activities.

The DPWH has also announced the completion of a new domestic bypass road in Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte. The road project included the construction of a 1.5km concrete road and a

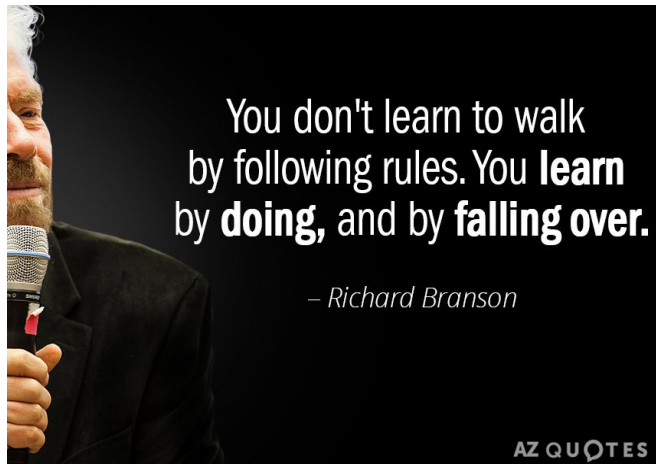
1.9km line ditch in Barangay Maria Cristina.

It serves as an alternative route, reducing travel time by approximately 15 to 20 minutes, and is expected to benefit roughly 2,300 residents by improving connectivity to nearby barangays and towns.

The bypass road, valued at 47m pesos (\$807,391), also features a 482m<sup>2</sup> slope protection feature, barrel box

culverts, and guardrails for added safety. The project was carried out by the DPWH Zamboanga del Norte 1st District Engineering Office.

These developments come after the DPWH completed two domestic roads totalling 3.95km in Bulan, Sorsogon, as part of the tourism road initiative known as the Bulan-Matnog-Sta. Magdalena-Bulusan Road.



You don't learn to walk by following rules. You learn by doing, and by falling over.

– Richard Branson

AZ QUOTES

# 64-MW Solar Power plant << P1

Lawrence Arca, Prime Infra President and CEO Guillaume Lucci, and Prime Solar President and CEO Cheryll Len Mendoza.

"The completion of the Maragondon solar power plant is a significant milestone for Prime Infra's energy portfolio," said Lucci.

"We have reached this point of course thanks to like-minded partners who not only envision a more sustainable future but actively work towards achieving it," added Lucci.

"The plant, the first solar plant in Cavite, is certainly a part of Prime Infra's wider sustainable strategy and is very much aligned to our purpose of building better lives and resilient economies through critical infrastructure," said Lucci.

The Maragondon power plant is one of two power plants under Prime Solar's first project, supplying up to 128 megawatts of clean, renewable energy. The other plant is in Tanauan, Batangas.

Lucci said the total capacity is expected to power about 84,000 households and displace over 100,000 tons of coal per year.

"Trust that we will continue to support the national government's agenda transition to a wider sustainable strategy and continue to be very much aligned to our purpose of building better lives and resilient economies through critical infrastructure," said Lucci.

"Trust that we will continue to support the national government's agenda transition to clean energy sources, and we will proactively explore opportunities within the renewable space while capitalizing on innovative solutions to achieve energy security, dependability and affordability," he added.

Prime Solar also has a 50-megawatt, 20-year power supply agreement with Meralco and will supply the rest of its output to the grid, said Cerezo.

"The DoE recognizes that the green energy that will be generated from this project will ensure sustainable and secure energy. Moreover, this project brings opportunities to the local community, in the potential to create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and attract investments. It is not just a facility. It is a catalyst for change," Cerezo said.

Dimalanta, meanwhile, cited the hard work required in completing solar power projects, commending Prime Infra and Prime Solar's support in providing reliable power through renewable energy sources.

"Definitely it takes more than a village to build a solar power project. Transitioning to a cleaner energy system requires hard work from all of us," said Dimalanta.

"We will have to do this effort, this partnership between public and private sector participants several times over in order for us to make sure that electricity keeps flowing to light our homes and power our economy in a clean and sustainable manner," added Dimalanta.

Remulla for his part recognized the province's partnership with F Infra through socially relevant projects in the sectors of sustainable energy, water, and waste management.

"We need energy, we need power, we need water, we need waste disposal. All of these things we are working together with Prime Infra. We are creating a better province, we are creating a better country," Remulla said.

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
CITY OF IMUS, CAVITE**

**HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND),** Mortgagee, **EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135 AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118**

-versus- **JULIE ANN S. RICA FOR married to CARMELITO B. RICA FOR,** Mortgagors. **FC Case No. 19002-24**

X-----X

**NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE**

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118 filed by **HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as PAG-IBIG FUND)**, mortgagee, with principal place of business at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, against **JULIE ANN S. RICA FOR married to CARMELITO B. RICA FOR** of legal age, Filipino citizens, mortgagors, with residential and postal address at #161 Real Palico, Imus, Cavite and/or Lot 29, Blk. 2, The Legian Two North Subd., Calsadang Bago II Imus, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of March 26, 2024 amounts to SIX HUNDRED NINETY NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY FOUR PESOS & 17/100 (Php699,644.17), Philippine Currency, including interest and penalties, but excluding attorney's fees, sheriff's fees and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned will sell at public auction on **August 13, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning** or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC-Imus Hall of Justice, Aguinaldo Highway, Imus City, Cavite to the highest bidder, for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all improvements therein, to wit:

**TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2016030960**

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 29, BLK 2 OF THE CONS. SUBD. PLAN, PCS-04-027047, BEING A PORTION OF LOTS 1283 & 1296, IMUS ESTATE (RS-04-005111), LOTS 41 TO 47, BLK 14, PCS-04-026053, LOT 1297-A (LRC) PSD-12236; LOTS 7-B, 9-B, 10-B, 11-B, 12-B, 13-B, 14-B, 15-B, 16-B, 17-B, 18-B, 19-B, 20-B, 21-B, 22-B AND 23-B ALL OF (LRA) PSD-423715) SITUATED IN CALSADANG BAGO II, IMUS, CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY ROAD LOT 1, ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY LOT 28 BLK 2, ON THE SW., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 1295, IMUS ESTATE (RS-04-004982), IRRIGATION DITCH, ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 4-1 BY LOT 30, BLK 2 ALL OF THE CONS. SUBD. PLAN. X X X CONTAINING AN AREA OF FORTY (40) SQUARE METERS X X X

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on August 20, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property and encumbrance therein if any there be

City of Imus, Cavite, Philippines, June 21, 2024.

**MHINARD SANTOS**  
Sheriff IV  
BRANCH 122

APPROVED BY:  
**ARMIE A. FRANCISCO**  
Clerk of Court VI

Copy Furnished:  
**HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND)**  
The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

**ATTY. SIMEON P. MADRID**  
**Attorney-In-Fact, S.P. Madrid & Associates**  
5th Floor Bedrock Building, Kayumanggi Center, Commonwealth Ave., Matandang Balara, Quezon City

**JULIE ANN S. RICA FOR married to CARMELITO B. RICA FOR**  
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July 21, 28 and August 4, 2024

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**IN THE MATTER OF THE  
ISSUANCE OF A THIRD  
OWNER'S DUPLICATE COPY OF  
TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF  
TITLE NO. (057-201649010) 167-  
2020004590 IN THE NAME OF  
JOHN CAPINPIN,**

**JOHN L. CAPINPIN, represented  
By RIO VEN D. HANABAN,**  
Petitioner.

**LRC Case No. 8843-2024-51**

- versus -

**REGISTRY OF DEEDS FOR THE  
PROVINCE OF CAVITE, BACOOR  
BRANCH**  
Respondent.  
X-----X

**ORDER**

Transferred before this Court after consolidation is a Petition, dated May 3, 2024, by the petitioner John L. Capinpin, represented by Rio Ven D. Hanaban, through his counsel Atty. Eddie C. Balaoy, praying for the issuance of a third owner's duplicate copy of **Transfer Certificate of Title No (057-201649010) 167-2020004590** of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite, Bacoor Branch registered in the name of John L. Capinpin.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, and compliant with A.M. No. 19-10-20-SC, let the same be set for initial hearing on **August 15, 2024 at 1:30 in the afternoon.**

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** to any person claiming an interest to file an opposition stating the grounds thereto why this petition should not be granted, on or before the above-scheduled hearing and to appear on the said hearing.

Let a copy of this Order be posted by the Process Server of this Court in the Bulletin Boards of the Regional Trial Courts, City of Bacoor, the City Hall Building of the City of Bacoor, the Barangay Hall where the property is situated, and at the place of the property itself for three (3) consecutive weeks prior to the scheduled hearing.

Let this Order be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Cavite.

Let a copy of this Order be sent to the petitioner and counsel, the Office of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite, Office of the Registry of Deeds for the City of Bacoor, the Office of the Bureau of Lands, DENR, Trece Martires City, Cavite; the Land Management Bureau; the Office of the Solicitor General; the Office of the City Prosecutor of the City of Bacoor, Cavite; the adjacent owner/s and all the person/s named in the petition who appear to have an interest in the petition.

The petitioner and counsel are directed to furnish a copies of this petition to the Office of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite, Office of the Registry of Deeds of the City of Bacoor, the Office of the Bureau of Lands, DENR, Trece Martires City, Cavite; the Land Management Bureau; the Office of the Solicitor General; the Office of the City Prosecutor of the City of Bacoor, Cavite and the adjacent owner/s and all the person/s named in the petition who appear to have an interest in the petition.

**SO ORDERED.**  
GIVEN IN CHAMBERS this 20th day of May 2024 in the City of Bacoor.

**PERSEPHONE MEIR B. BELENA**  
Assisting Judge

Copy Furnished:  
**Atty. Eddie C. Balaoy**  
Rm. 229 Tia Maria Bldg., C.V.  
Star Ave., Pamplona II,  
Las Piñas, City  
edbalaoylaw97@yahoo.com/  
atty.ecb@gmail.com

**John L. Capinpin**  
435 San Bartolome St., Ayala  
Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City

**Rio Ven D. Hanaban**  
Blk. 39, Lot 1, Rose St., Masaito Homes  
Phase 3 Brgy. San Agustin, Trece  
Martirez City, Cavite

**Office of the Registry of Deeds**  
Province of Cavite  
Trece Martires City

**Office of the Registry of Deeds**  
City of Bacoor, Cavite

**Provincial Environment and Natural  
Resources Office (PENRO)**  
Cavite Government Center Bldg.,  
Brgy. San Agustin, Trece Martires City, Cavite

**Land Management Bureau**  
880 F.R. Estuar Building Quezon Avenue.,  
Brgy. Paligsahan, Quezon City

**Office of the Solicitor General**  
134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City  
efile@osg.gov.ph

**Office of the City Prosecutor of Bacoor**  
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## Easing inflation to boost FMCG firm's performance in PH

Even multinational fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) company Unilever is seen to benefit from the easing inflation in the country as this would boost consumer spending on such goods. Unilever Philippines Nutrition Business lead Marinelle Villanueva told reporters Thursday that the sales performance of the company's food unit is expected to improve in the second half of the year as inflation rate eases, giving consumers more room to spend.

Villanueva said Unilever's Nutrition business began 2024 slow due to the elevated inflation rate in the first quarter of the year.

"We have seen people going back to adding more and different formats to the basket. (In) Quarter 1, we saw them making adjustments, they may choose a more affordable format. But we've seen pick up in Quarter 2," she said.

She added that the frequency of preparation of dishes also increases in the second half due to the holidays towards the end of the year. Villanueva said Unilever Philippines Nutrition's business unit would bring new products into the country in the next two to three years.

She added that these new formats would be man-

ufactured in the company's Cavite plant. The Knorr brand leads the complex seasoning market in the Philippines, accounting for more than half of the market share, Villanueva said.

Meanwhile, Unilever Philippines Nutrition launched on Thursday its goal of reaching 15 million Filipinos by 2030 through its nutrition education campaign, such as the Knorr "Nutri-Sarap" program and "Makulay ang Buhay" program. For the past 22 years, Unilever's Knorr brand has been advocating for nutritious, delicious, and affordable food to address malnutrition in the country. (PNA)



NUTRITION. Unilever Philippines country head Fredy Ong speaks at an event launch at Unilever's office in Taguig City on Thursday (July 18, 2024). He said the firm is targeting to reach 15 million Filipinos for its nutrition education campaigns. (PNA photo by Kris Crismundo)

## DA warns unscrupulous traders over possible chicken price manipulation

The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Wednesday warned unscrupulous traders who may be behind a possible price manipulation in a public market in Metro Manila.

This came after the price per kilogram of chicken surged to PHP250 in Muñoz market, higher than the PHP200 to PHP210 prevailing retail price range.

"May nananamantala tala-ga, kaya tututukan namin itong palengke na ito at nasabihan naman na ang (Someone is taking advantage, that is why we are monitoring it and we already asked the) Muñoz market why they are selling at PHP250. Siguro, hindi naman ito lahat ng palengke, which is really an outcast doon sa regular na namo-monitor natin at nabebenta (Perhaps not in all the markets, which is really an outcast from those regularly monitored and sold)," DA Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa said in an interview.

De Mesa assured that they would look at "all possible angles" to identify the source of the price increase.

"Ang sinasabi nga ni Secretary (Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.), ang puntirya rito, hindi lang kasi iyong nagtitinda per se, especially iyong nasa receiving end. Kailangang tingnan lahat iyong pinanggalingan, baka mamaya may nananamantala (What the Secretary said is that the target here is not only the sellers per se, especially those on the receiving end. We need to look at it from all the sources,



POSSIBLE PRICE MANIPULATION. Dressed chicken at the Bankerohan Public Market in Davao City in this photo taken on Dec. 20, 2023. The Department of Agriculture on Wednesday (July 17, 2024) warned unscrupulous traders who may be behind a possible price manipulation in a public market in Metro Manila where chicken is sold at up to PHP 250 per kg. (PNA photo by Robinson Niñal Jr.)

maybe someone is taking advantage), from the source, from the traders," he said.

He warned violators that under Republic Act 7581 or the Price Act, price manipulators may be liable for profiteering, which is defined as the sale or offering for sale of any basic commodity at a price "grossly in excess" of its true worth or equivalent to more than 10 percent from the preceding month.

De Mesa said the markup for chicken from farm gate prices should only be PHP50 per kg. to PHP70 per kg. According to the United Broiler Raisers Association weekly prices as of July 12, the average price of regular-sized chicken is PHP139.60 in Tarlac, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, and Batangas.

For the Visayas and Mindanao, the prices of regular-size chicken range from PHP116 to PHP127 in Cebu, Leyte, Iloilo,

Bacolod, and Davao. De Mesa, meanwhile, said that the import ban on eggs and other poultry products from Minnesota, USA may slightly affect the local prices as the country serves as the Philippines' major source of parent stocks (PS).

"Major source natin ang US ng mga PS, though may ibang areas naman na we can source iyong ating parent stocks. May kaunting effect (The US is our major source of PS, though there are other areas where we can source our parent stocks. There is a slight effect)," he said, citing the issuance of a temporary ban on the US due to the ongoing outbreak of Avian Influenza H5N1 subtype. He, however, assured a stable supply of chicken in the country, negating the possibility of further price spikes of up to PHP300 per kg. "Sa ngayon (for now), we are not seeing

## PH data center seen to reach 516MW by 2028

The country is expected to have installed a 516-megawatt capacity of data centers by 2028, Fitch Solutions unit BMI said.

In its commentary released to the press on Friday, BMI said there were over 400 MW of committed data center capacity from companies over the past 10 months.

"Notable recent data center investments in the Philippines have been announced by STT, ePLDT and a joint venture (JV) between PAG and Ayala Corporation. In July 2024, the latter JV managed to secure the first tranche of a PHP10.8 billion (USD185 million) 10-year loan that will finance the development of a 36-MW campus in the Laguna area, with the first 6 MW coming live in fourth quarter 2024," BMI said.

Also this month, ePLDT started the construction of Vitro Santa Rosa hyperscale campus, with a capacity of around 50 MW. STT also commenced the construction of its 124-MW Fairview campus and another 6-MW facility in Cavite.

"Following the lat-

ter investments, we estimate that the Philippines will have over 516 MW of upcoming data centre capacity over the next four years. The bulk of this capacity is made of an investment announced in June 2024 for an unnamed data centre campus in the Tarlac area hosting up to 300 MW, with no further details disclosed at the time of writing," BMI added. Aside from serving the local market, cross-border capacity leasing could be a new opportunity for the Philippines, it said.



"New developments try to take advantage of the country's strategic location that can service digitally mature East Asian economies featuring increasingly high prices for hyperscale customers looking to lease capacity locally," BMI said, citing potential markets such as Japan and South Korea.

BMI also expects that hyperscale customer demand in the Philippines will surge over the coming years once neighboring markets reach saturation. Currently, Malaysia and Indonesia receive the bulk of Asia's data center investments.

"That said, despite local officials claiming that resources to make hyperscale data centres sustainable are sufficient, we believe investors will gradually diversify away from those markets to avoid sudden moratoria," BMI said. "Consequently, the Philippines may be able to exploit this opportunity and gradually become a more important destination for large cloud investors and other high-value hyperscale clients," it added. (PNA)

we have and the incoming imports)," De Mesa said. The DA, meanwhile, lifted its import ban on birds and poultry products from the Czech Republic after it declared the end of avian influenza, through DA Memorandum Order 30. As of May 8, all avian influenza infections were confirmed to be resolved with no further outbreak reported in the Czech Republic. (PNA)

that. Hindi magti-PHP300 sa ngayon because of the supply na mayroon tayo ngayon, and the imports na dumating (It will not reach PHP300 for now because of the supply that

we have and the incoming imports)," De Mesa said. The DA, meanwhile, lifted its import ban on birds and poultry products from the Czech Republic after it declared the end of avian influenza, through DA Memorandum Order 30. As of May 8, all avian influenza infections were confirmed to be resolved with no further outbreak reported in the Czech Republic. (PNA)