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DOH RECORDS 125 FIREWORKS-RELATED INJURIES, DOWN 27% FROM 2024

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) has recorded 125 fireworks-related injuries for the past nine days, marking a 27-percent decrease from the 171 cases logged during the same period in 2024.

In its report as of Monday, the DOH said the National Capital Region registered the highest number of cases at 57, followed by the Ilocos Region with 12 and Central Luzon with 11.

Children aged 5 to 14, mostly males, accounted for the largest proportion of cases with 63 injuries.

The DOH said the top causes of FWRI are the 5-star firecracker; unknown or unidentifiable fireworks, often because victims could not recall details or were passive victims; improvised cannon (boga); kwitis (mini sky-rocket); unlabeled or imported products; and whistle bomb.

The DOH reminded the public that although kwitis and whistle bomb are considered legal fireworks and sold by licensed dealers, these remain hazardous, especially to children.

Children should never be allowed to handle any kind of firework, whether legal or illegal, the DOH said.

The DOH monitoring period started on Dec. 21.

NCDs, mental health

In a separate report, the DOH said it has recorded 215 cases of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) during the current monitoring



Sparklers at a factory in Bocaue, Bulacan (PNA photo by Joan Bondoc)

period, with acute stroke (brain attack) accounting for the largest share at 135 cases.

The DOH also said 56 cases involved acute coronary syndrome or heart attack, while 24 were due to bronchial asthma.

Brain attack and heart attack were more common among males, the DOH said, while bronchial asthma mostly involved females.

The National Center for Mental Health (NCMH), meanwhile, received 675 calls through its Hotline 1553 over the same period, with the highest daily volume observed on Dec. 23.

Young adults aged 18 to 30 were the most frequent callers, followed by those aged 31 to 43. Females constituted the majority of callers.

According to the NCMH, the top concerns raised included anxiety and depressive symptoms, love and relationship issues, and family-related problems.

The agency reminded the public that Hotline 1553 is always accessible to individuals seeking mental health support or crisis intervention. (PNA)

FLOOD CONTROL PROBE DOES NOT END ON CHRISTMAS DAY — PCO CHIEF

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TSP SHOWBIZ ROUND-UP

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~ SOUL FOOD ~

“As a shepherd looks for his sheep on the day he is among his scattered flock, so I will look for my flock. I will rescue them from all the places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and total darkness.”

- Ezekiel 34:12 -

Cabral tested positive for antidepressant —PNP

The late former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Undersecretary Maria Catalina Cabral tested positive for a type of antidepressant, according to a toxicology report from the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Based on the PNP Regional Forensic Unit – Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), partial qualitative examinations conducted on urine and vitreous specimens from the body yielded positive results for the presence of citalopram, an antidepressant drug.

The PNP likewise reported that Cabral had no abnormalities or terminal diseases, according to a histopathological examination.

While results of the DNA examination have yet to be released, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Sec. Jonvic Remulla said the fingerprints taken from the cadaver matched Cabral's as well as her pictures.

"The fingerprints matched, her pictures matched. The problem was that the old photos and the new ones may discrepancy konti kasi we think that there was plastic surgery done beforehand and so medyo magkaiiba. But otherwise, all the biometric features showed that it is her with great degree of certainty," Remulla said in a press conference Tuesday.

The DILG chief added that initial findings point to suicide as there was no third party involved in Cabral's demise.

"The post-mortem examination showed extensive facial injuries on the right of her face, extensive injuries on the rear of her skull, extensive injuries [on] the right side of her rib cage—and her hand, it showed a forward motion gap from the tip," Remulla said.

An earlier inspection from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) of Cabral's hotel room also yielded a knife and medicines in her bag.

Acting PNP Chief Lt.Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said the knife might have been kept for self-protection while authorities are still studying if the medications were used.

Authorities have also secured footage taken from closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) installed at the hotel in Baguio City where Cabral and her driver, Ricardo Muñoz Hernandez, stayed before she was found in a ravine along Kennon Road in Tuba, Benguet on Dec. 18.

One footage showed that Hernandez accompanied Cabral to her suite located on the fourth floor of the hotel at around 1:00 p.m.

Meanwhile, Remulla underscored the importance of gadgets and other physical evidence in tracing the days leading to her death—pointing to the possibility of threats against her life that might have led to her suicide.

"What we have to determine is number one, if there were threats to her life; number two, if there were any conversations prior to the event; number three, if there were still transactions pending; and number four, who was she conversing with the week before the event," Remulla explained.

On Tuesday, the DPWH turned over the computer and files linked to Cabral to the Office of the Ombudsman, following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum on Monday.

The pieces of evidence covered all data storage devices, documents, records, and files from the late former official's office accumulated during the past 10 years.

Prior to her passing, Cabral had been identified as a key figure with knowledge in the processes involving budget insertions in the so-called anomalous flood control projects. **(with reports from Ryan Lesigues and Rod Lasgusad / PTV News)**

PBBM shields Filipino families with sustained low inflation and strong economy in 2025

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s administration has protected the poorest Filipino families by keeping inflation under control and maintaining a strong economic growth path in 2025.

Inflation, or the rate at which prices of basic goods and services rise as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), was cut by more than half from 3.4% in 2024 to just 1.6% from January to November 2025. This continues a downward trend since President Marcos, Jr. assumed office, from 5.8% in 2022 and 6.0% in 2023.

The sustained slowdown reflects the Marcos, Jr. administration's decisive and coordinated actions to stabilize prices, secure food supply, and protect household purchasing power particularly for rice, which accounts for the largest share of spending of low-income families.

"To put this in perspective, a 6% inflation rate means that your PHP 100 can buy only about PHP 94 worth of goods and services. But with inflation down to just 1.6% in 2025, that same PHP 100 can now buy about PHP 98.4 worth of goods and services," Executive Secretary Ralph G. Recto explained.

"Kaya napakahalaga nito para sa bawat pamilyang Pilipino, lalo na ang mga mahihirap. Kapag mababa ang inflation, napapanatili natin na abot-kaya ang mga pangunahing bilihin, lalo na ang pagkain," he added.

Rice prices continue to improve, with the Department of Agriculture (DA), upon President Marcos, Jr.'s directive, delivering on its commitment to bring rice prices down to PHP 20 per kilo or about half the average price in 2022.

As a result, inflation for the bottom 30% income households fell to -0.2% in November 2025, marking the sixth consecutive month of contraction and underscoring how price stabilization efforts are directly benefiting the most vulnerable Filipinos. The country's low and stable inflation environment has been cited as a key strength by S&P Global Ratings, which recently reaffirmed the Philippines' 'BBB+' high investment-grade rating with a Positive Outlook—a strong vote of confidence in President Marcos's economic leadership.

Lower prices, combined with a vibrant labor market, are expected to boost domestic demand and consumption and support the Philippines' economic growth.



MARKET DAY. A vegetable stall inside the Paco Public Market in Manila is packed with marketgoers on Thursday (Aug. 21, 2025), a special non-working holiday to commemorate Ninoy Aquino Day. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

With inflation easing, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has greater policy space to recalibrate interest rates, potentially providing further support to household spending and overall economic activity.

Investment prospects also remain robust as the economic team continues to remove bottlenecks and streamline regulations to attract greater private sector participation. New initiatives and investment opportunities, particularly in agriculture, will soon be announced.

Multilateral institutions remain optimistic about the Philippines' growth prospects, with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) forecasting a 5% GDP growth, while both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) project expansion at 5.1% for 2025. This outperforms the 1.6% average growth projection of advanced economies this year, including the United States (2.0%), Japan (1.1%), and the Euro area (1.2%), according to the IMF.

The Philippines' projected expansion is also higher compared to the 4.2% average growth for ASEAN-5 in 2025. In fact, it is second best among its peers, following Vietnam at 6.5% and higher than Indonesia at 4.9%, Malaysia at 4.5%, Singapore at 2.2%, and Thailand at 2%.

By 2026, the IMF projects that the Philippines will be the fastest-growing economy in ASEAN, tied with Vietnam at a 5.6% growth rate. **(By PTV NEWS-DAC)**

BOC to process 21 more container vans of 'balikbayan' boxes this week

Some 20 container vans of abandoned balikbayan boxes of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) are set to be processed this week.

In a social media post, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said a total of 21 container vans are scheduled to be pulled out and processed to be delivered to families of OFWs nationwide.

It reported that at present, 15 containers containing balikbayan boxes from overseas have been released.

At the same time, the BOC clarified that the prolonged delay in the delivery of these shipments was caused by the failure of certain deconsolidators and freight forwarders to fulfill their obligations, despite having already collected payment from OFWs abroad.

Bureau officials accompanied the OFWs in filing cases with the National Bureau of Investigation against them on Dec. 4.

The BOC also reminded Filipinos overseas to be more cautious in choosing freight forwarders, to ensure that companies are legitimate, and to avoid offers with unrealistically low fees that may lead to fraud.

Earlier, the BOC launched an online tracking portal for the door-to-door deliveries of these boxes all over the country.

The public has been advised to access <https://customs.gov.ph/home/overseas-filipino-worker-ofw/> for the status of their balikbayan boxes.



OUT FOR DELIVERY. Balikbayan boxes from overseas Filipino workers are placed in a cargo truck for delivery to families in the Philippines. As of Thursday (Dec. 25, 2025) the BOC has so far released at least 15 containers containing balikbayan boxes. (Photo courtesy: BOC / FILE)

All deliveries are free of charge.

The door-to-door delivery of OFW boxes started on Dec. 18 and is targeted to be completed by early January 2026.

The release and delivery of the abandoned balikbayan boxes are being carried out with the help and support of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., who has expressed full support for the government's efforts to assist Filipino workers abroad who have been affected by fraudulent and irresponsible freight forwarding companies. **(PTV4)**

Flood control probe does not end on Christmas Day — PCO chief

The government's investigation into alleged irregularities in flood control projects is far from over, Malacanang said on Friday, stressing that the detention of contractor couple, Sarah Discaya and Pacifico Discaya over the Christmas period marks only an early phase of a much broader accountability drive.

Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Acting Secretary Dave Gomez assured the public that the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. would continue efforts to hold to account all individuals involved in irregularities in infrastructure projects.

"The flood control investigation does not end on Dec. 25. It's only been a little over four months," said Gomez, referring to the ongoing probe into alleged irregularities and unexplained wealth linked to the Discaya couple and other individuals involved in anomalous projects.

"The Napoles probe took almost a year before people were sent to jail. There will surely be more thrown behind bars in the New Year," the PCO Secretary noted, referring to graft convict Janet Lim-Napoles.

Napoles was accused of masterminding the pork barrel scam for at least a decade, allegedly using a network of bogus non-government organizations to siphon off public funds, involving about P10 billion in lawmakers' Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) to ghost projects in exchange for massive kickbacks.

Addressing comparisons between the Discaya couple and figures involved in past corruption scandals, Gomez noted that the scale of the Discayas' alleged ill-gotten wealth far exceeds previous cases.

"Some quarters are calling the Discaya couple as the new Napoles, but their unexplained wealth is ten times over. Both spent Christmas in detention," Gomez added.

Sarah Discaya was arrested on December 18 over a PhP96 million ghost flood control project in Davao Occidental and is locked up at the Lapu-Lapu City Jail, while her husband, Pacifico Discaya, is detained at the Senate premises after being cited in contempt by the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee for inconsistent testimony. **(PND)**

BI COMMISSIONER THANKS FRONTLINE PERSONNEL FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICE AMID TRAVEL SURGE



MANILA, Philippines — Bureau of Immigration (BI) Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado expressed his heartfelt appreciation to immigration officers and personnel who continue to report for duty and serve the public during the Christmas season, despite being away from their families and loved ones.

The Commissioner acknowledged the sacrifices of frontline immigration workers who remain on post at airports and seaports nationwide at a time traditionally reserved for family gatherings.

"Marami sa kanila ang hindi makauwi at hindi makapiling ang kanilang pamilya ngayong Pasko, nananatili silang tapat sa tungkulin," Viado said, noting that their dedication reflects the BI's enduring commitment to public service.

He emphasized that the professionalism and sense of duty displayed by immigration personnel ensure the smooth and secure movement of travelers during one of the busiest travel periods of the year. "Ang kanilang serbisyo ay hindi lang trabaho—ito ay malasakit at paninindigan sa bayan," he added.

The BI earlier reported a significant

increase in international passenger traffic during the Christmas travel period. In response, the Bureau implemented enhanced operational measures to ensure efficient processing, including the deployment of additional immigration officers, the use of mobile immigration counters, and the continued operation of electronic gates to help decongest primary inspection counters.

Immigration officers assigned to frontline operations were not allowed to go on leave for the duration of the holiday season to maintain adequate manpower and uninterrupted services.

The BI reiterated its reminder to travelers to arrive at the airport at least three hours before their scheduled departure, noting that while slight queues may be expected during peak hours, immigration operations remain manageable and orderly.

Viado assured the public that the Bureau remains fully prepared to handle the holiday travel surge, while honoring the dedication and quiet sacrifice of its frontline personnel who continue to serve, even during Christmas. **(BI)**

DOE paves the way for 200 power projects with over 1GW installed

As part of the Department of Energy's (DOE) ongoing monitoring of the timely completion of 200 power generation projects, Stage 1 of the Terra Solar Project is advancing key grid interconnection milestones with the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), following the energization and cut-in of the Terra Solar 500-kilovolt (kV) substation on 21 December 2025 along the Nagsaag-San Jose 500 kV Line 2. Stage 1 represents 364 megawatts (MW) of the project's planned 2,500 MW solar capacity with battery energy storage systems (BESS), operated by Terra Solar Philippines, Inc.

Commercial operation of Stage 1 is expected in the first quarter of 2026.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., in his 4th State of the Nation Address (SONA), directed the DOE to accelerate the construction of 200 power generation projects over the next three years to strengthen the country's energy security. In line with this directive, the DOE continues to track project progress and coordinate closely with stakeholders to ensure that committed capacity is delivered on schedule and in a manner consistent with safety and grid reliability requirements.

As of November 2025, about 956 MW of new power generation capacity have been added to the Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao grids, complemented by 160 MW of new energy storage capacity located in Luzon and Visayas. These additions form part of the DOE's broader efforts to ensure sufficient and reliable power supply in support of the country's growing economy and increasing electricity demand.

The 956 MW of new generation capacity comes from fourteen (14) power

plants: twelve (12) facilities using renewable energy (RE) technologies, one (1) oil-based power plant, and one (1) natural gas-fired power plant, most of which entered commissioning in the second half of 2025. Collectively, these projects help strengthen the grid's ability to meet peak demand, reduce the risk of supply shortfalls, and improve operational flexibility in managing baseload requirements and variable demand.

To help ensure that committed capacity is delivered as scheduled, the DOE is implementing active project monitoring across generation and energy storage developments. This includes close coordination with project proponents and NGCP on grid interconnection readiness, regular tracking of construction and commissioning milestones, and early identification of bottlenecks that may affect timelines, such as permitting constraints, right-of-way issues, equipment delivery risks, and site-level implementation challenges. Through these efforts, the DOE aims to strengthen accountability, address issues before they escalate into delays, and ensure that new capacity additions can reliably support the grid when they are needed most.

As Terra Solar Stage 1 advances toward energization, the DOE will continue working closely with NGCP and the project proponent to ensure that grid interconnection requirements and safety standards are met, and that key commissioning milestones remain on track. The Department will likewise maintain close monitoring of other committed projects under the 200-power-plant pipeline, supporting the timely integration of new generation to strengthen system reliability and energy security. **(DOE/PIA)**

PALACE THANKS ICI COMMISSIONER FAJARDO; FORENSIC FINDINGS TO BE TURNED OVER TO OMBUDSMAN, OTHER GOV'T AGENCIES

Malacañang on Friday said Commissioner Rossana A. Fajardo has completed her mandate at the Independent Commission for Infrastructure (ICI) after finishing the financial forensic review of funds tied to projects under investigation, as the ICI moves to finalize its reports for submission to the Office of the Ombudsman and other agencies.

Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Acting Secretary Dave Gomez said President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. expressed his appreciation for Ms. Fajardo's dedication to public service, recognizing her role in safeguarding accountability in the use of public funds, which reflects the administration's continuing commitment to good governance.

"The President thanks Ms. Fajardo for her service and for helping ensure that public funds are properly accounted for. This forms part of the broader effort to make the government more honest, more transparent, and more responsive to the needs of the people," Gomez said.

"Her role was always meant to be temporary and focused only on this mandate. As the Commission continues its work in the coming

months, the focus is now on final reports and the proper handover of documents to offices like the Office of the Ombudsman for the next steps," the PCO Secretary added.

President Marcos ordered the creation of the ICI following his expose during his fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 28, delivering the unforgettable line, "Mahiya naman kayo sa inyong kapwa Pilipino!," and calling out systemic corruption and demanding accountability.

Gomez noted that "Commissioner Rossana Fajardo has completed the specific task she was asked to perform."

"Ms. Fajardo was brought in for a clear financial forensic purpose—to closely review the money linked to the projects under investigation and help trace where public funds went. That work is now finished," the PCO chief emphasized.

Gomez added Ms. Fajardo's "full findings will form part of the ICI's recommendations to the Ombudsman and will also be turned over to the proper government offices, including the Commission on Audit, so the process can move forward." **(PND)**

DOST advances community dev't with science, technology, innovations



The DOST-CAR leads the launching of SSCP Roadmaps of 6 partner LGUs in CAR during a program at the DOST-CAR office in La Trinidad, Benguet on Dec. 17, 2025

BAGUIO CITY — The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) continues to promote people-centric and technology-driven solutions through the use of science, technology, and innovations (STI) for the development of communities.

DOST Cordillera Regional Director Nancy Bantog said that through the Smart and Sustainable Communities Program (SSCP), they aim to use technology and innovations for a smart, sustainable, and inclusive development in every community across the nation.

“Hangad ng SSCP na mapabuti ang kalidad ng pamumuhay ng taong bayan, pabutihin ang mga produkto at serbisyo, ligtas na kapaligiran at matatag na komunidad, at pangmatagalang solusyon at ginawa, at that is sustainability,” Bantog said during the Radyo Siyensiya program.

“Ang SSCP ay nakasentro sa pagbibigay ng solusyon sa problema. Ang mga teknolohiya at inobasyon ang gusto nating ilapit sa mga smart and sustainable communities,” she added.

Among the concerns the SSCP aims to provide solutions to are rapid urbanization with increasing demand in water, energy, shelter, and food; challenges in waste management; mobility; and access to services and technology.

Bantog explained that the SSCP accelerates the transformation or creation of smart, resilient, and sustainable communities through the adoption of STI-driven technologies with digital transformation toward smarter jobs, smarter industries, and

micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and smarter health care, among others.

Through this program, the DOST has introduced various technologies, including the Small Enterprises Technology and Upgrading Program 4.0 for MSMEs, the development of robotics in the education sector, and digital literacy for the local government units.

Bantog added that to address the lack of laboratories in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, they have launched the Versatile Instrumentation System for Science Education and Research (VISSER), a science kit that allows students to conduct over 50 science experiments in the fields of chemistry, biology, physics, and other sciences.

There are also digital transformation initiatives for LGUs like the Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS), the Tracking, Retrieval, Archiving of Communications for Efficiency (TRACE), the Smarter Approaches to Reinvigorate Agriculture as an Industry in the Philippines (SARAI), and the Information System for Management and Utilization of Land and Agri-Data (iMULA), among others.

Bantog said that they are implementing different programs under the SSCP tailored to the specific needs of communities.

The DOST provides assistance in the development of the STI plans and SSCP roadmaps of the LGUs that will guide them in identifying their needs and exploring potential solutions and opportunities. **(DEG-PIA CAR)**

DHSUD LEVELS UP STANDARDS OF TRANSITORY HOUSING WITH DEPLOYMENT OF MODULAR SHELTERS

In line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive to provide safer and more comfortable emergency housing, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) has deployed modular shelter units (MSUs) to calamity-stricken areas – setting up new standards of transitory shelters in the country in 2025.

Through the deployment of MSUs spearheaded by Undersecretary Ed Robles, the DHSUD is providing not only safer but also dignified temporary shelters to families rendered homeless by various disasters that hit the country this year, in close coordination with concerned national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and partner stakeholders.

In October, DHSUD, along with other agencies, launched the Bayanihan Villages, which are composed of MSUs serving as temporary shelters, initially in areas affected by two powerful earthquakes in Cebu and Davao Oriental provinces.

As of 12 December 2025, DHSUD has completed the deployment of MSUs in the municipalities of San Remigio, Cebu; Daantabantayan, Cebu; Bogo, Cebu; Tarragona, Davao Oriental; and Manay, Davao Oriental, providing immediate relief to families whose homes were damaged or destroyed by earthquakes.

In San Juan City, the DHSUD also turned over MSUs which are now being occupied by fire victims. The modular shelters will also be used as a staging area for beneficiaries of Expanded 4PH.

Installation works for more MSUs are also ongoing in Bogo, Cebu; Baganga, Davao Oriental; and Mandaue City, Cebu; in Tarragona and Baganga, Davao Oriental.

In addition, MSUs are allotted for Mandaue City, Cebu, as part of continuing support for LGUs affected by recent typhoons. Likewise, deployment of MSUs is underway, pending MGB inspection and approval, in Cebu, Davao Oriental, Camarines Sur, Albay, Catanduanes,



Negros Occidental, and Negros Oriental.

“Each MSU deployed represents real family—mga magulang, mga bata, at mga lolo’t lola—na nanganailangan ng agarang masisilungan matapos ang mga sakuna,” DHSUD Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling said.

“Malinaw ang direktiba ni Pangulong Marcos Jr.: sa ilalim ng Bagong Pilipinas, walang maiiwan. Kaya tuloy-tuloy ang aming paglilingkod upang kahit papaano ay maibsan ang hirap na nararanasan ng mga kababayan nating apektado ng sakuna,” he added.

Secretary Aliling stressed that the MSU program is designed not only for speed, but also for safety and dignity.

“Hindi lang ito pansamantalang bubong. Ito ay ligtas, maayos, at may dignidad na tirahan habang bumabangon pa ang mga komunidad,” he said.

He committed sustained efforts to further improve facilities like health clinics, training and learning centers inside the Bayanihan Villages to help ensure the recovery of displaced families.

“Sa bawat unit na naitatayo, layunin nating ibalik unti-unti ang pag-asa sa ating mga kababayan,” Secretary Aliling said.

“Makakaasa kayo na patuloy na magsisikap ang DHSUD—hangga’t may nangangailangan ng tahanan, nandito kami upang umagapay, katuwang ang LGUs at iba pang mga ahensya,” he concluded.

The DHSUD continues to closely monitor on-ground conditions and work with partner agencies to accelerate installations and deliveries, in keeping with the government’s commitment to responsive, people-centered disaster recovery. **(PIA)**

Bicam signs reconciled version of 2026 national budget

After extensive deliberations of the bicameral conference committee from Dec. 14-18, members of the Senate and the House of Representatives formally signed the reconciled version of the P6.793-trillion General Appropriations Bill (GAB) on Sunday, Dec. 28.

The event, led by House Panel Chairperson and Nueva Ecija 1st District Representative Mikaela Angela Suansing and Senate Finance Committee Chairperson Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, represents the culmination of a rigorous process to ensure transparency and accountability in the 2026 national budget.

Suansing said in a statement,

“Ang gusto po naming itawag sa budget na ito ay isang people-centered budget. Talaga pong in terms of the process itself, we made sure that [it] is transparent and accountable to the Filipino people.”

Gatchalian added, Ang overall direction po nitong budget na ito ay human development, at makikita po natin na malaki po ang pondong inilaan natin sa edukasyon, sa kalusugan, at sa agrikultura.”

Both lawmakers likewise emphasized the inclusion of safeguards to plug loopholes that may be exploited to funnel insertions and unnecessary expenditures to prevent a repeat of irregularities that plagued the 2025

national budget.

They were joined by Senators Loren Legarda, Francis Pangilinan, and JV Ejercito, as well as House Members Reps. Jose Alvarez, Javier Miguel Benitez, Albert Garcia, Marcelino Libanan, Jurdin Jesus Romualdo, and Allan Ty.

The House of Representatives and the Senate are scheduled to ratify the report in plenary session Monday afternoon, before the appropriations



bill is formally transmitted to the Chief Executive for his approval.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is set to sign House Bill No. 4058 in the first week of January 2026, after next year’s national budget undergoes thorough scrutiny from the President’s economic and legal teams. **(PTV4)**

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
National Capital Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
MANILA
BRANCH 181

Email address: rtc1mnl181@judiciary.gov.ph
Contact No.: (02)8277-75-45

ROJEAN G. JIMENEZ-NAGANO,
Petitioner,

-versus-

SP. CASE NO.: R-MNL-25-08026-SP
For: Recognition of a Foreign Decree
Divorce

**SHOHO NAGANO and THE CIVIL
REGISTRAR GENERAL, duly
represented by the LOCAL CIVIL
REGISTRAR OF THE CITY OF MANILA,**
Respondents.

x ----- x

ORDER

Before this Court is a verified petition filed by petitioner praying for the judicial recognition of the foreign judgment of divorce that was obtained by Petitioner Rojean Jimenez-Nagano and Private Respondent Shoho Nagano in Nagoya-shi Japan, to declare the capacity of the Petitioner to remarry under Philippine Laws and to cancel the entries of the marriage of the parties, as well as in all related civil registry documents, the fact of such divorce decree and judicial recognition thereof, in accordance with Rule 108 of the Rules of Court.

Finding the Petition to be sufficient in form and substance, set the instant petition for initial hearing on **March 12, 2026** and **April 7, 2026** at 1:30 in the afternoon at the Session Hall of the Regional Trial Court of Manila Branch 181, Rms. 603-604, 6th Floor, Parkview Plaza, Trida Bldg., (Masagana Bldg.) 984 Taft Avenue corner Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila, at which date, time and place, any interested party may appear and show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines to be chosen by raffle, to be conducted by the Executive Judge of this Court, at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks at the expense of the petitioner.

Likewise, petitioner is directed to furnish a copy of this Order together with copies of the Petition and annexes to the Local Civil Registrar of Manila, Philippine Statistics Authority, Office of the Solicitor General, Shoho Nagano at their respective addresses, within fifteen (15), days from notice.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, Philippines November 24, 2025.

(Sgd.)
SHIRLEY L. MAGSIPOC-PAGALILAUAN
Presiding Judge

THE SENTINEL POST
December 16, 23 and 30, 2025

Affidavit of Self Adjudication

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that pursuant the document entitled "Affidavit of Self Adjudication" dated 28 November 2025 (the "Affidavit") executed by Ms. Haydee Hernandez Morcilla, the property left by her late mother, Ms. Rosenda Robles Hernandez, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-222641 is the subject of self-adjudication by the sole heir, and that said affidavit has been executed to adjudicate the above-described property in favor of Haydee Hernandez Morcilla, in accordance with law.

The Affidavit was notarized by Atty. Joseph Nelson Loyola and entered in his notarial register as Doc No. 158, Page No. 53, Book III, Series of 2025.

The Sentinel Post
December 16, 23 and 30, 2025

Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate of Bank Account of Orlando Gonzales Salvador

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that pursuant the document entitled Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate of Bank Account of Orlando Gonzales Salvador dated 11 December 2025 ("EJS") executed by Aileen Villar Salvador, Al Bien Villar Salvador and Alliah Anne Villar Salvador (the "Heirs") the property left by their late father, Mr. Orlando Gonzales Salvador, specifically, his Personal Account/Savings Account ATM Card at Eastwest Bank-Festival Mall Branch, Alabang, Muntinlupa City under Savings Account No. 200035104789, is the subject of extrajudicial settlement, and that said EJS has been executed to adjudicate the above-described property in favor of the Heirs in accordance with law.

The EJS was notarized by Atty. Jaarmy G. Bolus-Romero and entered in the notarial register as Doc No. 501, Page No. 202, Book XXI, Series of 2025.

The Sentinel Post
December 16, 23 and 30, 2025

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Director's Certificate dated 11 December 2025, **KAZESCA OPC** (the "Corporation") office address at 131 7/F Finman Centre Bldg., Tordesillas Salcedo Village, Makati City, shall permanently cease operations and initiate closure procedures due to the owner's decision to migrate and pursue opportunities abroad. As such, the Corporation will withdraw its registration with all relevant government authorities in the Philippines.

(Sgd.)
KAZUKI SUGIYAMA
Sole Director

THE SENTINEL POST
December 23 and 30, 2025 and January 6, 2026

House pays tribute to late Rep. Romeo Acop

The House of Representatives on Monday stood united in grief and gratitude as Speaker Faustino "Bojie" Dy III led the chamber in honoring the life and legacy of the late Antipolo City 2nd District Rep. Romeo Acop.

In his eulogy, Dy honored Acop as a lawmaker who lived a life of integrity, quiet strength and genuine public service.

"We feel this loss deeply, not just because we lost a colleague, but because we lost a friend, a brother, and a man who gave his whole heart to public service," he said.

"Today, we gather as one House, one family, united in both grief and gratitude."

Dy described Acop as someone whose strength lay not in loud words or self-promotion, but in the firmness of his convictions and the clarity of his principles.

"He was someone we trusted. Matatag, malinaw ang paninindigan. He did not seek attention, but his presence was always felt," the Speaker said.

"In moments that required courage, he stood firm, guided not by convenience, but by conscience," he added.

Dy said Acop's integrity never wa-

vered throughout his years in public service, serving not for recognition but for the people he believed in.

"Sa bawat tanong na kanyang itinatanong, sa bawat desisyong kanyang tinindigan, ramdam ang kanyang malasakit at sense of responsibility," Dy said.

"He reminded us that public service, at its best, is about honesty, humility, and doing what is right, even when it is difficult."

Beyond Congress, the Speaker noted that Acop quietly helped many—families he assisted, communities he listened to, and people he gave hope to—acts that may not have made headlines but mattered deeply to those he served.

Addressing the bereaved family, he acknowledged that no words could match the weight of their loss, but assured them that Acop's life was one that truly mattered.

"His values, his character, and his example live on in this institution, and in all of us who had the privilege of working with him," Dy said.

He added that Acop leaves behind a clear reminder for those who remain in public service, that "true service is not about titles or power, but about integrity, humility, and genuine care for others." (PNA)

POLICE VISIBILITY IN TRANSPORT HUBS INTENSIFIED AMID NEW YEAR EXODUS

Police visibility has been intensified in transport hubs, as well as on major roads and other public areas, amid the surge of travelers for the New Year's Day celebrations.

In a statement on Sunday, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said units have adjusted their deployment in key terminals, airports and ports to manage travelers.

"We expect another influx of passengers for the new year celebration, especially that there will be a long holiday break," Acting PNP Chief Lt. Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said.

"Our goal is to maintain police visibility for them to feel safe from the bus terminals to the major thoroughfares and to their destinations."

Malacañang suspended work in all government offices on Dec. 29 and on Jan. 2, 2026. Meanwhile, Dec.



30 (Rizal Day) and 31 and Jan. 1, 2026 are all traditional non-working holidays.

The PNP earlier announced that over 100,000 officers will be deployed nationwide for the holiday season, a substantial increase from last year's 60,000 personnel.

"The mere presence of our personnel on the ground already serves as an assurance to our kababayan that assistance will be there," Nartatez said. (PTV4)

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

SC Invites Filipinos to Celebrate Its 125th Anniversary Through Photo Contest



The Supreme Court (SC) invites professional photographers, hobbyists, and enthusiasts to be part of its 125th Anniversary Photo Contest with the theme "Accessible and Inclusive Justice."

Capture stories of hope, struggle, and resilience – moments that show what justice looks like in everyday Filipino life. Submit entries in Digital or Film categories and get a chance to be featured in the special SC Photo Exhibit, win cash prizes of up to P125,000, and be recognized at the SC awards ceremony.

Photos must be taken from January 1, 2026 onward.

The deadline for submission is March 31, 2026, with the full contest mechanics to be announced soon.

Let your lens tell the story of justice.

The SC will commemorate its 125th anniversary in 2026—a historic milestone in our nation's enduring commitment to justice and the rule of law. *(Courtesy of the SC Office of the Spokesperson)*

RDC XI confers excellence awards to 6 government projects

DAVAO CITY (PIA) — The Regional Development Council (RDC) XI has conferred awards to six government projects for their excellent performance in the project implementation and monitoring.

The awardees were winners for the 2024 Search for Project Implementation and Monitoring Excellence in Davao Region (DavPrIME).

The Best Government Infrastructure Projects went to the Establishment of the Pilot Nature-based Vertical Helophyte Wastewater Filtration System at MPLS-PAMO, White Beach Resort, and Toyozu Mountain Resort in Davao de Oro.

It was implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources XI, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Davao de Oro.

Also, the same award was given to the Construction of the Vertical Helophyte Filter System for Wastewater Treatment at Maa Slaughterhouse in Davao City, led by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) XI.

Vertical Helophyte Filter System for Wastewater Treatment at Maa Slaughterhouse in Davao City,

The projects were conferred such an award for their innovative, cost-efficient, and scalable solutions

addressing persistent wastewater management concerns in the Davao Region.

The Best Government Non-Infrastructure Projects award went to the Establishment of 3D-Artificial Clay Reefs (3D-ACR) in Pujada Bay, Davao Oriental. The Davao Oriental State University and DOST's Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Program implemented the projects.

RDC XI said that these initiatives were lauded for their significant contributions to environmental protection, community empowerment, and sustainable local development.

The Davao del Norte Provincial Project Monitoring Committee was recognized as the Best Provincial PMC for its comprehensive RPMES reports, rigorous and systematic on-site inspections, and innovative adoption of the Enhanced Management Information System (EMIS), setting a high standard for project monitoring excellence.

Meanwhile, the Best City/Municipal PMC award goes to the Davao City PMC for its robust monitoring activities, institutional reforms, and the development of the Davao City Planning Information System (DCPIS), benefiting over 50 local departments and offices. *(CLC/PIA Davao/DEPDev XI)*

PDIC, OGCC ink partnership to enhance depositor protection, promote public confidence



Stronger depositor safeguards through the enforcement of the rule of law. The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) has partnered with the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) for special legal services to enhance depositor protection and strengthen public confidence in the Philippine banking system. The PDIC and OGCC signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in simple ceremonies held at the PDIC Chino Office on December 16, 2025. Signing the MOA were PDIC President and CEO Roberto B. Tan (second from the right) and Government Corporate Counsel Solomon M. Hermosura (second from the left). Witnessing the signing of the agreement were Assistant Government Corporate Counsel Reginald Jeremy I. Wan (leftmost) and PDIC General Counsel Maria Antonette I. Brillantes-Bolivar (rightmost).

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) and the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) reaffirmed their commitment to expand its long-standing collaboration with the ceremonial signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the provision of special legal services by the latter to PDIC.

Represented by PDIC President and CEO Roberto B. Tan and Government Corporate Counsel Solomon M. Hermosura, the MOA was signed in simple ceremonies held at the PDIC Chino Building in Makati City on December 16, 2025.

Under the MOA,

the OGCC will assign a dedicated legal team to provide legal assistance and representation to the PDIC. Its services will include, among others, the enforcement of the Corporation's rights, representation in mediation and arbitration proceedings, advisory on regulatory compliance and major procurement projects, legal risks assessments, conduct of preliminary and formal investigations in administrative cases, and the preparation and filing of foreclosure petitions.

PDIC President Tan said that the partnership will enable the Corporation to navigate complex legal challenges and focus

on delivering impactful programs and services to the depositing public and the country's financial system.

Meanwhile, GCC Hermosura expressed full support to the collaboration, citing that the OGCC exists to support government-owned and controlled corporations, and in the case of the PDIC, it is an opportunity for the OGCC to help the Corporation preserve confidence in the banking system, a key pillar of a stable economy.

Both agencies expressed optimism that the agreement forged will contribute to nation-building and to a stable financial system. *(PDIC)*



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TSP SHOWBIZ ROUND-UP

CARLA ABELLANA AND DR. REGINALD SANTOS TIED THE KNOT



Images courtesy of Instagram: carlaangelina

ROSIE 'PEANUT' MANZANO TURNS 3 YEARS OLD



Images courtesy of Instagram: jessymendiola



51ST MMFF 2025 WINNERS

- Best Picture:** *I'mPerfect*
- 2nd Best Picture:** *Unmarry*
- 3rd Best Picture:** *Call Me Mother and Manila's Finest*
- Best Director:** Jeffrey Jeturian (*Unmarry*)
- Best Actor:** Vice Ganda (*Call Me Mother*)
- Best Actress:** Krystel Go (*I'mPerfect*)
- Best Ensemble Award:** *I'mPerfect*
- Breakthrough Performance:** Zach Sibug (*Unmarry*)
- Best Screenplay:** Chris Martinez and Therese Cayaba (*Unmarry*)
- Best Supporting Actor:** Tom Rodriguez (*Unmarry*)
- Best Supporting Actress:** Odette Khan (*Bar Boys: After School*)
- Best Child Performance:** Lucas Andanio (*Call Me Mother*)
- Best Cinematography:** Raymond Red (*Manila's Finest*)
- Best Original Theme Song:** *Sandalan* by Vehnee Saturno (*Manila's Finest*)
- Best Sound:** Roy Santos (*Manila's Finest*)
- Best Musical Score:** Fredrik Sandoval and Emerzon Texon (*Manila's Finest*)
- Best Editing:** Benjo Ferrer (*Unmarry*)
- Best Production Design:** Digo Ricio (*Manila's Finest*)
- Best Visual Effects:** Santelmo Inc. (*Shake, Rattle & Roll: Evil Origins*)
- Male and Female Stars of the Night:** Dustin Yu, Will Ashley and Bianca De Vera
- Gender Sensitivity Award:** *Call Me Mother*
- Best Float:** *Unmarry and Manila's Finest*
- Fernando Poe Jr. Memorial Award:** *Bar Boys: After School*
- Best Cinematography:** Gatpuno Antonio J. Villegas
- Cultural Award:** *Manila's Finest*

Images courtesy of Facebook: Fashion PULIS



General Cleaning

Fumigation of whole area using non-toxic disinfectant. Dry vacuuming and Steam cleaning, sterilization of floors, walls, cabinet, screens, curtains & blinds. Damp dusting with disinfectant of all surface & fixture. Polishing and disinfecting of floors, air and sanitation to remove allergens.

Mattress, Upholstery & Car Deep Cleaning

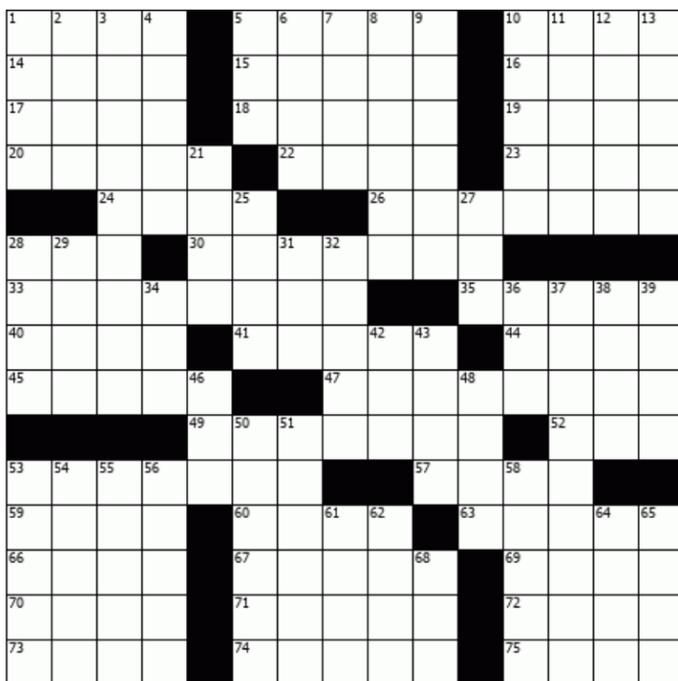
Dry Vacuuming, Shampooing, Extraction and Steam Cleaning

FOR INQUIRIES, PLS. CALL/TEXT: Venus Comes-09951660035

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

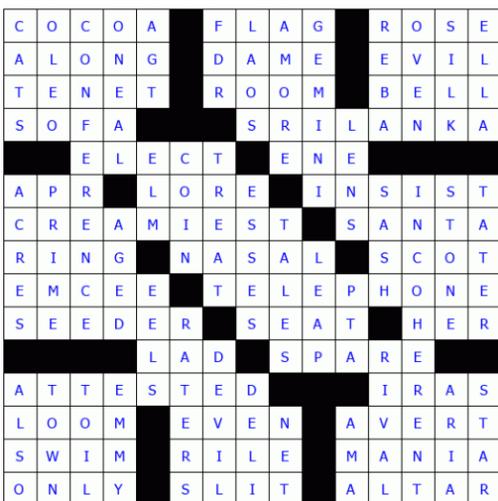
- 1. Attention-getting sound
- 5. Less hazardous
- 10. Male cats
- 14. Ramble
- 15. Breathing
- 16. On the peak
- 17. For both sexes
- 18. Military award
- 19. Footwear
- 20. Parsley piece
- 22. Secret language
- 23. Shore bird
- 24. Guys' dates
- 26. Came in
- 28. Lobe site
- 30. Canadian province
- 33. More selfish
- 35. Hearsay
- 40. Nerd
- 41. Poke fun at
- 44. Tractor-trailer
- 45. More rational
- 47. Added salt and pepper
- 49. Beg
- 52. Compass point (abbr.)
- 53. Soup cracker
- 57. Tramp
- 59. Maui dance
- 60. Endure
- 63. Doctrine
- 66. Eden resident
- 67. Relative by marriage (hyph.)
- 69. Assists
- 70. Shade of green
- 71. Frighten
- 72. Stair section
- 73. Warty amphibian
- 74. Entice
- 75. Certain bills



Down

- 1. Circle segments
- 2. Hula-___
- 3. Having leaves year round
- 4. Radio and newspapers, e.g.
- 5. Uncle ___
- 6. Guinness of "Star Wars"
- 7. Dog's name
- 8. Dodger
- 9. Ease up
- 10. Sample food
- 11. Different
- 12. Actor Roger ___
- 13. Use money
- 21. Lighthearted
- 25. Narrow cut
- 27. Pitch
- 28. Nest contents
- 29. Locality
- 31. Spelling event
- 32. Rub out
- 34. Get by
- 36. Gf's hangout
- 37. Pacifist Christian branch
- 38. Forewarning
- 39. Go by bus
- 42. Notice
- 43. Apiece
- 46. Batter's stat
- 48. Injection
- 50. Sign up
- 51. Spiritualist meeting
- 53. Commandment verb
- 54. Sound
- 55. Peruvian animal
- 56. Made docile
- 58. "Beauty and the ___"
- 61. Grand ___
- 62. Canvas cover
- 64. Eve's garden
- 65. Recipe abbr.
- 68. Rainy

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:



SUDOKU

TODAY'S PUZZLE:

8		7			1	2	6	9
	4				9	8		1
2				7	8	4	5	
				1	7			
	2	8	9		6	5	1	
			8	5				
	3	5	7	6				2
4		6	1				3	
1	7	2	3			6		4

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:

8	5	3	6	9	7	1	2	4
9	4	7	2	1	3	8	5	6
1	6	2	5	4	8	3	7	9
6	7	5	3	2	4	9	8	1
3	8	1	9	6	5	2	4	7
4	2	9	8	7	1	5	6	3
2	9	8	4	3	6	7	1	5
7	3	6	1	5	2	4	9	8
5	1	4	7	8	9	6	3	2

HOOPS REPUBLIC

Fil-Italian skier Ceccarelli gears up for Winter Olympics debut

MANILA – Filipino-Italian Francis Ceccarelli is all fired up for his Winter Olympic Games debut next year.

He is the first Filipino to qualify for the tournament, to be jointly hosted by Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo in Italy on Feb. 6 to 22, 2026.

"I'm feeling good, and really proud of myself and for the people who support me. I'm really excited and ready for this Olympics season," the 22-year-old Alpine skier said in an online interview Sunday.

Ceccarelli was born in Quezon City but was

adopted by an Italian couple. He moved to Italy at the age of eight.

He resides in Abetone, a town in the province of Pistoia in Tuscany,

"I chose skiing because my mom's family are skiers and because in Abetone, the principal sport is the ski. The first one who encouraged me to ski was my mom at ski school camp. After that, I thought that ski was really fun and with the passage of time, I decided to do skiing. I had many coaches ... my first coach was my mom and now, my coach is Stefano," Ceccarelli said.

Ceccarelli is currently training in Chile, where he continues high-altitude practice runs.

"I qualified for the Winter Olympics because I made many races and many trainings before. Also because I started skiing before I knew the Italian language, really ... I think the secret for



GYM TEST. Filipino-Italian skier Francis Ceccarelli (right) undergoes physical assessment at Mapei Sport Research Centre in Olgiate Olona, Varese, Italy in this undated photo. He is the first Filipino to qualify for the 25th Winter Olympics Games, to be hosted jointly by Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo in Italy on Feb. 6 to 22, 2026. (Contributed photo)

all these is constancy and continuity," he said.

"So I participated in many races internationally, like FIS (International Ski and Snowboard Federation). I made good results in FIS races in slalom discipline. I had done the Asian Winter Games. I had a great opportunity to be on the podium but when you want to go further, it happens that you make mistakes," he said.

Ceccarelli started representing the Philippines in 2023.

"Since I started skiing, my Filipino identity has always been with me. It represents where I was born and where I'm from. It was a goal for me to ski for the Philippines, because it is not every day that we have a Filipino athlete skiing at the international level," he told the Olympics.com website in a previous interview. (PNA)

TSP

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Discus thrower Ricaforte eyes better performance in 2026

MANILA – Ateneo de Manila University student Russel Je Ricaforte has proven why he deserves to be a part of the national team.

The 5-foot-10 discus thrower bagged a bronze medal at the 33rd Southeast Asian Games where he registered 53.54 meters, behind Malaysia's Muhammad Irfan Shamshuddin (60.23) and Thailand's Kiadpradid Srisai (53.82).

"It was amazing, I'm really happy that I took home the bronze medal. It was an honor standing on the podium and seeing the Philippine flag on the screen. It was a surreal moment," the 25-year-old Ricaforte said in an interview Thursday.

At the ICTSI Philippine Athletics Championships, one of the qualifiers for the country's representatives to the SEA Games, he won the gold medal with a throw of 47.17 meters to beat national athlete Ed Delina (47.07) and Malaysia University's Kamal Farhan bin Abdul Rahman (46.42).

Three months later, Ricaforte made headlines after setting a new national record of 54.14 meters in the Philippine Athletics Track and Field Association (PATAFA) Weekly Relays at the PhilSports in Pasig City.

He broke the 34-year-old record of Fidel Repizo (52.10m) established at the 1991 Manila SEA Games.

"My plan for 2026 is to continue the momentum we got from this year. The next target is to break the record once again and also reach 60 meters," said the Davao City-born Ricaforte, who is taking up a master's degree in business administration.

He is a physical education graduate from the University of Perpetual Help in Las Piñas.

Coach Arniel Ferrera was satisfied with Ricaforte's performance.

"I'm happy, as expected, he won a medal in his first SEA Games. Our target was 55m target but in the second round, Russel had muscle cramps, so we lost. It



PROUD ATENEAN. Russel Je Ricaforte of Ateneo de Manila University wins the discus throw bronze medal during the 33rd Southeast Asian Games athletics competition at the Suphachalasai National Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand on Dec. 16, 2025. He registered 53.54 meters, behind Malaysia's Muhammad Irfan Shamshuddin (60.23) and Thailand's Kiadpradid Srisai (53.82). (Contributed photo)

would have been an easy silver but we are all good with his performance," commented the four-time gold medalist and three-time record-holder in hammer throw at the SEA Games.

"We'll work harder and smarter for the 60 meters. We're looking forward to the Asian Games and the Asian Throwing Championships in Korea," Ferrera, who has been monitoring Ricaforte's training since 2023, added.

Overall, the Philippines ranked fourth with five gold, seven silver and 19 bronze medals, behind Thailand (13-13-4), Vietnam (12-12-11), and Indonesia (9-5-7). Malaysia was fifth (5-4-6) in Thailand SEA Games.

The Philippines improved its 4-10-8 tally in Cambodia (2023) and 5-7-14 haul in Vietnam (2021). When it hosted the SEA Games in 2019, the Philippines had an impressive 11-8-8 medal tally. (PNA)



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