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RECTO: 64% BUDGET CUT WON'T HAMPER PALACE OPS

MANILA – The Office of the President (OP) will continue to perform its core functions despite a proposed 64-percent cut in its 2027 budget, Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said Sunday.

The OP is seeking PHP10.15 billion for next year, down from the PHP28.03 billion appropriated for 2026.

Recto said the lower funding reflects the streamlining of the OP's 49 delivery units and the completion of activities related to the Philippines' hosting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit this year.

"We are asking for less while remaining fully prepared to do more," Recto said in a news release.

The proposed budget is equivalent to only one-seventh of 1 percent of the proposed PHP7.2 trillion national budget, but is sufficient to support the President's day-to-day functions, including Cabinet meetings, policy consultations, presidential engagements and inter-agency coordination.

The funding will support government responses to emergencies, delivery of assistance to vulnerable sectors, monitoring of economic plans and protection of national interests, Recto said.

The proposed budget allocates PHP7.46 billion or 74 percent for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses; PHP1.86 billion or 18 percent for Personnel Services; and PHP839 million or 8 percent for Capital Outlay.

Recto said the reduced budget does not mean a reduction in the demands placed on the OP.

"Every day, the President's schedule is full because the demands of governing do not pause. But



REDUCED SPENDING. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (left) receives the 2027 National Expenditure Program from Department of Budget and Management Acting Secretary Kim Robert De Leon at Malacañang Palace in Manila on Aug. 10, 2026. The Office of the President is seeking PHP10.15 billion for next year, down from the PHP28.03 billion appropriated for 2026. (DBM photo)

activity alone is not our measure of performance," he said.

Instead, the OP would ensure that policies, meetings, official engagements and missions result in concrete benefits, including jobs and investments, stronger national security and improved public services.

The House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations endorsed the PHP10.15-billion proposal on Sept. 1 after lawmakers voted to terminate deliberations through "institutional and inter-branch courtesy."

Recto said the proposed budget was prepared in accordance with the Department of Budget and Management's rules and processes.

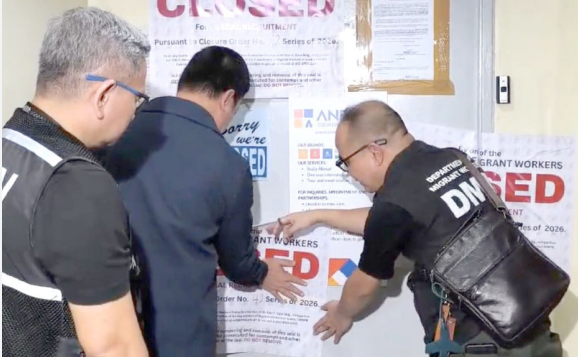
"We sought no special treatment," he said. (PNA)

~ SOUL FOOD ~

"If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

- John 14:23 -

DMW SHUTS DOWN TOURISM CONSULTANCY AGENCY IN ORTIGAS



CLOSED. Officials from the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) shut down a consultancy firm in Pasig City on Friday (Sept. 4, 2026) for alleged illegal recruitment activities. (Courtesy: PTV News)

The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) shut down a tourism consultancy agency in Ortigas, Pasig City on Friday after uncovering illegal recruitment schemes targeting Filipinos hoping to work abroad.

Migrant Workers Assistant Secretary Jerome Alcantara said the agency had already sent at least 80 workers to Bulgaria. Of those, 70 managed to leave the country, but 10 were offloaded by the Bureau of Immigration after officials grew suspicious of their travel documents.

Asec. Alcantara said the agency drew in applicants by dangling internship programs and cultural exchange opportunities in Germany, the United Kingdom, and Bulgaria.

The jobs on offer ranged from chambermaids and cooks to caregivers, domestic workers, and amusement park attendants. But the fees were steep—up to P350,000—especially given that the promised monthly salaries of P150,000 to P200,000 seemed too good to be true.

“Magpapaalis sila either under a program na cultural exchange ‘yun o ‘di kaya nagpapaalis sila under the guise of an internship and training pero ang totooong kababagsakan nun, trabaho sa ibang bansa,” Alcantara explained.

The DMW’s investigation also found that the agency had been quietly expanding into the provinces to recruit even more applicants. The department is now asking the public to report any suspicious recruitment activity.

Following the shutdown, Migrant Workers Protection Bureau Director Romelson Abbang reminded the public that only licensed agencies are allowed to process overseas job placements for Filipinos.

Jobseekers are urged to do their homework—verifying an agency’s legitimacy through official DMW channels before handing over any money or paperwork to avoid scams.

“Kung kayo ay nag-aapply ay ugaliin ninyong mag-verify muna sa Department of Migrant Workers kung ang inyong inaaplayan ay lisen-syado sa DMW,” Abbang advised.

Meanwhile, Asec. Alcantara laid out some ground rules to help protect applicants from being exploited.

“Huwag magbabayad ng processing fee hangga’t hindi nakakapirma ng kontrata. Unang una, huwag magbabayad ng processing fee o placement fee sa hindi lisensyado ng DMW. Pangalawa pag nagbayad, dapat may resibo at saka nagta-transact lamang sa loob ng opisina at pangatlo, huwag magbabayad ng higit doon sa allowed ng law. Kung Domestic Worker yan, hindi pwedeng singilin ng placement fee yan,” Alcantara stressed. (PTV NEWS - BJLC)

Palace: PNP not used as ‘weapon’ for violence, enforcing law sans bias

MANILA — Malacañang said Saturday that the Philippine National Police (PNP) is carrying out its mandate in accordance with the law, without bias or political considerations.

In a statement, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said the police force remains focused on protecting the rights of individuals under its protection and serving the interests of the Filipino people.

“Ipinatutupad ng PNP ang kanilang mandato ayon sa batas, walang kinikilingan at ng walang halong pulitika kundi para bawat Filipino lamang (The PNP is carrying out its mandate in accordance with the law, without bias and without political considerations, but solely for the benefit of every Filipino),” Castro said.

Castro’s statement was in response to Vice President Sara Duterte’s remarks that she feared for her safety and life after the police went to where her children were, following the Quezon City Regional Trial Court’s (RTC) issuance of an arrest warrant against her.

Duterte said she felt “unsafe” after the incident and that she believes that “they are going to kill” her.

Castro said the government would not allow the police force

to be used as a “weapon (to) perpetrate violence.”

She advised individuals with complaints to pursue appropriate legal remedies rather than make unsubstantiated accusations.

“Ipinapaalala natin sa publiko na ang anumang agam-agam o reklamo hinggil sa aksyon ng pulisya ay maaari nilang ipaabot ang mga ito sa pamamagitan ng legal na pamamaraan at hindi sa pagsasagawa ng mga usaping walang batayan (We remind the public that any concern or complaint regarding police actions may be raised through legal channels, rather than through baseless allegations),” Castro said.

“Nais rin namin ipaalala sa lahat na ang administrasyong ito ay hindi papayag na maging sandata ang kapulisan sa anumang karahasan (We also wish to remind everyone that this administration will not allow the police force to be used as a weapon for any form of violence).”

She said the government maintains full confidence in the PNP leadership and its personnel.

“Nanatili silang professional sa pangangalaga sa mga karap-



COURT APPEARANCE. Vice President Sara Duterte speaks with members of her legal team before entering the Quezon City Hall of Justice on Saturday (Sept. 5, 2026). Duterte appeared at the court in connection with the grave threats case filed against her, with bail set at PHP120,000 for each count. (Screenshot from PNA video of Robert Oswald P. Alfiler)

atan ng lahat ng taong nasa ilalim ng kanilang pagprotekta. Buong tiwala ng administrasyon sa pamunuan ng PNP at sa hanay nito (They remain professional in safeguarding the rights of all individuals under their protection. The administration has full confidence in the PNP leadership and its ranks),” she said.

The PNP, for its part, said it has taken note of the statements and concerns raised by Duterte regarding the alleged conduct of police personnel.

In a statement on Saturday, the PNP said it continues to monitor the situation.

To date, however, the Vice President has not reported to the PNP any threat to her life or to the safety of her family, including the threats she said

that date back to 2023.

Likewise, the PNP has not monitored any verified threat against the Vice President or her family, the statement read.

The PNP provided security assistance during the Vice President’s appearance at the QC RTC, when she posted bail in connection with the warrant of arrest. She left the court safely, the PNP said.

“The PNP remains open to receiving any document, report or statement concerning the reported threats. My office, in particular, remains open to receiving such information so that we can properly check, assess, and verify it,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said. (With report from Christopher Lloyd T. Caliwang/PNA)

PALACE RESPECTS QC COURT’S ISSUANCE OF ARREST WARRANT VS VP SARA

MANILA — Malacañang said Friday it respects the decision of a Quezon City court to issue a warrant of arrest against Vice President Sara Duterte in connection with the grave threats charges stemming from her remarks against President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

“Ginagalang ng Palasyo ang anumang desisyon o kautusan ng korte (The Palace respects any decision of or directive from the court),” Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said.

Castro’s statement came after the

Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 98 issued an arrest warrant on three counts of grave threats.

The court set the bail for Duterte at PHP120,000 for each count.

The cases stemmed from Duterte’s statement during an online press conference in November 2024 that she had contracted someone to kill Marcos, First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and former House of Representatives Speaker Martin Romualdez, if she were killed.

The Department of Justice filed three



COURT RULING. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro during a Palace briefing in this undated photo. Castro said on Friday (Sept. 4, 2026) that Malacañang respects the Quezon City Regional Trial Court’s decision to issue a warrant of arrest against Vice President Sara Duterte in connection with grave threats charges stemming from her “assassination” remarks against President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (File photo)

grave threat charges against Duterte over her “assassination” remarks against the President.

Duterte’s camp earlier sought the dismissal of the cases, citing lack of jurisdiction. (PNA)

PBBM orders prompt interventions for flood-hit areas in Central Luzon

In a gesture of expressing oneness with those inundated by widespread flooding in Central Luzon, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. led several engagements in the provinces of Tarlac, Zambales, and Pampanga on Wednesday.

The President began with an inspection of the damaged Aquino and Agana bridges in Barangay San Isidro, Tarlac City, where he directed concerned agencies to expedite repairs on these vital infrastructures.

He then paid a visit to Barangay Santa Fe, San Marcelino, Zambales, where he facilitated the distribution of government relief and cash assistance to approximately 1,000 affected families—about 2,525 individuals, primarily Ilocanos and Indigenous Peoples.

The President's visit came as intermittent rains continued to affect the area. Santa Fe is accessible from the town proper only after about an hour's journey, with portions of the route

requiring military trucks due to difficult terrain and damaged roads.

President Marcos Jr. went on to inspect the barangay hall and multi-purpose center in the remote town, which were submerged in about a meter of gravel during heavy flooding.

Capping off his jam-packed itinerary in Central Luzon, the President inspected the damage to an embankment near the Sto. Cristo Dam in Lubao, Pampanga, after the structure was overwhelmed by voluminous downpour.

In a media statement, he emphasized the need to construct sabo dams upstream of the Sto. Cristo Dam, which would help capture debris and regulate the flow of water before heading downstream.

"Lahat ng dam natin ngayon kailangan na natin maglagay ng ganyan sa mga upstream ay lalagyan natin pagka praktikal, kung tama ay lalagyan natin ng Sabo Dam. Kung hindi, ito lang muna, 'yung mga ha-



rang lang muna para hindi mabara 'yung dam natin para tama ang takbo ng tubig."

President Marcos Jr. also shared that water levels in certain sections of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) have already started to subside, expressing optimism that it would eventually enable the resumption of regular traffic flow along Luzon's major transportation corridor.

After the dam inspection, he paid a visit to the Barangay Sta. Catalina Evacuation Center, which houses 58 families from Lubao, 86 from Sasmuan, four from Minalin, and two from the City of San Fernando.

He also met with

the families staying at the Pagcor Multi-Purpose Evacuation Center, which is managed by the municipal government of Lubao. A total of 31 families stay at the municipal temporary shelter.

The Chief Executive then interacted with the families at the Provincial Evacuation Center and Isolation Facilities that house 150 families from three towns and one city in Pampanga.

Local social welfare officials said each family received P10,000 cash assistance in addition to hygiene, sleeping, and kitchen kits. They also received family food packs and regular meals. (PTV NEWS-DAC)

SC: Evidence of Credit Card Fraud Cannot be Seized under Drug Search Warrant

The Supreme Court (SC) has ruled that evidence of credit card hacking cannot be seized under a search warrant that authorizes only the search for illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia.

In a Decision penned by Associate Justice Japar B. Dimaampao, the SC's Third Division acquitted Edgar Silvano (Silvano) of violating Republic Act No. (RA) 8484, or the Access Devices Regulation Act of 1998. Section 9(e) of the law prohibits the possession of counterfeit access devices, including fake credit cards.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) received information that Silvano was involved in illegal drug activities and computer hacking, particularly credit card fraud.

To verify the report, the NBI instructed the informant to buy methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) from Silvano. Laboratory test later confirmed that it was indeed shabu.

The NBI obtained a search warrant for violation of RA 9165 or the Dangerous Drugs Act, authorizing the search for shabu and other drug-related items.

During the search of Silvano's residence, NBI agents seized several items including computers, ATM cards, laptops, a money counter, a dry seal, and a card-scheming device.

They also recovered two American Express credit cards bearing the name "V S Tan." An American Express manager later confirmed that the cards were fake because their numbers did not match the records of the original account holder.

The Regional Trial Court convicted Silvano of possessing counterfeit access devices. The Court of Appeals affirmed this, ruling that the items were validly seized even though they were not included in the search warrant because they were in plain view of the officers during the search.

The SC reversed the conviction.

The SC explained that, as a general rule, authorities may seize only items specifically described in a search warrant. One exception is the plain view doctrine, which allows officers to seize evidence they discover while lawfully present in a place.

For the plain view doctrine to apply, the officers must have a lawful reason to be in the place where the evidence is found; the discovery must be inadvertent or unintentional; and it must be immediately clear that the item may be connected to a crime.

The SC found that these requirements were not met.

The search warrant covered only illegal drugs and related paraphernalia. It did not authorize the seizure of credit cards or other access devices.

Although the NBI agents were lawfully inside Silvano's residence, their discovery of the credit cards was not accidental. The agents already had information linking Silvano to alleged credit card fraud and hacking but did not obtain a search warrant covering those offenses.

The SC also noted that the credit cards were inside a non-transparent bag. Their contents could not be seen until the bag was opened. Even then, the cards did not appear fake on their face. Their alleged connection to a crime became apparent only because of the NBI's prior information and their subsequent verification by American Express.

The SC thus ruled that the credit cards were unlawfully seized and could not be used as evidence against Silvano. Without them, the prosecution failed to prove his guilt under RA 8484.

This press release is prepared for members of the media and the general public by the SC Office of the Spokesperson as a simplified summary of the SC's Decision. For the SC's complete discussion of the case, please read the full text of the Decision in G.R. No. 273931 (Silvano v. People), February 12, 2026. (Supreme Court of PH)

LAGAY NG KALIDAD NG HANGIN AT HAZE SA BANSA

Sa isang eksklusibong panayam kay Dr. Maria Obiminda L. Cambaliza, Research Scientist sa Air Quality Dynamics Laboratory ng Manila Observatory at Professor sa Department of Physics ng Ateneo de Manila University, ipinaliwanag niyang ang haze na nararanasan sa malaking bahagi ng bansa ay sanhi ng tinatawag na "peatland burning season" sa Indonesia.

Bagama't hindi ito nangyayari taon-taon, ang umiiral na hangin Habagat (Southwest Monsoon) ang nagiging dahilan upang maitulak at maitangay ang makapal na usok (smoke plume) mula Indonesia patawid sa airspace ng Pilipinas na nagdudulot ng pagbaba ng kalidad ng hangin sa ilang bahagi ng Luzon at Visayas.

Nilinaw din niya na depende sa galaw ng Habagat at weather system ang pagbabago sa kalidad ng hangin. Bagama't unti-unti nang bumubuti ang hangin sa Metro Manila sa mga susunod na araw, inaasahang mas mabagal o



Kaya tayo may mga haze is likely because of particulate matter. Mayroon tayong air quality index as reference instruments. Kaninang alas-singko, we are definitely downwind of the plume. Kaninang alas dose, dahan dahan it is improving for Metro Manila.

Dr. Maria Obiminda L. Cambaliza
Research Scientist at the Air Quality Dynamics Laboratory of the Manila Observatory
September 1, 2026

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dahan-dahan naman ang pagbuti nito sa nalalabing bahagi ng bansa.

Paalala sa publiko, lalo na ang mga senior citizens, bata, at may mga karamdaman sa baga at puso, na magsuot ng mask kapag lalabas, limitahan ang mga outdoor activities, at panatiliing nakasara ang mga bintana habang nananatili ang hazy conditions. (PIA)

From Thread to Future: How DOST's RYPIC Keeps an Ilocano Weaver's Dream Alive

In every swift movement of a local weaver's hands lies a quiet labor of love, enriching a cherished tradition, art, and culture of weaving that often goes unnoticed in the rush of the modern world. Yet beneath every neatly lined thread rests a real story of hard work, persistence, and quiet success waiting to be told.

The Ilocos Region is home to over 1,000 weavers—individuals, family businesses, and community groups who have dedicated their lives to keeping the traditions of their ancestors alive. For years, however, weaving communities across the region faced a major problem: expensive costs and an unreliable supply of good quality thread.

To many, panag-abel—the traditional Ilocano way of handloom weaving—might look like an old art best seen in museum displays, cultural trade fairs, or special celebrations. But for Carolyn Sabado, a weaver from the Dream Weavers of Lower Surong in Vintar, Ilocos Norte, the threads she handles are far more than just items on display. They are the base of her everyday life and hope for her community's future.

Even as a young girl, Carolyn had a genuine love for crafting. Her mind

was naturally filled with bright colors, detailed inabel patterns, and creative textile designs. But creative ideas alone, without raw materials and proper support, often stay as just dreams.

This is where the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), together with the DOST-Philippine Textile Research Institute (DOST-PTRI) and DOST Ilocos Region, came in to help. By giving specialized technical training and modern weaving equipment like Thera Looms, DOST helped Carolyn and her fellow manghahabi (weavers) turn their craft into a steady and growing business.

To solve the lack of thread and high production costs for the long term, DOST built the region's first Regional Yarn Production and Inno-



vation Center (RYPIC) right in Vintar, Ilocos Norte. This facility directly solves the thread shortage by processing local, natural plant fibers—such as abaca, bamboo, banana, pineapple, and cotton—into high-quality thread.

For Carolyn, this support did more than just boost her family's daily earnings. Handweaving also served as a peaceful activity that helped her physical health, supported her family, and helped protect the inabel tradition.

“Habang napagpapatuloy ang pag-aabel, naroon dapat ‘yung determinasyon na dapat ay malayo ang marating ng inabel mo, hindi lang sa loob ng komunidad... at umaasa kami na marami pa kaming mabebenta,” (As long as we keep panag-abel alive, we must hold

onto the determination to bring our inabel far beyond our community... and we hope to sell much more,) Carolyn shared.

With RYPIC Vintar now open, local weavers no longer need to worry about running out of materials or buying expensive imported threads. Instead, the thread moving through their looms comes straight from the farms of local Filipino farmers.

On August 7, 2026, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. saw firsthand how science, technology, and new ideas at RYPIC Vintar are bringing new life to the local textile industry. Led by DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr., alongside Regional Director Teresita A. Tabaog and DOST Ilocos Region officers, the team introduced Carolyn and her fellow weavers to the President. During their short talk, the weavers shared how DOST's support changed their lives and shaped the future of weaving in the region.

Keeping our culture alive in modern times requires everyone's support. With every thread guided by the hands of local weavers, DOST shows that when science and communities work together, the fine threads of our past stay strong, bright, and meaningful for generations to come. **(DOST Ilocos Region)**

Turning Food Safety Knowledge into Better Practices at MJS Foods

For food businesses, good products begin with safe and proper practices behind every step of preparation and production.

On August 24, MJS Foods Inc. strengthened the food safety practices of its team through a Training on Food Safety and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) held at Aruma Coffee Lounge, Poblacion, Iligan City.

A total of 17 food handlers, including two owners, participated in the training. The activity is part of DOST's continuing support to food businesses in applying safe and proper ways of handling and producing food.

The training covered common food hazards, proper food handling, personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitation, record-keeping, and Good Manufacturing Practices. These practices help businesses maintain cleaner work areas, prevent food contamination, improve consistency in production, and ensure that food is handled properly from preparation to serving or processing.

For MJS Foods, the knowledge gained can be applied to both its restaurant and food processing



operations, helping the company strengthen its food safety practices and work toward safer, more consistent products for its customers.

Safer food starts with better practices. Connect with your nearest DOST Office to learn about available training and consultancy services. **(DOST Lanao del Norte)**

SSS CONTINUES SUPPORT TO THE LOCAL MARKET AS PART OF NATION BUILDING WHILE EXPLORING INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENTS TO BALANCE PORTFOLIO

QUEZON CITY, 12 August 2026 – The Social Security System (SSS) announced today its plan to expand its investment portfolio in foreign markets while continuing to actively participate in the domestic capital markets, as part of its strategy to diversify assets, enhance returns, and strengthen the long-term sustainability of the pension fund.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph M. de Claro said the SSS' improved financial position provides greater capacity to pursue investment opportunities while continuing to contribute to nation-building through investments in the domestic market.

“We are very conservative, but at the same time, we are also in a very good position now because of our surplus, that for the first time, we have an opportunity to help in nation-building,” de Claro said.

As of 30 June 2026, SSS had Php1.27 trillion in consolidated investments, distributed across various asset classes in the domestic market. These include Php629.05 billion in government securities, Php179.44 billion in equities, Php154.56 billion in property, Php151.90 billion in member loans, and Php96.34 billion in corporate notes and bonds, among others.

The diversified portfolio generated Php27.16 billion in actual investment income as of 30 June 2026,

equivalent to an annualized return on investment of 4.53 percent. The figures exclude realized gains from the sale of equity securities classified as fair value through other comprehensive income (FVTOCI).

SSS remains an active institutional investor in the Philippine capital market through investments in equities, government securities, and other financial instruments allowed under its investment policies. Its exploration of international investments is intended to complement, not replace, its existing domestic investments, providing greater diversification across markets and asset classes.

The planned overseas expansion will allow SSS to explore additional investment opportunities while maintaining its role in supporting the local capital market.

He emphasized that exploring overseas investments does not mean reducing SSS' participation in the Philippine market. Rather, the initiative is intended to complement its existing domestic investments by providing greater diversification across markets and asset classes.

SSS aims to grow its reserve fund to Php2 trillion by 2030, supporting its capacity to provide meaningful and sustainable social security protection to current and future generations of members and pensioners. **(SSS Website)**

NTC educates public on fraud, scam prevention

PROSPERIDAD, Agusan del Sur — The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Caraga, during the Department Information Officers (DIO) Hour on September 2, hosted by Provincial Public Information Officer Head PJ Dela Peña of the Provincial Public Information Office (PPIO) Agusan del Sur, urged the public to remain vigilant against scams and online fraud while providing practical tips on how to protect personal and financial information.

NTC Caraga Attorney III Krizza Marie Sayas Uy discussed the various types of scams and ways the public can avoid falling victim to scammers and fraudsters.

Uy first introduced NTC's background and its role in regulating telecommunications and radio communications in the country.

“The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is the government agency responsible for regulating and overseeing telecommunications and radio communications in the Philippines. It supervises the licensing and operation of handheld and two-way radios, radio stations, telecommunications companies, internet service providers (ISPs), and public internet services such as Piso WiFi,” Uy said.

She added that the NTC also manages the use of radio frequencies, issues permits and licenses for communication devices, and ensures that telecommunications services comply with national laws and technical standards.

IMSI catchers and mobile security

As the discussion continued, Uy explained the concept of International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) and the potential risks associated with devices known as IMSI catchers.

"IMSI, or the international mobile subscriber identity, is a unique number associated with a mobile phone subscriber's SIM card used by telecommunication companies to verify the user of a mobile number," Uy said.

She explained that scammers continue to explore different methods to expand their reach, including the possible use of IMSI catchers. These are devices or systems that can imitate legitimate cellular network towers and potentially identify or track nearby mobile devices.

"Now, scammers are looking for ways to widen their reach and scam many people. They invent and discover IMSI catchers, devices or systems that pretend to be a legitimate cellular network tower to identify or track nearby mobile devices, which may be deployed in crowded areas," she said.

She also warned the public to be cautious when receiving suspicious messages and links, particularly those involving bank accounts, e-wallets, and other financial services.

Fake transactions and links

The NTC official also explained that scammers may impersonate legitimate banks, e-wallet providers, government agencies, and other institutions. They may use authentic-looking transaction messages and insert malicious links designed to trick users into providing their personal and financial information.

She urged the public to watch out for common warning signs, including urgent threats, offers that appear too good to be true, suspicious links, requests for one-time passwords (OTPs) and other private information such as birth dates, and demands for advance payments.

“Our advice for those receiving those warnings is to ignore them and not interact with them. This will prevent scammers from

knowing that you are using an active number. Double-check your accounts, especially when they are connected to bank accounts and registered devices,” Uy said.

She also advised the public to regularly check their e-wallet accounts because scammers may potentially use compromised information to access financial services or obtain loans without the account holder's knowledge.

"If you already gave your personal information to possible scammers, go to your bank and ask them to temporarily close or suspend your accounts. If you have money in the account, transfer it to a safer account. As much as possible, do not use the same PINs or passwords. Use different passwords for better protection," Uy said.

Common scams

The highlight of the discussion was when Uy presented several common forms of scams, including phishing, vishing, smishing, and fake parcel scams—activities that have plagued ordinary mobile and internet patrons.

Phishing involves fraudulent messages or websites designed to deceive users into providing sensitive information. Vishing uses voice calls or other forms of communication to obtain personal information, OTPs, or passwords, while smishing uses text messages containing malicious links that direct users to fraudulent websites where they may be asked to enter confidential information.

The surge of online shopping transactions has also paved the way for a new scheme involving fake parcel deliveries, where scammers claim that a person has an unpaid or unexpected cash-on-delivery package. In some cases, the package may contain an item that the recipient did not order.

Uy also warned against scams that misuse the names or identities of celebrities. Scammers may falsely claim to be a celebrity's manager, staff member, or colleague and offer gadgets or other rewards in exchange for personal information or payment.

The NTC encouraged the public to remain cautious and verify messages,

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- **Helps fight TUMORS.**
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- **Helps fight DEGENERATIVE DISEASES.**
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Gov't, MILF step up normalization ahead of BARMM polls

The Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) are stepping up joint efforts to complete remaining commitments under their peace agreement as the Bangsamoro region prepares for its first parliamentary elections on Sept. 14.

GPH Peace Implementing Panel Chair and Presidential Peace Adviser Mel Senen Sarmiento said the two sides have resumed substantive engagements under both the political and normalization tracks of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB).

While the first regular Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections on Sept. 14 will advance the political track, Sarmiento said the normalization track will continue beyond the polls.

The normalization track covers security, decommissioning, socioeconomic development, camp transformation and transitional justice.

"Since my appointment as GPH Panel Chair in July, we have actively reached out to our partners in the MILF to demonstrate the national government's utmost sincerity and commitment to accelerate the implementation of the CAB's political and normalization Tracks," Sarmiento said in a statement Saturday.



He said MILF leadership has likewise demonstrated its commitment to fulfilling its obligations under the agreement following his recent meeting with MILF Chair Ahod Balawag Ebrahim.

The GPH and MILF panels resumed formal joint engagements during their Aug. 4 meeting, where they signed a declaration reaffirming their partnership and agreed to continue implementing the CAB's remaining commitments.

Since then, joint mechanisms have resumed work on key normalization activities.

The Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities and the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group, for instance, signed guidelines on Aug. 31 governing ceasefire-related functions during the Sept. 14 elections.

Other joint bodies have also convened to discuss peace and security, small arms and light weapons, international monitoring, support for decommissioned combatants

and their communities, camp transformation, and transitional justice.

Sarmiento said the government has also established an Information Operations Coordinating Center to monitor developments before, during and after the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) elections and help ensure that the polls are safe, orderly and credible.

The normalization track remains a major unfinished component of the CAB as the political transition approaches its next milestone.

The Third Party Monitoring Team has previously cautioned against assuming that the peace process is nearing completion, noting that substantial normalization commitments remain to be fulfilled.

Sarmiento said the renewed GPH-MILF engagement demonstrates the parties' determination to sustain the gains of the peace process and complete their remaining obligations under the agreement. (PNA)

583K MUPS TO BENEFIT FROM INCREASED BASE PAY, SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE IN 2027



Photo courtesy: Office of the Chief PNP

Recognizing the valiant efforts of the men and women at the frontlines of national security, the Marcos Jr. administration steps up support for more than 583,000 military and uniformed personnel (MUPs), which would take effect next year.

Under the proposed FY 2027 National Budget, P73.67 billion has been provided for the subsistence requirement of MUPs, alongside funding for higher salaries, additional personnel, healthcare and other benefits, as well as stronger equipment and operational capabilities for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP).

The 5% pay hike forms part of the second tranche of the adjusted base pay for MUPs under Executive Order No. 107 and is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2027.

Apart from an increased base pay and daily subsistence allowance for AFP personnel, the state's military organization is set to receive P316.71 billion, a 6.85% budget increase compared to its 2026 budget allocation.

Of the P316 billion, P50 billion will be funneled towards the Revised AFP Modernization Program, which would support personnel welfare and timely equipment upgrades to keep up with evolving threats.

Budget Secretary Kim Robert de Leon expounded, "Mas mataas ito kung ikukumpara natin doon sa 2026 level ng GAA na P40 billion dahil maraming kailangang habulin to increase the capability of our AFP through the Revised AFP Modernization Program."

The government is likewise increasing resources for AFP Personnel Services, Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE), and capital outlays to strengthen the capability of troops to fulfill their mission and defend the country's sovereignty.

Stronger support for police personnel

Moreover, apart from boosting support to soldiers, the PNP is also slated to receive the same treatment through a proposed budget of P242.53 billion in 2027—an increase of nearly P16 billion compared to the 2026 budget allocation.

The P242 billion budget is further broken down into these key components:

- P210.55 billion (personnel services)
- P100.55 billion (adjusted base pay)
- P28.67 billion (P350 daily subsistence allowance of 224,421 PNP personnel)
- P697.18 million (hiring of 2,000 additional patrol personnel)
- P2.18 billion (filling of currently unfilled uniformed positions)
- P1.74 billion (rice subsidy)
- P280.67 million (hospitalization and healthcare of PNP personnel and their dependents)
- P125.11 million (Bantay Kaisipan Health Program)
- P2 billion (PNP Capability Enhancement Program)
- P3.12 billion (ICT)
- P1.49 billion (infrastructure projects)

Altogether, these items for the proposed 2027 budget of the 228,000-strong organization are set to strengthen manpower, support their welfare, and increase the availability of resources needed for them to exercise their duties more effectively.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) official concluded, "Patuloy ang pagpapaayos natin ng mga kampo, ng ating mga police station and regional headquarters. At iyong MOOE natin actually tumaas ng 10% from P23 billion this year to P25.7 billion next year para iyong lahat ng pangangailangan ng ating mga police ay ma-cover." (PTV NEWS-DAC)

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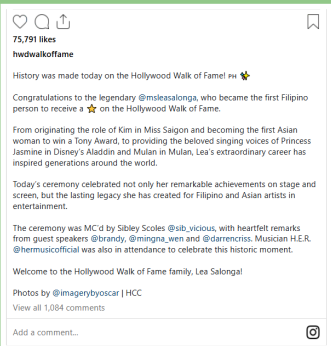
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TSP SHOWBIZ ROUND-UP

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Images courtesy of Instagram: hwdwalkoffame

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ON MOTHERHOOD



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JOHEIRRY MOLA DOMINGUEZ
MISS WORLD 2026



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. Big party

5. Minor quarrel

9. Use crayons

14. Healing plant

15. Roof edge

16. Friend (Sp.)

17. Lunchroom

19. Staggers

20. DDE's predecessor

21. Space

22. Contact _____

23. Gore and Roker

24. Fables

26. Use jointly

29. _____ energy

30. Lincoln's nickname

33. Falcon's claw

34. Physically fit

35. Walk heavily

36. Sports VIP (hyph.)

38. Product list

40. Joy

41. Swamp

43. Make amends

44. Still, poetically

45. Cassettes

46. Ceremonial events

47. Artist's stand
48. Id's partner

49. Defeated ones

52. Land measure

54. Mama deer

57. Turn aside

58. Renter's rooms

60. Craze

61. Capri or Man

62. Guinness of "Star Wars"

63. Change

64. Blend

65. Plate

Down

1. Baroque composer

2. What a pity!

3. Downy

4. Laughing sound

5. Clairvoyants

6. Whittle down

7. Pilot

8. Steeped brew

9. Vocation

10. Foretelling signs

11. Falsehoods

12. Gawk

13. Singer Diana _____

18. Skill

22. Andean animal

23. Got up

25. Cooper and Faye

26. Phase

27. Actress _____ Berry

28. Director Woody _____

29. Flag feature

30. Mete out

31. Pioneer Daniel _____
32. Margins

35. Deck's kin

37. Accumulate

39. Shooting range feature

42. Get worse again

45. Deposit on teeth

47. Ghostly

48. Made mistakes

49. Tibetan priest

50. Face shape

51. Forwarded

53. Telephone

54. Sub store

55. Till bills

56. Engrave with acid

58. Intention

59. Peeved

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:

S	E	E	K		I	T	E	M		I	N	A	P	T
A	X	L	E		S	A	G	A		R	O	S	I	E
R	I	L	E		R	I	G	S		O	U	T	E	R
I	T	A	L	I	A	N		S	O	N	N	E	T	S
				R	E	T	R	A	C	E		R	Y	E
A	S	S	A	I	L		A	C	E	D				
N	E	A	R	S			N	R	A		C	E	D	E
N	E	I	T	H	E	R		E	N	D	U	R	E	D
E	N	D	S		D	E	E			A	L	I	B	I
				A	I	D	E		A	T	T	E	S	T
T	E	D		S	T	E	R	I	L	E				
E	A	R	A	C	H	E		S	I	D	E	C	A	R
A	G	I	L	E		M	I	L	E		V	A	S	E
S	E	V	E	N		E	D	E	N		E	V	E	N
E	R	E	C	T		R	O	S	S		R	E	A	D

SUDOKU

TODAY'S PUZZLE:

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

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:

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

HOOPS REPUBLIC

Japan dominates NTT Asia Triathlon Para Championship



SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN. Japanese medalists during the awarding ceremony of the NTT Asia Triathlon Para Championship at Terrace Hotel at Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Olongapo City, Zambales on Sunday (Sept. 6, 2026). They bagged six golds, three silvers and one bronze. (PNA photo by Jean Malanum)

OLONGAPO CITY – Team Japan dominated the 2026 NTT Asia Triathlon Para Championship, securing six gold medals on Sunday at Subic Bay Freeport Zone here.

Keiichi Sato topped the men's PTS5 (mild impairment) category in the tournament that was converted to duathlon (2.5km run-20km run) after prolonged heavy rains made the water conditions in Subic Bay unsafe.

He clocked 1 hour, 1 minute and 8 seconds to beat compatriot Takumi Ando (1:03:56) and Uzbekistan's Bakhtiyor Murtazayev (1:05:01) in the race that started and ended at Waterfront Road.

"My weak point is swimming. I like running and biking so this is advantage for me," the 47-year-old Sato, who hails from Nagoya which will host the 20th Asian Games, said.

"I plan to join more tournaments to qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics. That is my goal."

Sato placed 11th at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Paralympics in Brazil.

Yukako Hata (women's PTS2), Masaki Fujita (men's PTS3), Hideki Uda (men's PTS4), Ryota Kashiki (men's PT Visually Impaired) and Shiori Funamizu (women's PT Wheelchair) also ruled their categories in the event organized by Triathlon Philippines in cooperation with Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

The other gold medalists were Uzbekistan's Rustamjan Satiboldiyev (men's PTS2) and Shokhsanam Sobirjonova (women's PTS5), and Kyrgyzstan's Guinaz Zhuzbaeva (women's PT Visually Impaired). (PNA)

EST COLA, CREAMLINE SEEK CHAMPIONSHIP BERTHS

MANILA – EST Cola of Thailand and Creamline look to formalize their title showdown in the PVL Invitational at the SMART Araneta Coliseum on Sunday.

EST Cola faces already-eliminated Ho Chi Minh at 4 p.m., while Creamline takes on fierce rival PLDT at 6:30 p.m.

The Thais and the Cool Smashers, both carrying identical 3-1 records, need victories to secure their places in the one-game title duel on Tuesday.

Papatchaya Phontham, Nannaphat Moonjakham, and Nirarach Srikuta spearhead EST Cola, which is coming off a stunning 17-25, 25-21, 25-22, 27-25 win over Creamline on Friday.

Meanwhile, Nxled and defending champion PLDT, with identical 2-2 slates, will try to keep their own finals dreams alive.

PLDT must beat Creamline to force a tie for the second and last



Papatchaya Phontham

finals berth. Leading the High Speed Hitters is Savi Davison, who delivered 32 points, 10 digs, and 14 receptions against Farm Fresh.

Nxled, in a similar must-win situation against Farm Fresh at 1:30 p.m., will rely on Myla Pablo, MJ Phillips, EJ Cariño, Jackie Acuña, and Jonah Escamillan.

Farm Fresh and Ho Chi Minh are already out of the championship race at 1-3. (PNA)



TSP

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THE SENTINEL POST

SEPTEMBER 8 - 14, 2026

Tamaraws triumph over Cardinals in V-League



STANDOUT. Mikko Espartero of Far Eastern University (right) goes against Jan Frederick King of Mapua University in the V-League Collegiate Challenge at Gameville Central Park in Mandaluyong City on Saturday (Sept. 5, 2026). Espartero scored 14 points in leading the Tamaraws to victory. (V-League photo)

MANILA – Far Eastern University (FEU) prevailed over Mapua University, 25-19, 25-22, 25-15, to kick off its title defense in the V-League Collegiate Challenge at Gameville Central Park in Mandaluyong City on Saturday.

Mikko Espartero led the Tamaraws with 14 points on 13 attacks and a block. He also had two digs and five receptions.

Newly installed captain Dryx Saavedra chipped in 13 points and nine digs, while starting setter Rhodson Du-ot made 20 excellent sets and five digs.

"Perhaps the players just prefer to have good movement, solid defense, and effective counter-attacks. We probably just need to clean up our serve reception; that's where we'll focus," Tamaraws head coach Ed-dieson Orcullo said after the match.

Ar-Jay Ramos finished with 19 points, 14 receptions and nine digs for Mapua, which slipped to 0-3.

FEU will face the De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde Blazers at 10 a.m. on Sunday, while the Cardinals will battle the National University Bulldogs in their rescheduled match at 3 p.m. on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, De La Salle University defeated Arellano University, 25-21, 25-21, 25-20.

Cameroonian outside hitter Issa Ousseini scored 18 points on 14 attacks and

four blocks in the one-hour-and-21-minute match.

"All the games, whether we win or lose, we're just trying to make all the systems work. We're trying to perfect it every day. Our team is 30 percent seniors and 30 percent juniors, so there's a gap. I told them, let's clear our responsibilities. If we know our responsibilities, that will be the common denominator," said coach Babes Castillo, a former Ateneo girls' head coach.

Rui Ventura contributed 13 points, while libero Jules Serrano had 12 digs and 11 receptions for La Salle, now sporting a 2-1 slate.

CJ Dominguito scored 18 points for the Chiefs, who took their second loss against two wins. (PNA)



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