

PNP: Casualties reported but New Year celebrations generally peaceful

New Year celebrations nationwide were generally peaceful, with no fatalities and no major crimes reported, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Thursday.

However, the PNP recorded 843 firecracker-related incidents that injured 183 people from 5 a.m. on Dec. 31, 2025, to 11 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2026.

Police arrested 26 individuals and seized 96,721 illegal firecrackers, and two cases of indiscriminate firing were reported, leaving one person injured, one suspect arrested, and two firearms confiscated.

A total of 67,254 personnel were deployed nationwide, including

34,579 police officers, 11,694 augmentation forces, and 20,981 advocacy group members.

Most were assigned to areas of convergence (19,248), places of worship (12,687), motorist assistance hubs (12,210), tourist destinations (5,597), and transport hubs (4,891). Additional deployments covered 687 firecracker-free zones (8,196) and 918 community fireworks display areas (2,449).

Fire incidents linked to

pyrotechnics were limited to three cases, injuring five people, while two road crashes left four others injured.

"All cases were promptly responded to by police and emergency units, and no deaths were recorded during the coverage period," the PNP said.

Separate police operations also led to the seizure of 61 loose firearms and the arrest of 132 individuals for illegal drugs, illegal gambling, and outstanding warrants.

No index crimes — including murder, homicide, rape, robbery, theft, physical injuries, and carnapping — were recorded, underscoring a stable peace and order situation as the country welcomed the New Year.

"These figures show that vigilance and early police action can significantly reduce risks during major celebrations," acting PNP chief Lt. Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez said. (PNA)



HAPPY NEW YEAR. Fireworks light up the sky in Imus City, Cavite on Thursday (Jan. 1, 2026), as Filipinos welcome the New Year the traditional way. The Philippine National Police said though several people were injured due to firecrackers, the overall celebration was generally peaceful with zero major crimes reported. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

2026 budget to fast-track construction, rehab of classrooms

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian on Friday said the 2026 national budget will significantly accelerate classroom construction to address the persistent backlog in basic education facilities.

Under the enrolled 2026 budget measure, PHP85 billion is allotted for the construction and rehabilitation of classrooms.

Of this amount,

PHP65.9 billion is allocated for the construction, replacement and completion of kindergarten to secondary school buildings, as well as technical-vocational

laboratories.

"Hindi lamang tayo naglaan ng mas malaking pondo para sa pagpapatayo ng mga classrooms, tiniyak din nating mapapabilis ito sa pamamagitan ng aktibong pakikilahok ng iba't ibang sektor (We didn't just allocate more funds for classroom construction, we also ensured that it will be accelerated through the active participation of various sectors)," Gatchalian said.

The chair of the Senate Committee on Finance pointed out that the 2026 national budget will give the Department of Education (DepEd) flexibility when it comes to the modalities for classroom construction,

► 2026 BUDGET • 4



NEW BUILDING. The ongoing construction of a two-story building of the Bukidnon National High School in Malaybalay City on Sept. 9, 2025. Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian on Friday (Jan. 2, 2026) said the 2026 national budget will significantly accelerate classroom construction to address the persistent backlog in basic education facilities. (Contributed photo)

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

Celebrate the Supreme Court's 125th Anniversary

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

125 31 DEADLINE
MARCH 2026
GRAND PRIZE: PHP125,000

Theme: Accessible and Inclusive Justice

@SCPH_PIO SupremeCourt PH The Supreme Court of the Philippines sc.judiciary.gov.ph

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

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 ► **SC INVITES • 4**

EDITORIAL

Bawat pagkain sa hapag kainan ng isang Pilipino ay nagmumula skid. Ngunit ang mga taong nagtatanim ng ating pagkain ay unti-unti nang nawawala - at sa aking opinyon, ito ay isa sa mga pinakamahalagang realidad na hindi natin napagtutuunan ng pansin.

Marami sa ating magsasaka ang malapit nang magretiro, ngunit kakaunti ang mga kabataang Pilipino ang may nais o kaya pang pumalit sa kanila. Ang bilang ng mga taong nagtatrabaho sa agrikultura ay patuloy na bumababa, sa kabila ng paglaki ng populasyon. Para sa akin, hindi ito basta istatistika lamang. Ito ay isang malinaw na babala.

Karamihan sa mga karaniwang magsasaka ay hindi na kumikita ng sapat o ng mas mababa pa sa threshold ng kahirapan. Ang dahilan: Ang mataas na presyo ng pataba, ang paglobo ng presyo ng gasolina, ang pagbabago ng pattern ng panahon, at mababang presyo ng kanilang ani. Maraming magsasaka ang nagtatrabaho ng matagal tuwing panahon ng taniman, ngunit pagsapit ng anihan ay kapos pa rin o hindi sapat ang kanilang kita kung kaya napipilitan silang mangutang upang mapakain at matustusan ang pangangailangan ng kanilang pamilya.

Nakakalungkot ang katotohanan na ang mga taong nagpapakain ng ating bansa ay madalas naghihirap na pakainin ang kanilang sariling pamilya. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit hinihikayat na lamang ng mga magulang ang kanilang mga anak na mag-aral, lumipat sa lungsod, o magtrabaho sa ibang bansa - at anumang iba pang trabaho maliban sa pagsasaka. Hindi dahil walang halaga ang pagsasaka, kundi dahil hindi na ito nagbibigay ng dignidad o seguridad.

Habang tumatanda ang mga magsasaka, patuloy din

ANG PAGSASAKA AY HINDI NA SUMASAPAT SA MAGSASAKA

nawawala ang mga lupang sakahan. Ang mga ito ay ginagawang mga subdivision, kalsada, at komersyal na lugar. Kapag ang kongkreto ay pumalit sa lupa, bihira nang bumalik ang produksyon ng pagkain.

Kakaunti na ang mga magsasaka at lumiliit ang lupang sakahan, kaya ang bansa ay lalong umaasa sa inaangkat na bigas, gulay, at karne. Ang pag-angkat ng pagkain mula sa ibang bansa ay maaaring malutas ang mga kakulangan sa ngayon, ngunit inilalantad din tayo sa pandaigdigang krisis sa presyo, gastos sa gasolina, at pagkagambala sa suplay.

Ang pagdepende sa ibang bansa para sa pagkain (import) sa halip na sa lokal na produksyon ay isang mapanganib na gawi. Sa aking pananaw, ito ay short-sighted trade; ang pangmatagalang seguridad sa pagkain ay ipinagpapalit sa panandaliang kita.

Ang isang bansa na hindi makakapagpakain sa sarili ay mahina. Ang paglago ng ekonomiya ay walang

kahulugan kung ang kaseguruhan sa suplay ng pagkain ay hindi makakaya o hindi makakamit.

Ang mga magsasaka ay madalas na tinatrato bilang outdated o hindi produktibo, ngunit sa katotohanan, sila ang pundasyon ng kaligtasan.

Bawat lipunan na hindi pinahalagahan o pinabayaan ang mga magsasaka ay may mabigat na kapalit - minsan dahan-dahan, minsan biglaan.

Kung ang kita sa pagsasaka ay patuloy na hindi sasapat sa magsasaka upang mabuhay ng maayos, kung ang mga kabataan ay patuloy na lumalayo sa lupa, at kung ang mga inaangkat ay patuloy na pumapalit sa lokal na pagkain...

Sino ang magpapakain sa Pilipinas sa susunod na 10, 20, o 30 taon?

Ito ay hindi basta problema sa kanayunan. Ito ay problema sa hinaharap. At ito ay may kaugnayan sa bawat Pilipinong kumakain.

DENR-EMB recognizes barangays for waterways cleanup through Gawad Taga-Ilog

In its continued effort to inspire local government-led initiatives, particularly among barangays to keep waterways and water bodies clean and trash-free, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources—Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Region IV-A gave honors for cleanup efforts during the Gawad Taga-Ilog (GTI) Awarding Ceremony held recently.



According to DENR-EMB Regional Director Robert Angelo Metin, the program aims to enhance water quality and maintain the cleanliness of rivers in the Province of Cavite, demonstrating that the Gawad Taga-Ilog (GTI) Program, which was successfully implemented in the National Capital Region, can also be adopted by nearby regions as part of collective efforts to protect the environment.

"This is anchored on the Clean Water Act and the Supreme Court Mandamus that calls for the cleaning and rehabilitation of Manila Bay. Here in the Province of Cavite, we can see a portion of Manila Bay, which is why the Gawad Taga-Ilog Program was initially launched here," Director Metin said.

Through the dedication of barangay officials and residents, these initiatives

serve as inspiring models of sustainable environmental governance and shared responsibility for the preservation of natural resources for present and future generations.

Barangay Daine 1 in Indang, Cavite, led by Barangay Chairperson Arnold Pegollo, was hailed as the winner in the Upland Category, with the Gawad Taga-Ilog (GTI) Award serving as a testament to the community's collective efforts in promoting cleaner waterways and a sustainable environment.

"There were so many preparations from paperwork, weekly clean-up activities, and the maintenance of the river and the materials recovery facility (MRF), to Hapag ni PBBM, our community garden, vertical garden, and composting facility because everything required hard work and

constant maintenance to ensure that all of these is in good condition for the Gawad Taga-Ilog," the chairperson explained.

Pegollo added that even before receiving recognition from the DENR-EMB, the barangay had already been working with partner agencies, organizations, and the community to protect the environment, especially their waterways, which he said is vital for sustainability and the well-being of future generations.

"We continuously care for our rivers and conduct tree-planting activities along our easements, while maintaining our waterways to help increase water flow and preserve our water sources. With the prize money we received, we plan to upgrade our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) into a more efficient, organized, and

user-friendly facility that promotes proper waste segregation in the community," Pegollo said in an interview with the Philippine Information Agency Calabarzon.

As part of the first batch of the GTI Program in Cavite, Pegollo, along with other winners from the Upland and Lowland Categories, expressed their commitment to sustaining the program, particularly in maintaining, cleaning, and rehabilitating facilities to promote cleaner and sustainable waterways.

Following the success of the GTI Program 1.0, the DENR-EMB is preparing to launch GTI Program 2.0, which aims to include local government units within the jurisdiction of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), such as General Mariano Alvarez, Silang, Carmona, and Tagaytay City. **(CO, AM/PIA4A)**

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

EDITORIAL BOARD

ARNEL P. REYES*Publisher/Editor-in-Chief***IRENE SOLIS***Circulation Manager***JR BEJASA***Layout Artist*

Sunday Tribune News Publishing is a weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Cavite with Editorial and Business address at 155 Brgy. Panamitan Kawit, Cavite 4104.

CP No. 0917-109-9191 Telephone No.: (046) 484-7556

E-mail Add: sundaytribunenewspublishing@gmail.com

Website: <https://sundaytribune.net>

MEMBER:

PAPI

**Publishers Association
of the Philippines, Inc.**

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

6 Months P260.00 One Year P520.00

ADVERTISING RATE

Commercial — P200/col.cm Legal.....P160.00/col.cm.

NOTE: All news articles and opinions expressed by the writers are entirely their own and do not reflect the opinion of the Publisher, Management of this Publication.

Blessing of Jesus Nazareno replicas, banners in Quiapo set Jan. 3

Organizers of the annual celebration of the feast of Jesus Nazareno set the blessing of replica images and banners (istandarte) on Jan. 3.

Priests who will be blessing the images and banners are situated at the Quezon Boulevard footbridge, near the Minor Basilica of Jesus Nazareno, according to a statement Friday.

Blessing will start at 1 p.m.

The church established three entry points for devotees:

Entrance 1: Rizal Avenue - Carriedo St. - Plaza Miranda, pass through Quezon Boulevard;

Entrance 2: Plaza Lacson - Carlos Palanca - Villalobos St. - Plaza Miranda, pass through Quezon Boulevard;

Entrance 3: Carlos Palanca - Quinta Market - Quezon Blvd. southbound under Quezon Bridge, pass through Quezon Boulevard

Participants must exit through P. Paterno, Gonzalo Puyat (Raon) and

towards Recto Avenue.

Alex Irasga, technical adviser of the Quiapo Church, asked devotees who will have their images and banners blessed on Saturday to refrain from bringing these to the Traslacion on Jan. 9 "so as not to interfere with the celebration."

He added that there will be a special Mass for members of the media, national and local government agencies and volunteers on Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. at Quirino Grandstand.

"For the members of the media, Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, local government unit, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Health and medical volunteers ... they will be given a chance to touch the image of Jesus Nazareno with their

handkerchief or towels," he said.

AFP help in Traslacion
Meanwhile, Metro Manila-based units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will help secure this year's Traslacion.

"This support is in line with the AFP's mandate to assist civil authorities in ensuring peace and order, public safety, and the safe and orderly conduct of this significant religious event," AFP spokesperson Col. Francel Margareth Padilla said in a message to reporters.

Padilla clarified that the police will be in charge of securing the event. The AFP's roles will include crowd management assistance, mobility, communications, and rapid response capabilities. *(With a report from Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)*



DEVOTION. A Catholic devotee carries an image of the Jesus Nazareno in Quiapo, Manila on Friday (Jan. 2, 2026). Organizers of the annual celebration of the feast of Jesus Nazareno reminded devotees that the blessing of replica images and banners (istandarte) will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday (Jan. 3). *(PNA photo by Yancy Lim)*

DOH: Over 1.1K road crash cases logged during holidays

Road crash-related injuries continued to rise during the holiday season, with the Department of Health (DOH) recording 1,113 cases from Dec. 21, 2025 until 5 a.m. on Jan. 2, 2026, based on reports from its 68 sentinel hospitals.



ROAD TRAGEDY. Emergency responders conduct a retrieval operation after a Ceres bus of Vallacar Transit, Inc. fell off a cliff in Barangay Igbucagay, Hamtic, Antique on Dec. 5, 2023. The Department of Health on Friday (Jan. 2, 2026) said 1,113 road crash cases were recorded from Dec. 21, 2025 until 5 a.m. on Jan. 2, 2026, in its 68 sentinel hospitals. *(Photo courtesy of Iloilo City Emergency Responders - Urban Search and Rescue)*

Early detection is key to managing HIV—DOH

The Department of Health (DOH) is urging vulnerable groups to undergo Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) screening to prevent Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Medical Officer IV Rheuel Bobis of the DOH Ilocos Center for Health Development (CHD) noted that early diagnosis is vital for managing HIV. It allows for prompt antiretroviral therapy (ART) to prevent the immune system from weakening.

"It is important for every individual to know their HIV status, especially the most vulnerable population, including sexually active individuals and sex workers," Bobis said over an episode of the Philippine Information Agency's Kapihan sa Ilocos.

HIV is transmitted through unprotected sex, sharing needles, and from mother to child during pregnancy or birth. Rarely, it is spread through blood transfusions. Untreated HIV can lead to severe infections, cancer, or death.

Free screening is available at social hygiene clinics, government



hospitals, and rural health units. The government also conducts community-based screening.

Bobis emphasized that treatment protects the patient's health and prevents virus transmission.

"When a person living with HIV (PLHIV) religiously takes the anti-retroviral pills, it reduces the virus in the body, which can gradually make it undetectable and no longer transmissible," he said.

The DOH also offers

free consultations and laboratory tests covered by PhilHealth.

Furthermore, the department stressed that raising awareness and addressing stigma will encourage more people to get tested and stay in treatment.

In the Ilocos Region, 4,256 HIV cases were reported from 1984 to May 2025. This includes individuals under 15 years old, with 279 new cases recorded this year alone. *(CCMT/CGRCC, PIA Region 1)*

The DOH said Friday the figure is 82 percent higher than the number of cases recorded in the same period in 2024.

It noted that seven fatalities were documented, five of whom were motorcycle riders.

An additional 68 cases were logged on Dec. 21 alone, the agency said.

Of the total cases, 787 involved motorcycles, while 135 were linked to alcohol use. A total of 965

patients, meanwhile, were found not using safety accessories, such as helmets or seatbelts.

The DOH reiterated its call for safer travel habits through its "BiyaHealthy" campaign, reminding motorists to wear Department of Trade and Industry-approved helmets, use seatbelts, and comply with road signs and speed limits to prevent crashes.

Motorists were also

urged to avoid driving while fatigued or intoxicated and to ensure seven to eight hours of sleep before long trips. The department, likewise, cautioned against using mobile phones while driving.

The DOH advised the public to remain vigilant as holiday travels continue and to immediately seek medical help in case of emergencies through the 1555 hotline. *(PNA)*



Huwag mag-alala.
Hindi humihinto ang serbisyo ng PhilHealth kahit holiday o weekend.

Sa ilalim ng Universal Health Care (UHC) Law, walang Pilipinong dapat mapagkaitan ng karapatang magpagamot.

Itong prinsipyo ng Immediate Eligibility.

Long holidays. Walang pasok.
Dapat alam ko kung saan dudulog sa PhilHealth needs ko!

Kung kailangan mong ma-ospital:

- May HCI Portal ang mga ospital.**
Hindi na kailangan ang MDR kung ikaw o ang declared dependent mo ay nasa record na ng PhilHealth.
- Madaling i-check ang MDR mo online.**
Puwede ito sa PhilHealth Member Portal <https://memberinquiry.philhealth.gov.ph/member/>, o sa iyong eGovPH account—kahit nasa bahay o nasa ospital na.
- May 24/7 hotline ang PhilHealth.**
Kung may kailangan ng i-update o i-verify, may tutulong sa iyo anumang oras, kahit holiday o weekend.

Para sa tamang gabay sa paggamit ng inyong benepisyo:

24/7 (02) 8662-2588
0998-857-2957 | 0968-865-4670
0917-127-5987 | 0917-110-9812

www.philhealth.gov.ph | actioncenter@philhealth.gov.ph
PhilHealthOfficial | teamphilhealth | team_philhealth

E-trikes... (FROM PAGE 8)

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

E-trike drivers caught passing through these highways face possible impoundment, fines, or both, as prescribed under Republic Act 4136 or the Land Transportation and Traffic Code and Joint Administrative Order 2014-01.

"Implementation of this policy hinges on road safety considerations.

Major highways and roads are designed for large and fast-moving vehicles. E-trikes, by using these parameters, are not fit for large roads due to the fast and heavy pace of vehicle traffic," Lacanilao said.

He noted that mixing fast- and slow-moving vehicles on major highways could create dangerous conditions and lead to accidents.

Lacanilao also called on

e-trike operators and drivers to be aware of the limitations of their vehicles, and that the LTO is aware that many use these e-trikes to provide affordable transportation to the public.

In response, the LTO will meet with local government units in Metro Manila and other transport sector stakeholders to draw up guidelines and safer routes for e-trike operations so they can continue to provide their services safely. (PNA)

Developers... (FROM PAGE 8)

at transparent na dialogo sa pagitan ng DHSUD at private developers. Inaasahan natin na tataas ang production ng socialized housing sa pagpasok ng 2026 (This JMC is the result of open, proactive, and transparent dialogue between the DHSUD and private developers.

We expect an increase in socialized housing production as we enter

2026)," he added.

He noted that the circular was crafted with consideration for homebuyer protection, noting that the minimum required size for socialized housing units has been increased to 24 square meters.

Under the updated price ceiling, the maximum selling price for a socialized house-and-lot package is now set at

PHP950,000, while socialized condominium units may be sold at up to PHP1.8 million.

The adjustment complies with Republic Act 11201, which mandates DHSUD and the former National Economic and Development Authority (now reorganized as DEPDev) to jointly determine, review, and revise the ceiling as needed, but not more than once every two years, to reflect prevailing economic conditions. (PNA)

2026 budget... (FROM PAGE 1)

including public-private partnership.

To allow simultaneous constructions nationwide, the DepEd may enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Public

Works and Highways, qualified local government units, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and even the Armed Forces of the Philippines Corp of

SC Invites... (FROM PAGE 1)

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.

Bacoor... (FROM PAGE 8)

Macarangel Jr., P/Maj. Kris Albin B. Gonzales, Project SOS programmer, Yvan Mercado, and various business stakeholders.

Participants reviewed crime data covering calendar years 2023 to 2025 and discussed ways to strengthen preventive measures in commercial establishments.

These measures included the enforcement of window transaction and clear-face policies, the use of advanced CCTV systems, door-clamping mechanisms, and

intercom integration to improve security and monitoring.

A highlight of the meeting was the demonstration of the ORMS-ART, a rapid-response device capable of instantly sending alerts to law enforcement during robbery incidents. PLT Chief Macarangel suggested incorporating an acknowledgment feature to confirm that responding police units receive alerts in real time.

Local officials expressed strong

DSWD IV-A... (FROM PAGE 8)

support needed to achieve self-reliance as they prepare for transition or graduation from the program.

"These collaborations strengthen our capacity to deliver more responsive and comprehensive services, particularly in education, skills development, and health, which are critical to improving the long-term outcomes of 4Ps households," Gatchalian noted.

Through the partnership, NU Dasmariñas and the University of Batangas will extend scholarship opportunities, competency-building initiatives, and community-based programs that aim to enhance the academic

performance and employability of 4Ps college students.

Meanwhile, Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc. and Technovative Training Center, Inc. will provide enterprise-based training programs designed to link technical education with actual industry requirements, offering beneficiaries pathways toward certification and employment through partner companies.

Dualtech Training Center President Engr. Jerry Web Muhi emphasized the broader impact of the collaboration, stating that the initiative seeks to develop learners who can contribute meaningfully to their communities and to national development.

Engineers.

The DepEd is seeking to build 165,000 classrooms to tackle the significant existing shortage and support rising enrollment.

The effort involves partnerships with LGUs, the private sector and the DPWH. (PNA)

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)

support for the project. Board Member Pagulayan and Councilor Galvez both committed to backing the initiative and exploring the passage of a local ordinance to institutionalize its implementation throughout Bacoor.

P/Lt. Desamito thanked all stakeholders and the Bacoor local government unit for their cooperation, underscoring the city's continued commitment to public safety and ensuring the protection of convenience store employees and customers. (RBF/Bacoor Component City Police Station)

To further support the well-being of 4Ps families, San Antonio Medical Center of Lipa, Inc. will deliver medical assistance and preventive healthcare services, helping reduce health-related expenses that often hinder economic progress.

Currently, DSWD Field Office IV-A maintains active partnerships with 49 external stakeholders from civil society organizations, private institutions, and higher education sectors in the region.

The Department underscored that sustained collaboration with various sectors remains essential in advancing inclusive development, ensuring that 4Ps families are not only assisted but are fully equipped to build healthier, more productive, and self-sustaining lives. (CCM/PIA4A)

Think-tank says Filipinos want cheaper food, corruption reduction

A survey commissioned by the think tank Stratbase indicated that Filipinos want government leaders to make food prices affordable, reduce corruption, and create more jobs in their communities.

Stratbase, in a statement Friday, said it commissioned Pulse Asia for this survey, which was conducted from Dec. 12 to 15, 2025.

"The nationwide survey shows that 38 percent of respondents identified making food prices more affordable as the most urgent action government leaders should take," it said.

This was followed by reducing or eliminating corruption to improve service delivery (31 percent) and creating more jobs and livelihood opportunities (21 percent), making these the highest-ranked concerns across regions and socio-economic classes.

The survey indicated that Filipinos view economic hardship and corruption as closely linked issues.

While food prices emerged as the most

pressing concern nationwide, corruption ranked alongside economic priorities, underscoring public awareness that governance failures directly affect service delivery, household expenses, and livelihood opportunities.

Meanwhile, Stratbase Group founder and chief executive officer Victor Andres Manhit said the findings show that corruption is widely understood as an economic issue rather than a purely moral one.

"Filipinos recognize that corruption has direct consequences on their daily lives. When public funds are misused, people feel it through higher prices, weaker public services, and fewer job opportunities," he said.

Manhit noted that the survey reflected expectations for parallel

government action.

"The public is not presenting an either-or choice," he added.

Manhit also said that Filipinos expect government leaders to address urgent economic concerns while ensuring accountability through investigation, arrest, and prosecution of those involved in corruption.

The data also highlights increasing public scrutiny of governance performance, as Filipinos increasingly assess leadership based on tangible improvements in economic conditions alongside credible action to uphold accountability.

"The message from the survey is clear. People want concrete economic relief alongside credible action against corruption, because these issues are deeply interconnected in everyday life," Manhit said.

(PNA)



Stratbase Group founder and chief executive officer Victor Andres Manhit. (PNA file photo)

CAAP: No untoward incident in PH airports during holidays

No untoward incident was reported in any of the 44 commercial airports operated by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) during the holidays.



(Photo courtesy of Office for Transportation Security)

CAAP airports serviced 731,396 passengers from Dec. 20, 2025 to Jan. 1, 2026, CAAP information officer Bea Bernardo said in a message on Friday.

The country's main gateway, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), had 4.86 million international and domestic passengers throughout December.

Passenger traffic at the NAIA reached 52.02 million in 2025, according to its private operator, the New NAIA Infra Corp.

In terms of security screening, no untoward incident was recorded in

all Philippine airports during the holidays, Office for Transportation Security Administrator Gilberto Cruz said on Friday.

Screeners, however, confiscated sharp objects, flammable items, and chemicals from passengers, he added.

"It's important that they check the prohibited items. Don't accept baggage from strangers, or any if they do not know what's inside it," Cruz told the Philippine News Agency in an interview.

Those who are traveling post-New Year are advised to plan ahead, be early at

the airport, and check their travel requirements.

"We also urge them to take care of their personal belongings and heed the rules in (airport) terminals. Coordinate with authorities if they notice any suspicious situation," Cruz said.

Government agencies, he said, continue to ensure safe and orderly travel this season.

"That's also the directive of the President, to assist passengers and ensure they are comfortable, especially those heading back to Manila," he said. (PNA)

US Navy rescues 3 Filipino fishers adrift in South China Sea

Three Filipino fisherfolk were safely rescued by the crew of the USNS Cesar Chavez (T-AKE 14) after their vessel was found adrift in the South China Sea on Jan. 1, the United States 7th Fleet reported Thursday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PTV

The Lewis and Clark-class dry cargo ship was transiting the area around 12:45 p.m. when watchstanders spotted the distressed fishing boat.

The crew immediately alerted the bridge and deployed a rigid-hulled inflatable boat to retrieve the fisherfolk.

The three men, confirmed to be Filipinos, were brought aboard the USNS Cesar Chavez and assessed by medical staff,

who found them in good condition.

Philippine authorities were also promptly notified.

The fisherfolk told US personnel that their vessel's engine had flooded on Dec. 28 due to strong waves, leaving them drifting at sea.

They had departed port on Dec. 27 and survived for several days on limited food and water until their rescue.

According to the US Navy, coordination with Philippine government officials is underway to ensure the fisherfolk's safe return home.

The US 7th Fleet said the swift response was made possible by the crew's "professional and vigilant watch standing procedures."

The USNS Cesar Chavez regularly conducts logistics and resupply operations across the region. (PNA)

Alex Eala highlights PH sports achievements in 2025

The year 2025 saw some athletes finally unleash their true potentials and towed the Philippines with them to the success path.

Alexandra Eala, tennis

Alexandra "Alex" Eala finally bagged a Women's Tennis Association (WTA) (Guadalajara Open in Mexico) and had two deep runs in higher-level WTA tournaments – semifinals at Miami Open and runner-up finish at Eastbourne 250.

She also won her US Open opening match in New York – the first Filipino player to win a Grand Slam match -- and gave the Philippines its first Southeast Asian Games women's singles gold since Maricris Fernandez in Brunei 1999.

At year's end, Eala is ranked 53rd in the world after reaching a career-best 50th in November.

"There's still a lot for me to achieve. There are a lot of big tournaments lined up," she said in a previous interview.

This year, Eala will participate next week in the ASB Classic in Auckland, a WTA 250 event that serves as a warm-up for the Australian Open in Melbourne.

Abra, basketball

The year 2025 also saw the most dominant single-season run by any Philippine professional basketball team.

The Abra Weavers took the Maharlika Pilipinas Basketball League (MPBL) by storm when they went 38-1 throughout the year en route to their first national title.

They also finished the year with a 36-game winning streak, which stands as the longest run in all of professional basketball, even eclipsing the 33-game run by the Los Angeles Lakers during the 1971-1972 National Basketball Association season.

Abra reset the MPBL and the Philippine record right on the final day of the regular season by beating Mindoro for its 26th straight win, breaking the 25-game win streak set by Nueva Ecija in 2022.

In the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), defunct Crispa holds the longest winning

streak at 19, set during the 1983 All-Filipino and Reinforced conferences.

The Weavers continued their domination until the playoffs, completing the first 10-0 postseason sweep since the MPBL extended the division finals to a best-of-five series and second consecutive overall, counting the 9-0 playoff blast by the Pampanga Giant Lanterns last year.

"I'm very thankful na very supportive ng management sa coaching staff, sa mga players at sa mga utility (that the management is very supportive to the coaching staff, players and the utility staff). It's a collective effort," coach Yong Garcia told the Philippine News Agency in a Dec. 16 interview right after Abra swept Quezon in the national finals.

Some of the Weavers' key players, though, are set to join the PBA next year, which means the hunt is on for reinforcements that would help them achieve back-to-back MPBL chips.

"Ipapa-ubaya ko muna sa management kung paano uli mag-form ng team dahil sila talaga 'yung sumusuporta sa atin kung ano ang mga kailangan namin sa team (I'll leave it to the management to decide how to form a team again because they are the ones who really support us with what we need from the team)," Garcia said.

Team Liquid, e-sports

When Kiel Soriano accidentally showed up in Karl Nepomuceno's livestream, which basically implied that he had already signed with Team Liquid Philippines, MPL (Mobile Legends: Bang Bang Professional League) Philippines fans became interested in what this team, which also brought in Rodel Cruz as new head coach, can do this year.

Liquid PH quickly showed itself up in MPL PH Season 15 when it maintained the top seed in the playoffs after the regular season en route to its third national title.

The club then made a statement in the MLBB (Mobile Legends: Bang Bang) Mid-Season Cup (MSC) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, ruling the said tournament, which is part of the Esports World Cup, for a USD1 million (around PHP58 million) paycheck.

With the MSC already part of the MLBB pro circuit for years, fans across the globe began thinking about the possibility of Liquid PH finally completing "The Golden Road." That is, sweeping all the major tournaments a certain team can play in both the domestic and international levels for a single year.

However, MPL Philippines saw its most competitive regular season yet during Season 16 and Liquid PH ended up in third place, which means it had to play a knockout match against longtime rival Team Falcons Philippines in the first round of the playoffs.

What happened afterward, though, was a testament to Liquid PH's championship poise, becoming the first 3-seed to rule a single MPL Philippines season, finishing it in style.

After eliminating Falcons PH, Liquid PH beat second-seeded Onic Philippines to earn a showdown with top-seeded Aurora Philippines in the upper bracket finals.

Although the inspiring run first hit the brakes with the loss to Aurora PH, Liquid PH restarted the rally on a high note, ending the Cinderella run by TNC, made up of former Liquid PH players Justine Palma and Benedict Gonzales, in the lower bracket finals before snapping Aurora PH's MPL PH record 15-match winning streak with a 4-0 sweep in the grand finals.

While the M7 World Championship, the supposed end to the 2025 MLBB calendar, was pushed to January to give way to the Thailand Southeast Asian Games (SEAG), Liquid PH, playing under the Sibol banner, dominated the SEAG MLBB.

National women's

football team

Questions surrounded the future of the Philippine women's national football team, also known as the Filipinas, when its chief backer, Jeff Cheng, backed out last year.

While nearly all of the members remained despite Cheng's departure, concerns were raised, like fewer training camps.

However, the SEAG women's football gold was proof that the Filipinas are fine with or without Cheng.

Three years after ruling the ASEAN MSIG Serenity Cup, the Filipinas finally won one of the gold medals that had eluded the Philippines since the SEAG started.

The Filipinas beat perennial powerhouses, Thailand and Vietnam, during the knockout stages.

Sent to a win-or-go-home situation by Myanmar in an early shocker, the Filipinas stunned Vietnam first in the group stages with a stoppage-time dagger from Mary Ramirez.

Needing to win by a blowout to steal a playoff spot from their tormentors, the Filipinas, just up 1-0 at halftime, punished Malaysia in the second half with five goals, which were more than



SEAG GOLD. Alexandra Eala celebrates after winning the gold at the 2025 Southeast Asian Games in Thailand on Dec. 18, 2025. Eala will play in the Australian Open in Melbourne, the year's first Grand Slam which begins the main draw on Jan. 18, 2026. (Photo courtesy of POC Media Pool)

enough to snatch the Final 4 spot.

Then came the endgame brilliance against the two usual SEA Games champs.

Conceding a goal earlier in the match against Thailand, the Filipinas forced extra time with a late penalty from Jael-Marie Guy. At the ensuing shootout, the Filipinas went 4-for-4 on penalties, while Olivia McDaniel proved her reflexes are world-class by saving back-to-back attempts from the Thais to force another showdown with the Vietnamese for all the marbles.

With no stoppage time drama unfolding in their second meeting, all went down to who blinked last in the penalty shootout as all the starting shooters scored their spot kicks.

The deciding moment came in Round 6 when, after Jaclyn Sawicki converted for the Filipinas, McDaniel correctly predicted where Tran Thi Thu tried to go and easily saved her penalty, sealing the championship.

"People were doubting us, saying we don't belong here. But we belong in this conversation, we belong at the top, and we're just continuing to prove ourselves again and again, and we want to be regulars at the top," McDaniel said.

With their first post-Cheng championship in the bag, the Filipinas now set their sights on next year's AFC Women's Asian Cup, where a chance to make a return to the FIFA Women's World Cup is at stake. (PNA)

THURSDAY CLEAN 1 FREE 1



 shoemoph

 0917-180-SHOE

 Shoe Mo Philippines

SHOE MOTM ALABANG

[BOOK NOW](#) 

DFA: No reported casualties among Filipinos in Iran amid protests

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Friday it is closely monitoring the situation and welfare of an estimated 800 Filipinos in Iran following recent protests in the host country.

"There are no Filipinos reported to be affected," the DFA said in a statement.

"Members of the Filipino community are advised to avoid unnecessary movements, especially into crowded areas."

Foreign affairs officials have urged Filipinos in Tehran and other affected areas to stay informed through official channels and avoid areas where protests or law enforcement activities are ongoing.

The DFA, through the Philippine embassy in Tehran, continues to monitor developments and is in touch with relevant authorities to ensure the protection and welfare of Filipino nationals abroad.

According to news reports, at least six people have been killed amid protests in the country due to the citizens' frustrations over inflation, rising food prices, and the depreciation of the Iranian rial. (PNA)



Santa Rosa credits youth contribution in building smart, sustainable communities

The city government of Santa Rosa recognized the vital role of the youth in advancing its vision of becoming a smart and sustainable city during the launching of the Lion City Youth Summit held recently.



The summit aims to inspire and empower the youth of Santa Rosa to recognize their potential, embrace their purpose, and lead with integrity and compassion.

Santa Rosa City Mayor Arlene Arcillas believes that the youth are not only beneficiaries of development programs but can also become active partners in shaping solutions, from digital transformation and climate action to community development.

"More than anything, our youth through their schools, programs, and projects are at the core of what we need to build Santa Rosa as a smart city. That is why our smart city initiatives, including the Lion City Youth Summit,

have already been incorporated into the curriculum; that's why students today gather in this event," Arcillas said.

She added that most of the city's smart and sustainable projects are designed for the youth, emphasizing that entrusting them with these initiatives will help further expand Santa Rosa's efforts toward becoming a smart and sustainable city.

Arcillas stated: "We believe that our youth are not just the future of Santa Rosa, but our partners today in building a smart and sustainable city. Their ideas, creativity, and passion help us move forward and innovate."

The Lion City Youth Summit also served as a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and capacity-building among

young leaders, student organizations, and youth advocates.

Participants engaged in discussions on leadership development, digital innovation, environmental protection, and volunteerism, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Lion City Youth President Kian Joseph Hermosa welcomed the wide range of initiatives implemented to nurture the talents and skills of youth across various sectors, and expressed his appreciation for the city government's consistent support for youth development programs.

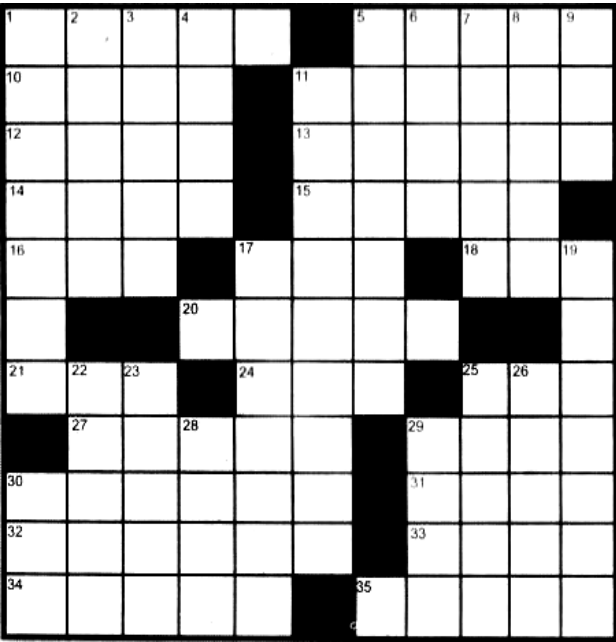
"In the City of Santa Rosa, we implement numerous programs for youth development. These

include workshops in theater, singing, dancing, academics, and sports. We make sure that no sector of youth development is left behind," Hermosa said.

He added, "To the City Government of Santa Rosa, thank you for always showing your unwavering support and dedication to the youth. We truly feel your care and love for the young people of Santa Rosa."

As Santa Rosa continues its journey toward becoming a smart and sustainable city, the city government reaffirmed that the energy, creativity, and leadership of the youth will remain at the forefront of its development agenda, driving innovation and helping build a progressive Santa Rosa. (AM/PIA 4A)

PALAI SIPAN



PAHALANG

- 1 Katreng kahoy
- 5 Bisita
- 10 Yapos
- 11 Sinama
- 12 ___ de coco
- 13 Halamang medisinal
- 14 Masaya: Ingles
- 15 Pinagkukunan ng kopra
- 16 Kagawad: daglat
- 17 Kagalang-galang: daglat
- 18 Higit
- 20 Sila
- 21 Tunog ng orasan
- 24 Local area network
- 25 ___ de sal
- 27 Karne
- 29 Tunog ng baril
- 30 Anak ni Zuma
- 31 Kauri ng pato
- 32 Manduhan
- 33 Pakiusap

- 34 Bayan sa Rizal
- 35 Pangamba

PABABA

- 1 Grupo
- 2 Suspetsa
- 3 Pantay
- 4. Karne sa tagiliran
- 5 Wisikan
- 6 Salot sa kahoy
- 7 Buod
- 8 Ampon
- 9 Sambit ng paghanga
- 11 Wakas
- 17 Kakanin
- 19 Damay
- 22 Ilagay sa lata
- 23 Pugon
- 25 Tulo
- 26 Wari mo
- 28 Hapag kainan
- 29 Epekto
- 30 Taguri sa bayani

SAGOT SA NAKARAAN



Bacoor police launch new alert system to strengthen crime prevention

CITY OF BACoor, Cavite (PIA) — To further enhance public safety and protect businesses, the Bacoor Component City Police Station has launched Project SOS: 'Strike One SMS,' a new crime-prevention and rapid



alert system designed to improve police response during emergencies.

The initiative was formally introduced during a recent coordination meeting held at the Strike Multipurpose Hall in the Bacoor Government Center, Barangay Bayanan. P/Lt. Chief Alexie A. Desamito led the meeting attended by local officials, police officers, program developers, and representatives from major convenience store chains operating in the city.

Among those present were Provincial Board Member Hon. Alde Pagulayan, City Councilor Hon. Manolo "Noly" Galvez, P/Lt. Chief Basman A. ► **BACoor • 4**

Developers welcome updated price ceiling for socialized housing

Private developers on Friday expressed their approval of the new price ceiling for socialized housing jointly issued by the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and the Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DEPDev).

The Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA) said it welcomed the issuance of Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) 2025-001, signed on Dec. 1 by DHSUD Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling and DEPDev Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, along with the release of its implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

"The new price ceiling is reflective of the current increases in the price of land, labor, and materials, and will ensure the support for the production of socialized housing for both vertical and horizontal projects," the SHDA said in a statement.

The JMC is the product of months-long technical discussions among the DHSUD, DEPDev, and private sector groups, including the SHDA, the National Real Estate Association, the Organization of Socialized and Economic Housing Developers of the Philippines, and the Chamber of Real Estate Builders Association, all of which were part of the technical working group formed to update the policy.

Aliling said the new ceiling reflects proposals raised by private developers and aligns with efforts to accelerate President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s Expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program.

"Ang JMC na ito ay resulta ng bukas, proactive ► **DEVELOPERS • 4**



E-trikes now banned on major NCR highways – LTO

E-trikes and similar electric vehicles are banned from passing through major highways in the National Capital Region (NCR) beginning Friday, as part of the government's push for road safety.

In a statement on Thursday evening, Land Transportation Office (LTO) Chief, Assistant Secretary Markus Lacanilao, said these highways are Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA), C-5 Road, Roxas Boulevard, and Quirino Avenue to Magallanes-South Luzon Expressway.

The ban is based on existing rules and regulations issued by the ► **E-TRIKES • 4**



BANNED FROM MAJOR ROADS. Electric tricycles (e-trikes) pass along the shopping district of Divisoria in Manila in this photo taken on Nov. 28, 2025. E-trikes are banned from major roads in the National Capital Region beginning Friday (Jan. 2, 2026), as part of government efforts to uphold road safety. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

DSWD IV-A builds stronger pathways for 4Ps families through multi-sector partnerships

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office IV-A continues to reinforce its commitment to empowering Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) households by widening access to education, employment, and healthcare services through strategic partnerships across the CALABARZON region.



Photo Credit: ARJAbian



#BawatBuhayMahalagaSaDSWD

www.f04a.dswd.gov.ph

DSWD Region IV-A

Recently, the regional office entered into new partnership agreements with five institutions from the education, training, and health sectors—National University (NU) Dasmariñas, University of

Batangas, Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc., Technovative Training Center, Inc., and San Antonio Medical Center of Lipa, Inc. Assistant Regional

Director Mylah Gatchalian said the partnerships are aligned with the Department's thrust to equip 4Ps beneficiaries with the necessary skills, knowledge, and health ► **DSWD IV-A • 4**