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Muli po tayong nakapaghati ng tulong sa ating mga kababayan Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) sa ika-4 na PWD Assistance Payout ngayong 2025. 250 benepisyaryo po ang nakatanggap ng pinansyal na tulong para sa kanilang medical, burial, educational, at therapy assistance bilang bahagi ng ating patuloy na programang naglalayong magbigay suporta sa bawat imuseño. #AngatAngImus #AlagangAdvincula

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FRONT PAGE NEWS

PUBLISHING

Vol. 4 No. 17 November 3-9, 2025 P10.00



PDPTA 3rd Founding Anniversary presents Mr. & Mrs. PDPTA 2025, held at the City of Dasmariñas Arena. #OnwardForwardCityofDasmariñas #SulongNaSulongPaDasmariñas



Patuloy ang pagmamalasakit sa ating mga PWD. Sa ika-pitong araw ng pamamahagi, personal nating nabigyan ang 1,587 PWDs mula sa Sun Valley at Merville ng cash assistance para sa kanilang pagkain at gamot. Taos-puso nating pinasasalamatang Person with Disability affairs Office sa pamumuno ni Dr. Sabas de Guzman, kasama sina Councilor Rico Golez at Kap. Chaky Cortez, sa matagumpay na aktibidad na ito. Sama-sama nating itaguyod ang isang Parañaque na walang napag-iwanan! #SaDiyosSaTaoSerbisyonTotoo #sErbisyLangPO #BagongParañaque



FRONT PAGE NEWS

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Cavite hosts 4th CALABARZON Culture Summit



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Cavite Police gear up for safe, orderly Undas p.5



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Cavite hosts...

The Province of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Tourism Officer, hosted the 4th CALABARZON Culture Summit dubbed as "Hibla ng Kamalayan" – Paghahabi ng Malikhaing Diwa: Weaving the Creative Spirit of CALABARZON" on October 23, at the International Convention Center, Cavite State University, Indang, Cavite.

The annual summit gathered hundreds of participants from various local government units, the academe, and other cultural stakeholders across Region IV-A, all united in their commitment to preserve, promote, and enrich the region's diverse cultural heritage.

The event formally open through the welcome remarks delivered by Dr. Ma. Agnes P. Nuestro, President of Cavite State University, expressing her gratitude to the Provincial Government of Cavite and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) for choosing CvSU as the venue of this year's gathering. She highlighted the importance of academic institutions in safeguarding culture and heritage, emphasizing that universities play a vital role in nurturing the next generation of culture bearers and creative leaders.

This was followed by the opening remarks delivered by Ms. Caroline B. Mizal, Head of NCCA Planning and Policy Office, on behalf of Ms. Marichu G. Tellano, Deputy Executive Director of the NCCA. In her message, Ms. Mizal, underscored the significance of the summit as a platform for collaboration, innovation, and dialogue among culture and arts advocates in the region. She noted that weaving the creative spirit of CALABARZON is not just about preserving traditions but also about strengthening the region's identity through shared stories and artistic expressions.

Representing Cavite Governor Francisco Gabriel D. Remulla, Ms. Elinia Imelda Rozelle Sangalang, Provincial Tourism Officer delivered the message of support, extending the Governor's appreciation to all participants and partner institutions for their active role in advancing Cavite's and the region's cultural agenda. She also reaffirmed the Provincial Government's continuous commitment to promoting cultural awareness, creative industries, and heritage preservation across Cavite and beyond. (CPIO)

LPA, ITCZ to dampen parts of PH on Undas

MANILA – The low-pressure area (LPA) embedded along the intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ) will bring rains over parts of the country as Filipinos troop to the cemeteries to visit their departed loved ones on Saturday, according to the weather bureau.

As of 3 a.m., the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said the LPA, located 275 km. west of Coron, Palawan, will bring scattered rains over the province.

Cagayan will also experience scattered rains due to the shearline, while Batanes will have isolated light rains due the northeast monsoon.

Another exciting highlight of the event was the announcement of winners for the Digital Photography and Logo-Making Contests, which showcased the creativity and cultural passion of CALABARZON's artists. Mr. Jeffrey Sandoval won the grand prize in the Digital Photography Contest for his entry "Mga Kamay ng Pamanang Buhay", while Christopher Macerin emerged as the grand prize winner in the Logo-Making Contest for his design that captured the spirit of cultural unity and creativity across the region.

The rest of the archipelago will have light to moderate winds and slight to moderate seas.

Meanwhile, the LPA outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility has developed into a tropical depression.

It is located 1,425 km. east of northeastern Mindanao, with maximum sustained winds of 45 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 55 kph, moving westward at 15 kph. (PNA)

**MMDA: Discipline...**

MANILA – The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) called on motorists and the general public visiting their loved ones on All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day to plan, exercise patience and practice discipline amid the expected heavy traffic.

At the Bagong Pilipinas interview on Friday, Swift Traffic Action Group commander Bong Nebrija said the MMDA will roll out full-scale operations.

"Unang-una nga po, kung dadalaw po kayo sa sementeryo, alamin po ahead of time iyong traffic schemes na pinapatupad ng local government unit para alam ninyo rin po kung saan kayo dadaan, ano po iyong mga road closure na iyan at saka saan po kayo magpa-park (First of all, if you are going to visit the cemetery, please find out ahead of time the traffic schemes implemented by the local government unit so that you know where you will be going, what the road closures are and where you will park)," he said.

He also reminded those travelling outside Metro Manila who will be returning on Monday to keep their cool.

"Sana po panatilihin ang lamig ng ulo sa pag-byahe, expect that there will be volume of vehicles na madi-delay po iyong biyahe ninyo, panatilihin po iyong lamig ng ulo, disiplina ang pa-iralin, sumunod po sa panuntunan ng batas ng trapiko. Ito po ay para sa kaligtasan ng lahat sa pagbyahe pagbalik dito sa (Please keep your cool when traveling, expect that there will be a volume of vehicles that will delay your trip, please keep your cool, discipline will be enforced, follow the rules of the traffic law. This is for the safety of everyone when traveling back to) Metro Manila," he said.

Nebrija said that the MMDA has deployed a total of 2,400 personnel from Oct. 30 to Nov. 3 to manage traffic, provide assistance and maintain cleanliness in major roads and cemeteries.

He said the agency is implementing a "no absent, no leave, no day off" policy during the five-day period.

"We have been busy since last week clearing the alternate routes, even the backdoors of bus terminals and even the periphery of cemeteries," Nebrija said.

He said the MMDA is particularly monitoring five cemeteries in Metro Manila



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 Toclong Kawit Cavite
 Contact number: 09154882962/09217007768
 Telephone Number: (046) 458-6021

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-- Manila North and Manila South, Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina, Bagbag Public Cemetery in Quezon City, and San Juan City Public Cemetery.

Public assistance tents are set up with other government agencies, such as the Philippine National Police, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, Land Transportation Office, and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

He said the MMDA is also in close coordination with the North Luzon and South Luzon Expressways, including the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway and Cavite-Laguna Expressway, for traffic management.

On the other hand, Nebrija said the MMDA's Metro Parkway Clearing Group would be leading the post-Undas cleanup operations.

Nebrija said local government units are implementing separate traffic rerouting schemes and parking rules around cemeteries.

"Visitors may park on the streets for short periods, but those who leave vehicles for long hours will be ticketed or towed," he said.

Nebrija also advised commuters to consider walking or biking to nearby cemeteries to avoid congestion.

"Plan your trip, know where you're going and keep your cool. Discipline on the road means safety for everyone," he said. (PNA)

*I have come into
 the world as
 light, so that
 whoever believes
 in me may not
 remain in
 darkness. ❤*

Samsung's over PhP50-B Investment is First Beneficiary of CREATE MORE Presidential Approval

The Marcos Jr. administration has secured a landmark PhP50.7-billion investment from Samsung Electro-Mechanics Philippine Corporation (SEMPHIL) – the first project to be granted Presidential Incentives under the CREATE MORE Act (Republic Act No. 12066). This marks a major milestone in the government's efforts to attract strategic, high-value investments and create more quality jobs for Filipinos.

"Samsung is already in the Philippines, they have employed [thousands of Filipinos] in their very, very high-tech manufacturing plant. The products that they make in the Philippines are of the highest tech that you can imagine. And so that is very, very important for us," President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said in an interview with the Philippine media delegation in South Korea.

"They [Samsung] made a commitment of a little over PhP50 billion to expand. That translates into 3,000 new jobs. And again, the transfer of technology is going to be very important," the President added.

The Chief Executive also emphasized that Samsung has agreed to tie up with several universities in the Philippines to train Filipino workers and conduct research and development in the country.

The PhP50.7-billion SEMPIL project and approval of its CREATE MORE Presidential Incentive were finalized following President Marcos' meeting with top executives of Samsung Electro-Mechanics Co., Ltd. (SEMCO) on the sidelines of the 32nd APEC Summit in South Korea.

During the meeting, President Marcos, alongside Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs Frederick D. Go and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Cristina A. Roque, also witnessed the signing of a Supplemental Agreement between the DTI's Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) and SEMPIL.

SEMPIL is the Philippine subsidiary of South Korea's SEMCO, a global leader in advanced electronics and semi-

conductor technology. Located in the Calamba Premiere International Park (CPIP) and registered with PEZA, SEMPHIL serves as SEMCO's main global production hub in a cost-efficient region.

With its new expansion investment, SEMPIL will establish a state-of-the-art, high-technology manufacturing facility to produce automotive multilayer ceramic capacitors (MLCCs) — key components used in electric vehicles (EVs) and smart devices. The project is expected to begin commercial operations by July 2027 and create over 3,500 high-quality jobs for Filipino workers.

As of December 2024, the Company already employs over 7,000 Filipinos and accounts for nearly half of SEMCO's worldwide MLCC output.

Under the CREATE MORE Act, the President may grant tax incentives in the interest of national economic development or upon the recommendation of the Fiscal Incentives Review Board (FIRB). Qualified projects are eligible for a range of incentives, including Income Tax Holiday (ITH), Special Corporate Income Tax (SCIT), and Enhanced Tax Deductions. These incentives also cover Value-Added Tax (VAT) zero-rating on local purchases, as well as VAT and duty exemptions on importation.

Secretary Go highlighted the broader significance of the SEMPIL investment. "This is tangible and a direct outcome of this administration's landmark policy reforms," he said. "This development sends a strong message to the global business community: the Philippines is more than open and ready for business. We are competitive and fully capable of hosting world-class, high-technology industries. More importantly, this project embodies our commitment to create more quality jobs for Filipinos, strengthen our manufacturing base, and deepen our economic partnership with South Korea."

Echoing this sentiment on the sectoral impact, PEZA Director General Tereso O. Paga hailed the announcement as a "landmark achievement for the country's electronics sector." He noted that SEMPIL's expansion will "strengthen the Philippines' position in the global semiconductor value chain and create more opportunities for Filipino talent."

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), electronic products

remained the country's top export in 2024, accounting for nearly 60% of total shipments. The new SEMPIL project is expected to boost the Philippines' share in global MLCC exports, solidifying its position as a reliable and competitive partner in advanced electronics manufacturing.

Meanwhile, the FIRB, chaired by the Department of Finance, emphasized that this milestone demonstrates how the CREATE MORE framework balances competitiveness with fiscal prudence, ensuring that incentives are both targeted and transformative.

The grant of the first CREATE MORE Presidential Approval stands as a powerful testament to the Marcos administration's investment-led growth strategy, demonstrating the success of its trade and investment missions, ease-of-doing-business reforms, and efforts to transform the nation into a regional manufacturing and innovation hub, while creating more quality jobs for Filipinos.



Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. ❤️

Proverbs 11:14

Cavite Police gear up...

IMUS, Cavite (PIA) — The Cavite Police Provincial Office is all set to ensure a smooth, safe, and peaceful observance of Undas 2025 as part of the nationwide "Ligtas Undas" operational plan of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Red emphasized that even with the public safety plans of his office, public cooperation remains crucial to the success of the operation.

"Our goal is not only to ensure a safe and orderly Undas but also to uphold peace and discipline among citizens. Let us work together to remain vigilant and responsible for the safety of our families and communities," he said.

According to police estimates, around 451,300 people are expected to visit 116 cemeteries (54 public and 62 private sites) as well as five columbariums throughout Cavite. To mitigate public safety risks and hazards, 2,422 personnel will be deployed in Cavite—comprising 1,250 PNP officers, 176 augmentation units, and 996 force multipliers from various community groups and organizations.

Red said force multipliers will be crucial in the operation, with 996 volunteers helping in different roles. These include Barangay Tanods maintaining order in cemeteries and nearby communities; Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs) managing crowd control and public information; traffic enforcers directing vehicle flow; security guards protecting private cemeteries and establishments; radio groups supporting communication; and volunteer organizations, including civic and faith-based groups, assisting visitors.

Cavite Police will also establish 117 Police Assistance Desks (PADs) and 23 Motorist Assistance Centers (MACs), supported by 19 Blue Teams that will conduct continuous patrols and monitoring.

Deployment highlights include 311 personnel for Police Assistance Desks (PADs), 68 personnel for Motorist Assistance Centers (MACs), 189 roving officers,

200 traffic marshals for major roads, 191 personnel for checkpoint and Oplan Sita operations, 87 officers for firewall operations, 34 personnel at transport terminals, and 167 personnel in areas of convergence.

Red emphasized that even with the public safety plans of his office, public cooperation remains crucial to the success of the operation.

"Our goal is not only to ensure a safe and orderly Undas but also to uphold peace and discipline among citizens. Let us work together to remain vigilant and responsible for the safety of our families and communities," he said.

He further stressed that Ligtas Undas 2025 will only be successful through the continued collaboration between the police, local government units, and the public—ensuring that this year's commemoration of Undas in Cavite is peaceful, organized, and meaningful. (RBF/PIA-Cavite; with reports from Cavite PPO)

DTI: PH aims to boost ties with APEC members, attract more investments

MANILA – Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Cristina Roque on Friday emphasized the Philippines' commitment to strengthening economic and diplomatic relations with Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member economies.

In an interview in Gyeongju, South Korea, Roque said the Philippines aims to deepen cooperation with all of its fellow APEC members in trade, politics, and foreign affairs.

Roque noted the Philippines' rising status as an "Asian superstar," which presents opportunities to attract more foreign investments.

"We really want to promote trade and investment because our President

(Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.) is really pro-foreign trade and investment because aside from the income that it generates for our country, it's also the jobs that it provides," Roque said in a video uploaded on the official Facebook page of state-run Radio Television Malacañang.

"He wants our Filipinos to stay in the country, to be with family. So, importante po ang APEC (APEC is important) and we really look forward to having closer ties and working closely with our counterparts," she added.

The Trade chief said the two-day APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting provides a platform for Marcos to present the Philippines' plans and opportunities to world leaders.

She added that the event gives the Philippines a big boost, as it prepares to host the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in 2026, an event that will further showcase the country's offerings to regional partners.

"So, we really look forward to really getting the ASEAN countries, as well as the APEC countries, aware of what the Philippines can offer them," Roque said.

Roque also reaffirmed the DTI's full support for Marcos' initiatives, urging the public to take advantage of the agency's programs and projects aimed at boosting local enterprises and economic growth.

"For the DTI, we will really continue to support the initiatives of the President. Whatever the President directs us to do, we will definitely follow," she said.

Marcos is currently in Gyeongju to participate in the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, which carries the theme, "Building a Sustainable Tomorrow: Connect, Innovate, Prosper."

He is also scheduled to hold a series of meetings with various business leaders and executives on the sidelines of the APEC meetings. (PNA)

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PBBM, KINILALA ANG DEDIKASYON NG PCG SA IKA-124 ANIBERSARYO NG ORGANISASYON

Mga katoto sadyang subok na ang kakayanan at didekasyon ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) hindi lang sa pagtulong sa bahagi ng karagatan manapay sa ilang bhagi ng kalupaan kung sa parte ng serbisyo ang paguusapan lalunat para bayan sadyang PCG ang kailangan mga katoto.

Tulad ng mga kaganapan mga katoto noong panahon ng pandemiya, malaking bahagi ang naitulong na suporta ng PCG sa ating mga OFW's kung saan gamit ang sasakyang tulad ng kanilang mga bus at mga trak na naging tagahatid sa ibat ibang lalawigan, ang kanilang mga Doctor at Nurses katulong ng mga Dr at Nurses ng DOH, katulong din PNP-HPG, MMDA, sa pagpapairal ng batas trapiko sa mga pangunahing lansangan at iba pang mga kaganapan na sadyang kakailanganin sa bansa.

Kayat pinangunahan ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., bilang panauhing pandangal ang pagdiriwang ng ika-124 anibersaryo ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), na ginanap kamakailan sa Port Area, Manila, kahapon.

Sa kanyang mensahe, kinilala ng Pangulo ang dedikasyon ng PCG, na nangunguna sa pagtugon at pagtulong sa ating mga kababayan sa tuwing may sakuna o kalamidad, gayundin sa pagbabantay sa West Philippine Sea.

"In these times when our seas face greater challenges, you remain steadfast, proving that courage knows no tides and that service knows no bounds. You stand as guardians of safety and of stability. And in return, I assure you that this government is solidly behind you," ayon sa Pangulo.

Nakiisa rin si katotong Acting Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez sa pagdiriwang, kung saan binigyang diin nito na buo ang suporta ng Department of Transportation sa PCG at tiniyak na laging nakaagapay ang ahensya sa nasabing organisasyon mula sa pagdadagdag ng tauhan at modernisasyon ng kanilang kagamitan.

"Mahirap po ang trabaho ng ating Coast Guards. They are the first responders sa lahat ng mga rescue missions, at search

and rescue operations. Wala ka pong maririnig na reklamo mula sa kanila, that's why we have to give some dignity naman sa hinap ng ginagawa nila. We have to show that we love them. We support them," ayon sa Kalihim.

Dumalo rin sa naturang selebrasyon si katotong First Lady Louise Araneta-Marcos, na isa ring Auxiliary Vice Admiral. Kasama ang Pangulo at si Acting Sec. Lopez, pinangunahan nila ang paggawad ng parangal sa 16 na mga natatanging miyembro ng PCG, dahil sa kanilang exemplary performance, professionalism, at dedikasyon sa public service.

Kabilang sa mga iginawad na award mga katoto ang District of the Year, Station of the Year, Sub-Station of the Year, Ship of the Year, Small Aircraft of the Year, PCG Aircraft of the Year, Lighthouse Keeper of the Year, Non-Officer of the Year, Non-Uniformed Personnel Supervisor of the Year, and Non-Uniformed Personnel of the Year.

Ibinahagi naman ni katotong PCG Commandant Admiral Ronnie Gil Gavan ang Accomplishment Report para sa FY 2024-2025 ng organisasyon, kung saan tampok ang matagumpay na mga misyon ng PCG sa West Philippine Sea.

Iprinsinta din sa PCG anniversary mga katoto ang Pasig River Lighthouse miniature, na simbolo ng commitment ng organisasyon sa pagtiyak ng tuloy-tuloy na serbisyo, gayundin ang pagpapanatili ng kaligtasan at seguridad sa mga katubigan sa Pilipinas.

Nakiisa rin sa selebrasyon ng PCG sina Senate Deputy Majority Leader JV Ejercito, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr., at Presidential Adviser on Poverty Alleviation Larry Gadon. Mabuhay ang PCG! Mabuhay tayong lahat mga katoto!!!



Makaraang magbigay ng makabuluhang mensahe si Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. bilang panauhing pandangal ay ipinagkalooob ni PCG Commandant Admiral Ronnie Gil Gaban ang accomplishment report ng organisasyon para sa taong 2024-2025 kung saan tampok na matagumpay ang mga naging misyon particular na sa West Philippine Sea.

GREETINGS:

Hi to NCRPO RD PMGEN ANTHONY A ABERIN, PCOL Ed Cuti-Deputy Chief of Staff NCRPO, PCOL Erosito Miranda-Regional Chief of Staff NCRPO. & D5 PCOL Joseph Garcia. Hi to MPD District Director PBGEN ARNOLD ABAD and Spokesperson PMaj Philip Ines! Hi to Dra Grace Padilla Head Manila Health Department & Asst. Head Manila Health Department Dr. Edgar Santos, Hi to MHD Dr. Cresilda Coroza- Head District Officer, District 1 Manila, Hi to OMMC depICU Dr. Luigi Francisco & Internal Medicine Dr. Jarmiah Margalo, Ross Adornado, Mikaela Gabriella Martin, at Hilario Laqui. HEART STATION DEPT. KLINIK; Shiela Rodriguez, Carina Domagoso, Neil Salvador, Dove Ann Dela Torre. Kumusta kay Workoholic ENT Head Dra PRINCESS JOY CARAAN, Asst. Head Dra. DIAN SY, at Dr. Jacob, Hi to MEDICAL LABORATORY; Head Evelyn Salcedo, Asst. Head Celeste at Jorie. Hi to our young friend Dra Vivien Jupirez, welcome to OMMC, Hi to Philippine Orthopedic Center, Hospital Director(POC) Dr. Brix Puhalte Jr. na nagmama sa ama nitong si Dr. Puhalte Sr. na nagiwan ng isang di matatwarrang alala sa POC at byuting secretary nito Ms. Jing Adriano!!! Hi to POC OPD Dr. Baron, Dr. Robin Medalla at Dra. Gina Espinosa! Hi to POC XRAY RECORDS Head Gina Geronimo, Marivel, Ronnie, & Marvin Hi to Hospital Director Ma. Isabelita M. Estrella at Director's Office Secretary Staff Ms. Rowie S. Bulaong ng Tondo Medical Center (TMC), Hi to Medical Social Service Head Leonida Lagumbay and to Cecilia, Nova, Jenemy, Archie, John Rex, Shalom, Joy at Gaida of Gat Andres Bonifacio Medical Center. Hi to byuting Atty. Edith Napalan Chief City Treasurer's Office of Bacoor City Province of Cavite, and Asst. Chief Carol Marges, same as their Staff Ma. Florentina, Roselyn, & Christina. Hi to Atty. Marites Tamayo Register of Deeds (RD) & RD examiner Darwin Bantiles of Bacoor City province of Cavite! Usaping DABAKARDS lalo na sa mga kalapit na tanggapan sa paligid ng Intramuros!! Mga Katoto, kung nais niyong masarap na Lutong Pinoy na tsibug. Mag-aliv at mag relax habang nakikinig ng live acoustic at folk songs mag tungo sa I-TOP VIEW CAFÉ & RESTAURANT 4th floor, Roof Deck Intramall Bldg. 706 Escuela st. Intramuros, Manila. Lets eat, enjoy, and relax. God bless you more mga katoto!

PH Champions People-Centered Resilience, Advances Regional Interconnectivity at SIEW 2025

Singapore — Energy Secretary Sharon S. Garin reaffirmed the Philippines' commitment to building a resilient, interconnected, and people-centered energy future during the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) on 27 October 2025.

Speaking at the high-level dialogue "Building Resilient and Interconnected Energy Systems," Secretary Garin expressed the Philippines' strong support for the Enhanced ASEAN Power Grid (APG) Memorandum of Understanding endorsed at the 43rd ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) in Kuala Lumpur. She noted that the Philippines is now exploring a bilateral power interconnection with Malaysia—its first potential link to the regional grid. (PIA)

"We would like to explore the possibility of connecting the Philippines to Malaysia, and in doing so, to the rest of the region," Secretary Garin said. "This will take technical, financial, legal, and policy groundwork, but the building blocks are already being laid."

The Secretary emphasized that regional integration goes beyond infrastructure, but also demands enabling policy, financing, and governance frameworks to de-risk renewable investments and lower costs for consumers. She underscored the Philippines' strong investment climate, ranked as the world's second most attractive market for renewable energy, citing over 21,000 MW of awarded capacity under the Green Energy Auction Program (GEAP) and 91 offshore wind contracts totaling 69 GW made possible by recent policy reforms.

At the sidelines of SIEW (SIEW Live), Secretary Garin highlighted the Philippines' people-centered approach to resilience, citing the deployment of 10 Mobile Energy Systems (MES) to off-grid and typhoon-prone provinces to ensure power continuity during disasters.

She also met with European Union representatives to discuss workforce development and the replication of Denmark's Green Energy Islands initiative, where islands transform to renewable-powered, self-sustaining communities in remote areas.

In a separate meeting with Singapore's Minister-in-charge of Energy and Science and Technology H.E. Tan See Leng, Secretary Garin discussed the Implementation Agreement with Singapore on Transition Credits, which is targeted to be signed by February 2026, nuclear energy safety and emergency response, and research on natural hydrogen. The Philippines also updated Singapore on its carbon credit policy framework to enhance transpar-

ency and credibility in carbon market implementation.

Secretary Garin concluded that harmonized regulations, modern infrastructure, and digitalized and interoperable grids are essential to a resilient and inclusive ASEAN power market. By sharing its experience in disaster resilience and inclusive energy development, the Philippines aims to help turn the region's climate challenges into collective strength. (PIA)


SSS steps up RACE campaign to protect workers in Ilocos Norte

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union (PIA) — Blending art, community, and a love for the ocean, the town of Bacnotan made waves during the Surfing Break 2025 through a surfboard painting competition on October 26, celebrating the town's coastal culture and creative spirit.

The competition was organized by the local government of Bacnotan, in partnership with the Provincial Government of La Union, as part of the town's efforts to promote sustainable tourism and local industry.

The annual La Union Surfing Break aims to raise public awareness and appreciation of surfing.

Drawing more than 15,000 visitors each year, the event has strengthened La Union's reputation as Northern Luzon's premier destination for surfing, beaches, and festivals, helping drive local tourism and economic growth.

This year's celebration showcased Bacnotan's commitment to unity, environmental protection, and cultural expression through the surfboard painting competition, which brought together local artists, surfers, and tourists.

Participants transformed blank surfboards into colorful canvases depicting heritage, ocean life, and sustainability—a credit policy framework to enhance transpar-

ency and credibility in carbon market implementation.

More than 20 artists from across the province took part in the competition, showcasing original designs ranging from traditional Filipino patterns and local landmarks to marine conservation imagery.

The finished surfboards, displayed along the shoreline, served as a striking exhibit that reflected creativity and environmental awareness—a powerful reminder of the need to protect Bacnotan's pristine coastline.

"The surfboard painting competition has added a new creative layer to our Surfing Break festivities," Mayor Divina Fontanilla said, emphasizing that the event highlights Bacnotan's rich culture and environmental commitment, making the town more than just a surfing destination.

One of the participants, Clarence Herrera, shared that his artwork, inspired by marine life, served as a personal statement of advocacy.

"It was more than an art contest—it was a way to express my love for ocean creatures and raise awareness for their protection," he said.

Entries were judged based on composition, visual impact, relevance to the theme, technique, and creativity.

In the adult category, Renielle Jan Gundran emerged as champion, followed by Sedrick Casuga as first runner-up and Ejichelle Christensen Jalop as second runner-up.

In the youth category, Lord Julian Rudolph Flores IV was named champion, with Liz Jujenne Dacaymat and John Robert Pedeglorio as first and second runners-up, respectively.

All three winners from the youth category are students from different schools in La Union, representing the province's talented and promising youth.

The three-day festival, held from Oct. 24 to 26 in Barangay Quirino, also featured surfing competitions, beach volleyball, live local performances, sandcastle making, eco-boot camps for the youth, and booths showcasing local food and crafts.

The surfboard painting competition captured Bacnotan's coastal heritage, creativity, and drive for sustainability, turning Surfing Break 2025 into a true celebration of unity, artistry, and ocean care. (CCMT/ KJCR, PIA La Union)