SMC FIRST-HALF CORE NET INCOME RISES 48% AS REVENUE CLIMBS 34%

San Miguel Corporation (SMC) posted consolidated core net income of P54.2 billion in the first half of 2026, up 48% from a year earlier, as its underlying businesses remained resilient despite volatile global markets, higher costs and cautious consumer spending.

Consolidated revenues rose 34% to P964.1 billion, driven by higher volumes and prices in its Fuel and Oil business, stronger contributions from Power, and continued growth in Food. Operating income increased 17% to P102.3 billion.

Reported consolidated net income was 44% lower at P37.7 billion, reflecting foreign exchange effects and other non-core items.

Last year's result also benefited from a P21.9 billion gain from the Chromite transaction which involved the de-consolidation of certain power assets.

"Our businesses performed well in the first half despite a more challenging operating environment. While cost and market pressures may continue, our underlying operations remain sound. We will stay disciplined on costs, continue improving efficiency, and invest in areas that support our long-term growth and the country's broader economic development," SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang said.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

San Miguel Food and Beverage Inc. (SMFB) posted revenues of P205.3 billion in the first half, up 2%, as growth in its Food business helped offset softer consumer spending and disruptions in some export markets. EBITDA slipped 1% to P38.8 billion, with margins at 19%, while operating income and net income both declined 4% to P28.8 billion and P22.1 billion, respectively.

Food revenue rose 5% to P99.3 billion, driven by growth in feeds and sustained demand for branded products, including Magnolia dairy and coffee products, Purefoods Luncheon Meats and Pinoy Favorites, as well as its more affordable product lines. Operating income increased 2% to P8.8 billion, while net income rose 8% to P6.4 billion.

Beer revenue declined 1% to P73.7 billion as consumers became more selective with discretionary spending amid inflation and a weaker peso. Domestic beer revenue was steady at P65.9 billion despite softer volumes. International operations posted revenues of US$128.5 million, lower year-on-year as shipping disruptions in the Middle East affected deliveries to the region.

Operating income fell 11% to P14.4 billion, while net income declined 12% to P11.4 billion.

Spirits revenue was steady at P32.3 billion as higher prices offset softer volumes.

Profitability improved, with operating income rising 8% to P5.4 billion and net income increasing 3% to P4.4 billion.

FUEL AND OIL

Petron Corporation's revenues rose 57% to P605.9 billion in the first half, driven by higher prices and sales volumes. Net income declined 27% to P3.8 billion, while operating income fell 17% to P12.6 billion, as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East pushed up crude prices, import premiums, freight costs, and other operating expenses.

Oil markets remained volatile during the period, with Dubai crude averaging US$91 per barrel, up 27% from the same period last year.

Consolidated sales volume rose 6% to 67.9 million barrels, driven by an 86% increase in trading transactions by the company's Singapore subsidiary.

INFRASTRUCTURE

SMC Infrastructure posted first-half revenues of P20.5 billion, up 3%, even as average daily traffic dipped 1% to 1.07 million vehicles.

Elevated fuel prices weighed on road travel demand. Operating income was steady at P11.1 billion, while EBITDA increased 8% to P17.0 billion.

POWER

San Miguel Global Power (SMGP) posted first-half revenues of P101.9 billion, up 27%, while operating income rose 90% to P42.0 billion.

CEMENT

SMC's Cement business, which includes Eagle Cement Corporation, Northern Cement Corporation, and Southern Concrete Industries, Inc., posted first-half revenues of P18.2 billion, up 2%, as higher sales volumes and market share gains offset lower average selling prices amid intense competitive pressure from cement imports. Operating income declined 9% to P3.2 billion. (PR)

www.deretsahan.com ISSN NO. 3116-2509

DERETSAHAN
WEEKLY NEWS PUBLISHING

The paper that stand for real values and gives you real value for money

VOL. III - SERIES 06 - AUGUST 23-29 2026 - P 20.00

SSS continues support to the local market as part of nation building while exploring international investments to balance portfolio

Cayetano team naghatid ng tulong sa mga evacuee sa Bacolor

MGA RESPONDER SA TANZA, CAVITE SINUBOK SA MALAKING SEARCH AND RESCUE DRILL

P 3

25 Kawani ng DA-4A, Sumailalim sa Basic Incident Command System Training

Sumailalim sa tatlong araw na Basic Incident Command System (ICS) Training ang dalawampu't limang kawani ng #DACalabarzon bilang bahagi ng patuloy na pagsisikap ng ahensya na palakasin ang kahandaan at kakayahan sa pagtugon sa mga emergency, sakuna, at kalamidad.

Pinangunahan ng Disaster Risk Reduction Management unit ang pagsasanay na isinagawa noong Agosto 5-7, 2026 sa Tagaytay City, Cavite. Nakatuon ito sa pagpapalawak ng kaalaman at kasanayan ng mga kalahok sa paggamit ng Incident Command System (ICS), isang organisadong pamamaraan na naglalayong mapahusay ang koordinasyon, komunikasyon, at pamamahala sa panahon ng mga insidente at kalamidad.

Sa pamamagitan ng training, nabigyan ang mga kawani ng pagkakataong ang higit na maunawaan ang mga pangunahing prinsipyo at mekanismo ng ICS, gayundin ang mga tungkulin at responsibilidad sa ilalim ng framework nito. Ang kahalagahan ng malinaw na pagkakahati ng mga responsibilidad upang matiyak ang maayos na daloy ng impormasyon at mabilis na koordinasyon sa oras ng emergency.

Bukod sa pagtugon sa mga insidenteng may direktang epekto sa operasyon ng ahensya, layunin din ng pagsasanay na tiyakin ang kahandaan ng mga kawani hindi lamang sa kanilang mga regular na tungkulin, kundi handa ring kumilos nang maayos at episyente sa panahon ng krisis at iba pang emergency situations.

Sa pagtatapos ng tatlong araw na pagsasanay, nagpasalamat ang mga kalahok sa pagbabahagi ng ganitong kaalaman sa kanila.

Hinikayat ni Maria Ana Balmes mula sa Field Operations Division ang mga nakasama sa pagsasanay, na ibahagi rin ang kanilang natutunan sa kanya kanyang opisina upang mapalakas ang kahandaan ng bawat isa.

(Chieverly Caguitla, DA-4A RAFIS)

RICE DISTRIBUTION IN AMADEO

The Provincial Government of Cavite is facilitating the ongoing Food Assistance–Rice Distribution Program (AIIF-FA-RDP) today, August 18, in Amadeo, Cavite.The initiative is part of the national government's Assistance to Indigent Individuals or Families through Food Assistance–Rice Distribution Program (AIIF-FA-RDP) under the Bagong Pilipinas agenda and is funded through the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF - FA).

The program aims to strengthen food security and help ease the impact of rising living costs by providing essential food assistance to families in need. Joining the activity is Mayor Jose "Jojo" Domingo Jr., as the Provincial Government of Cavite continues to work with local partners in bringing government assistance closer to Caviteño communities. OPIO

EDITORYAL:

MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS, PASOK SA LEDAC PRIORITY BILLS!

Isang mahalagang hakbang para sa mga barangay sa buong bansa ang pagkakasama ng Magna Carta for Barangays sa mga prayoridad na panukalang batas ng pamahalaan sa ilalim ng Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC).

ANO ANG IBIG SABIHIN NITO?

Ang Magna Carta for Barangays ay naglalayong palakasin ang barangay bilang pinakamalapit na antas ng pamahalaan sa mamamayan.

Kabilang sa mga pangunahing layuning tinatalakay sa mga panukalang Magna Carta for Barangays ang pagbibigay ng mas maayos na suweldo, allowances, benepisyo, proteksiyon at iba pang suporta para sa mga barangay officials at workers, kasabay ng pagpapalakas sa kakayahan ng bawat barangay na maghatid ng serbisyo.

Bakit mahalaga ito?

Dahil ang barangay ang unang nilalapitan ng mamamayan sa maraming pang-araw-araw na pangangailangan—mula sa peace and order, disaster response, health services, social services, Katarungang Pambarangay at iba pang serbisyo sa komunidad.

Kung maisasabatas, maaari itong magkaroon ng malaking epekto hindi lamang sa mga barangay officials at workers kundi pati sa kalidad at kapasidad ng serbisyo publiko sa bawat komunidad.

PERO DAPAT LINAWIN:

Ang pagiging priority bill sa LEDAC ay hindi nangangahulugang batas na ito agad.

Kailangan pa rin itong dumaan sa proseso ng Kongreso—pagdinig, deliberasyon, pag-apruba ng Senado at House of Representatives, at iba pang constitutional requirements bago maging ganap na batas.

May mga naunang bersyon na ng Magna Carta for Barangays na inihain sa Kongreso, kabilang ang mga panukalang naglalayong itaas ang economic at social status ng barangay officials at palakasin ang kakayahan ng barangay bilang pangunahing yunit ng pamahalaan.

PARA SA MGA BARANGAY OFFICIALS AT BARANGAY WORKERS:

Ang pagkakasama nito sa legislative agenda ay isang mahalagang development na dapat bantayan.

Hindi lamang ito usapin ng suweldo o benepisyo.

Ito ay tungkol sa pagkilala sa mahalagang papel ng mga taong araw-araw na nagsisilbi sa pinakamalapit na antas ng pamahalaan.

Malakas na barangay = mas mahusay na serbisyo para sa mamamayan.

Ang barangay ang unang tahanan ng serbisyo publiko.

Cayetano...

FROM PAGE 1

Nagtungo ang Emergency Response Team ni Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano sa Bacolor, Pampanga nitong Miyerkules, August 19, para maghatid ng tulong sa mga pamilyang nananatili sa evacuation centers dahil sa ilang araw nang pagbaha.

Namahagi ang grupo ng daan-daang hot meals sa Bacolor Integrated School kung saan kasalukuyang nakasilong ang 204 pamilya o 779 indibidwal, at sa Bacolor Mini Convention na tinutuluyan naman ng 49 pamilya o 220 indibidwal.

Ilan sa mga evacuee ay siyam na araw na sa evacuation centers habang patuloy na binabaha ang ilang lugar sa bayan.

Isinagawa ang operasyon katuwang si Bacolor Mayor Eduardo "Diman" Datu. Nagpasalamat si Datu kay Cayetano sa patuloy nitong pag-alalay sa Bacolor nang hindi na kinailangang hingan ng tulong.

Batay sa datos ng munisipyo, mahigit 3,000 pamilya na ang naapektuhan ng baha sa Bacolor habang higit 400 pamilya ang kasalukuyang nasa evacuation centers.

Wala namang naitalang nasawi o nasugatan sa bayan matapos magsagawa ang lokal na pamahalaan ng mga paunang hakbang para mailikas ang mga residenteng nasa peligro.

Dumating ang relief operation habang patuloy ang pag-ulan sa Luzon dahil sa southwest monsoon o habagat.

Ayon sa PAGASA, inaasahang magpapatuloy ang malalakas na pag-ulan sa malawak na bahagi ng Luzon at ilang lugar sa Visayas hanggang Huwebes, August 20.

Patuloy ding mino-monitor ng PAGASA ang dalawang low-pressure area, kabilang ang isa na nasa labas at isa pang nasa loob ng Philippine Area of Responsibility. Bukod sa Bacolor, nagpapatuloy rin ang pagtulong ng Cayetano team sa iba pang mga lugar sa Luzon na tinamaan ng baha, kabilang ang pamamahagi ng pagkain at iba pang pangunahing pangangailangan sa mga komunidad na patuloy na apektado ng pag-ulan. PR

SSS...

FROM PAGE 1

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 ₱1.27 trillion in consolidated investments, distributed across various asset classes in the domestic market. These include ₱629.05 billion in government securities, ₱179.44 billion in equities, ₱154.56 billion in property, ₱151.90 billion in member loans, and ₱96.34 billion in corporate notes and bonds, among others.

The diversified portfolio generated ₱27.16 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 ₱2 trillion by 2030, supporting its capacity to provide meaningful and sustainable social security protection to current and future generations of members and pensioners. ***(PR)***

MGA....

FROM PAGE 1

Tanza, cavite — sinubok ang kahandaan ng mga responder sa tanza, cavite sa isinagawang search and rescue exercise o sarex bilang bahagi ng paggunita sa National Disaster Resilience Month.

Isinagawa ang drill noong Hulyo 24 sa Villa Excellance Beach and Wave Pool Resort at pinangunahan ng Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office o MDRRMO-Tanza.

Lumahok dito ang Cavite Maritime Police Station sa pangunguna ng kanilang Station Chief PMAJ Jerwin Lalamoro, Tanza Municipal Police Station, Philippine Coast Guard-Tanza Sub-Station, Bureau of Fire Protection-Tanza at Bantay Dagat-Tanza.

Dalawang emergency scenario ang isinagawa para masukat ang bilis at kahandaan ng mga responder.

UNANG SIMULASYON ANG MARITIME COLLISION INCIDENT, kung saan kailangang mabilis na rumesponde ang mga awtoridad sa insidenteng maaaring maglagay sa panganib sa buhay ng mga nasa dagat.

Sinundan ito ng SIMULATED EXPLOSION NA NAGDULOT NG LEVEL 3 FIRE ALARM sa parking area ng resort.

Sa drill, sinubok ang komunikasyon, koordinasyon at bilis ng pagtugon ng mga responder sa isang insidenteng nangangailangan ng sabay-sabay na aksyon ng iba't ibang ahensya.

Binigyang-diin ng mga opisyal ang kahalagahan ng paghahanda, mabilis na komunikasyon at pagtutulungan upang maging mas maayos ang pagresponde kapag may aktuwal na sakuna.

Layunin din ng exercise na makita kung ano pa ang kailangang pagbutihin sa sistema ng bawat ahensya at masiguro na handa silang magtulungan sa oras ng emergency.

Ayon sa mga organizer, matagumpay na naisagawa ang SAREX at nakatulong ito upang mapalakas ang kahandaan at koordinasyon ng mga responder sa Tanza.

Patuloy namang pinagtitibay ng lokal na pamahalaan at mga katuwang na ahensya ang kanilang kahandaan upang maprotektahan ang buhay at ari-arian, lalo na ng mga komunidad na malapit sa baybayin.

By: Martin Banaag

DERETSAHAN WEEKLY NEWS PUBLISHING
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DERETSAHAN WEEKLY NEWS PUBLISHING is an **ENGLISH/FILIPINO** newspaper that is being regularly published weekly every Sunday.

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LEGAL/NOTICES -------------- P160/col.cm
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Heading : 10
Body Text : 08
Space : Single space

Dalawang Suspek Arestado sa Buy-Bust sa Lucena; P1.08-M Halaga ng Shabu Nasamsam

Arestado ang dalawang suspek sa buy-bust operation ng Lucena Component City Police Station (CCPS) sa Purok Matahimik Isla, Barangay Cotta, Lucena City, gabi ng Agosto 14, 2026.

Kinilala ang mga suspek sa kanilang mga alyas na "Atanes," 21, at "Lester," 38, kapwa residente ng naturang lugar.

Ayon sa pulisya, isang sachet ng hinihinalang shabu ang nabili ng poseur-buyer mula sa mga suspek sa isinagawang operasyon.

Sa follow-up search, nakumpiska rin ang buy-bust money, ilang plastic sachet at karagdagang sachet na naglalaman umano ng hinihinalang shabu. Sa kabuuan, tinatayang 53 gramo ng hinihinalang shabu ang nakumpiska na may Standard Drug Price na P360,400 at tinatayang street value na P1,081,200.

Nasa kustodiya ngayon ng Lucena CCPS ang dalawang suspek at nahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa Sections 5 at 11, Article II ng Republic Act 9165 o Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Ayon kay Quezon Police Provincial Office Director PCOL Romulo A. Albacea, patuloy na paiigtingin ng Quezon police ang kampanya laban sa ilegal na droga sa pakikipagtulungan ng komunidad.

Sinabi ni Albacea na hindi titigil ang pulisya sa pagtugis sa mga indibidwal na sangkot sa ilegal na droga upang mapanatili ang kapayapaan at kaligtasan ng mga mamamayan sa lalawigan.

(Aida Dapula)

CHIZ PROPOSES 5-YEAR TERM FOR BARANGAY, SK LEADERS

Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero has filed Senate Bill No. 2387 to extend barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) terms from four to five years , a move that would also reset their election to November 2028.

Escudero's bill amends Republic Act No. 12232, which currently provides a four year term, and allows incumbent officials to remain in office until 2028 to complete a full term under the proposal, because of the previous two-year extension of their tenure.

In his explanatory note, the Bicolano senator said giving village and youth leaders longer cycle in office would allow them to implement programs more effectively with fewer disruptions, cognizant of the central role of barangay governance in frontline service delivery.

"Barangay governance plays a crucial role in the effective delivery of public service, peace and order, and community development," Escudero wrote.

A longer cycle, he said, would "ensure stability, continuity, and more efficient implementation of local development plans," noting that many barangay projects span multiple years and are hampered by frequent electoral turnover.

The bill also reiterates existing term limit rules: barangay officials may serve up to three consecutive terms, while SK officials may serve only one. Those already on their third consecutive term will be ineligible to run again in the November 2028 elections.

Escudero said aligning barangay terms with medium term planning frameworks would strengthen local institutions and reduce administrative resets caused by short electoral cycles.

The shift, he added, is intended to support more coherent development strategies at the community level.

President Marcos Cites DOST-Funded M/B Dalaray In SONA, Backs Local Innovations For Sustained Growth

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. highlighted the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) support for homegrown electric mobility solutions during his 2026 State of the Nation Address (SONA), citing the DOST-funded M/B Dalaray as a model for the country's transport modernization efforts.

In his speech on Monday, the President underscored the importance of locally developed technologies in building a cleaner and more sustainable public transportation system.

"Ang M/B Dalaray naman, na pinasinayaan natin kamakailan lamang, ay isa ring EV, na nabuo sa pagtutulungan ng UP at saka ng DOST. Sa darating na panahon, ang ganitong electric ferry boat ang gagamitin sa Pasig River Ferry Service, mula Pinagbuhatan sa Pasig hanggang Escolta sa Maynila."

The M/B Dalaray is an electric catamaran ferry developed through the collaboration of the University of the Philippines (UP) and the DOST. The vessel was designed as a locally developed, environment-friendly alternative for inland water transport and is expected to support the modernization of the Pasig River Ferry Service.

The President's recognition of the project underscores the government's continuing investment in science, technology, and innovation (STI) to develop practical solutions that address national priorities, including sustainable mobility and cleaner transportation systems.

DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. welcomed the President's recognition, saying it reflects the growing impact of Filipino research and innovation on improving public services.

"The President's recognition of the M/B Dalaray affirms the value of investing in Filipino science, technology, and innovation. It demonstrates how government support for research can be translated into practical technologies that benefit the public while advancing sustainable development," Solidum said.

Aside from the M/B Dalaray, the President also cited several DOST initiatives in his Primer report that have strengthened the country's research and innovation ecosystem.

The President's Report to the People 2022–2026 noted that the Balik Scientist Program assisted 856 technologies and projects from July 2022 to June 2026, enabling overseas Filipino scientists to share their expertise and accelerate research and technology development in the country.

The report likewise highlighted the establishment of the National Artificial Intelligence Center for Research and Innovation (NAICRI), launched in Quezon City in February 2026 as the country's central hub for AI research, advanced computing, innovation, and talent development.

Meanwhile, the DOST Grants-in-Aid Program provided P12.64 billion in funding assistance to 824 research and development projects between July 2022 and June 15, 2026, supporting innovations in priority sectors such as health, agriculture, industry, disaster resilience, and digital transformation.

The DOST said the President's recognition of these initiatives reflects the government's continued confidence in science, technology, and innovation as key drivers of economic growth, environmental sustainability, and improved quality of life for Filipinos.

The agency reaffirmed its commitment to supporting research and development that produces homegrown technologies capable of addressing national challenges and contributing to a more resilient and innovation-driven Philippines. (DOST)

REXON HORA GASTON, HINIRANG NG KWF NA MANANAYSAY NG TAON 2026!

Gagawaran ng Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) si Rexon Hora Gaston ng KWF Mananaysay ng Taon 2026 pára sa kaniyang sanaysay na: "Ang Paglimot sa Panahon ng Pag-alala: Paniyaw, Ngilin, at Bain sa Panahon ng Artificial Intelligence." Makatatanggap siyá ng PHP30,000.00 (net), plake, at medalya.

Nagwagi naman si Emersan D. Baldemar ng Ikalawang Gantimpala pára sa kaniyang sanaysay na "Mebuayaan at Kadatngan: Ang Paradalumat ng Hinuha Bílang Lohos-Matris ng Artificial Intelligence at Balatuwas sa Kapwadunong, Nakem, at Kapantayang Epistemiko ng Wikang Filipino."

Makatatanggap siyá ng PHP20,000.00 (net) at plake.

Nanalo rin si Mark Anthony S. Angeles ng Ikatlong Gantimpala sa kaniyang sanaysay na "Artipisyál ma'y Nakikipagkápuwâ: Artificial Intelligence at ang Buháy na Wikà't Dánas ng Filipíno." Makatatanggap siyá ng PHP15,000.00 (net) at plake.

Si Rexon H. Gaston ay kasalukuyang Assistant Professor sa Kalinga State University na nagtuturo ng mga asignaturang Kontekstuwalisadong Komunikasyon sa Filipino, Art Appreciation, The Life and Works of Rizal, Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP), at Language and Literature.

Nagwagi rin siya ng "Most Creative Short Story of the Year" sa Instabright Third National Literary Award noong 2024.

Nagsusulong siya ng pagpapalaganap ng wikang Filipino, ISKP, ingklusibong edukasyon, at mga pedagohiyang pangkultura.

Ang Sanaysay ng Taon ay taunang patimpalak ng KWF na naglalayong himukin ang mga natatanging mananaysay ng bansa, na ilahok ang kanilang mga sanaysay.

Ang paksâ ngayong taon ay tungkol sa tema ng Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa 2026 na "Wikang Filipino at AI: Kasangkapan sa Pananaliksik at Tulay sa Yaman ng Impormasyon."

Ang Bunyi: KWF Gabi ng Parangal 2026 ay gaganapin sa 27 Agosto 2026. (PR)

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Potable water system sa Majayjay, Laguna makukumpleto na

Mabibigyang katuparan na ang matagal nang pangarap na maayos at ligtas na suplay ng tubig ng ilang residente ng Majayjay, Laguna ngayong malapit nang makumpleto ang isang proyektong Level II Potable Water System (PWS) sa kanilang lugar. Ang nasabing proyekto ay pinondohan sa ilalim ng Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project Scale-Up at magbebenepisyo sa 1,439 indibidwal at 5,613 na kabahayan sa mga barangay ng Bakia, Bitaoy, Botocan, Gagalot, Isabang, Piit, Rizal, at Taytay.

Maghahatid ang P90.18-M na proyekto ng 165 communal faucets sa mga komunidad kung saan ang tubig na magmumula dito ay manggagaling sa Taytay Falls sa Mt. Banahaw-San Cristobal Protected Landscape. Inaasahang matutugunan nito ang matagal nang problema ng mga komunidad sa hindi sapat na suplay ng tubig, mahabang pila sa pag-iigib, mapanganib na byahe sa paghahatid ng tubig sa mga komunidad, mga sakit dulot ng maruming tubig, at kaunting panahong nailalaan ng mga residente para sa kanilang mga kabuhayan gay ana lamang ng agrikultura.

Kapag nakumpleto ang proyekto, inaasahang magdudulot ito ng humigit-kumulang P227.81 milyong benepisyo sa mga natipid na oras sa pag-iigib ng tubig, nabawasang gastos sa pagpapagamot ng mga sakit na kaugnay ng maruming tubig, natipid na gastos sa pagbili ng tubig, at pagkukusang loob ng mga mamamayan na magbayad para sa mas maayos na serbisyo sa tubig. Ani Majayjay Mayor Romeo Amorado, malaki ang maitutulong ng proyekto sa paglago ng mga sektor ng agrikultura, kalusugan, turismo, at ekonomiya sa kanilang bayan. Ibinahagi din niya na may malaking potensyal ang Majayjay na paglagyan ng malalaking area ng taniman ng mga gulay.

Upang masiguradong lahat ng bahagi ng proyekto ay sumusunod sa disenyo at ipinapatupad ang social and environmental safeguards nito, ininspeksyon ito ng mga kinatawan ng DA-PRDP Regional Project Coordination Office CALABARZON. Sa kanilang pagbisita, namataan nilang ilang mga residente tulad nina Adela Bahilango, Ignacia Arasa, at Josefina Lurio ay ginagamit na ang isa sa mga tap stands ng proyekto.

"Malaking bagay para sa amin ang magkaroon na ng mas maayos na suplay ng tubig para sa aming pang-araw-araw na pamumuhay. Maraming salamat po," ani Ms. Bahilango.

Upang masigurado ang magiging sustenable ang proyekto at marami pang henerasyon ang magbebenepisyo rito, nangako ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Majayjay na sila ay maglalaan ng pondo at magpapatupad ng mga aktibidad upang mapanatili ang operasyon ng proyekto sa susunod na sampung taon. Samantala, patuloy ring susubaybayan ng DA-PRDP at DA Regional Field Office IV – CALABARZON ang proyekto. (PR)

be still and know
PSALM 46:10

CHIZ: NATIONWIDE AD BAN ON ONLINE GAMBLING COVERS ALL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero is pushing for a nationwide ban on gambling advertisements across all media platforms to curb addiction and protect vulnerable Filipinos.

In his "Chiz Wiz! Usapang May Laman" podcast aired on Sunday, Escudero discussed his proposed measure, Senate Bill No. 2347, which seeks to set firm, legally enforceable limits on how gambling platforms promote themselves.

"Iyan 'yung logic ng ating proposed legislation, huwag padaliin … Paano ba pahirapan 'to para hindi basta-basta makapaglaro," he stressed, noting that online gaming has become pervasive and easily accessible to adults and minors alike.

According to Escudero, there is a need to institutionalize the ban on gambling related advertising through legislation, to include the Ad Standards Council's voluntary guidelines requiring members to remove gambling imagery and paraphernalia across all media platforms because they are not legally enforceable.

This has prompted him to file SB 2347 to prohibit all forms of gambling sponsorships and advertisement across television, radio, print, online platforms, and social media, which he called the "first step in a broader effort to reduce gambling related harm."

"Ang kailangan ng batas ay itong sa advertisement dahil kailangan mong i-regulate dito 'yung mga private companies," he said.

The Bicolano senator said the country is moving toward a regulatory path similar to the tobacco industry, which began with the passage of Republic Act 9211 that banned, among others, cigarette advertising and later expanded to include graphic health warnings.

He noted that while many countries have long banned tobacco promotions, only a few impose strict prohibitions on gambling ads.

Spain limits broadcast hours and bans welcome bonuses, Italy's Dignity Decree prohibits its gambling advertising across all media and sports sponsorships, New Zealand bans affiliate marketing for online gambling, while China prohibits advertising for any internet or real money gambling.

According to Escudero, these examples show that full advertising bans remain rare globally, underscoring the significance of the Philippines' move toward stronger industry regulation and consumer protection.

Content creator and anti-gambling advocate Carlo Ople expressed support for the passage of SB 2347, saying online gambling apps are intentionally engineered to be addictive. "It was designed specifically to get you addicted … painless, effortless, and addictive," he told the senator during the podcast.

Meanwhile, recovering compulsive gambler Darren Telan committed to advocate for the legislation as he admitted that gambling advertisements are direct triggers for individuals trying to recover. "Kapag kami nakakita ng ads, babalik or trigger sa amin 'yun," he said.

Escudero said his proposed measure lays the groundwork for a more comprehensive regulatory framework for gambling in the Philippines.

The bill prohibits gambling advertisements and promotions, bans the use of celebrity endorsers and influencers, disallows bonus incentives that encourage betting, and bars the placement of gambling content across online, electronic, and physical media.

Walang tigil ang tensyon sa West Philippine Sea

Muling nanawagan ang Ministry of National Defense (MND) ng China ngayong linggo na tuluyan nang alisin ng Pilipinas ang BRP Sierra Madre (LT-57) mula sa Ayungin Shoal o Second Thomas Shoal.

Ayon sa isang spokesperson ng Beijing, ang BRP Sierra Madre ay isang "illegally grounded warship" na sakop umano ng kanilang tinatawag na Nansha Islands na tinatawag nilang Ren'ai Jiao, kaya dapat na raw itong tanggalin ng Maynila sa lalong madaling panahon.

Narito ang latest updates sa isyung ito: PH-Australia Joint Statement: Ang hirit ng China ay kasunod ng joint statement ng Pilipinas at Australia noong nakaraang linggo, kung saan tahasang kinondena ng dalawang bansa ang "destabilizing and dangerous conduct" at pangha-harass ng China Coast Guard (CCG) sa lugar.

Depensa ng Beijing: Ni-reject ng China ang mga batikos mula sa Pilipinas at Australia. Ipinagtanggol nila ang kanilang CCG personnel, at sinabing "professional" at may pagtitimpi raw ang naging kilos ng mga ito.

Nilinaw din ng Beijing na hindi sila aatras sa pagpapatupad ng law-enforcement operations sa teritoryong inaangkin nila.

Ang Matibay na Paninindigan ng Pilipinas: Matagal nang hindi kinikilala ng Maynila ang claims ng China.

Ang Ayungin Shoal ay pormal na pasok sa Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) ng Pilipinas. Sinadya ng bansa na isadsad ang BRP Sierra Madre sa Ayungin Shoal noong 1999 para magsilbing permanenteng military outpost ng Philippine Navy.

Higit 25 taon na ang nakalipas, kinakalawang man ang barko, nagsisilbi itong matibay na pisikal na simbolo ng paninindigan ng bansa—isang posisyong malinaw na hindi kailanman isusuko ng mga Pilipino.

Patuloy mang maging tensyonado ang mga resupply missions natin sa barko, nananatiling naka-angkla ang karapatan ng Pilipinas sa Ayungin Shoal.

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Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

Libreng Bakuna at Gamot, Mas Pinalalapit sa mga Lagunense; Dagdag-Doktor, Ihahatid sa Tatlong Pangunahing Ospital

Umabot sa 1,000 residente ng Barangay Kanluran, Santa Rosa City ang nakatanggap ng libreng flu vaccine mula sa Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Laguna sa pagpapatuloy ng programang pangkalusugan ni Governor Sol Aragones nitong Agosto 19.

Personal na nagtungo si Gov. Aragones sa vaccination activity upang kumustahin ang mga residenteng tumanggap ng libreng bakuna, lalo na ngayong panahon ng tag-ulan kung kailan karaniwan ang pagdami ng mga kaso ng trangkaso at iba pang sakit sa respiratory system.

Katuwang ng gobernador sa programa ang Provincial Health Office sa pangunguna ni PHO-OIC Dr. Odilon Inoncillo, Laguna Medical Team, mga Chief of Hospitals at iba pang health-care workers.

Samantala, hindi lamang sa Santa Rosa nakatuon ang mga serbisyong pangkalusugan ng lalawigan. Noong Agosto 20, sabay-sabay na inilapit sa mga residente ng apat na bayan at lungsod ang Akay ni Gob Mobile Botika at libreng flu vaccination.

Isinagawa ang mga aktibidad sa Barangay San Gregorio, Alaminos; Barangay Masaya, Bay; Barangay Maahas, Los Baños; at Barangay Marinig, Cabuyao.

Nakiisa sa operasyon ang mga kawani ng Governor's Office, Provincial Health Office, Laguna Health Team, Chief of Hospitals at mga health-care worker, katuwang ang mga lokal na opisyal, kabilang ang mga alkalde, bise alkalde, barangay officials at mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Bayan.

Dumalo rin si Board Member Angelica Jones Alarva sa aktibidad sa Alaminos, bilang pakikiisa sa paghahatid ng libreng serbisyong pangkalusugan sa mga residente.

Kasabay ng pagpapalawak ng community-based healthcare services, naghahanda rin ang Pamahalaang Panlalawigan para sa karagdagang deployment ng mga doktor sa tatlong pangunahing district hospital sa Laguna simula Agosto 24, 2026.

Sa pakikipagtulungan ng Laguna Health Team sa pangunguna ni Dr. Eric Tayag, tinatayang 20 doktor ang idaragdag sa kasalukuyang medical personnel ng Laguna Medical Center, Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial District Hospital sa Calamba City, at San Pablo District Hospital.

Layunin ng hakbang na mapalakas ang kapasidad ng mga ospital, madagdagan ang serbisyong medikal para sa mga pasyente at higit na masuportahan ang patuloy na pangangailangan ng mga Lagunense sa abot-kaya at de-kalidad na serbisyong pangkalusugan.

Sa magkakasabay na programa—mula sa libreng bakuna at gamot hanggang sa pagpapalakas ng mga ospital—patuloy na itinutulak ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ang layunin nitong mailapit ang serbisyong pangkalusugan sa bawat komunidad sa Laguna.

EXPLICIT

Madelaine Go

DALAWANG MOST WANTED PERSONS, TIMBOG SAMAGKAHIWALAY NA MANHUNT NG RIZAL

Dalawang Most Wanted Persons ang nasakote sa magkahiwalay na operasyon ng mga operatiba ng Binangonan Municipal Police Station (MPS) at Taytay MPS noong Hulyo 27, 2026, bilang bahagi ng pinaigting na kampanya ng Rizal Police Provincial Office (Rizal PPO) laban sa mga nagtatagong akusado. Bandang 2:50 ng hapon nang maaresto sa Brgy. Batingan, Binangonan si alyas "Jhong," na nakatala bilang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person. Inaresto siya sa bisa ng warrant of arrest kaugnay ng kasong Acts of Lasciviousness, na may inirekomendang piyansa na ₱200,000.

Sa hiwalay namang operasyon, bandang 5:10 ng hapon, nadakip sa Brgy. Sta. Ana, Taytay si alyas "Francis," isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person. Nahaharap siya sa kasong Estafa at inaresto sa bisa ng warrant of arrest na inilabas ng Regional Trial Court, Branch 114, Bacoor, Cavite. Ayon sa pulisya, maayos na ipinaalam sa dalawang akusado ang kanilang mga karapatan matapos ang pag-aresto.

Kasalukuyan silang nasa kani-kanilang custodial facility habang isinasagawa ang kaukulang dokumentasyon at iba pang legal na proseso. Binigyang-diin ni Rizal PPO Provincial Director PCOL ATTY. Eleazar R. Barber Jr.

na hindi titigil ang kanilang tanggapan sa pagtugis sa mga wanted na personalidad. "Hindi titigil ang Rizal PPO sa paghahanap at pag-aresto sa mga wanted na personalidad. Ang bawat matagumpay na operasyon ay patunay ng ating matatag na paninindigan na pairalin ang batas at tiyaking mananagot ang sinumang umiiwas sa hustisya.

Patuloy naming paiigtingin ang aming kampanya upang mapanatili ang kapayapaan at kaligtasan ng bawat mamamayan sa lalawigan ng Rizal," ani Barber.

Samantala, muling nanawagan ang Rizal PPO sa publiko na makipagtulungan sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng impormasyon na makatutulong sa pagdakip sa iba pang mga wanted na indibidwal, bilang bahagi ng patuloy na pagsisikap na mapanatili ang isang ligtas at mapayapang komunidad.

LOVE
love

PUBLISHER CORNER

CHINA REJECTS PHILIPPINES-AUSTRALIA JOINT STATEMENT, MAINTAINS PATROLS AT AYUNGIN SHOAL

BEIJING — China's Ministry of National Defense has formally rejected the joint statement issued by the Philippines and Australia expressing concern over maritime conduct in the South China Sea. Beijing affirmed that its forces will continue regular law enforcement operations around Ayungin Shoal despite international criticism.

Speaking on Friday, Senior Colonel Chen Xi, spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defense, stated that Beijing firmly opposes what it described as unfounded accusations and smears from Manila and Canberra. The remarks came in direct response to the third Philippines-Australia Defense Ministers' Meeting held in Darwin.

During that meeting, Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. and Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles jointly raised concern over what they called destabilizing and dangerous conduct by Chinese vessels operating near disputed features. The two ministers reaffirmed their shared commitment to freedom of navigation and adherence to international maritime law.

Chen Xi maintained that operations conducted by the China Coast Guard were necessary, professional, and restrained. He described the deployments as countermeasures taken in response to alleged provocations from the Philippine side. No specific incidents or dates were cited in the official statement.

The spokesperson reaffirmed Beijing's long-standing territorial claim over the shoal, which it refers to as Ren'ai Reef. He stated the feature forms part of China's Nansha Qundao, rejecting any competing legal or territorial assertions. The position remains unchanged despite widespread international recognition of Philippine claims.

Beijing also repeated its demand for the Philippines to remove the BRP Sierra Madre from the shoal. The vessel has been grounded at the location since 1999 and serves as the country's permanent military outpost. China has long called for its removal as a condition for reducing pressure in the area.

The statement included a direct warning to third-party nations. It urged external powers to stop provoking confrontation and undermining regional peace and stability. The remark appeared to be directed at Australia and other allies whose growing security cooperation with the Philippines has drawn criticism from Beijing.

The exchange underscores deepening friction across the West Philippine Sea. Under the 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, Ayungin Shoal lies within the Philippine exclusive economic zone and continental shelf. The tribunal determined China's broad historical claims have no legal basis under international law, a decision Beijing continues to reject.

Manila and Canberra have steadily expanded their defense cooperation under their Strategic Partnership. Both nations have emphasized shared interests in upholding freedom of navigation, maintaining regional security, and ensuring full respect for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

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TECH AND PLAY MONTH TAKES OVER SM CITY TRECE MARTIRES

Technology and fun come together at Tech and Play Month at SM City Trece Martires, featuring exciting tech finds, cool gadgets, and engaging experiences for tech and gaming enthusiasts.

Visitors can explore, play, and discover something new at the Lower Ground Floor, Event Center throughout the month

DBM naglabas ng PhP1.855 B dagdag na pondo para sa PGH

Naglabas ang Department of Budget and Management (DBM) ng karagdagang PhP1.855 bilyong pondo para sa Philippine General Hospital (PGH), kabilang ang PhP800 milyon para sa Zero Balance Billing (ZBB).

Ang pondo ay alinsunod sa direktiba ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. na ipagpatuloy ang mahahalagang serbisyo ng PGH at makatulong sa pagpapababa ng gastusin sa pagpapagamot ng mga Pilipino.

"Alinsunod ito sa utos ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. na tulungan ang mga pasyente sa kanilang gastusin sa hospitalization habang sinusuportahan ang critical medical at specialized services ng pangunahing public referral hospital ng bansa," ayon kay Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary at Palace Press Officer Claire Castro sa Palace press briefing nitong Miyerkoles.

Ayon kay Castro, PhP1.040 bilyon sa karagdagang pondo ay gagamitin para sa pagbibigay ng mga serbisyong medikal sa PGH. Bukod sa ZBB at iba pang serbisyo, PhP15 milyon ang ilalaan para sa paggamot ng Dystonia-Parkinsonism o Lubag Syndrome.

Makatutulong ito upang matiyak na patuloy na makatatanggap ng espesyal na gamutan ang mga pasyenteng may ganitong kondisyon.

Sinabi ni Castro na ang karagdagang pondo ay nagpapakita ng layunin ng Pangulo na gawing prayoridad ang kalusugan at iba pang mahahalagang serbisyong pampubliko.

Sa hiwalay na pahayag, sinabi ni DBM Acting Secretary Kim Robert De Leon na direktang ilalaan ang karagdagang pondo sa isa sa pinakamalaking problema ng mga pamilyang Pilipino—ang gastusin kapag nagkakasakit.

Bilang pambansang university hospital at isa sa pangunahing referral centers ng bansa, tumatanggap ang PGH ng mga pasyenteng nangangailangan ng iba't ibang serbisyong medikal, kabilang ang mga kumplikado at espesyal na kaso mula sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa.

Binigyang-diin ng Budget Secretary na ang pagpapalabas ng pondo ay bahagi ng direktiba ni Pangulong Marcos na manatiling pangunahing prayoridad ng pamahalaan ang healthcare at iba pang mahahalagang serbisyong pampubliko, sa kabila ng limitadong pondo at iba pang pangangailangan ng bansa.

Ayon sa DBM, isinagawa ang pagpapalabas ng pondo alinsunod sa mga umiiral na budget execution rules and requirements upang matiyak na magagamit ang karagdagang pondo ng PGH sa tamang layunin at may sapat na safeguards para sa responsableng paggamit ng pera ng bayan. | PND

Kidz Groove Special Advocacy Show Celebrates Talent, Inclusion, and Confidence at SM City Tanza

SM City Tanza came alive with music, laughter, and inspiring performances during the Kidz Groove Special Advocacy Show, a celebration of talent, confidence, and inclusion for neurodivergent children.

The special event featured Ms. Gladys Reyes, Christof, Macoy, Coach Dar, and Kidz Groove Founder Ms. Princess Ryan, who joined the celebration and helped create a fun and meaningful experience for the young participants.

More than a showcase of talent, the event highlighted the importance of providing an inclusive space where every child can express themselves, build confidence, and shine in their own way.

The advocacy continues through the Kidz Groove weekly dance workshop, held every

Monday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at SM City Tanza, where children can learn, connect, and groove together in a welcoming and supportive environment.

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CARD RBI, kinilala sa Gawad TANYAG Awards 2026 ng LANDBANK

Tinanggap ni Lyneth Derequito, Pangulo at CEO ng CARD RBI (pangalawa mula sa kaliwa), ang Gawad Partner Financial Institution sa ginanap na LANDBANK Gawad TANYAG 2026.

Kinilala ang CARD MRI Rizal Bank, Inc. (CARD RBI) bilang isa sa mga natatanging institusyong pinansyal sa Gawad TANYAG Awards sa pagdiriwang ng ika-63 anibersaryo ng LANDBANK noong Agosto 8, 2026.

Tinanggap ng bangko ang Gawad Partner Financial Institution (PFI) Outstanding Rural Bank Award bilang pagkilala sa mga pagsisikap at kontribusyon nito sa pagpapalawak ng akses sa serbisyong pinansyal para sa mga nasa laylayang komunidad at pamilyang Pilipino.

"Ipinakikita ng parangal na ito ang aming dedikasyon sa pagpapatibay ng mga komunidad sa malalayong lugar sa bansa at sa paggamit ng mga pagkakataon upang palawakin ang kanilang mga oportunidad sa kabuhayan. Ito ang mahalagang epekto ng pagtataguyod ng financial inclusion," pahayag ni Lyneth Derequito, Pangulo at CEO ng CARD RBI.

Dagdag pa ni Derequito, ang pagkilalang ito ay para sa mga kawani ng bangko at sa mga nagtitiwalang kliyente nito. "Ang kanilang mga pangarap na magkaroon ng mas mabuting buhay ang nagtutulak sa amin upang patuloy na palawakin ang aming serbisyo para sa mas maraming Pilipinong walang akses sa pampinansyal na serbisyo, at mabigyan sila ng parehong oportunidad para sa kanilang pag-unlad."

Ang Gawad TANYAG (TANging YAman at Galing) Awards ay isang programa ng pagkilala sa mga kliyente at partner na nangunguna sa pagpapaunlad ng komunidad sa pamamagitan ng kahusayan, makabagong pamamaraan, at serbisyo.

Ang CARD RBI, na isang microfinance-oriented rural bank ng CARD MRI, ay nagbibigay ng mga produkto at serbisyong pinansyal na nakatuon sa mga nasa laylayan at sa maliliit na negosyante. Kabilang dito ang microfinance, solar loan, tulong pinansyal sa edukasyon at kalusugan, savings account, at serbisyo sa remittance. Sa pakikipagtulungan nito sa CARD MRI network, nagbibigay rin ito ng microinsurance, suporta sa pagpapalago ng negosyo, at iba't ibang programang pangkomunidad.

Mula noong Hunyo 2026, ang CARD RBI ay may 405 opisina at 2,016 na empleyado na naglilingkod sa 946,868 na kliyente sa buong bansa. Ang bangko ay mayroon na ring mahigit PHP 9 bilyon na naipautang na may 99.32% repayment rate. (PR)

Medical and Dental Mission brings essential health services to Pasong Kawayan II

The Provincial Government of Cavite continued to bring accessible healthcare services closer to communities as a medical and dental mission was conducted on August 5, 2026, in Barangay Pasong Kawayan II, City of General Trias, benefiting a total of 573 residents.

The activity provided community members with essential medical and dental services through the of doctors and healthcare professionals from the General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH) and the AMIGA District Hospital, with the assistance of barangay health workers (BHWs). The health mission offered residents an opportunity to avail medical consultations and dental services without having to travel far from their community.

Board Member Kerby Salazar was present during the activity, demonstrating support for initiatives that promote accessible and responsive healthcare services for Caviteños. — OPIO

DEPED SETS NATIONWIDE ACTIVE-THREAT DRILL ON AUG. 25

MANILA – Schools across the country will simultaneously test how quickly they can respond, evacuate and reunite students with their families during an active human-induced threat on Aug. 25, as the Department of Education (DepEd) applies lessons from the recent shootings in Tacloban and Zamboanga City.

DepEd Undersecretary Malcolm Garma told a Senate hearing Thursday that the department has completed protocols for the exercise with the Philippine National Police (PNP) after initially testing them at Manila Science High School.

"We will be rolling out the nationwide simultaneous drill for August 25. Next week po yan, Madam Chair (That will be next week, Madam Chair)," Garma said.

Unlike conventional earthquake drills, the exercise will test how school personnel and learners react while a human-induced threat is unfolding and what happens immediately afterward.

Garma said a major component will be the reunification stage, where students, parents, medical responders and police are directed to designated areas instead of converging chaotically around the school.

"Malaking bahagi po dun sa drills namin yung tinatawag po namin reunification stage kung saan alam ho ng mga involved kung saan pupunta, saan mag-iipon-ipon together with the medical responders, the police enforcers, nasa isang lugar (A major part of our drills is what we call the reunification stage, where everyone involved knows where to go and where to gather together with medical responders and police in one place)," he said.

The protocol is an offshoot of DepEd's assessment of the Tacloban shooting, where Garma said the post-incident situation became chaotic because students and parents did not immediately know where to go.

"Isa pong bagay na natutunan namin at sana ma-institutionalize na po natin is really the need for the drills (One thing we learned, and which we hope to institutionalize, is really the need for drills)," he said.

The nationwide exercise will be conducted in cooperation with the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Garma said preparedness could also serve as a deterrent if potential attackers know that schools have established procedures for responding immediately to violence.

"Importante yung preparation and readiness and awareness ng school to react, immediately to react kung meron hong ganitong ongoing threat (The preparation, readiness and awareness of schools are important so they can react immediately when there is an ongoing threat)," he said.

Sen. Risa Hontiveros, chair of the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality, said recent incidents have forced schools to prepare for threats beyond the usual natural disasters.

"It's just sad, but a reality today na kailangan tuloy magkaroon ng protocols and drills on active human-induced threats.

So hindi na lang po yung usual na earthquake drills natin na duck, cover and hold (It is just sad, but it's a reality today that we now need protocols and drills on active human-induced threats. So, it is no longer just the usual earthquake drills where we duck, cover and hold)," Hontiveros noted.

DepEd said the Aug. 25 exercise will allow officials to assess how the protocol works at the school level and identify gaps that need to be addressed before the system is further institutionalized. (PNA)