



Philippine oil spill reaches fishing town, threatens livelihoods



A drone view shows an oil slick in the waters off the coast of Manila Bay, in Pamarawan, Malolos, Bulacan province, Philippines, on Jul 29, 2024. (Photo: REUTERS/Adrian Portugal)

TANZA, Philippines: An oil spill from a marine tanker that capsized off the coast of Manila Bay in the Philippines has reached the shores of a nearby fishing village, threatening the health and livelihood of fishermen, as efforts began to mop up the fuel.

MT Terra Nova was carrying 1.5 million litres of industrial fuel when it sank in rough seas off the coast of Limay in the

province of Bataan, west of the Philippine capital, on Thursday. One member of the 17-strong crew was killed.

Fishermen in the town of Tanza in Cavite province, south of Manila, were distraught after the oil slick landed on the town's shores and they reported smelling a foul odour.

"This oil spill will have a big effect on us

fishermen because we rely on the sea and it has been affected by the oil," said 48-year-old Renan Honsana.

"We would need to sell our catches very cheap because people would not buy it. Where can we get our livelihood except from this sea?" Honsana added.

The Philippine coastguard said it has sealed the leak from the

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'Carina' leaves P29.1-M irrigation, P112-M crop damage in Calabarzon

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in Region 4A (Calabarzon) has placed the estimated damage caused by Super Typhoon Carina to its irrigation systems at PHP29.1 million and approximately PHP111.81 million in agricultural losses, especially on rice crops.

Engr. Precious Palacol, senior engineer at NIA Calabarzon, said in a phone interview on Tuesday that immediate repairs worth PHP5.1 million are needed for Level 1 damage, which involves restoring service areas, and PHP24 million for Level 2 damage, which entails more extensive repairs to restore facilities to their original condition.

Among the notable damages reported are a 20-meter collapsed canal lining on the west main canal of the Mayor River Irrigation System (RIS) in Mabitan, Laguna; the sluice gate of the Matanda River Irrigation System in

Tanza, Cavite; and the brass dam and river channeling of the Agos River Irrigation System (RIS) in Infanta, Quezon.

In terms of agricultural impact, Palacol reported that 4,987 hectares of farmland and 5,134 farmers have been affected, with estimated crop losses reaching PHP111.81 million, predominantly affecting rice crops in their vegetative stage.

Laguna province experienced the greatest damage, with PHP45.8 million reported under communal irrigation systems and PHP 34 million under national irrigation systems.

The damage report will be forwarded to the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council for Quick Response Fund assistance.

"Since last week, NIA Calabarzon, supported by Irrigators Associations, has

initiated desilting and clearing operations along irrigation canals to

remove debris and restore water flow," Palacol said. (ZT/PNA)



CLEAN-UP WORKS. National Irrigation Administration (NIA)-Calabarzon personnel and members of irrigators associations conducting desilting and clearing operations along irrigation canals to remove debris and restore water flow after Super Typhoon Carina in this undated photo. NIA placed the estimated damage caused by 'Carina' to its irrigation systems at PHP29.1 million and approximately PHP111.81 million in agricultural losses, especially on rice crops. (Photo courtesy of NIA-Calabarzon)

CAVITEX C5 Link Sucat Interchange remains free to use for a limited time

The CAVITEX C5 Link Sucat Interchange will remain toll-free for a limited time.

On its Facebook page, CAVITEX said users will only have to pay the toll fee for the Parañaque Segment if they will use the Sucat Interchange.

The toll fees for the Parañaque segment are as follows:

- Class 1: Php 17.00
- Class 2: Php 35.00
- Class 3: Php 52.00

The Philippine Reclamation Authority to suspend the collection of toll for all vehicles passing through the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway in Taguig, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Bacoor, and Kawit for 30 days. (ABS-CBN News)



Photo: Top Gear Philippines

DepEd told to train teachers, provide students with books

The implementation of the MATATAG curriculum goes beyond rhetoric, says Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, even as he cites the urgent need for the Department of Education (DepEd) to fully address two major concerns: the absence of pre-service among teachers and the inadequate supply of quality learning materials for students.

Citing data from the Second Congressional Commission on Education's (EDCOM II), Gatchalian, in his capacity as chairman of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, urged DepEd Secretary Sonny Angara to seriously consider aligning pre-service training with the MATATAG curriculum, which, according to him, requires the activation of the revamped Teacher Education Council (TEC).

Taking a cue from Republic Act 11713 (Excellence in Teacher Education Act),

Gatchalian hinted at its provisions mandating TEC to improve the quality of teacher education and training in the country and establish basic requirements for teacher education programs.

"Matagal nating hinintay ang paglunsad ng MATATAG curriculum at ngayong sisimulan na natin ang pagpapatupad nito, mahalagang ibigay natin sa ating mga guro ang suportang kinakailangan nila," said Gatchalian, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Basic Education.

(We've waited long enough for its [Matatag Curriculum] launch, and now that we're ready to commence, we must give all the support the teachers need.)

The senator likewise gave a premium on the need to procure sufficient quality learning materials as provided for under the proposed Senate Resolution 972, which he filed based on EDCOM II findings. Gatchalian's SR

972 cited the need to assess the agency's procurement of textbooks and learning materials.

Since the introduction of the K to 12 curriculum in 2013, Gatchalian claimed that the education department was only able to procure 27 of the 90 required textbook titles for Grades 1 to 10.

Moreover, only learners in Grades 5 and 6 have complete sets of textbooks for all subjects, for which DepEd made a commitment to deliver 80% of textbooks for Grades 1, 4, and 7 students by July 2024.

This year's national budget allotted more than P700 million for the in-service training of public school teachers, administrators, and education support personnel.

To support the implementation of the MATATAG curriculum, the allocation also covers professional development programs to train teachers from kindergarten to grade 10. (JCO/PIA-NCR)



As public schools open for School Year 2024-2025, Senator Win Gatchalian is urging the Department of Education (DepEd) to ensure the effective implementation of the MATATAG Curriculum, which entails teachers' readiness and the availability of quality learning materials. (Contributed photo)

Philippine oil spill... from page 1

capsized tanker and would start siphoning the oil out to prevent more fuel from leaking out. It surveyed the waters of Limay, Bulacan and Cavite by air and observed "minimal oil sheen".

Officials were investigating whether the sinking was related to Typhoon Gaemi, which intensified monsoon rains in the Philippines,

triggering floods and landslides that killed at least 36 people.

An oil spill from tanker MT Princess Empress, which was carrying about 800,000 litres of industrial fuel when it capsized and eventually sank in February last year, took three months to clean up, affecting tourist towns. (Source: Reuters/ec)



A view of the oil slick in the waters off the coast of Manila Bay, in Pamarawan, Malolos, Philippines, on Jul 29, 2024. (Photo: REUTERS/Lisa Marie David)

Successful Community Clean-up Drive for TUPAD Beneficiaries in Kawit, Cavite

In a commendable effort to maintain a clean environment and support disadvantaged workers, First District Representative Jolo Revilla, in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM),

successfully conducted a community clean-up drive under the Tulong Pang-hanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program on July 10, 2024, in Kawit, Cavite.

Starting as early as 5:30 in the morning, 100 beneficiaries of the TUPAD program joined forces to clean the

esteros and drainage systems of Brgy. Batong Dali, Kawit. This significant event showcased the community's dedication to environmental conservation and the empowerment of displaced, underemployed, and seasonal workers

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Bringing Smiles and Health: Medical and Dental Mission in Dasmariñas City

The PGC's medical and dental mission, held at the covered court of Brgy. San Antonio de Padua I in the City of Dasmariñas, was a resounding success, delivering essential health services to 356 residents.

Medical and dental professionals from GEAMH generously offered their expertise and knowledge, ensuring residents received top-notch care. Services provided included basic medical check-ups, dental consultations, extraction, and treatments. Furthermore, maintenance medicines and multivitamins were distributed to enhance recovery and boost overall

health.

The event's success was achieved through the combined efforts of local officials, especially Barangay Chairman Carter P. Manzano, dedicated

medical professionals, and committed staff. Their teamwork and coordination ensured the mission's smooth execution, leading to a beneficial outcome for the community.--- OPIO





Medical mission in Bucandala II-A brings health services to more than 500 Imuseños

A medical mission in Brgy. Bucandala II-A, spearheaded by the Provincial Government of Cavite in partnership with the local government of the City of Imus brought essential health services to more than 500 Imuseños. This initiative is a testament to the dedication of the provincial government and its healthcare partners to provide accessible medical care to those in need.

The event, which saw an impressive turnout, was marked by a range of medical services including general check-

ups, laboratory testing and the provision of prescribed medications. The medical team, composed of skilled doctors and healthcare workers from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and City Health Office with the assistance of barangay health workers, worked tirelessly to ensure that each beneficiary received the care they needed.

Local officials expressed their gratitude for the support and highlighted the importance of such initiatives in promoting community health. The

mission not only addressed immediate health concerns but also underscored the continuous effort to

improve the well-being of Caviteños.

As the day concluded, the smiles and expressions of relief from

the residents were clear indicators of the mission's success, leaving a lasting impact on the community.--- **OPIO**

Successful...

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through temporary employment.

TUPAD is a vital community-based safety net initiative that provides short-term jobs to workers in the informal sector. Under this program, beneficiaries are employed for a minimum period of 10 days, not exceeding 30 days, and are paid the minimum wage by DOLE. This initiative not only aids in immediate financial support but also fosters community spirit and involvement in essential environmental activities.

The clean-up drive is part of the broader efforts of the TUPAD program to offer meaningful employment while addressing environmental concerns. Through initiatives like this, the program continues to support the livelihoods of many while promoting sustainable practices within the community.--- **OPIO**

Rosario residents join forces for coastal clean-up through DOLE's TUPAD Program

First District Representative Jolo Revilla and the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM) organized a coastline clean-up drive in Wawa I, Rosario, Cavite as part of a joint effort to save the environment and support local livelihoods. This

program, which is a component of the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) project of the Department of Labor and work (DOLE), aims to provide temporary work while addressing the urgent problem of coastal pollution.

TUPAD recipients put in a lot of effort, armed with garbage bags and a shared will to get rid of trash, plastic garbage, and other contaminants that degrade the health and beauty of the coastline.

The TUPAD initiative, known for providing short-term

employment to the unemployed or displaced, allowed members to earn money while also helping to clean up the environment. This coastal cleanup is part of a larger effort to promote environmental sustainability and increase community involvement.--- **OPIO**

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PBBM, nanguna sa pag-alala sa kabayanihan ni Apolinario Mabini

LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS — Pinangunahan ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ang programa at selebrasyon sa ika-160 taong kapanganakan ni Apolinario Mabini sa dambana ng bayani sa Brgy. Talaga, Tanauan City, Batangas nitong Martes, ika-23 ng Hulyo.

Nag-alay ng bulaklak ang Pangulo sa bantayog ni Mabini, kasama sina Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Romeo Brawner at National Historical Commission of the Philippines Chair Regalado Trota Jose Jr., na dinaluhan rin ng iba pang opisyal mula sa lokal at nasyunal na pamahalaan.

Sa mensahe ni Pangulong Marcos, binigyang-diin niya na dapat gawing inspirasyon ng mga kabataan si Mabini upang magpunyagi sa buhay, partikular sa mga pilosopiyang pampolitika at panlipunan na makakapag-ambag sa bansa tungo sa Bagong Pilipinas.

“Ang kaniyang ipinamanang lakas ng loob ay nabubuhay sa kanila at sa maraming Pilipino na patuloy na nag-aalay ng kanilang husay at talento para sa

patuloy na pag-unlad ng Pilipinas. Tinatawagan ko ang mga kabataang Pilipino ngayon na gawing inspirasyon at halimbawa ang buhay ni Apolinario Mabini upang magpunyagi sa buhay,”

Bukod pa dito, inaalala din ng Pangulo ang mga kontribusyon ng dakilang paralitiko na nagpamalas ng tatawag, determinasyon at katalinuhan sa pagtataguyod ng reporma sa panahon ng kolonyalismo.

“Sa kabila ng kapansanang ito, hindi [nito] naparalisa ang kaniyang nag-aalab na puso at matatag na diwa. Ang kalagayan niya ang siyang nagbigay-lakas sa kaniya na gamitin ang talas ng kaniyang isip bilang sandata laban sa kawalang-katarungan, pang-aabuso, at pang-aapi sa mga kapwa Pilipino,” dagdag ng Pangulo.

Matapos ang seremonya, nilibot ni PBBM ang kabuuan ng museo na sumasalamín sa pagkatao ng bayani simula sa kanyang kabataan, pagpunyagi at mga natatanging kontribusyon sa kasaysayan ng Pilipinas.

Sa panayam kay Rico Mabini Talansag, Pangulo ng Brgy. Talaga

at isa mga descendants ni Mabini, aniya, masaya siya tuwing ipagdiriwang ang kaarawan ng kanilang lolo, lalo’t higit kapag binibisita sila ng Pangulo ng bansa at iba pang kilala at tinitingalang personalidad.

“Masaya po kaming buong pamilya sapagkat tunay na maipagmamalaki ang aming lolo at ang kanyang mga nakamit na tagumpay lalo na at siya ang itinuturing na “Utak ng Himagsikan”. Isang Batanguenong kilala hindi lamang sa Lalawigan ng Batangas kundi sa buong bansa dahilan sa naging kontribusyon nito sa kasaysayan natin”, ani Talansag.

Kilala bilang Dakilang Lumpo, si Mabini ay isang nasyonalistang abogado at itinuturing na “Utak ng Himagsikan” na nagsilbing pangunahing tagapayo ni dating pangulong Emilio Aguinaldo at isa sa mga nagsulong sa pagsuo ng Unang Republika ng Pilipinas noong 1899.

Ang Mabini Shrine ay bukas sa lahat ng mga indibidwal o grupong nagnanais na malaman ang kasaysayan ng buhay at legasiya ng bayani. (MPDC/PIA-Batangas)



Pinangunahan ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ang programa at selebrasyon sa ika-160 taong kapanganakan ni Apolinario Mabini sa dambana ng bayani sa Brgy. Talaga, Tanauan City, Batangas. (PIA-4A)

Japanese firms looking to hire 1,400 workers in Batangas: FPIP



Prospective employees wait for their turn to fill up application forms during the recent “Sulong Buhay Job Fair” that First Philippine Industrial Park held recently in coordination with the local government unit of Santo Tomas City in Batangas. Four Japanese locators in FPIP posted 1,430 job openings during the fair. Handout

Four Japanese companies within the Lopez-led First Philippine Industrial Park (FPIP) economic zone in Batangas are set to hire over 1,400 additional workers.

The announcement was made during the “Sulong Buhay Job Fair” held on July 18 at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) campus in Santo Tomas City. The job fair was a collaborative effort between FPIP, the local government unit (LGU) of Santo Tomas City, and other stakeholders.

John Carlo Navalta, FPIP’s external relations manager, said Brother Industries (Philippines) Inc., Canon Business Machines (Philippines),

Inc., Ividen (Philippines) Inc., and Philippine Manufacturing Co. of Murata, Inc. are the four companies seeking new employees.

These companies collectively need at least 1,430 workers, with nearly a thousand positions for engineers, accountants, nurses, human resource personnel, and other office-based roles. So far, 457 applicants, mostly fresh or recent PUP graduates, have passed the initial screening and will proceed to further evaluations and interviews. Approximately 1,000 positions remain available.

Santo Tomas Mayor Arth Jhun Aguilar

Marasigan highlighted the importance of the job fair in bridging the gap between the demand for workers by local companies and the employment needs of Santo Tomas residents. “This is one way for us to help the locators hire professionals who are home-grown talents in Santo Tomas and the province of Batangas. At the same time, it gives Tomasinos opportunities to get decent and high-quality jobs,” she said.

Vice Mayor Catherine Jaurigue-Perez emphasized the significance of collaboration among local stakeholders, including FPIP, its locators, and PUP,

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Typhoon Carina victims receive aid from NICA-NCRO 'Hatid Tulong' relief operations



The National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) National Capital Region Regional Office led relief operations for victims of Typhoon Carina, dubbed "Hatid Tulong para sa Nasalanta ng Bagyo mula sa NICA-NCRO at Young Siblings."

The operations, spearheaded by NICA-NCRO Regional Director Dennis Godfrey F. Gammad, were conducted at the Barangay Hall in Barangay Malinta, Valenzuela City, and in Barangay 162, Sta. Quiteria, Caloocan City.

The Young Siblings, comprised of Christine Young, John Christian Young, and Justyne Jeimz Young, sponsored the relief operations. RD Gammad acknowledged that the funds for the relief packs were from the Young Siblings' personal allowances, stating, "Ang tulong po na ito ay punong-punong pagmamahal at malasakit." (This help is full of love and care.)

In Valenzuela City, Punong Barangay and Barangay Task Force-ELCAC-Malinta Chair Romeo "Buding" Balajadia, PLTCOL Amor

Cerillo (Assistant Chief of Police for Administration), PCPT Reymund Andujar (Chief, Sub-Station 4, Valenzuela City Police), and PEMS Jumer Aguinaldo (Chief Executive Senior Police Officer) were present during the distribution of 300 relief packs to affected families.

Meanwhile, in Caloocan City, NICA-NCRO provided relief packs to 150 affected families in the Ignacio compound, Barangay 162.

The packs were received by Kagawad Egay de Jesus on behalf of Punong Barangay Ronald Nagusara.

In his speech, RD Gammad expressed that the activity was "NICA-NCRO's own little way of

providing assistance to our 'kababayans' who were deeply affected by the recent typhoon."

"While this is not enough, the thought of giving assistance to them is more important to tide them over from the onslaught of the typhoon," Gammad said, adding, "Walang tutulong sa Pilipino kung hindi ang kapwa Pilipino. Kahit ang tulong na ito ay maliit at hindi sapat sa pang-araw-araw ninyong pangangailangan."

(Filipinos will always help fellow Filipinos. Even if this help is small and not enough for your daily needs.)

The relief operations were part of NICA-NCRO's efforts to support communities affected by Typhoon Carina, which caused significant damage and disruption in the cities of Valenzuela and Caloocan. (JCO/PIA-NCR)



Japanese firms looking... from page 4

in fostering the city's growth.

Established by Lopez-controlled First Philippine Holdings Corporation in partnership with Japan's Sumitomo Corporation, FPIP is a premier location for global manufacturers and traders. The 520-hectare ecozone, straddling Santo Tomas and Tanauan in Batangas, provides employment to nearly 70,000 Filipinos and generates significant tax revenues for the local government units.

FPIP's creation aligns with the vision of its late Chairman Emeritus Oscar M. Lopez, who aimed to promote

national development through industrial growth and job creation.

The four Japanese firms within FPIP specialize in various fields: Brother Industries (Philippines) produces office equipment, Canon Business Machines (Philippines) deals in computer peripherals, Ibiden (Philippines) manufactures semiconductor packages, and Philippine Manufacturing Co. of Murata Inc. produces electronic components.

FPIP and ABS-CBN Corp are part of the Lopez Group of Companies. (ABS-CBN News)

Luzon-NCR ROTC games, nagbukas sa Indang, Cavite

Pormal na nagbukas ang Luzon-National Capital Region (NCR) qualifying leg ng Philippine Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Games sa Cavite State University, Indang, Cavite kamakailan.

Ang opening Ceremony ay dinaluhan ni Senator Francis N. Tolentino at Senator Robin C. Padilla kasama ang 1,800 ROTC cadets mula sa 118 kolehiyo at unibersidad sa Luzon at Metro Manila.

Sa kanyang mensahe, binigyang diin ni Sen. Padilla ang kahalagahan ng "sportsmanship" at pagkakaisa ng lahat ng kadete.

Sa kumpetisyon na tatagal hanggang sa Agosto 3, ay magpapaligsahan ang mga ROTC cadet sa iba't ibang palaro, kabilang ang basketball, volleyball, arnis, boxing, kickboxing, athletics, at e-games.

Ang aktibidad na may temang "Husay ng ROTC, Husay ng Kabataan" ay naglalayong ma-develop ang abilidad sa palakasan ng kabataan, at isulong ang ROTC program. (ulat ni Leo Sarne)



Senator Francis N. Tolentino



Photos from Pfc Divino S. Lozano, OACPA

PH, US working to conclude military intel pact by end of 2024

MANILA — The Philippines and the United States are working to conclude and sign a key military intelligence sharing deal by the end of the year, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin III said Tuesday.

Speaking after the 2+2 Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, Austin said both nations are committed to making the defense alliance “even more secure through technology and security and cyber cooperation”.

“We reiterated our shared intent to conclude a general security of military information agreement (GSOMIA) by the end of the year. Now, that’s crucial to our shared cybersecurity goals,” he said.

According to a US-Philippine joint statement following the 2+2, this GSOMIA would lay the foundation for “enhanced, expanded, and timely sharing of information and defense technology”.

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr.,

meanwhile, said the deal would serve as a tool to help the Philippines develop its operational security.

“It is an attempt and a continuing exercise to develop our operational security, which is a required stepping stone for our development of an armed force and a defense establishment with increasing sophistication to deal with vulnerabilities and with unpredictabilities in the future defense situation and picture,” he said.

At the dialogue, Austin, Teodoro, Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo and State Secretary Antony Blinken also agreed to advance cybersecurity cooperation by investing in the capabilities of the Philippines.

These include the US providing an integrated cyber range and training platform and on-demand training to develop and sustain a capable and skilled cyber workforce.

Enhancing economic ties

On top of fortifying

what the four ministers called a “maturing and modern” defense alliance, the two states are also finding ways to foster economic resilience.

“Both sides reiterated the importance of ensuring that the alliance promotes security in its broadest sense — building more resilient and sustainable communities and economies, increasing trade with more diverse and reliable partners, and deterring, countering, and mitigating harm from potential economic coercion,” the joint statement read.

In the past year, the US deployed its first-ever Presidential Trade and Investment Mission to the country and launched the Luzon Economic Corridor (LEC) during a historic trilateral leaders’ summit with Japan and the Philippines in April, among others.

At the 2+2, the officials said they would help “drive progress” on the LEC, including identifying initial priority projects later this year for investment.

They also agreed to further cooperate on critical minerals processing and strengthen private sector partnerships, particularly shipbuilding and ship repair.

They also emphasized the need to “operationalize opportunities” under the

bilateral 123 Agreement for civil nuclear energy by helping Manila “develop the workforce, regulatory environment, and strong commercial partnerships that will enable (the) development of a robust, safe civil nuclear sector”.

Within the year alone, the two states would convene various high-level meetings, including the 2nd Energy Policy Dialogue in Manila to diversify critical minerals supply chains, promote

renewable energy deployment, and foster reliable and resilient power grids in the country, among others.

Both governments are also scheduled to hold a Nuclear Supply Chain Forum in Manila this November, which will bring together leading US companies with government and private sector stakeholders to discuss partnership opportunities. *(Joyce Ann L. Rocamora/PNA)*



2+2 MEET. A joint press conference was held attended by (from left) US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin III (from left), Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo, and Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. after the 2+2 Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Tuesday (July 30, 2024). The Philippines and the United States are working to conclude and sign a key military intelligence sharing deal by the end of the year, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin III said. *(PNA photo by Robert Alfiler)*

Enhanced ‘habagat,’ Carina leave over P1-B damage to agri-fishery

MANILA — The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Tuesday reported that damage to the agri-fishery sector has climbed to PHP1.17 billion due to the onslaught of the enhanced southwest monsoon and Super Typhoon Carina.

According to DA-Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Operations Center Bulletin No. 13, 40,904 farmers and fishers are reportedly affected in 12 regions including the Cordillera and Ilocos Regions, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western and Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Soccsksargen, and Caraga.

By volume, the total loss recorded is now at 18,086 metric tons (MT), with the rice sector incurring the highest damage at PHP660.60 million.

Losses in fisheries followed at PHP360.80 million affecting 3,334 fishers; high-value crops

amounting to PHP79.35 million; corn production at PHP65.40 million; infrastructure damage worth PHP1.6 million; and PHP1.32 million worth of loss for 5,593 heads in the livestock sector.

Earlier, the DA assured the distribution of 72,174 bags of rice seeds, 39,546 bags of corn seeds, 59,600 pouches, and 1,966 kg. of vegetable seeds to affected farmers.

In addition, fishers may also access the aid from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic

Resources (BFAR), which include fingerlings, fishing gear, and other paraphernalia.

Affected farmers and fishers may also avail of the PHP25,000 worth of loan under the Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council, with zero interest and payable in three years, as well as the activation of funds under the Quick Response Fund and Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. *(Stephanie Sevillano/PNA)*



FLOODED. Ricefields are flooded in Mangatarem town, Pangasinan on July 26, 2024. The Department of Agriculture on Tuesday (July 30, 2024) reported that damage to the agri-fishery sector has climbed to PHP1.17 billion due to the onslaught of the enhanced southwest monsoon and Super Typhoon Carina. *(Photo courtesy of Pangasinan PDRMO)*

PH to expand maritime cooperative activity with other allies

MANILA — The Philippines will expand its “maritime cooperative activities” (MCA) with Japan, Australia, and other friendly nations, Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Gilberto C. Teodoro Jr. said on Tuesday.

“We will also bolster maritime cooperative activities and expand coordination with Japan and Australia and other like-minded nations, not only in these areas but in joint exercises and training as well, where applicable,” he said during the 2+2 Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

MCAs are joint naval and air patrols conducted by Philippine allies in its maritime territories.



DND Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. *(PNA photo by Robert Oswald Alfiler)*

Teodoro said Manila would beef up the cybersecurity capabilities of the DND and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

“(We will upgrade) not only in terms of capabilities but also in terms of cooperation in threat detection and protection and joint advanced technological development,” he added.

Through robust cooperation in land, sea, air, and cyberspace and extensive interoperability, Teodoro said the US-

Philippines alliance would greatly contribute to regional peace and stability under the regime of international law.

“We thank the US government for the continued assistance in building up our capabilities, which will provide a tremendous boost in order for us to establish a credible deterrent to unlawful foreign aggression,” he added. *(Prima Nepomuceno/PNA)*

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SERVICES

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<h4>SIGNATURE COMBINATION</h4> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 HOUR</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.5 HOURS</td> <td>600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 HOURS</td> <td>750</td> </tr> </table>	1 HOUR	400	1.5 HOURS	600	2 HOURS	750	<h4>POST NATAL MASSAGE</h4> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 HOUR</td> <td>500</td> </tr> </table> <h4>PRE NATAL MASSAGE</h4> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 HOUR</td> <td>500</td> </tr> </table>	1 HOUR	500	1 HOUR	500				
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<h4>SWEDISH MASSAGE</h4> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 HOUR</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.5 HOURS</td> <td>600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 HOURS</td> <td>750</td> </tr> </table>	1 HOUR	400	1.5 HOURS	600	2 HOURS	750	<h4>FOOT REFLEX</h4> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>30 MINUTES</td> <td>250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 HOUR</td> <td>400</td> </tr> </table> <h4>NECK AND SHOULDER</h4> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>30 MINUTES</td> <td>250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 HOUR</td> <td>400</td> </tr> </table>	30 MINUTES	250	1 HOUR	400	30 MINUTES	250	1 HOUR	400
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<h4>SHIATSU DRY MASSAGE</h4> <p>W/ STRETCHING</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 HOUR</td> <td>600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.5 HOURS</td> <td>800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 HOURS</td> <td>1,000</td> </tr> </table>	1 HOUR	600	1.5 HOURS	800	2 HOURS	1,000	<h4>ADD ONS</h4> <h4>HEAD MASSAGE</h4> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>30 MINUTES</td> <td>250</td> </tr> </table> <h4>HAND MASSAGE</h4> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>30 MINUTES</td> <td>250</td> </tr> </table> <h4>EAR CANDLING</h4> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>300</td> </tr> </table> <h4>HOT COMPRESS</h4> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>100</td> </tr> </table>	30 MINUTES	250	30 MINUTES	250		300		100
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<h4>STONE MASSAGE</h4> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 HOUR</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.5 HOURS</td> <td>750</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 HOURS</td> <td>900</td> </tr> </table>	1 HOUR	500	1.5 HOURS	750	2 HOURS	900									
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<h4>VENTOSA MASSAGE</h4> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 HOUR</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.5 HOURS</td> <td>700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 HOURS</td> <td>850</td> </tr> </table>	1 HOUR	500	1.5 HOURS	700	2 HOURS	850									
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<h4>AROMA THERAPY</h4> <p>W/ STRETCHING</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 HOUR</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.5 HOURS</td> <td>700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 HOURS</td> <td>850</td> </tr> </table>	1 HOUR	500	1.5 HOURS	700	2 HOURS	850									
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