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Insertions prone to abuse face veto

Palace: Marcos remains open to meaningful budget amendments



DIGITAL LINK - President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. finds himself in the midst of appreciative pupils at the Camul Elementary School in Tampilisan, Zamboanga del Norte, where he led the launch of Starlink satellite internet service on Friday, Aug. 1, 2025. The President also directed the distribution of Smart Interactive Boards (SIBs) during his visit to the province. (Photo from the Presidential Communications Office)

Up to 20 senators to abide by SC ruling on VP Sara's impeachment

By DHEL NAZARIO

enate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada said Thursday night, July 31, that around 19 to 20 senators are likely in favor of abiding by the Supreme Court's ruling on Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment com-

Estrada based his assertion first. through their [senators'] body language, and second, through their words—you can easily tell among

The senator from San Juan also expressed his belief that the trial should no longer proceed after the High Court's ruling that declared the impeachment complaint unconstitutional.

'No more [trial] as what the House filed was already declared unconstitutional so, we do not have any jurisdiction anymore. And the Senate will not convene as an impeachment court because we don't have any jurisdiction anymore," he said.

Brace for hefty fuel price hike next week; LPG set for rollback

By GABRIELL CHRISTEL GALANG

otorists will have to brace themselves for a new round of fuel price increases this first week

Based on the four-day Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), gasoline could see a potential increase of more or less ₱1.50 per liter, diesel may see a ₱1 spike, and kerosene will see a potential hike of around ₱0.80 per liter.

According to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oil Industry Management Bureau (OIMB), possible supply disruptions could drive next

By ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

resident Marcos is open to meaningful changes in the proposed 2026 national budget, but he will not hesitate to exercise his veto power against amendments or insertions that serve no clear purpose and could lead to abuse, Malacañang said on Friday,

Communications Undersecretary Claire Castro clarified the President's position after Senate President Francis Escudero reminded the Palace that lawmakers have the constitutional power of the purse.

In her press briefing, the Palace press officer explained that the budget would not be rejected if it's justifiable and there are no meaningless

"If the insertions are considered meritorious, they will likely not be vetoed," she said. "But if they see that the insertions serve no clear purpose and could lead to abuse, the President will not hesitate to veto them."

Castro stressed that while Congress has the authority to modify the budget, the Palace is appealing for responsible and transparent use of that power.

week's prices.

Rodela Romero, OIMB director, said that there could be "renewed concerns over supply disruptions following US (United States) President Donald Trump's sanctions on Russia and Iranian oil."

While the US has yet to apply full pressure on the Russian oil sector, it is planning to propose stricter sanctions, including a possible 100-percent tariff rate on countries that would purchase Russian oil.

"[There's] hope of im- ▶7

the Philinnine Islands (RPI) marked its 174th founding anniversary with a Holy Mass celebrated by Manila Archbishop Jose F. Cardinal Advincula (sixth from right) at the BPI Buendia Center in Makati City on Friday, Aug. 1, 2025. BPI Chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel De Ayala (seventh from right) and BPI **President and Chief Executive** Officer TG Limcaoco (fifth from right) led the bank's officers and personnel in celebrating the historic milestone.



PH, India to boost security, economic ties

resident Marcos will push for deeper defense and economic cooperation with India—including new agreements on science, law, and technology—during his five-day state visit to New Delhi and Bangalore next week, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

Malacañan, DFA Office of Asian and

Pacific Affairs Assistant Secretary Evangeline Ong Jimenez-Ducrocq said the visit, which runs from Aug. 4 to 8, will include discussions on trade, maritime cooperation, and regional security as the Philippines and India mark 75 years of diplomatic relations.

"This visit is to further strengthen the Philippines' partnership with India, to proactively

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engage in all aspects of our relations, and seize opportunities for greater security, economic, science and technology, and people-topeople cooperation," she said on Friday, Aug. 1.

The visit, which coincides with the 75th anniversary of Philippine-India diplomatic relations, was arranged upon the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra

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Daniel Padilla

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tells sister:

is not easy'

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