

Romualdez, Zaldy Co charged with plunder



By JEL SANTOS

The Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) on Monday, Sept. 7, filed before the Sandiganbaya non-bailable plunder charges against former House speaker and incumbent Leyte First District Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, resigned Ako Bicol party-list representative Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co, and two others over an alleged ₱7.4-billion “kickback” scheme involving flood-control and other government projects.

The anti-graft body identified the two other accused as Romualdez’s household staff member Jocelyn Sereño and money changer Felecito Guevarra.

The plunder case was raffled to the Sandiganbayan Third Division, chaired by Associate Justice Karl Miranda.

“After several months of investigation and going through the legal process, our Office found prima facie evidence with reasonable certainty of conviction to charge Leyte First District Representative and former House Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez with plunder,” the OMB said in a press briefer. “This involved amassing approximately ₱7.4 billion through commissions, commitments, quotas, bribes, and other payments from parties promised government projects between 2022 and 2025.”

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VP Sara accuses gov’t of child abuse, threats; Palace says these are baseless

By MERLINA HERNANDO-MALIPOT, ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS, and AARON RECUCENO

Vice President Sara Duterte on Monday, Sept. 7, accused authorities of committing “child abuse” over their alleged presence near locations where her mother and children were staying; and conducting surveillance and harassment operations against her and her family.

Malacañang, however, dismissed as baseless the Vice President’s claims that there had been plans to attack her and that she and her children were not safe under the Marcos administration.

In a statement released by the Office of the Vice President (OVP), Duterte said she was

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EFFICIENT SOLID WASTE, FLOOD MANAGEMENT — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (top photo, right) is joined by Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Vince Dizon in inspecting the flood mitigation efforts being undertaken at the Marikina River (lower photo) by the ‘Estero Rangers’ on a rainy Monday, Sept. 7, 2026. Story on page 3. (Santi San Juan)

Malacañang: Current gov’t revenues enough to meet debt obligations

By BETHEENA UNITE

Malacañang said the current income of the government is sufficient to meet its debt obligations on time.

In a Palace briefing on Monday, Sept. 7, Palace Press Officer and Communications Undersecretary Claire Castro said that even without the proposed Promoting Growth, Revenue, and Equity towards Socio-Economic

Sustainability (ProGRESS) Bill, the government can still settle its debt using current revenues.

Castro explained that the majority of these obligations are paid under a long-term repayment scheme.

“What is important here is that the majority of our debt has long-term repayment terms. So, these debts do not have to be paid immediately; they can be paid gradually, including both the interest and the principal,” Castro explained. “Right now, we have enough money to pay our debts.”

According to the Department of Finance (DOF), the nationwide stakeholder consultations on the proposed ProGRESS Bill have started.

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Former UK PM Cameron keynotes 27th World Knowledge Forum

By ISABEL C. DE LEON

SEOUL — Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom David Cameron will lead the opening of the 27th World Knowledge Forum (WKF) today, Sept. 8, at the Jangchung Arena here under the theme, “The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order.”

Against the backdrop of profound discussions on the thoughtful coexistence of humanity and Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cameron, the 75th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, will deliver his keynote address on “A New Order of Co-intelligence in the Age of AI.”

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DR. CHANG DAE-WHAN

CEU dean first professional teacher to receive PRC excellence award

Centro Escolar University (CEU) dean Dr. Maria Rita Dacanay-Lucas has become the first professional teacher to receive the Eric C. Nubla Excellence Award, a special national distinction conferred by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

Lucas, dean of CEU’s School of

Education, Liberal Arts, Music, and Social Work (SELAMS), received the award during the 2026 PRC Awards Night on Sept. 4, at The Manila Hotel.

The Eric C. Nubla Excellence Award is a special distinction given to an outstanding professional who stands out among the recipients of the PRC Outstanding Professional of the

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