

THE VOICE

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NEWSWEEKLY



BEAUTÉDERM BINIBINING PILIPINAS SEE BACK PAGE

BCDA, Clark biz ink MOU

For NCC investment studies, promotion

In a bid to realize the full development of the New Clark City as a smart, resilient, and sustainable urban space, the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) has partnered with business organizations in the Metro Clark area for investment studies and promotions.

Vice-President for Investment Promotions and Marketing Erwin Kenneth R. Peralta of BCDA signed two separate memorandums of understanding (MOU) with the Metro Angeles Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (MACCII) led by

President Elizabeth Carlos-Timbol and the Pampanga Business Development Coordinating Council (PBDCC), represented by its president Prof. Ronald Malicdem, on June 8 during the General Membership Meeting of the MACCII at the New Clark City

in Capas, Tarlac.

Under the agreements, MACCII and PBDCC agreed to share knowledge and information on investment opportunities, incentives, facilities and development projects within BCDA properties, especially

in New Clark City, for effective promotion to potential investors.

Both groups committed to organize joint workshops, seminars, and networking events with BCDA to promote knowledge-sharing, business-matching, and the exploration of potential

ventures.

The MACCII also agreed to use its network and resources to promote investment opportunities inside BCDA properties to local and foreign investors, vowing to represent the

SEE PAGE 4
BCDA, CLARK

Porac MRF a suitable alternative to Kalangitan

With the impending closure of the Kalangitan landfill in Capas, Tarlac in October this year, the new Php1-billion material recovery facility (MRF) in Porac may well be the practical and suitable alternative.

At Tuesday's News @ Hues monthly media forum of the Pampanga Press Club (PPC) staged in cooperation with Park Inn by

Radisson Clark, guest Cara Peralta, lead officer for waste sector of Prime Infrastructure (Prime Infra) said, "We really want to be able to provide an alternative to different LGUs like a large-scale MRF like ours".

Prime Infra, through its Prime Waste Solutions, companies under the diversified business conglomerate of Filipino billionaire Enrique Razon, opened on June 5 with DENR Secretary Ma. Antonio Yulo-Loyza, Pampanga Governor Dennis Pineda and Mayor Carmelo Lazatin Jr. among the honored guests.

Peralta, however, clarified that the 10-hectare MRF in Barangay Planas in Porac town is not a landfill, as the large-scale MRF will focus on waste recovery that will cater to segregation, recycling, sorting and treatment.



CARA PERALTA

SEE PAGE 4
PORAC MRF



RENE G. ROMERO

Capitol delivers financial aid to El Niño-hit farmers

ARAYAT, PAMPANGA — Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda commenced the distribution of financial assistance to farmers in this town and nearby Mexico town on June 20, 2024 to alleviate the impact of the El Niño phenomenon on agriculture in province.

The initiative, approved earlier this year by the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRMRC) through Resolution Nos. 3 and 7-2024, aims to provide relief to irrigators' associations



AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE. Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda led the distribution of assistance to El Niño-hit farmers in Arayat and Mexico towns on Thursday, June 20, 2024. (PAMPANGA PIO)

SEE PAGE 4
CAPITOL

Balubad residents to be relocated in Magalang

ANGELES CITY — Angeles City Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr. said a three-hectare area in Magalang town has been identified to accommodate the residents of Sitio Balubad in Barangay Anunas here that were displaced after the land owner reclaimed the land.

Lazatin said the land would be able to accommodate the 535 families who were identified in the recent mapping undertaken by the Angeles LGU.

About 660, 45-square-meter lots would be made available for the displaced Sitio Balubad residents who were forced to flee

their homes last March 12 at the 73-hectare land reclaimed by its owner, the Clarkhills Properties Corporation.

The Clarkhills Properties Corporation took over the sitio and installed checkpoints at every entry point to the property.

Based on the tally of the Angeles city government, at least 2,000 residents or 535 families were identified during the mapping ordered by the mayor to assist the beleaguered residents.

Lazatin said each beneficiary will have a 45-square-meter lot in the relocation site in Magalang town, a move that

would finally allow them to own their lots. The city government is now preparing the relocation of the families.

"Katulad po ng nasabi ko noon, hindi ko po iiwanan ang mga naapektuhang residente ng Sitio Balubad," Lazatin said.

City Councilor Arvin "Pogs" Suller said water and electricity supply will be immediately installed once the beneficiaries relocate in Magalang.

Lazatin had offered



Angeles City Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr. has directed City Councilor Arvin "Pogs" Suller and Angeles City Human Settlement and Urban Development (ACHSUD) to present the relocation plan to identified beneficiaries from Sitio Balubad who will be relocated in Magalang town soon.

SEE PAGE 4
BALUBAD

CL tops fish, aquatic resources production

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — Central Luzon is the top producer of various fish and aquatic resources, contributing about 57 percent of the national output in tilapia and ranks first in shrimp, mangrove crab, and shellfish production.

This was revealed by Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources - Central Luzon (BFAR-3) Regional Director Wilfredo Cruz during the fourth episode of the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) where he also disclosed that in the first quarter of 2024, Central Luzon led in milkfish production.

“While we don’t know the rankings for the subsequent quarters yet, we consistently hold the second position nationwide in terms of milkfish production,” Cruz said.

Aquaculture forms the backbone of the Central Luzon fisheries industry, accounting for about 80 percent of total production.

Cruz said the region’s extensive coastline and water resources support its vibrant fisheries

industry. The region boasts of long coastlines, including the Aurora coast which is 332 kilometers, the Zambales coast which is 110 kilometers, and Manila Bay that is 192 kilometers.

He explained that Central Luzon utilizes its vast freshwater and brackish water fish ponds for aquaculture.

At the same time, Cruz highlighted that BFAR has a vision to achieve excellence in sustainable fisheries management, aiming for a 20-percent fish surplus and improved quality of life for fisherfolk by 2030.

As of January 2023, Central Luzon has 154,250 registered fisherfolk.

In commercial fisheries, the region has produced 6,363.83 metric tons, contributing 1.80 percent to the regional production.

Municipal fisheries contributed 48,392.54 metric tons (13.65 percent) while aquaculture dominated with 299,649.39 metric ton

SEE PAGE 4

CL TOPS FISH



FISHERIES FOR FOOD SECURITY. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Central Luzon (BFAR-3) Regional Director Wilfredo Cruz emphasized the agency’s vision to achieve excellence in sustainable fisheries management, aiming for a 20 percent fish surplus and improved quality of life for fisherfolk by 2030 during the fourth episode of the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas of the Philippine Information Agency. (PIA-3)

SUPPORT. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources recently distributed 100 kilograms of milkfish each to four people’s organizations in Tarlac under the Seafood KADIWA Grant Program as start-up capital for their sustainable livelihood. (BFAR-3)

MCG offers theoretical driving course assistance

MABALACAT CITY — Mayor Cris Garbo and the City Youth Development Office headed by Jaira Lomahan organized an orientation on Theoretical Driving Course (TDC) and Student Driving Permit Assistance as part of the Road Safety Month 2024 activities at the Youth Community Center, Jade Hall here.

The initiative aimed to equip young Mabalacateños with the knowledge and awareness necessary to become responsible

and safe drivers and commuters on the road.

The event featured informative sessions on road safety regulations, defensive driving techniques, and the importance of following traffic laws to prevent accidents and promote a culture of safety within the community.

Garbo emphasized the significance of educating the youth on road safety and highlighted the alarming statistics of road accidents and the need for

proactive measures to address the issue.

Lomahan commended the participants for their interest in learning about safe driving practices and obtaining their student driving permits.

She encouraged them to take advantage of the resources and support provided by the city government to enhance their driving skills and contribute to building a more secure and responsible community.



The Mabalacat City Youth Development Office recently conducted an orientation on Theoretical Driving and Student Driving Permit Assistance as part of the Road Safety Month 2024 activities at the Youth Community Center, Jade Hall in Mabalacat City.

7 minors rescued in AC

Combined elements of the Angeles City Social Welfare and Development Office (ACSWDO), the Regional Anti-Trafficking in Persons Task Group 3, and the Police Regional Office-3 (PRO3) rescued seven minors from two alleged pimps in Barangay Pampang, Angeles City, on June 18.

The rescuing team swooped down on the premises of Block 4, Lot 4, Paran Garden Village, Barangay Pampang at around 4pm and rescued the seven minors.

The rescued minors were identified as alias “Angge”,

female, 12 years old, of Barangay Pulungbulu; alias “Anne”, female, 13 years old, of Barangay Cutcut; alias “Kry”, female, 14 years old, of Barangay Cutcut; alias “Vinny”, female, 15 years old, of Barangay Cutcut; alias “Ann”, female, 18 years old, of Barangay Sta. Teresita; alias “Mae”, female, 17 years old, of Barangay Pulungbulu; and, alias “Trin”, female, 19 years old, of Barangay Sta. Cruz, Porac, Pampang.

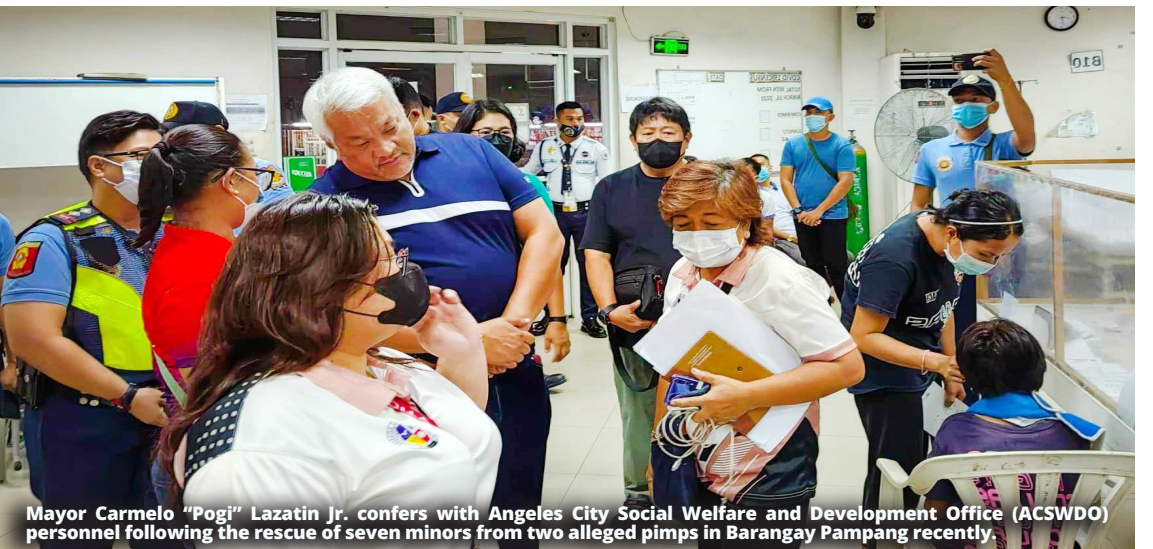
Charges for the violation of RA 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 are being readied against the two pimps, identified as alias “Ash”, female,

16 years old and a resident of Barangay Cutud and alias “Lia”, female, of Barangay Pulungbulu.

Medical personnel from the Child Protection Unit of the Rafael Lazatin Memorial Medical Center headed by Dr. Froilan Canlas conducted the medicolegal of the rescued minors.

The seven are now in the care of the ACSWDO.

Mayor Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin Jr. vowed to ensure the protection of minors and enforce policies to contain trafficking in persons, especially women and children. (ANGELES CIO)



Mayor Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin Jr. confers with Angeles City Social Welfare and Development Office (ACSWDO) personnel following the rescue of seven minors from two alleged pimps in Barangay Pampang recently.

Bigwigs to attend Pogi’s declaration

ANGELES CITY — Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Pampanga Governor Dennis “Delta” Pineda, and Vice-Governor Lilia “Nanay” Pineda are expected to attend the declaration of candidacy of Angeles City Mayor Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin, Jr. for the First District of Pampanga to be held on June 28, 2024 at the town plaza of the Municipality of Magalang.

Lazatin’s younger brother, incumbent Pampanga First District Representative Carmelo “Jon” Lazatin II, Magalang Municipal Mayor Maria Lourdes Lacson, and, Mabalacat City Mayor Crisostomo Garbo are also expected to attend.

Businessman and philanthropist Rodolfo “Tatay Bong” Pineda has also been invited to attend the event.

Lazatin announced recently that he will officially declare his candidacy for Pampanga First Congressional District representative on what would have been the 90th birthday of his late father, Carmelo “Tarzan” Lazatin, who also served in the same position from 1987 to 1998 and from 2007 to 2013.

Lazatin is currently in his tenth year in public service, having started his political career in 2013 when he first ran for city councilor.

A staunch advocate of the environment, Lazatin authored major ordinances for environment protection, such as City Ordinance No. 364 Regulating the Use of Plastic Bags and Styrofoam in Angeles City and City Ordinance

No. 456 Requiring Business Establishments to Conduct a Greening Program.

After two terms in the City Council, Lazatin was elected as mayor in 2019 where he continued efforts to protect the environment through landmark programs such as the continuous reforestation of the Angeles City Watershed in Barangay Sapangbato and the ‘Walang Plastikan: Plastic Palit Bigas’ Program.

Under the ‘Walang Plastikan’ Program, residents of Angeles City are exchange every kilo of plastic waste they collect for an equivalent weight in uncooked rice. The program is currently one of the national finalists for the Walang Gutom Awards 2024.

Under Lazatin’s administration, Angeles City received numerous awards and citations, including the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) awarded by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in 2023.

The city also ranked fifth among the nine Philippine cities included in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index with the largest urban economies.

In 2023, Lazatin was given the Most Outstanding Kapampangan Award in Government Service.

When Lazatin was re-elected for his second term as Angeles City mayor in 2022, he became the first mayor in the city’s history to have been elected with more than 100,000 votes -- winning in all clustered precincts in all 33 barangays of the city and obtaining a total of 112,953 votes. (TEAM LAZATIN)





KUWENTONG PEYUPS

ATTY. DENNIS GORECHO

A dark Father's Day for rape victims

FATHERHOOD extends beyond simple procreation and biology.

"Every family needs a father — a father who shares in his family's joy and pain, hands down wisdom to his children, and offers them firm guidance and love," says Pope Francis in one of his homilies on fatherhood.

Pope Francis added: "A good father knows how to wait and knows how to forgive from the depths of his heart. Certainly, he also knows how to correct with firmness: He is not a weak father, submissive and sentimental. The father who knows how to correct without humiliating is the one who knows how to protect without sparing himself".

Father's Day in the Philippines is celebrated on the third Sunday of June to honor the vital, unique, and important role they play in the personal and spiritual development of their children.

But to some, a father is the cause of their sorrow and pain as shown in the cases decided by the Supreme Court on rape and other sexual abuse.

"It is not for humans to ravish what they produced. The rape committed by a father against his own daughter, regardless of whether it is done under the cloak of parental discipline, has no place in our

society. That is why, it is considered as a heinous felony meted with the supreme penalty of termination of the assailant's life. For indeed those who lust must not last," thus declared the SC in *People vs. David Silvano* (G.R. No. 127356, June 29, 1999)

The SC stressed that it is "once again saddled with another nightmare of lustful and incestuous defloration committed by one from the victim expects protection".

In *People v. Barcelá* (652 Phil. 134), the Court underscored that in incestuous rape of a minor, actual force or intimidation need not be proven.

The Court added that the moral and physical domination of the father is sufficient to intimidate the victim into submission to his carnal desires. The rapist, by his overpowering and overbearing moral influence, can easily consummate his bestial lust with impunity. Consequently, proof of force and violence is unnecessary, unlike when the accused is not an ascendant or a blood relative of the victim.

Whatever bestial motive drove him to commit such a vile and despicable act on his own daughter is something he should ponder on for the rest of his life. For a man who rapes his own daughter violates not only her purity and her trust but also the mores of society which he had scornfully

defied. (*People v. Ramos*, 247-A Phil. 484.)

By inflicting his animal greed on her in a disgusting coercion of incestuous lust, he forfeits all respect as a human being and is justly to be spurned by all, not least of all by the fruit of his own loins whose progeny he has forever stained with his shameful and shameless lechery. [*People vs CCC*, G.R. No. 220492, July 11, 2018]

In many instances, rape victims simply suffer in silence. With more reason would a girl ravished by her own father keep quiet about what befell her. It is unfair to judge the action of children who have undergone traumatic experiences by the norms of behavior expected of mature individuals under the same circumstances (*People vs. Mosqueda* G.R. Nos. 131830-34 September 3, 1999).

The bedroom where the beastly acts were committed was shared with other families does not detract from the fact that rape was committed. There is no rule that rape can be committed only in seclusion. Lust is no respecter of time or place. Rape defies constraint of time and space. Rapists are not deterred from committing the odious act of sexual abuse by mere inconvenience or awkwardness of the situation or even by the presence of people or family members nearby (*People vs XXX*, G.R. No. 263396,

June 14, 2023)

A stepfather's moral ascendancy or influence over his stepdaughter, who grew up knowing him as the only father she has ever had, supplants the element of violence or intimidation in a charge of rape. Such influence over the stepdaughter is the reason why she silently endured years of sexual abuse without fighting back or confiding in anyone. (*People vs Austria* G.R. No. 210568, November 08, 2017)

A child would not concoct a story of incest, especially if it would result in losing one's father to prison. No sane girl would concoct a story of defloration, allow an examination of her private parts and subject herself to public trial or ridicule if she has not in truth, been a victim of rape and impelled to seek justice for the wrong done to her. It is against human nature for a girl to fabricate a story that would expose herself and her family to a lifetime of dishonor, especially where her charges would mean the death or the long-term imprisonment of her own father. (*People vs Baun* 584 Phil. 560)

(Peyups is the moniker of the University of the Philippines. Atty. Dennis R. Gorecho heads the Seafarers' Division of the Sapalo Velez Bundang Bulilan Law Offices. For comments, e-mail info@sapalovelez.com, or call 09175025808 or 09088665786.)

From Home to Podium - Honing PH's future champs

Sports is one of the best ways to build and develop one's character, discipline, self-esteem and physical skills, especially among the youth. It can be a springboard for athletes to the podium of success by showcasing their talent, hitting a home run or representing their country in the global stage.

In 2020, the National Academy of Sports (NAS) was established at the New Clark City in Capas, Tarlac to discover and mold the athletic potential of Filipino youth, to promote the welfare of young athletes, and to sustain the golden era of Philippine Sports.

The NAS implements a quality and enhanced Secondary Education Program that integrates a special curriculum on sports.

Four years after its inception, the NAS has offered world-class facilities and a holistic development approach to a total of 160 student-athletes, and counting, from the different parts of the country.

From national pride to global achievement

The state-of-the-art facilities and climate-resilient learning environment are the salient features that greatly contributed to the advancement of the student-athletes. Recently, NAS unveiled the brass marker of Phase 1 of the institution which includes the Academic and Administration Building, and Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Academic Administration Building is equipped with classrooms, office spaces, faculty administration rooms, and student services spaces while the Multipurpose Gymnasium features facilities and amenities for the student-athletes. The facilities are of international standards to prepare the students for national and international competitions.

Accey member of

Kiana Oglayon, a Grade 9 student and a of the National Junior Taekwondo Team, highlighted the significant improvement her character and skills after

enrolling at the NAS.

"I'm grateful for the facilities they provided us because we have more training hours and access to the facilities. We really feel and appreciate their (NAS's) strong support," Oglayon, who brought honor to the Philippines during competitions in Vietnam and Lebanon, said.

Austine Zulaika Macaraeg, a member of the pioneer batch of student-athletes at NAS, extended her appreciation and gratitude for the unwavering support of the academy in her Taekwondo journey.

"Having new facilities really helped us in proper execution, and developed us as student-athletes. The NAS has given us an extra mile in everything. They supported us both in academics and sports," Macaraeg said.

Macaraeg shared she is training rigorously to join the National Team to give honor to the country through her chosen sport.

Inculcating sports and academic excellence

Among the mandates of the NAS is the nurturing of young athletes through a holistic approach that supports academic and athletic excellence.

Sports Development Officer Erikson Niño Torres affirmed the well-balanced curriculum for the student-athletes with the guidance of professionals, former national team members, champions, and coaches.

"We have the NAS Athlete Development Model which is a combination of the long-term athlete development plan. We want them to be competitive in both academics and sports," Torres noted.

Meanwhile, NAS Executive Director Josephine Joy Reyes cited Nationalism, Achievement and Solidarity as the values and bedrock to ensure that each student becomes a well-rounded Filipino athlete, ready to be a source of pride of the country.

The NAS was created by virtue of Republic Act 11470 to develop future world-class Filipino athletes and to provide a conducive environment for academic, sports training and character development of young athletes. (PIA-REGION 3-TARLAC)



DETERMINED. National Academy of Sports (NAS) student-athletes Acey Kiana Oglayon (left) and Austine Zulaika Macaraeg (right) stress they are determined to bring honor to the Philippines. (PIA-3)



DEMONSTRATION. Student-athletes of the National Academy of Sports (NAS) at the New Clark City in Capas, Tarlac demonstrated their skills during the institution's fourth founding anniversary celebration. (PIA-3)

SM conducts coastal cleanup

SM Supermalls, through its Corporate Social Responsibility arm SM Cares, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), continue to drive active participation in ocean conservation with the latest leg of SM's Coastal Clean-up Drive held on June 8, 2024 in celebration of World Oceans Day.

This year, SM was able to collect more than 15,000 kilograms of trash with the help of 2,500 SM employees and volunteers from 15 SM Supermalls nationwide.

Since 2014, SM's coastal clean-up initiative has grown to include more coastal locations and volunteers, showing the true impact of SM's advocacy as well as the power of community participation in environmental stewardship and marine conservation efforts.

The SM Cares' Coastal Clean-up Project is part of the organization's Programs on Environment. SM Cares also has supporting initiatives focused on children and the youth, women and breastfeeding mothers, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities. To learn more, visit <https://www.smsupermalls.com/smcare/>.



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BCDA, CLARK... FROM PAGE 1

interests of the business community in Angeles City and Central Luzon, advocating for policies and initiatives that promote economic growth, investment, and business development in the region, and providing inputs and recommendations to BCDA and other government agencies on matters affecting the business sector.

The PBDCC, an umbrella group of 10 business organizations and two universities, also signed to establish and operate a business incubation facility at the New Clark City and committed to conduct market research and studies on identified projects.

For its part, BCDA agreed to share knowledge and

information on urban planning, infrastructure development, and the management of economic zones. It will also collaborate with both groups in investment promotion events and activities, market research, and the conduct of feasibility studies.

The BCDA also agreed to conduct regular consultations with the groups to keep them informed of BCDA's development projects and to gather valuable business inputs from them.

Peralta said the partnership with the business sector is part of BCDA's commitment to inclusive development and sustainability.

"We are very conscious of BCDA's role and mandate. It is part of our commitment to make

sure that BCDA communities are equally developed and the people are involved. We are not only after the sustainability of urban spaces, but more, we aim for human sustainability," Peralta said.

BCDA was created through Republic Act No. 7227 to primarily carry out the declared policy of the government to accelerate the sound and balanced conversion into alternative productive civilian uses of the Clark and Subic military reservations and their extensions, and to enhance the benefits to be derived from said properties in order to promote the economic and social development of Central Luzon and the country in general. **(BCDA)**

PORAC MRF... FROM PAGE 1

"The facility that we have is not a landfill. It is not an open dumpsite," Peralta said.

Open dumpsites, which are now banned by law, and improperly operated landfills can cause fire and water contamination in nearby bodies of water, putting people's safety at risk.

Peralta added that the MRF, capable of accommodating 5,000 tons per day, is highly automated and is geared towards the recovery of waste into something reusable.

"We estimate that once we are fully operational, 80 to 90 percent of waste that we receive will be recovered and (be) used for something of value," she added.

Earlier, members of the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PamCham), led by one of its directors, Rene G. Romero, conducted an inspection of facilities, including the Prime Infra MRF in Porac.

Romero said Prime Infra MRF was found to have the "best facilities and processes" after concluding an ocular inspection

of three alternative waste sites in Pampanga.

"It features high-standard facilities and is future ready for waste to energy conversion or fuel value facility. I can confidently say that it is the most premium among the three waste facilities," Romero said at the News@Hues forum.

He noted that the three waste facilities would have a combined capacity of 11,000 metric tons, and should be sufficient to allay the fears of a possible garbage disposal crisis.

"Wala tayo dapat ipag-alala, dahil meron sasalo sa dumi not only in Central Luzon but also northern Luzon (areas)," the PamCham director said.

Earlier, the Clark Development Corporation (CDC) announced that the contract with the Metro Clark Waste Management Corporation (MCWMC) will no longer be renewed due to contractual limitations and planned development initiatives by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) for

the New Clark City.

The CDC said BCDA is keen on the development of the 100-hectare land area currently covered by a Contract for Service with MCWMC at the New Clark City to increase its economic value.

The CDC stressed it is pursuing alternative waste management solutions and procuring the services of a garbage collector for Clark within its jurisdiction, the Clark Freeport Zone, and the Clark Special Economic Zone.

Additionally, the CDC will accredit service providers for its locators/investors, ensuring designated disposal facilities for hazardous and non-hazardous waste.

Meanwhile, the BCDA said it will assist local government units, government agencies, and locators to explore alternative solutions for the affected stakeholders' waste disposal requirements to ensure non-disruption of solid waste management services.

CAPITOL... FROM PAGE 1

provision of assistance to those severely affected," Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office Chief Angelina Blanco said.

A total of 485 farmers, 343 from Barangay Candating, Arayat and 142 from Barangays San Nicolas and San Patricio of Mexico, received financial assistance to ease the burden of the farmers, particularly in covering costs associated with irrigation and electricity during the dry season.

"Magpasalamat ke pung dakal a dakal kang Gov. Delta na binie ne ing saup ayni para maski makananu, mipasno kaming

bagya kareng gastusin keng paranum, lalu na sobra na pu katas ing diesel ngeni. Maragul ya pung saup ini kekaming ortelanu," Rey Velasco, chairman of the Maunlad na Candating Sapang Paitan Farmers Irrigators' Association, said.

During the program, Pineda reiterated the government's commitment to stand by the agricultural sector, especially during challenging times.

"Ang atin pong mga magsasaka ang nagsisilbing backbone ng ating ekonomiya. Kaya bilang bahagi po ng aking sinumpaang tungkulin, responsibilidad ko po

na suportahan sila para matiyak na walang magugutom na Kapampangan," he stressed.

The governor also guaranteed that all eligible farmers will receive the necessary support to overcome the challenges posed by El Niño and sustain their agricultural livelihoods.

Arayat Mayor Madir Alejandrino, Vice-Mayor Bon Alejandrino, and Mexico Mayor Rodencio Gonzales attended the distribution programs to express gratitude for the continuous effort Pineda to bring the programs and services of the Capitol closer to the people. **(GOVERNOR'S OFFICE)**

CL TOPS FISH... FROM PAGE 2

The BFAR has implemented various programs to support fisheries development, including technology outreach stations, fingerlings and seed stock production, broodstock development, mariculture operations, and distributing climate-resilient fishing gear.

The agency also focuses on post-harvest and marketing initiatives such as the KADIWA ng Pangulo, trade fairs, market matching, and credit facilitation.

Cruz stressed the importance of fisheries regulatory and law enforcement programs which involve seaborne and foot patrols, monitoring and surveillance stations, issuance of permits and licenses, and inspections of fisheries facilities and products.

To further boost the sector, BFAR offers fisheries extension programs, including training, technical assistance, and the establishment of techno demo projects.

Locally funded projects like the Special Area for Agricultural Development Program, Shellfish Development Program, and Climate Change-Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Projects also play crucial roles in the industry.

In addition, the Philippine Fisheries and Coastal Resiliency Project, or FishCoRe, is a seven-year, World Bank-funded initiative that aims to enhance fisheries governance through a science-based, participatory, and transparent framework.

"Our role is significant. Region 3 not only supplies fish to Metro Manila but also to neighboring regions," Cruz stressed.

He pointed out that BFAR's commitment to sustainable fisheries management ensures that it continues to support the nation's food security and the livelihood of fisherfolk. **(PIA REGION 3-PAMPANGA)**

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH POWER OF ATTORNEY

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late **MARCELINO T. TIOTUICO**, who died intestate on March 14, 2022, have executed a deed of extra-judicial settlement over his estate covered by a **Savings Account No. 000734-0782-98 USD** with **Bank of the Philippine Islands, Nepo Branch, Angeles City** before Notary Public **Arnel S. Santos**, as per Doc. No. 351; Page No. 22; Book No. XLI; Series of 2024.

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DOH to fast track super health centers in Bulacan

ANGAT, Bulacan — The Department of Health (DOH) has reaffirmed its commitment to fast-track the construction and completion of numerous Super Health Centers (SHCs) in Bulacan as these facilities are essential in decongesting public hospitals across the province.

Field Office Development Management Officer Emily Paulino of DOH-Bulacan explained that SHCs are semi-hospitals that are larger than the usual rural health units.

"These are equipped with a birthing facility, isolation room, pharmacy, and an ambulatory surgical unit. It is expandable and its facilities can be expanded to offer more services such as laboratory, X-ray, ultrasound and dialysis," Paulino said.

The latest facility to be inaugurated by DOH is located in Barangay Taboc in this municipality.

Resident Joan Villarama said they are lucky that Taboc was chosen as a site of an SHC out of 16 barangays in Angat.

"Medical consultations, laboratory services, and

emergency treatment are now easily accessible. We do not have to travel far to avail of these health services," Villarama said.

Municipal Councilor Darwin Calderon thanked DOH for the establishment of the SHC in their town.

"This facility will indeed play a major role in providing the much-needed quality and free health services to Angateños," Calderon stressed.

The DOH is targeting to complete seven of 18 SHCs allotted for Bulacan this 2024.

The facilities will be located in the City of Baliwag and the municipalities of Marilao, Obando, Paombong, Plaridel, San Ildefonso, and San Rafael.

The government health agency has allocated Php12 million for the development of each SHC under the Health Facilities Enhancement Program.

Of the figure, Php10 million will be used for the construction of the structure while the remaining Php2 million will be used for purchasing the necessary equipment. **(PIA REGION 3-BULACAN)**



Aurora coconut products trade fair earn P366K

BALER, Aurora — A three-day trade fair organized by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) recently featuring various processed coconut products from Aurora Province generated Php366,000 in sales.

A total of 14 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and 20 Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) beneficiaries participated in the trade event that was held at the Baler Convention Center.

Trade Industry Development Specialist Johnsen Javar of DTI-Aurora said the activity aims to introduce the products of MSMEs and those developed by local coconut farmers to a wider market.

The products displayed and sold during the trade fair coco jam, coco honey, coco sugar, tuba vinegar, virgin coconut oil, pakumbo, and bukayo.

"There were also products made from sabutan, turmeric, bamboo, and plants integrated

in coconut farms such as cacao tablea and cacao fossilized leaf lamps," Javar added.

On behalf of the trade fair participants, Meneriza Magtibay expressed gratitude to DTI for assisting them in improving their products, including the packaging, as well as giving them the opportunity to showcase these in the mainstream market.

"Prior to the DTI trade exhibition, our only market at our Baler store were walk-in residents and tourists. We are now meeting potential purchasers outside of Aurora and expanding our market with DTI's guidance," Magtibay said.

Pursuant to Republic Act 11524 or the Coconut Farmers Industry Trust Fund Act, the DTI is responsible for assisting coconut growers and processors in expanding and developing their products.

The law also covers industry and market research, marketing assistance, and marketing promotion. **(PIA REGION 3-AURORA)**



PWDs experience work in SBMA offices, establishments

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — At least 50 persons with disabilities (PWDs) experience work immersion in the various offices of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) as well as other business establishments here and in Olongapo City.



PWD PROGRAM. Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chairman and Administrator Eduardo Jose L. Aliño personally greets PWDs who were given the opportunity to work in SBMA offices under the Work Immersion Program jointly organized by the SBMA Labor Department and the Person with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) Olongapo City. (SBMA MEDIA PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT)

This came after the SBMA forged a partnership recently with the Local Government of Olongapo City to facilitate the work immersion of PWDs in this premier Freeport.

The SBMA Labor Department and the Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) of Olongapo City said the Work Immersion Program for PWDs in Government and Private Business Establishments is aimed at providing PWDs a ten-day actual work experience in companies here and in Olongapo City.

Labor Department Manager Atty. Melvin Varias said a total of 50 PWDs were given the chance to work — 34 of which were deployed to companies inside the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

“Of the 34, 10 worked at the Grand United Property and Service Management, Inc.; eight were sent to the Subic Bay Travelers Hotel and Event Center; four worked at the Eddie and Julie G Food

Corp. at the Jollibee Main Gate; three worked at the SBMA Financial Planning and Budget Department; three went to the SBMA Accounting Department; five worked here at the SBMA Labor Department; and, one was sent to the SBMA Office Services Department,” Varias said.

PDAO Head Rizalino Jose bared that the proposal for the Work Immersion Program was conceptualized in March this year. He said PWDs will be given opportunities to value, experience and prove their worth as equals with the typical workforce.

“Our target PWD beneficiaries range from mild to manageable disabilities,” Jose explained.

He said the daily minimum wage salary rate of Php580 will be funded by the Office of City Mayor Rolen Paulino Jr., adding that the first batch of internship was held last May 27 to June 7 while the second batch was from June 10-21, 2024.

SBMA Chairman and Administrator

Eduardo Jose L. Aliño lauded the work immersion program for PWDs, saying the Subic Freeport is the perfect venue for them to experience there is equality in the workplace.

“Our Labor Department is working hard to provide a harmonious working environment in the Subic Freeport. Providing PWDs the opportunity to work in companies here only proves that the SBMA does not tolerate discrimination in the workplace,” Aliño said.

Currently, the Subic Bay Freeport Zone has a workforce of 159,762 as of April 2024. This will eventually increase as new investors establish businesses here.

“These new companies investing in the Subic Freeport mean the possible expansion of the workplace immersion program for PWDs, giving more opportunities for them to prove they can be productive citizens of the country,” Aliño said. (SBMA MEDIA PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT)

Fueling Success: How DepEd Feeding Programs Boost Academic Performance

by EUFRONIA SALIG FERNANDEZ

In the pursuit of academic excellence, the Department of Education (DepEd) plays a pivotal role not only in delivering quality education but also in ensuring that every child's basic needs are met. One of the most impactful initiatives under DepEd's umbrella is its feeding programs, which have proven instrumental in enhancing academic performance and nurturing a conducive learning environment.

DepEd's feeding programs are strategically designed to address nutritional deficiencies among students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. By providing balanced meals during school hours, these programs tackle hunger head-on, thereby improving students' focus, concentration, and overall cognitive function. Research consistently underscores the correlation between proper nutrition and academic achievement, highlighting how well-fed students are better equipped to absorb and retain

information, participate actively in classroom activities, and perform well in exams.

Moreover, these programs contribute to a more equitable educational landscape. By ensuring that all students, regardless of economic status, have access to nutritious meals, DepEd helps level the playing field. This not only supports students' immediate educational needs but also promotes long-term educational outcomes, including higher graduation rates and improved academic success.

Beyond academic benefits, DepEd's feeding programs foster a sense of community and well-being within schools. They encourage regular attendance, as students are more likely to come to school when they know they will receive a nourishing meal. This consistency in attendance leads to greater engagement in learning and reduces dropout rates, laying a solid foundation for future success.

There are concerns about the logistical and financial implications

of sustaining feeding programs, but the returns on investment are substantial. Improved academic performance translates into better opportunities for students, ultimately contributing to national development and economic growth.

DepEd's feeding programs are not just about filling stomachs; they are about nourishing minds and nurturing potential. By prioritizing nutrition alongside education, DepEd is empowering the next generation to reach their full academic potential and break the cycle of poverty. As we look towards the future, it is imperative to continue supporting and expanding these programs, ensuring that every Filipino child has the opportunity to thrive academically and contribute meaningfully to society.

The author is Teacher III at Zamora Elementary School, Bilar District, Schools Division of Bohol, Region VII-Central Visayas

Building Strong Foundations: Why Reading Skills are Essential in the Digital Age

by RACHEL GRAN PERIDO

In today's fast-paced and increasingly digital world, the importance of reading skills in elementary education cannot be overstated. As technology continues to advance and become an integral part of our daily lives, the ability to read and comprehend information is more crucial than ever. Building strong foundations in reading skills from a young age is essential in preparing students to navigate the digital age with confidence and success.

Reading is not just about decoding words on a page; it is about understanding and interpreting information, making connections, and critically analyzing content. In the digital age, where information is constantly at our fingertips, the ability to read and comprehend complex texts is a valuable skill that opens doors to endless opportunities for learning and growth.

Strong reading skills are the foundation upon which all other academic disciplines are built. Whether it be science, math, history, or literature, the ability to read and comprehend text is essential for success in any subject. In a world where digital literacy is becoming increasingly important, students who possess strong reading skills have a distinct advantage in accessing, evaluating, and synthesizing

information from a variety of sources.

Furthermore, reading is not just a tool for academic success; it is also a gateway to creativity, imagination, and empathy. Through reading, students can explore new worlds, perspectives, and ideas, fostering a love for learning that will last a lifetime. In the digital age, where distractions are abundant and attention spans are shrinking, the ability to focus and engage with text is a valuable skill that must be nurtured and developed from a young age.

As educators, parents, and society as a whole, we must recognize the importance of building strong foundations in reading skills for elementary students. By investing in literacy education and promoting a culture of reading, we can empower the next generation to thrive in the digital age and beyond. Reading is not just a fundamental skill; it is a lifelong gift that opens doors to endless possibilities and enriches the mind and soul. Let us prioritize reading skills in elementary education and build a brighter future for our children in the digital age.

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Empowering Future Voices: The Importance of Journalism Training in Education

by VIRGINIA S. REANDO

In today's rapidly evolving world, where information spreads at lightning speed and media literacy is more crucial than ever, integrating journalism training into elementary education is not just beneficial—it's essential. The Department of Education (DepEd) holds a unique opportunity to empower future voices by embedding journalistic principles into the foundational years of learning.

At its core, journalism education fosters critical thinking skills from an early age. By teaching students how to research, analyze, and verify information, DepEd can equip young minds with the tools to navigate the abundance of information available online. This early training cultivates discerning consumers of media and prepares students to distinguish between reliable sources and misinformation—an invaluable skill in the digital age.

Furthermore, journalism training in elementary school promotes effective communication skills. Students learn to articulate ideas clearly and concisely, honing their writing abilities and enhancing their ability to express themselves verbally. These skills not only prepare

students for future academic and professional success but also empower them to confidently engage in discussions and debates both in and outside of the classroom.

Beyond academic development, journalism education nurtures civic engagement and a sense of responsibility in young learners. By encouraging students to investigate local issues, interview community members, and report on relevant topics, DepEd instills a proactive mindset. Through these experiences, students understand the power of their voices and their role in contributing positively to society. They learn to advocate for causes they believe in and amplify diverse perspectives, fostering a culture of empathy and inclusivity.

Moreover, integrating journalism into elementary education supports interdisciplinary learning. Students engage with subjects such as history, science, and social studies through a journalistic lens, making connections between classroom lessons and real-world events. This approach not only enhances retention of knowledge but also sparks curiosity and encourages

lifelong learning.

By prioritizing journalism training in elementary education, DepEd not only prepares students for future careers in media but also cultivates well-rounded individuals equipped with essential skills for the 21st century. These skills—critical thinking, effective communication, civic responsibility—form the foundation of informed citizenship and democratic participation. They empower students to become active contributors to their communities, driving positive change and shaping a future where informed voices lead the way towards progress and understanding. As we navigate an increasingly complex global landscape, investing in journalism education at the elementary level is not just an investment in our children's future—it's an investment in a society where knowledge, truth, and integrity thrive.

The author is Master Teacher 1 at Sta. Quiteria Elementary School, Tanque District, Schools Division of Caloocan, National Capital Region

Audio-Visual Lessons through Digital Technology for Learners with Disabilities

by RAYMOND B. TUMAPON, MAED

This study aims to develop a model of learning by integrating multimedia and audio-visual capable learners in writing and reading. This multimedia was developed as a tool for SPED teachers in the education of children with special needs to improve their reading and writing skills participated by 78 identified learners with disabilities in Labason District 2022-2023.

The findings of this study are analyzed by using an experimental design. The data gathering method used a pretest and posttest. The technique used in this study is the total enumeration method, where all respondents were measured individually in terms of their literacy skills such as Phonemic Awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and writing skills.

Overall, results show that audio-visual lesson is an effective strategy for accomplishing activities in writing and reading. The Strategy also increased the level of achievement of the learners after the study was conducted.

The strategy shall be recommended to be integrated into audio-video lesson classes with supervised learning for LWDs throughout the district.

Keywords: Audio Visual Lessons, Special Education, Disabilities, Reading skills, writing skills

The author is Master Teacher II at Imelda Elementary School, Labason District, Zamboanga Del Norte District, Region IX – Zamboanga Peninsula



Beautéderm CEO inspires Binibining Pilipinas beautés



Beautéderm founder Rhea Anicoche-Tan welcomed recently, the 40 official candidates of Binibining Pilipinas 2024 into her impressive 7-story Beautéderm Building in Angeles City.

Anicoche-Tan underscored her commitment to guiding young Filipinas in entrepreneurship and self-care. The candidates had the opportunity to engage with Tan and learn from her extensive experience in the beauty and wellness industry.

Beautéderm is, once again, the official skincare partner of the Binibining Pilipinas pageant. This year is monumental for both entities: Binibining Pilipinas marks its 60th year, while Beautéderm is celebrating its 15th anniversary.

"I hope this partnership will inspire and empower Filipinas across the country to feel confident and beautiful in their own skin, and whatever career path they choose to be in," Tan expressed passionately.

She added, "The Binibining Pilipinas organization has been helping women for so many years. I'm grateful for this partnership, celebrating talented, smart, and beautiful Filipinas. These young women may find inspiration and learnings from what I went through in my business journey. I am willing to share what I can

and impart guidance."

Also present at the event were Department of Tourism Region 3 Director Dr. Richard Daenos, Secretary to the Mayor Raffy L. Angeles, former Pampanga Board Mayor Mylyn Pineda-Cayabyab and Board Member Cherry Manalo.

Last May 22, key executives from the Bb. Pilipinas organization visited the Beautéderm Headquarters to officially sign their partnership with Tan. This collaboration marks another significant chapter in supporting and uplifting Filipina women.

During the event, Tan made an exciting announcement: the winner of the Ms. Beautéderm title will receive P500,000 worth of Beautéderm products to kickstart their business, along with P150,000 in cash on coronation night.

"For the Ms. Beautéderm title, we want a proud Filipina who is aspirational, confident, and has a heart for others. We cannot wait to crown the Ms. Beautéderm on coronation," she enthused.

This partnership between Beautéderm and Binibining Pilipinas not only highlights the synergy between beauty and business but also emphasizes the importance of empowering women to achieve their dreams.

The grand coronation night of the 60th Binibining Pilipinas pageant is set on July 7 at the Araneta Coliseum.

BB.Q Chicken opens at SM Telabastagan



The authentic flavors of Korea may now be experienced at SM Telabastagan with the opening of the new chicken place, BB. Q Chicken.

This is the first BB.Q Chicken in Central Luzon and the ninth in the country.

BB.Q Chicken is making waves in the dining scene with its authentic Korean fried chicken.

Aside from the famous barbecue chicken, BB.Q chicken also offers Golden Fried Chicken, kid-favorite Cheesling, Gangnam Style Chicken, and Teokbokki.

Enjoy the #bestofthebest in Korean cuisine at BB.Q Chicken, located at the ground level of SM City Telabastagan.

City of San Fernando Vice Mayor BJ Lagman, BB.Q Vice President Tanya Llana, Candaba LGU representative Mikka Maglanque, and Senior Vice President of Mall Operations Johanna Melissa Rupisan led the ribbon cutting ceremony.

