

THE VOICE 70 Years ANNIVERSARY NEWSWEEKLY

Giving It Back

BCDA to assist stakeholders

Exploring alternative waste solutions

STATEMENT ON THE EXPIRATION OF KALANGITAN SANITARY LANDFILL CONTRACT

In light of the recent concerns surrounding the impending expiration of Metro Clark Waste Management Corp.'s (MCWMC) 25-year contract for the Kalangitan sanitary landfill facilities in Capas, Tarlac, the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) 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.

Pursuant to the legal opinion of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC), BCDA's statutory course, extending the contract between Clark Development Corporation (CDC) and MCWMC beyond October 2024 would be against the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law, the framework used in bidding and awarding the contract for the project.

Moreover, the BCDA maintains that a sanitary landfill is no longer consistent with the government's vision of transforming New Clark City into a premier investment and tourism destination.

According to a report from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR) Region III, there are two existing facilities in Pampanga that may be utilized upon the end of MCWMC's contract. These facilities have a combined total capacity of 3,500 metric tons (MT) of domestic waste per day, and a potential to expand further to 6,000 MT.

Further, the BCDA has been invited to the opening of another materials recovery facility in Porac, Pampanga with a capacity of 5,000 MT per day. This brings the total combined capacity to 11,000 MT, which is more than enough to address the solid waste management requirements of Tarlac, Pampanga, and other provinces in and around the region. This should allay fears of a looming garbage and health crisis in the region.

THE Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) said it will assist local government units (LGUs), government agencies, and locators explore alternative solutions with the impending expiration of the 25-year contract of the Metro Clark Waste Management Corp. (MCWMC) for the Kalangitan sanitary landfill in Capas, Tarlac.

The move came to ensure that the requirements for the solid waste management services for the stakeholders would not be disrupted who have earlier aired

their grievances with the closure of the landfill.

Pursuant to the legal opinion of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel

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BCDA



Delta, farmers sign agricultural aid pact

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda convened 20 irrigators' associations from various cities and municipalities on June 4, 2024 to sign a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the provision of financial assistance at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

Session Hall. "Malaking bagay po para sa aming mga lider na mayroong lumalapitsa amin para magsabi ng kanilang mga pangangailangan. Dahil sa dami po ng barangay sa ating probinsya, nahihirapan din po kami na

SEE PAGE 22
DELTA, FARMERS



MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANCE. Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Board Member Jun Canlas, Provincial Agriculturist Jimmy Manliclic, and PDRMO Chief Angelina Blanco, with 20 irrigators' associations chairmen from various cities and municipalities at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Session Hall on June 4, 2024 for the provision of financial assistance. (PAMPANGA PIO)

New Porac hospital construction starts

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has started the construction of a new, three-storey building at the Jose S. Lapid District Hospital in Porac, Pampanga.

Upon completion, the Php200-million facility will deliver high-quality health care, ensuring the well-being of both patients and healthcare professionals.

Speaking on behalf of DPWH-3 Regional Director

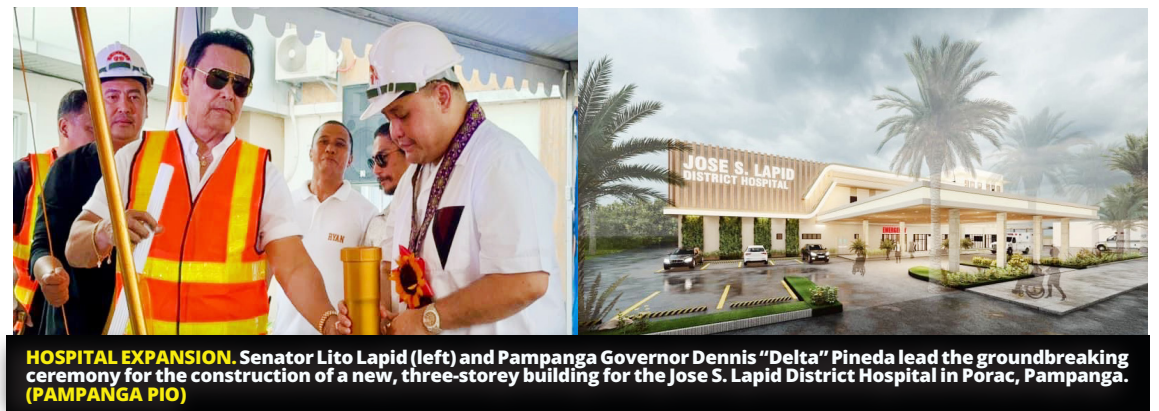
Roseller Tolentino, DPWH Assistant Regional Director Melquiades Sto. Domingo cited the transformative impact of the new structure on healthcare delivery.

"This will provide modern amenities such as administrative offices, a laboratory, patient rooms, and other essential areas which aim to create a comfortable environment for patients and a streamlined work setting for medical staff," Sto.

Domingo explained.

He also stressed that the new building will not only symbolize health and well-being but also mark a significant stride towards a more inclusive healthcare system for Porac.

The project reflects the agency's commitment to enhancing healthcare services and providing comprehensive medical support to all the residents. (PIA REGION 3-PAMPANGA)



HOSPITAL EXPANSION. Senator Lito Lapid (left) and Pampanga Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda lead the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a new, three-storey building for the Jose S. Lapid District Hospital in Porac, Pampanga. (PAMPANGA PIO)

Focus on ARMANDO P. BALUYUT aka ARPIBA

MAX SANGIL

These were the years when there were no fax machines, cellphones, iPads and laptops yet. Correspondents of national dailies placed long distance calls to their newsrooms and it takes long hours before you can get connected.

I belong to the second generation of reporters from Pampanga. My contemporaries were the late Ram Mercado, Marcelino Pangilinan, Rolando Lingat, Ely Julian, Lito Pangilinan, Rizal Policarpio, Joe Reyes, Johnny Gallo, and except

for Lino Sanchez Jr. and Abner San Pedro, who are now in their early eighties, remain standing but no longer active. (The third generation reporters the likes of Bong Lacson, Tonette Orejas, Perry Pangan, Lincoln Baluyut, Noel Tulabut, Marns Dagumboy, Cha Cayabyab and few more others are still very active. There were those in their

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FOCUS ON



Cong Pogi' soon?

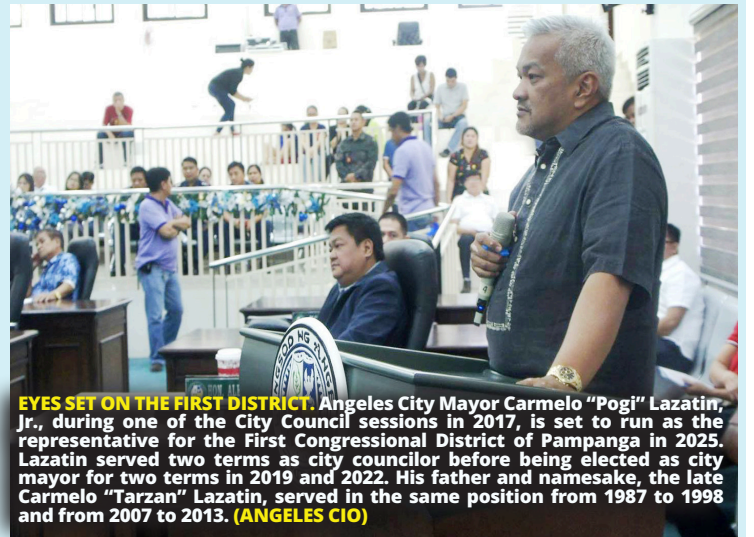
Mayor Pogi to announce candidacy for congressman

ANGELES CITY — Angeles City Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr. is set to declare his candidacy as Pampanga First District Representative on June 28, 2024 at the Magalang Plaza in the Municipality of Magalang.

The date of Lazatin's announcement coincides with what would have been the 90th birthday of his late father, former Pampanga First District Representative and three-time Angeles City Mayor Carmelo "Tarzan" Lazatin.

"This is a momentous event for me as this marks the beginning of yet another journey in my political career. Nung nanu

SEE PAGE 22
CONG POGI SOON?



EYES SET ON THE FIRST DISTRICT. Angeles City Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr., during one of the City Council sessions in 2017, is set to run as the representative for the First Congressional District of Pampanga in 2025. Lazatin served two terms as city councilor before being elected as city mayor for two terms in 2019 and 2022. His father and namesake, the late Carmelo "Tarzan" Lazatin, served in the same position from 1987 to 1998 and from 2007 to 2013. (ANGELES CIO)

Prime Infra inaugurates automated MRF in Porac

Committed to industrialize the waste management system in the country, Prime Infra and its wholly owned subsidiary, Prime Integrated Waste Solutions (PWS), inaugurated on Wednesday its large-scale, automated materials recovery facility (MRF) in Porac, Pampanga.

Leading the event were Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyza, Pampanga Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda, Porac Mayor Jaime "Jing" Capil, and Prime Infra President and CEO Guillaume Lucci and Waste Sector Lead Cara Peralta.

In her message, Loyza

lauded the PWS' utilization of state-of-the-art equipment for waste segregation and storage.

"It is truly inspiring to witness how Prime Infra companies as well as the government—national and local—have come together to build a healthier, safer, and cleaner environment for all of us," she said.

"As you know, the Philippines generates about 61,000 metric tons of waste daily... with 33 percent ending up in landfills while 35 percent is leaked into the open environment. I would like to say that the company's utilization of this state-of-the-art equipment transforms the strategy for resource recovery and also links it to our fuel

SEE 22
PRIME INFRA



L-R: Prime Infra Director Steve Paradies and Market Sector Lead for Waste Cara Peralta, Brgy. Planas Captain Alfer Nacu, Prime Infra President and CEO Guillaume Lucci, Porac Mayor Jaime "Jing" Capil, DENR Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyza, Pampanga Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda, and Prime Infra Director Martin O'Neil led the unveiling of the plaque during the inauguration of PWS' Materials Recovery Facility in Pampanga.



L-R: SBMA Chairman Eduardo Aliño, Porac Mayor Jamie "Jing" Capil, National Solid Waste Management Commission Commissioner and Vice Chairman Crispian Lao, DENR Undersecretary Juan Miguel "Mitch" Cuna, Prime Infra Waste Sector Lead Cara Peralta, Pampanga Governor Dennis Pineda, DENR Secretary Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyza, Prime Infra President and CEO Guillaume Lucci, BCDA Chairman Delfin Lorenzana, CIAC President and CEO Arrey Perez, Planas Brgy. Captain Alfer Nacu, and Prime Infra Director Steve Paradies, Chief Financial Officer Sandy Alipio and Chief Administrative Officer Minerva Matibag at the inauguration of Prime Integrated Waste Solutions Materials Recovery Facility in Pampanga on June 5.

Milan Consulate moves to bring more Italians to PH

The Consulate General of the Philippines in Milan formally launched the Amare Le Philippine (Love the Philippines) Tourism Promotion Campaign aimed at getting more Italians to visit the Philippines.

The Consulate launched the project as part of the Bagong Pilipinas vision of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. who wants to promote the Philippines as a leading international tourism destination.

"Amare Le Philippine seeks to take advantage of the positive image of our kababayans in Italy, host to the largest number of Filipinos in the European Union, to convince more Italians and second- and third-generation Filipino-Italians to visit the Philippines and enjoy what the country has to offer," Consul General Elmer G. Cato said at a press conference announcing the program on 31 May 2024.

For the maiden tour it hopes to mount before the end of the year, the Consulate is looking at a seven-day program that would bring participants to Manila, Pampanga, Tarlac, Bataan, and Cebu.

Participants will also be given the option to visit Boracay, Palawan, Siargao or other popular tourist destinations in the country.

"We are also launching this initiative to promote better public appreciation and understanding of the Philippines here in Italy," Cato added.

Based on data from the Department of Tourism (DOT), Italy ranked 25th in the list of countries of origin of foreign tourists who visited the Philippines last year with 22,496 visitors. It is sixth in the European Union after Germany, France, Spain, The Netherlands, and Switzerland.

The Consulate is collaborating with the Fil-Ital Associazione di Viaggi e Turismo, the Filipino Chamber of

Commerce of Italy, the Bayanihan Council of Northern Italy, and EVA Airways, to bring the first batch of Italian tourists under this program to the Philippines.

Cato said the Consulate will also be working with various stakeholders in the country, particularly the DOT and other national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and the private sector, to ensure the success of the program.



ITALIAN CONNECTION. The Philippine Consulate General in Milan recently launched its Amare Le Philippine Tourism Campaign that seeks to bring more Italian tourists to the Philippines, particularly the Metro Clark Area. Consul General Elmer G. Cato said the program is part of the Bagong Pilipinas vision of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. who wants to promote the Philippines as a leading international tourism destination and is being undertaken in cooperation with the Fil-Ital Associazione di Viaggi e Turismo, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Italy, the Bayanihan Council of Northern Italy, and EVA Airways.

Delta thanks Makati for P1-M aid

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda recently expressed gratitude to the City of Makati for extending financial assistance amounting to Php1 million to the Kapampangans affected by Typhoons Egay and Falcon which hit the country in 2023.

During the second quarter meeting of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) at the Kingsborough International Convention Center recently, Pineda presented a certificate of appreciation to Makati City Mayor Abigail Binay who attended the event with former President and now Pampanga Second District Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"On behalf of the Kapampangans, maraming salamat po. Nakapagbibigay kami ng tulong sa ibang provinces hit by disasters, pero kapag kami naman po ang nalagay sa ganung sitwasyon, masarap p o sa pakiramdam nakakatanggap din ng tulong from other or provinces," Pineda said.

Binay, for her part, thanked the governor for the warm welcome she received and acknowledged the support Pampanga has provided other provinces affected by

disasters such as Batangas, Cagayan, and Mindoro.

Pampanga Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer and Special Assistant to the Governor Angelina Blanco said the donation will be used for the relief and recovery of the affected population.

Aside from Makati City, Davao also donated Php1 million and Korean Community in Central Luzon Php500,000 which will be used for the provision of financial assistance to 55 households that suffered partial to total damages during the typhoons. **(GOVERNOR'S OFFICE)**



GRATITUDE. Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda presents a Plaque of Appreciation to Makati City Mayor Abigail Binay (center) as an expression of his gratitude for the Php1-million financial assistance extended by the city official to Kapampangans affected by Typhoons Egay and Falcon that hit the country in 2023. Looking on is former President and now Pampanga Second District Representative Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. **(PAMPANGA PIO)**

Barangay Dau lauded

The Pampanga Provincial Statistical Office awarded Barangay Dau in Mabalacat City with a Plaque of Recognition for its commitment to data collection, analysis, and reporting processes that are essential for informed decision-making and sustainable development.

The plaque was awarded by Chief Statistical Specialist Maria Virginia Olveña and was received by Dau Punong Barangay Derrick Dee during a ceremony held at the Tabuan Cultural Center on June 5 during the data turnover ceremony of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS).

Dee expressed gratitude for the recognition and emphasized the importance of community participation in statistical activities.

He credited the barangay's dedicated residents and barangay officials for their collaborative efforts in ensuring the success of the CBMS.

The event was attended by Mabalacat City Mayor Crisostomo Garbo and other key government officials from PSA and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), community leaders, and department and unit heads of the Mabalacat City Government. **(MABALACAT CITY NEWS)**



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BAGONG PILIPINAS



SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY *of* THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY

Greetings of peace and earnest journalism!

On behalf of the People of Pampanga, I would like to sincerely congratulate The Voice Newsweekly for celebrating its 70TH anniversary.

As a government institution that continuously provides services for the welfare of the Kapampangans, the Provincial Government of Pampanga continuously commits in disseminating unbiased and credible information to the valued readers of newspapers. We would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to the people behind The Voice Newsweekly for its delivery of prompt and relevant news reports which is pivotal for our constituents.



DENNIS G. PINEDA
GOVERNOR OF PAMPANGA

As you celebrate your seventh decade anniversary, may you continue to deliver and serve truthful, reliable, and timely information not just to the people of Pampanga and Central Luzon, but to everyone who have access to your news reports, both in print and online portals.

Thank you very much. I wish for your continuous success.



KUWENTONG PEYUPS

ATTY. DENNIS GORECHO

Giant Philippine flag in the Independence Day parade in New York

NEW YORK— A huge Philippine flag, estimated to be 25 by 50 feet, is one of the highlights of the parade in celebration of the 126th Independence Day Parade on Madison Avenue in Midtown Manhattan.

Considered as the world's largest celebration outside Manila, this year's parade event fell on June 2, 2024 since it is traditionally held on the first Sunday of June.

It was participated in by some 135 floats, organizations, and marching bands, some of which came all the way from the Philippines, down 10 blocks from 38th Street to 27th Street of Madison Avenue with the theme "Preserving Our Filipino Culture and Heritage to Unite Generations".

Now on its 34th year, it is a major event for many Filipino-Americans that aimed to rekindle their roots and heritage and to commemorate the June 1898 Philippine Declaration of Independence from Spain.

According to an ethnogeriatrics study by the Stanford Medicine, citing the 2022 American Community Survey of United States Census Bureau, Filipino-Americans (alone or in combination with one or more races) account for merely 1% of the total US population.

However, they are the third largest Asian-American group after Chinese and Asian-Indian Americans.

Filipino Americans are fairly widely dispersed in the United States. California holds the largest Filipino American settlement, followed by Hawaii, Nevada, Texas, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Washington State, and Virginia, respectively.

The study added that between 1986 and 2006 the number of Filipino immigrants tripled, making them the second largest immigrant group in the US after Mexican immigrants. Roughly one-quarter of Filipino-Americans reside in California.

Filipino households are in the Top 10 of the highest multi-generational household amongst Asian-American families.

Some of the attendees include Assembly member Steven Raga, the first-ever Filipino-American elected

state official.

"We're not only celebrating our heritage, but also our ongoing contributions to the cultural fabric of this great state," Raga said in an interview.

On June 5, 1898, then President Emilio Aguinaldo issued the 21-page declaration Acta de la Proclamacion de la Independencia del Pueblo Filipino at his house located in Cavite proclaiming June 12, 1898 as the day of independence. The Philippine flag was officially unfurled for the first time at about 4:30 p.m. as the Marcha Nacional Filipina was played by the band of San Francisco de Malabon.

The proclamation was promulgated by 190 municipal presidents from the 16 provinces controlled by the revolutionary army on August 1, 1898 at Bacoar, and was officially ratified on September 29, 1898 by the Malolos Congress.

"This year's theme is a tribute to the diversity of cultures and traditions that make up our great nation, and the importance of coming together in harmony and respect for one another," says Arman David, president of the Philippine Independence Day Council Inc.

I saw groups performing their local festivals like the Kuyamis Festival of the Province of Misamis Oriental whose name is derived from the Subanen word kuyamis, the variety of sweet coconut that is found in the province. It is also the origin of the name of Misamis.

There were also groups from my alma mater led by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association in America (UPAAA) which was founded in 1981 in New Jersey. Its primary aim is to unite alumni groups in America and to work for the preservation of the UP System as the national center for academic excellence, freedom and service. I asked them to do the UPFight cheer in support of the UP Fighting Maroons.

Activist groups also joined the march, including Bayan USA, Malaya USA, Anakbayan, as they carried placards with various messages like the "West Philippine Sea, Atin



ito", "The Philippines is not for sale", "Filipino workers unite", "Honor our history of struggle", "Fight for higher wages and better working condition", and, "Junk labor export policy".

They were followed by MAISUG supporters of Vice-President Sara Duterte carrying placards with messages like "We call for voluntary drug testing for PBBM", "Reject bureaucratic corruption", "We want transparency and accountability."

The street fair featured Pinoy food such as barbecue, balut, halo halo, lechon, sorbetes, fishball and sisig.

On June 9, 2024 another celebration is set to be held in Louisiana where one of the first Filipino settlements in the United States was established by seafaring people who arrived as sailors and navigators on board Spanish ships during the Galleon trade. They jumped off the ship to escape the harsh, violent and abusive working conditions.

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

THE VOICE: Seedbed of Journalism, Cradle of Culture, Mirror of Politics

BONG Z. LACSON

FERTILE GROUND whence seeds germinated, hundreds of flowers bloomed and came to fruition. And a hundred thoughts contended. To finish off with that Maoist precept.

The Voice - founded in 1954 - served as a spawning laboratory for Pampanga's journalistic elite, forum for the local intelligentsia, and repository of Kapampangan literature.

Max L. Sangil, who assumed the Angeles City mayorship during the campaign and election period of 1998 and a former city councilor, chronicled Pampanga's contemporary history through the '60s to the '80s in his column that evolved from *Aru Abe to People & Business to People & Others to Max Sangil Writes*. These formed the substance of his book, *Somewhere in Central Luzon*.

Max holds the distinction of being the first to resume his column *People & Business* in the paper after the declaration of Martial Law on Sept. 21, 1972. Although **The Voice** did not miss any issue in the aftermath of PD 1081, all its columnists took a forced vacation from its issue of Sept. 2, 1972 to April 21, 1974.

Lito Pangilinan. The first (and only?) Kapampangan to ever sit as editor of Far Eastern University's **The Advocate** was for a long time this paper's editor and columnist, first with *Matters of Fact* and then with *My World* which has remained until now.

Greg, the elder Sangil, had his *Inside the Capitol* in the mid-'60s, evolving to *View from the Capitol*, a journal of the Nepomuceno and Mendoza years of governance.

Minalin native Mar Pangilinan was correspondent for **Manila Chronicle** when he served as columnist - *If I were...* - and managing editor in the mid-'60s. Since the '80s, Mar has been the resident wit of **The Pampanga Times** of Tatang Joe and Imang Glo Reyes.

Mel Figueroa's **Random Thoughts** spanned all three decades in **The Voice** until the late '80s.

Little known to the present generation of journalists were Gerry Bread and Mang Ando of *Balitang Barbero*, an account of day-to-day life in the city in the '60s; and Eligio Valencia of the very sober *Take it or Leave It* which appeared from 1966 to the '80s.

Ram Mercado, foremost essayist and literary man in both English and Kapampangan, had his stint as editor too.

Then there was Romy Lingat as associate editor. Mr. Cool was then station manager of **dzAB** - transformed to **dzAP** in the '70s. He is now topman of the Angeles City Water District board.

Rizal Policarpio, forever angry, found outlet for his suppressed rage in his *Puwede Po Ba?* from the late '70s to the mid-'80s, and his simply eponymous column now. This after some wise guys scrambled his column *Tapik Lang into Pitaklan* (That's asshole in Kapampangan.) and his radio program *Pisasabian Tamu Mu* (Plain Talk) to *Pisasabian Tamumu* (Conversations with wasps).

The paper served for a long time as sounding board to the resident CIA (for Civilian in Angeles) in the city, George

Henry Morton whose column *From Under the Mango Tree* conjured a bucolic atmosphere in the urban jungle.

Journo lab

The Voice was designated as the journalism laboratory of the regional staff of the then Department of Public Information in the years 1978-1980.

At the instance of Director Ric Serrano who also wrote a column and served as the paper's editorial consultant, all his writers were required to supplement their news and feature outputs in the national papers with weekly columns in **The Voice**. From this batch came Ding Cervantes, starting off his *On the Rialto* with the philosophies of Aquinas before embarking on his Marian pilgrimage, and later on with end-of-the-world admonitions. Riza Angara Moises who wrote about the positives in government programs and projects in her *Central Luzon Forum* is now a transportation magnate. Gigi Llamas stayed on with the DPI, now the Philippine Information Agency.

Then there was me. The obnoxiously abrasive *Inkong Milio* who found safe sanctuary anonymity from where to launch the most vitriolic assaults on just about every institution and personality in the area. The impudent me had his comeuppance when I had to snack on my column after losing a bet that bar topnotcher but perennial political loser Lorenzo "Lolong" Timbol would win in the Batasang Pambansa elections of 1984.

Two contemporary newsmen of note in Pangasinan honed their spurs in the journalistic grindstone of this paper: Leonardo 'Ding' Micua of **PNA** and Rhee Fer. Hortalaza of **Sunday Punch**. From Tarlac: Amante Reyes and Leonardo Alborote.

Amante edited the **Voice Tarlac** section of the paper along with Danny Gaerlan in the mid-'70s.

The martyred lawyer Ramos L. Cura, executed by Right-wing vigilantes in 1988, came out with *Thinking Aloud* in 1967. Another lawyer, Jolly Jimenez wrote *Ad Libs* in the '60s on through the '80s aside from serving as legal counsel to the paper.

There was too Social Welfare Administrator of the Macapagal period Jose Pelayo with his *Bitter Truth*. Tatang Jopel went on to be a fixture in the parliament of the streets.

Then there were the Kapampangan poet laureates Joe Gallardo of Candaba, Querubin Fernandez of Mabalacat and ARPIBA, Apung Mando himself, who made the paper the cradle of literary arts in the *amanung sasmuan*, the mother tongue, in the two-paged section *Ing Siwala*. Local poets, known and unknown found their means of expression for the poignancy of loves lost, the pleasures of romance, pride and patriotism in this section.

Apung Joe's *Dorong Guintu*, an epic on the social unrest in Pampanga, ran for more than 70 weekly installments in the paper. Some of the great Crissot's odes also found publication in the pages of **The Voice**.

Aside from his poems, Querubin had his column *Wise or Otherwise*, and later, *Verbum Sap* even as he served

as the paper's managing editor at the time of Martial Law.

Moments

Memorable moments abounded in **The Voice**.

Venerable publisher-editor Apung Mando Baluyut in white pants and *polo barong* making like a newsboy, himself distributing copies of his paper at the Governor's Office from the time of Apung Feleng Lazatin onto Apung Kitong Nepomuceno, Bidong Valencia, Apu Saning Nepomuceno and Apung Titong Mendoza; at Camp Olivias from the time of Tanabe to Diaz onto Gatan and Eduardo; at the Angeles City Hall from the older Abad Santos through the Suarez, Lazatin and Nepomuceno eras; even at the Clark Air Force Base Commander's Office. No, Apung Mando did not distribute

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THE VOICE

THE
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NEWSWEEKLY

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Giving Back at 70!



GOVERNOR SUSAN A. YAP
Provincial of Tarlac



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ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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Happy
70
ANNIVERSARY



GUY LOPEZ
GENERAL MANAGER

ANGELES CITY
WATER DISTRICT
SINCE 1987



HAPPY 70TH ANNIVERSARY



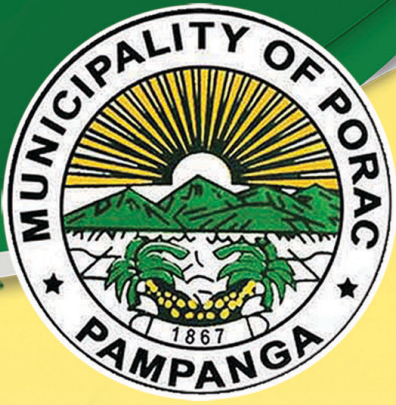
Greetings from

HON. CARMELO "JON" LAZATIN II

1ST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAMPANGA

10 ANNIVERSARY EDITION

THE VOICE | JUNE 9 - 15, 2024



Happy

th

YEARS

ANNIVERSARY

THE
VOICE
NEWSWEEKLY

FROM:

Mayor JAIME "JING" V. CAPIL

Vice Mayor BUDOY TAMAYO

and

SANGGUNIANG BAYAN MEMBERS



Bayung Porac
CREATIVE TEAM





12 ANNIVERSARY EDITION

THE VOICE | JUNE 9 - 15, 2024



BEAUTÉDERM



IC CALAGUAS
Chief Adviser & Tactician
Angeles City Government

 **BEAUTÉ DERM**

REINA MANUEL
Executive Assistant IV
Angeles City Government





Mich Viray Casa Moda

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- Parati lang linisan ding elise ning bentilador bang masikan ing angin at maragul ing atipid king koryenti at gastus.



- Ali la paburen makasaksak ing TV at aliwa pang appliances kareng outlet nung ali la gagamitan uling gagamit lang koryenti. Ilako la keng pangasaksak da keng outlet nung ali la gagamitan.



- Pakakuskusan ing dinat ampo ing alikabuk da reng bombilyang sulu bang lala lang masala.
- Gumamit tamung Led na bumbilya. Mas matipid ya ini anggang 75% kesa king incandescent na bumbilya.



- I-defrost ing refrigerator stung lampas ¼ ne ing yelu.
- Pakasara yang masalese ing pasbul ning refrigerator bang e singo ing dimla.



- Minsan mu paruminggo mamalansa. Dapat bayu alas nuebe ning abak o kaybat alas nuebe ning bengi mamalansa. Masikan ing koryenti umpisang 9AM hanggang 9PM.

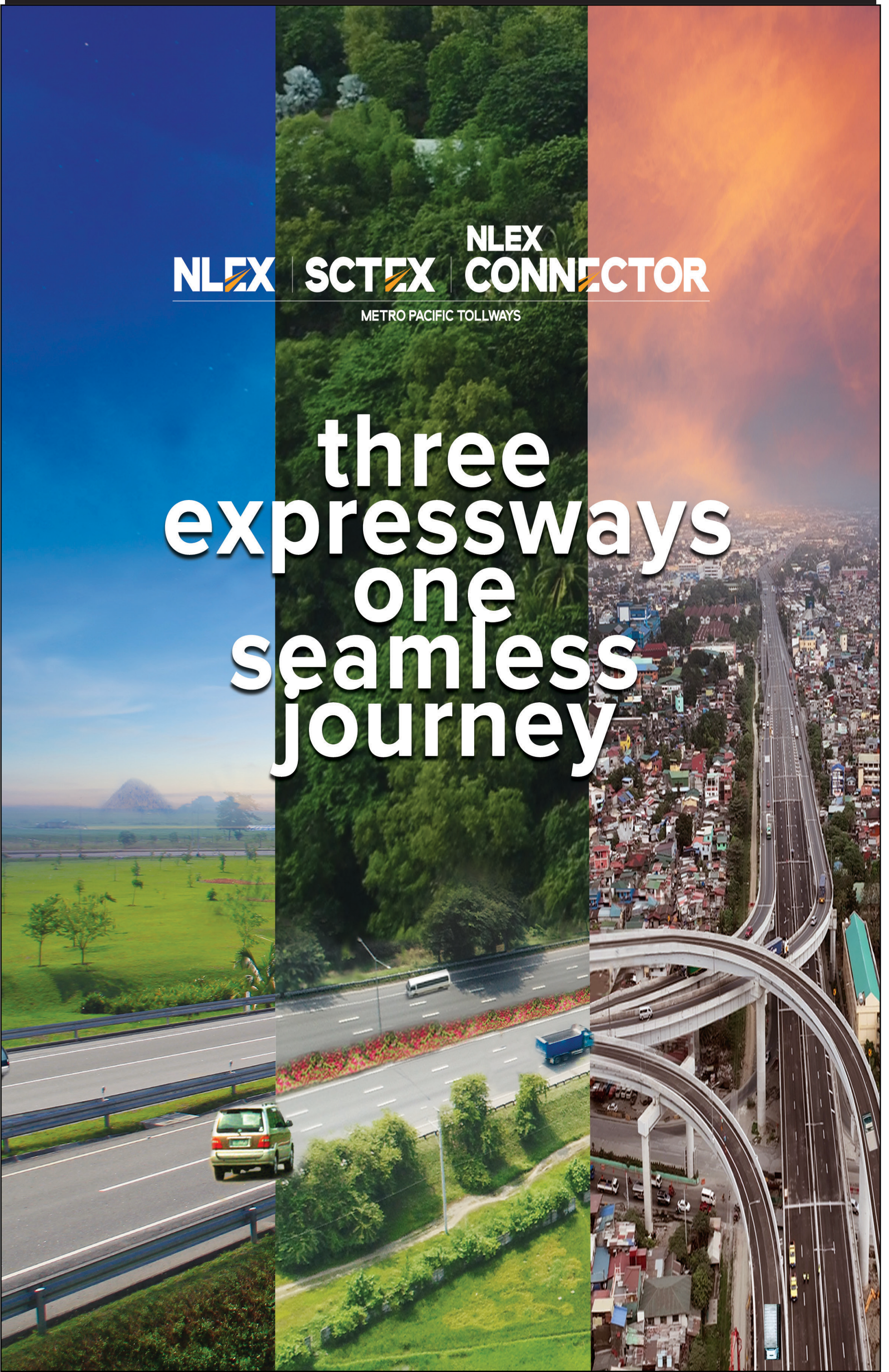


- Linisan la deng filter at condenser balang kanam a bulan.
- Pakasara la deng pasbul at awang bayu ya sindian ing aircon bang malaguang dimla.

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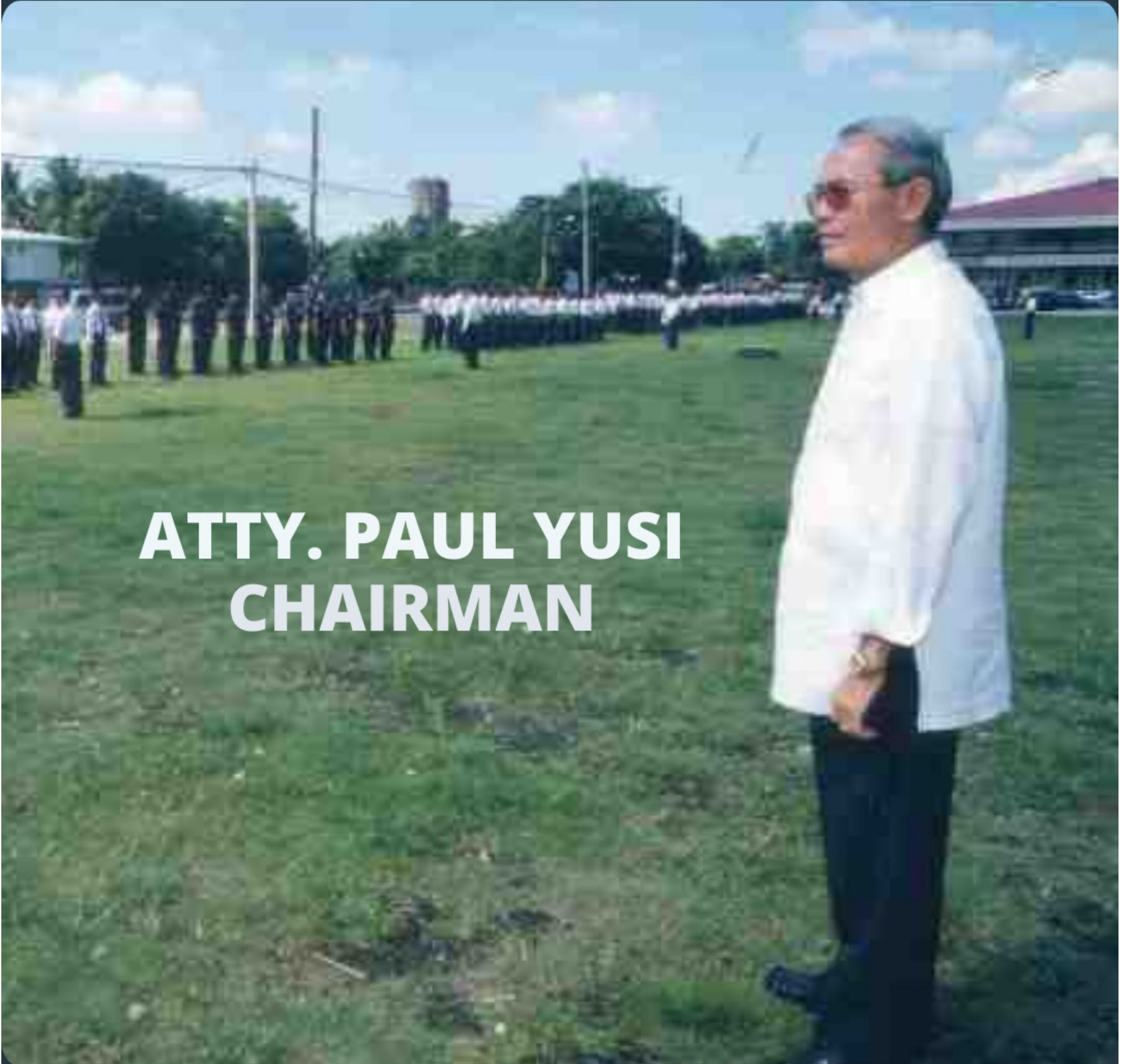
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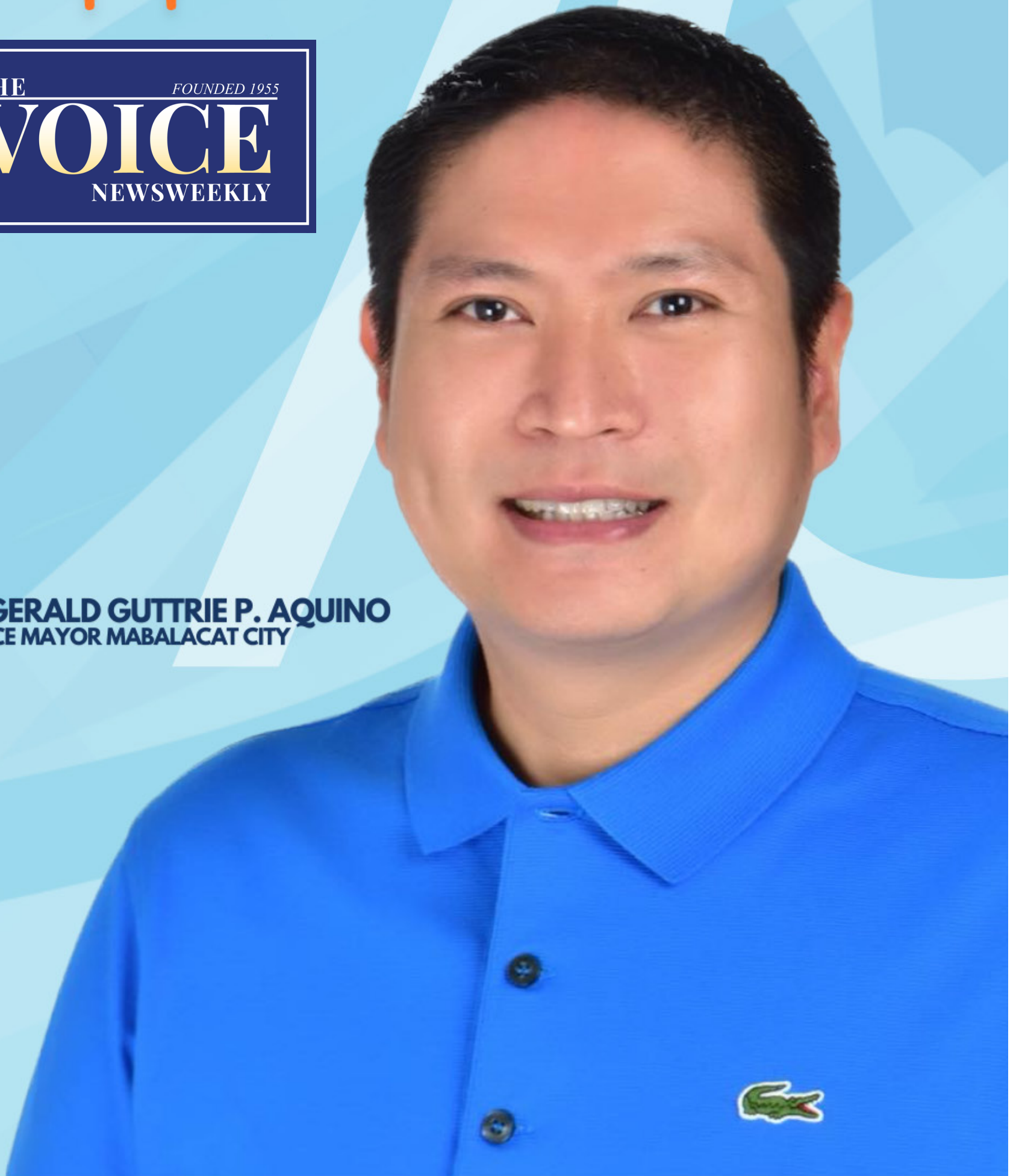


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Solon reaffirms support for measures vs smuggling

SAN NARCISO, Zambales — House Committee on Bases Conversion Chairman and Zambales First District Representative Jefferson Khonghun reaffirmed his commitment to support measures to curb smuggling activities and safeguarding the well-being of Filipino citizens.

Khonghun stressed that President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive to intensify efforts against the smuggling of tobacco and vape products is a significant step towards protecting public health and upholding the rule of law.

"I commend President Marcos for his decisive action to prioritize the fight against the smuggling of tobacco and vape product. This sends a clear message that our government is serious about protecting public health and ensuring the integrity of our markets," he said.

Khonghun stressed the importance of tackling the illicit trade of tobacco and vape products, including the health risks associated with these products and the economic repercussions of smuggling on legitimate businesses and government revenues.

"It is crucial that we address and end the rampant smuggling of tobacco and vape products, which not only poses health hazards to our citizens but also undermines the efforts of legitimate businesses and deprives

government of much-needed revenue," he pointed out.

The Philippine tobacco industry provides livelihood to 2.2 million Filipinos while the tobacco excise tax makes up four percent of total government revenues, representing Php135 billion in 2023.

"Smuggling in general is not only an economic issue but a form of subversion that encourages lawlessness, promotes syndicated crimes, and erodes economic gains," Khonghun stressed as he called on the concerned departments, including the Department of Finance (DoF) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), to help the President end the illegal practice.

He also emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach that involves close cooperation between government agencies, law enforcement, and stakeholders.

President Marcos recognized the anti-smuggling measures of the government during the 6th Private Sector Advisory Council-Agriculture Sector Group (PSAC-ASG) meeting in Malacañang.

"Enforcement and anti-smuggling and all that. You have to beef them up, and I think we're doing that," the President said.

The PSAC-ASG made several recommendations and policy requirements to protect the tobacco industry, including tasking the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to release funds as prescribed under Republic Act 4155 for the National Tobacco Authority (NTA) Sustainable Tobacco Enhancement Program (STEP).

It also sought amendments to the Anti-Agri Smuggling Act of 2016 to include tobacco products. In addition, the PSAC-ASG also wants provisions on minimum retail price and penalties for distributing and selling smuggled products.

The council also called on the DTI to set a deadline for the registration of importers and manufacturers of vapor products and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to start imposing tax requirements on tobacco and vapor products.

The government earmarks 50 percent of excise tax collections for Universal Health Care under the Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) as well as for the Health Facilities Enhancement Program. (PIA Region 3-Zambales)

Quit smoking benefits reiterated

CABANATUAN CITY, Nueva Ecija

— Citing its health benefits, the Department of Health (DOH) has reiterated its call to quit smoking as it observed World No Tobacco Day to encourage collective efforts in combating tobacco use and its harmful effects on health and society.

DOH-Central Luzon Center for Health Development Non-Communicable Diseases Cluster Senior Health Program Officer Agnes Alipio said quitting smoking will reduce respiratory problems such as coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath; the risk of developing lung diseases; infertility in women of child-bearing age; and, the low birth weight of babies born to women who stop smoking during pregnancy.

Alipio said cigarettes contain over 7,000 chemicals, including nicotine, tar, and carbon monoxide.

"These substances damage the lungs and heart, causing respiratory and heart diseases. Cigarettes also contain about 70 known chemicals that can cause cancer; not just lung cancer but cancers in various parts of the body can develop from smoking," she warned.

Data from the World Health Organization indicates that tobacco causes the deaths of more than eight million people each year. Of the deaths, over seven million are due to direct tobacco consumption while approximately 1.2 million result from non-smokers being exposed to secondhand smoke.

"In the Philippines, tobacco-related diseases kill about 87,600 Filipinos each year. That is equivalent to 10 people dying every hour," Alipio cited.

Considering the alarming statistics, the DOH elaborated the significant health advantages of tobacco cessation.

Alipio said after just 20 minutes of quitting tobacco use, an individual can expect

a drop in heart rate and blood pressure. The carbon monoxide level in the blood, which is the reason for the difficulty in breathing, returns to normal within 12 hours of quitting.

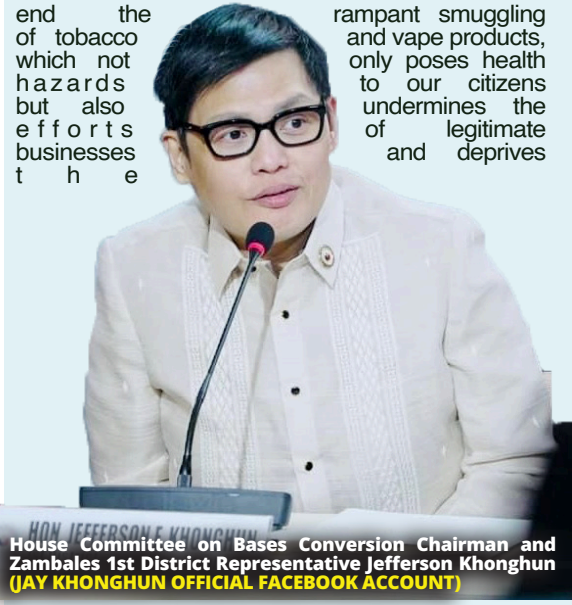
She noted that circulation also improves and lung function increases after two weeks to three months of cessation.

"Within one to nine months after quitting, coughing and shortness of breath decrease, and the cilia — the tiny hair-like structures that move mucus out of the lungs — start to regain normal function, increasing the ability to handle mucus, clean themselves, and reduce the risk of infection," she stressed.

After one year of cessation, the excess risk of coronary heart disease is cut in half compared to that of a continuing smoker. Five years after quitting, the risk of cancer of the mouth, throat, esophagus, and bladder is also cut in half.

"In addition, the risk of cervical cancer drops to that of a non-smoker, and the risk of stroke can fall to that of a non-smoker within two to five years," Alipio furthered.

World No Tobacco Day is observed every May 31 to encourage efforts in combating tobacco use to avoid its harmful effects on health and society. (PIA REGION 3 - NUEVA ECIA)



House Committee on Bases Conversion Chairman and Zambales 1st District Representative Jefferson Khonghun (JAY KHONGHUN OFFICIAL FACEBOOK ACCOUNT)

NE farmers get P137-M farm machinery

CABANATUAN CITY, Nueva Ecija

— The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) recently distributed Php137.3 million worth of machinery to farmers in Nueva Ecija.

A total of 61 farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) and local government units (LGUs) benefited from PhilMech's Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program.

PhilMech Facility Management and Field Operations Division Chief May Vile Castro said a total of 70 machines were awarded, composed of 59 four-wheel drive tractors, seven threshers, and four rice reapers.

Castro clarified that the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 11203 served as basis in determining the RCEF Mechanization Program recipients,

which include prioritizing rice-based FCAs accredited by the Department of Agriculture.

In case there are no qualified FCAs in a particular area or they cannot comply with the requirements, the LGU may become the beneficiary that will oversee the operation of the machinery to meet the needs of individual farmers.

Castro reminded the recipients to value the machinery by using these properly and by maintaining and managing these.

"May all these be used for the right purpose so we can achieve our objective, to lower production cost and reduce losses in post-harvest that will translate to additional income for our farmers," she said.

To ensure the efficiency of the distributed machinery, PhilMech conducted trainings on the proper use, management, and monitoring

of its utilization. Beneficiaries may charge other farmers who will use the machinery at a lower cost with proceeds allocated for maintenance.

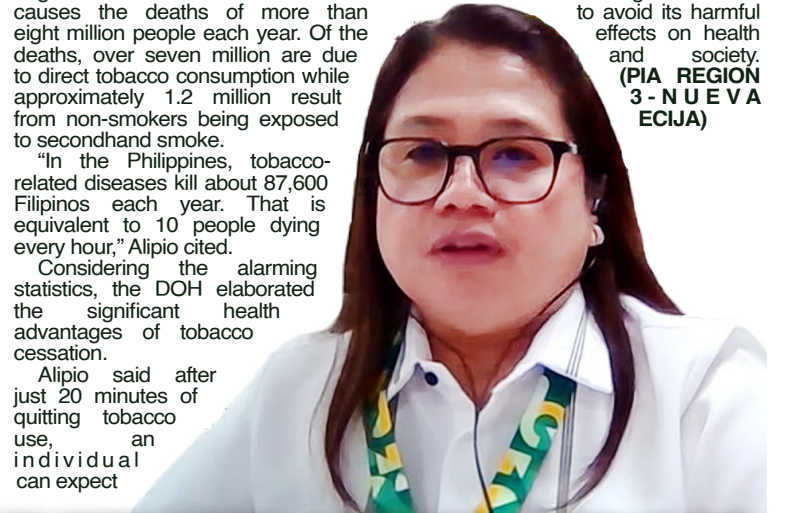
"It is stated in our agreement with the beneficiaries that they need to charge less compared to the prevailing price in the private sector to help the individual farmers who will use and avail of the services of the machines," Castro said.

The awarded machinery is equipped with Global Positioning System (GPS) for easy monitoring.

Castro said FCAs who wish to become beneficiaries of the RCEF Mechanization Program must submit an application to PhilMech or the local agriculture office in their municipality or city. They must attach a letter of intent, board resolution, and other requirements. (PIA REGION 3-NUEVA ECIA)



FARMING EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION. A total of 61 farmers' cooperatives and associations and LGUs in Nueva Ecija received Php137.3 million worth of machinery from the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) under the agency's Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program. (PHILMECH)



QUIT SMOKING. Department of Health-Central Luzon Center for Health Development Non-Communicable Diseases Cluster Senior Health Program Officer Agnes Alipio emphasizes the health benefits of quitting tobacco in line with the observance of World No Tobacco Day every May 31. (PIA 3)



MING CHI U, MCC MOU SIGNING. Mabalacat City College (MCC) President Dr. Michelle Aguilar-Ong signed on June 4, 2024 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ming Chi University of Technology of Taiwan President Dr. Thu-Hua Liu to establish future student exchanges, research collaborations, transnational education, and faculty development programs. (MCC-INTERNATIONALIZATION OFFICE)

Farmers urged to plant high-quality seed varieties

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, Nueva Ecija — The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) urges farmers to plant high-quality seed varieties in line with the agency's PalayCheck System, specifically Key Check 1 which focuses on using high-quality seeds of a recommended variety.

PhilRice Plant Breeding and Biotechnology Division Science Research Specialist Rustum Bracerros said using high-quality seeds lead to high growth levels, lower seed requirements, healthier seeds and seedlings, and efficient and effective crop establishment.

"As crops from high-quality seeds grow, it allows for uniform growth of the crop, lower pest or disease damage, and synchronized maturation of the plants, making it easier to harvest. If this is followed, a 10-percent or higher increase in yield can be attained," Bracerros explained.

At the same time, PhilRice provides general recommendations on choosing high-quality seed varieties.

Farmers are encouraged to obtain seeds from accredited seed growers, ensuring an authentic National Seed Quality Control Services (NSQCS) tag is attached guaranteeing quality.

"The tag contains information such as the grower, seed class, the laboratory analysis number, the variety, and the

lot number. It also indicates the purity level of the seeds," Bracerros said.

However, if the seeds are old stocks or carry-over from the previous season, farmers should conduct germination re-test before sowing.

"If there is no accredited seed grower, farmers may source seeds from reliable farmers in the area or produce their own high-quality seeds by following the proper seeding procedures, particularly in roguing or removing off-types," Bracerros said.

He also said farmers should ensure farmer-produced seeds have passed a germination test to determine quality, which the farmer or NSQCS may conduct.

He also advised farmers to select a variety that suits the environment or planting season.

"Choose a variety that is appropriate for your area. For instance, there are upland varieties; rain-fed lowland varieties that can survive even with a limited water supply; irrigated varieties; rain-fed lowland varieties that are drought or submergence-prone; and flood-prone varieties, or what we call submergence rice," Bracerros explained.

During the rainy season, farmers are urged to pay attention to prevalent pests in the area and consider the

variety's shattering and lodging characteristics. Bracerros suggested choosing a variety that addresses existing local field problems.

"Consider regionally-preferred varieties as these have been proven in the area or locality. Also select varieties that have shown good results in adaptability trials over the past two planting seasons conducted by PhilRice or the (Department of Agriculture) local office," he pointed out.

He also said that apart from having a high yield, it is recommended to ensure that the variety has high market demand.

"Farmers often buy new varieties thinking of these will have a high yield. However, a new variety released in the market may have other reasons besides good yield, such as being better tasting and resistant to damage from pests and diseases," the PhilRice specialist said.

Bracerros aid that by following these recommendations, farmers can expect high yields, high-quality grains, and increased income.

For more information, farmers may contact the PhilRice Text Center Hotline at (0917) 111-7423 or visit the PhilRice official website at www.philrice.gov.ph. (PIA REGION 3-NUEVA ECIA)



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BCDA... FROM PAGE 1

(OGCC), BCDA's statutory counsel, extending the contract between Clark Development Corporation (CDC) and MCWMC beyond October 2024 would be against the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law, the framework used in bidding and awarding the contract for the project.

Moreover, the BCDA maintains that a sanitary landfill is no longer consistent with the government's vision of transforming the New Clark City into a premier investment and tourism destination.

According to a report from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Region III, there are two existing facilities in Pampanga that may be utilized upon expiration of MCWMC's contract.

The said facilities have a combined total capacity of 3,500 metric tons (MT) of domestic waste per day and a potential to expand further to 6,000 MT.

The BCDA has been invited to the opening of another material recovery facility in Porac, Pampanga with a capacity of 5,000 MT per day.

This brings the total combined capacity to 11,000 MT which is more than enough to address the solid waste management requirements of Tarlac, Pampanga, and other provinces in and

around the region.

"This should allay fears of a looming garbage and health crisis in the region," the BCDA said in a statement.

The move came after the local government of Capas said it may file a case against the BCDA and the CDC if they close the Kalangitan Sanitary Landfill in October without offering an "alternative" waste facility.

Capas Mayor Roseller B. Rodriguez said they are left with no recourse but to sue BCDA and CDC, who earlier said they will proceed with the closure of the waste facility that is serving more than 120 LGUs in Central Luzon and parts of Pangasinan and Benguet.

Rodriguez said the local government, supported by the Capas Sangguniang Bayan, will file a case, if they find sufficient legal basis, and seek the issuance of a Writ of Kalikasan because the closure of the landfill may cause a disaster in their waste management activities and there are no clear guidelines on how the area will be decommissioned as a landfill.

The mayor has urged BCDA and CDC to extend the utilization of the Kalangitan Sanitary Landfill, noting that not only Capas but the whole Central Luzon and parts of Northern Luzon regions will be confronted with a waste disposal problem as an immediate

effect of the closure.

"There is not a single sanitary landfill that is compliant and could accommodate the daily waste disposal of both regions. It will definitely take years before such a facility could efficiently accommodate such huge tonnage and volume of daily wastes," Rodriguez stressed.

"The collateral effect of this plan of BCDA is us losing revenue amounting to more or less Php25 million a year in terms of taxes and internal revenue allotments derived from the operation of the landfill, including savings in waste management disposal expenses," the mayor said.

He warned that the closure of the MCWMC engineered sanitary landfill in Kalangitan will cause a "severe environmental and health and crises" and a widespread garbage crisis for the millions of residents in the said regions that currently benefit from the operation of the facility.

Nearly all business establishments, including malls, hospitals and industries operating in Central Luzon are being serviced by the Kalangitan landfill. More than 5,000 tons of waste is brought on a daily basis to the first engineered and environmentally-compliant sanitary landfill in the country.

CONG POGI SOON?... FROM PAGE 1

pu ing gawa ning kanakung pengari - y Congressman Tarzan - at ning kanakung kaputul - y Congressman Jon - isundu ku pu," Lazatin, who is currently serving his second term as Angeles City mayor, said.

Under his 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.

Recently, the city ranked fifth among the nine Philippine Cities with the largest urban economies in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index and was a national finalist for the Walang Gutom Awards 2024 for the 'Walang Plastikan: Plastic Palit Bigas' Program.

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

During the pandemic, Angeles City was cited by the DILG as among the 23 HUCs (Highly-Urbanized Cities) to first achieve 'herd immunity' against COVID-19.

Angeles City is also the first LGU to establish the Ronda Bakuna, bringing COVID-19 vaccination efforts to all Angeleño households, and the only LGU to establish the Sundo Bakuna, deploying PUVs and buses to take residents to vaccination sites.

Lazatin began his political career in 2013 when he ran as Angeles city councilor, during which he authored landmark ordinances including 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). He served two terms as city councilor before being elected city mayor in 2019.

When he was re-elected for a second term in 2022, Lazatin became the first mayor in Angeles City's history to be 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. (ANGELES CIO)

DELTA, FARMERS... FROM PAGE 1

malaman lahat ng mga problema. Kaya maraming salamat po dahil ipinaabot ninyo po sa amin ito. Sana po kahit paano'y makatulong kami sa inyo," Pineda said.

In 2023, a total of 27 associations approached the Office of the Governor to seek assistance following the effects of the El Niño phenomenon.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC), chaired by Pineda, approved Resolution Nos. 3 and 7-2024 allocating Php40 million for various agricultural activities and interventions, including the provision of water, and irrigation equipment, supplies, fuel, materials, subsidy, and other forms of assistance to farmers, fisherfolk, poultry owners, and other vulnerable sectors affected by the El Niño phenomenon.

Of the 27 associations, 20 successfully met the necessary requirements, making them the initial

recipients eligible for the assistance.

Under the MOA signed by Pineda and the association leaders in the presence of Board Member Jun Canlas, Provincial Agriculturist Jimmy Manliclic, and PDRRMO Chief Angelina Blanco, the financial assistance aims to mitigate the impact of El Niño on the agriculture sector and must be used according to the terms and conditions set forth by the council.

"Malaking, malaking tulong sa amin itong financial assistance na ito, lalo na't gumagamit kami ng makina at diesel para makahigop ng tubig mula sa sapa," Gilberto Guina, vice-chairperson of the Maunlad na Candating Sapang Paitan Farmers Irrigators' Association, said.

To further support the agricultural community in coping with the challenges posed by the El Niño phenomenon, the provincial government plans to visit barangays to distribute cash assistance directly

to associations' individual members registered in the Registry System for the Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA).

The initiative underscores the governor's commitment to ensuring food security which is among his 12-point development agenda announced during his assumption to office.

According to Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) records, a total of 77 barangays have been affected by drought, Brown Planthoppers, and spider mites in the province with losses amounting to Php71,072,485.59.

Blanco said the assistance to be provided by the council is aimed at alleviating the financial burden of the affected farmers.

"Nahihirapan na po ang ating mga magsasaka. Nababaon sila sa utang dahil sa mga gastusin nila, lalo na sa fuel at electricity," she said. (GOVERNOR'S OFFICE)

PRIME INFRA... FROM PAGE 2

transition," Loyzaga said.

"We in the DENR is here to applaud the investment of Prime Integrated Waste Solutions Inc. and the local government for taking this big step together. We look forward to seeing more such facilities in the future, and we're here to support each and every LGU in their journey towards a climate-resilient and environmentally safe future," she added.

Lucci said Prime Infra aims to industrialize the waste business in the Philippines at high scale through PWS.

"This expansion in Luzon, starting in Pampanga—and we want to thank again the host province and host municipalities for this—really demonstrates our commitment to industrialize this market which is the natural next step for waste management in the country," Lucci said.

The Pampanga MRF is the first greenfield development of PWS, and the company's second operational facility next to Cebu City.

PWS, a wholly owned subsidiary of Prime Infra, was established in response to the increasing demand for proper waste management and resource recovery solutions in industrialized and fast-growing cities in the Philippines. It's business model is based on Prime Infra's overall objective of converting recovered resources into sustainable fuels.

"Our current waste management process is really built around resource recovery. We plan to invest in a waste-to-fuel facility here that will convert the waste into fuel for ships, airplanes, trucks, and so on and so forth. This is an integral part of Prime Infra's sustainability initiatives," Lucci said.

Cara Peralta, Prime Infra Market Sector Lead for Waste, for her part said the Pampanga facility offers a "new age of waste disposal." PWS uses state-of-the-art equipment procured from Europe and Asia such

as vibrating sieves, baler systems, magnetic separators, as well as air density separator to maximize resource recovery.

The Pampanga facility can accommodate up to 5,000 tons per day of municipal solid waste.

"We commit to recover and recycle up to 80-90% of total waste received. We look forward to serving you and becoming partners in this journey, and to meet Prime Infra's original objective of turning waste into sustainable fuels. Together, we can provide the right waste solutions for the Philippines and beyond," said Peralta.

Meanwhile, Governor Pineda emphasized how proud he is for Pampanga to have such a facility that will be of help in the provincial government's solid waste management program.

"Nagpapasalamat po kami sa PWS management, in partnership sa provincial government. Bagay ito para sa solid waste management program namin. Ngayon po na first time na may ganito, at least nakita ko po na state-of-the-art [equipment] talaga. So hindi kami ngayon nagwo-worry or natatakot na ipagmalaki ang project na ito kasi hindi ito kamukha ng ibang landfill o open site. The company and the DENR assured us na magiging state-of-the-art ito. So mga Kapampangan, wala po tayong dapat katakutan dahil when we introduced ito sa mga Pampanga mayors, pwede po naming maipagmalaki ito," Pineda said.

Tarlac Governor Susan Yap echoed the sentiment of Pineda, saying she was pleased at seeing the MRF equipment onsite.

"Ang maganda ay 'yung system. I thought that it was going to be a landfill system also, but apparently, not. So that's why I said, natuwa ako," Yap said.

Porac Mayor Capil expressed thanks for choosing the municipality of Porac as the location of PWS' facility.

Campaign on employers' obligations stepped up

CABANATUAN CITY, Nueva Ecija — The Social Security System-Cabanatuan Branch (SSS-Cabanatuan) is intensifying the Run after Contribution Evaders (RACE) Campaign to remind employers of the obligations they must fulfill with the SSS.

SSS-Cabanatuan Branch Manager Jose Rizal Tarun said this is their fifth RACE activity this year. About 14 establishments were recently subjected to RACE.

"We will continue to raise the awareness of employers of their obligations such as ensuring registration of all employees with the SSS within 30 days upon employment and appropriate remittance of their monthly contributions," Tarun pressed.

Employees may be deprived of claiming SSS benefits if employers do not remit contributions.

Meanwhile, the 14 establishments recently subjected to RACE must comply with the time set by the branch in registering their employees and settling delinquencies.

Among the establishments visited were employers who have not been able to remit employees' contributions, with established collectibles exceeding Php529,000.

"When an employer does not pay on

time, a two-percent penalty per month is imposed. So we encourage them to immediately comply so the penalty they must pay will not increase," Tarun said.

He reminded all establishments to comply with the provisions of the SSS under Republic Act 11199 so they and their employees can enjoy the benefits they will need when the time comes.

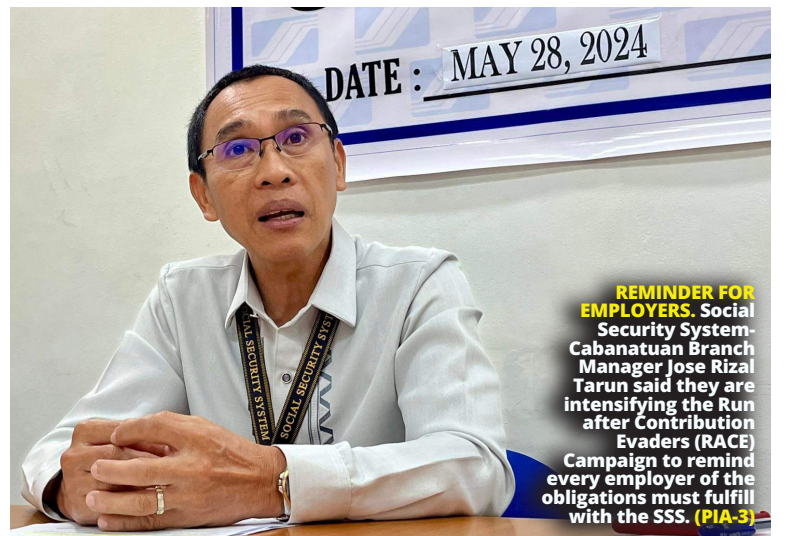
Among the benefits SSS members are entitled to include sickness, maternity, disability, retirement, death, and funeral benefits, and the employees' compensation benefit for members whose cause of illness or death is work-related.

Tarun also encouraged members to register at My.SSS so that they can monitor their records anywhere and anytime.

"This is also a way for employees to verify if the contributions deducted by their employers are remitted to SSS," Tarun pointed out.

Data provided by the SSS-Cabanatuan Branch showed that 768 employers of the 6,835 total active business establishments, or 11 percent, are not paying contributions.

The branch covers 24 towns and cities in the First, Third, and Fourth Legislative Districts of Nueva Ecija. (PIA REGION 3-NUEVA ECIJA)



DTI, Tarlac State U train ARBOs on financial security

TARLAC CITY, Tarlac — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Tarlac State University (TSU) collaborated to educate Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organizations (ARBOs) on financial literacy which seeks to impart knowledge on maximizing the potential of their agricultural land and products in business.

DTI Tarlac Trade-Industry Development Specialist Paolo Manese said the training seeks to educate participants on financial decision-making and the concepts of budgeting, saving, investing, and debt management.

"The ARBOs need to purchase assets such as equipment and land for the continuous development of their cooperatives or associations, which entail large amounts of investment that can make or break their organizations. In this seminar, they learned how to

assess if their future investment would be profitable," Manese said.

Resource Speakers Errish Abitong, Jomari Miranda, and Maria Terese Agustin of TSU explained the concepts in three subtopics, specifically Operational Budget, Capital Budget, and Cooperative Action Plan.

One of the participants, Precy Pimentel, expressed how the activity helped them put into consideration assessing the benefits of the assets to the members before purchasing them.

"Funds are important for cooperatives. Through this seminar, I realized its significance as it reminds us not to be hasty in investing to ensure profitability," Pimentel said.

About 20 ARBO members from the municipalities of Camiling, La Paz, Paniqui, and San Manuel participated in the capacity building activity. (PIA Region 3-Tarlac)

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his paper at the time Clark was still Fort Stotsenberg. The Voice was yet to be conceived at that time.

Not wanting to be upended by his nemesis Don Tomas San Pedro who had his own radio program, Apung Mando for a time too hosted a radio show over **dzAB**, taking after Mr. Ripley with his *Paniwalan Yu o Ali* (Believe it, or not).

Apung Mando, already president of the Angeles Press and Radio Club with no less than the then-lionized Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile as his inducting officer and guest of honor, still organized a Pampanga Press and Radio Club in 1967 with **The Voice** staffbox as its roster of members. Was it this way of hitting back at the older Pampanga Press Club which never elected him president?

There was Apung Mando's heir, Lincoln – Tiguk, to us – roaring in his Black Stallion (Chevy '54) from Mepa Press where he put the paper to bed to the Remedian barbeque stalls where he boozed to daybreak with the boys, notably Remedian habitues Toy Soto and Jerry Lacuerta who found, and later lost, some lucky charms there. But only after Jerry won the casino jackpot twice. Some luck! Some charm!

There was the monthly sack of *wag-wag* rice delivered to each of the paper's columnists and the Christmas packages of ham or *queso de bola*. There were the night-outs at Jailhouse Rock Disco whenever Tiguk got lucky at the cockpit or at the casino which was more than weekly.

There was the young Ody Fabian, fearing for his life, after he threw the gauntlet on illegal gambling against one "Jinggo" and in the process earned the ire of the local police.

There was Val Rodriguez, **UPI** photographer, teaching the boys how to put their cameras to optimum use and how to develop and print photos. Val went on to shoot two presidents – Aquino and Ramos – as Palace chief photographer. He was subsequently named head lensman of the **Philippine Star**.

There was Apung Mando asking Rizal, "O ba't mas puyat ka pa kesa kareng bayung talasawa?" (Why do you look more sleepy than the newly-weds?) The answer was obvious. Rizal slept in a room separated only by a thin nail-pricked plywood from that of Tiguk and Ruby's.

There too was Melchor Duenas and his collection booklet with receipts pre-signed by Apung Mando. Melchor of course mastered scribbling a perfect specimen of the old man's signature making the paper's accountant perpetually perplexed over the irreconcilable amounts of receivables, payments and receipts in the balance sheets.

Part of **The Voice** lore were the catchy slogans on its masthead and the pun and fun they generated. "Best in Reading, No Kidding" turned to "Best in Kidding, No Reading." "The Most Cherished Newsweekly" to "The Most Famished Newsweekly." How Apung Mando's blood pressure shot up at any mention of this!

Aside from being the resident paper of just about every newspaperman of note in Pampanga, **The Voice** served too as the launching pad of many campaigns against the evils of men and government then.

Kapitan Gigil's and the Pampanga Press Club's campaigns against illegal gambling, pollution, illegal dikes and illegal logging were all anchored in the pages of **The Voice**.

The paper too served as champion to the cause of media involved in run-ins with the Americans at Clark. In 1967 – two decades before cutting down to size Maj. Bary Glickman with an editorial that evolved into a *persona non grata* resolution – **The Voice** blasted at one Sgt. Bailey of the Clark Air Police for the armed harassment and illegal detention of Joe Roman, city councilor and Pampanga Press Club president, along with Mar Pangilinan, president of the Angeles City Press and Radio Club. A frontpage editorial cartoon and sustained commentaries against the "ugly" Bailey prompted base authorities to impose sanctions on the serviceman. No, the Pampanga Press Club was not yet in the habit of issuing PNG resolutions at that time.

Apung Mando died in the early '80s and Lincoln took over the helm. By then a number of local weeklies already sprouted in the province competing primarily for the legal notices. (Please see this chapter's Sidebar.) Hard times did not make a dent in the commitment of **The Voice** to pursue the very reason for its being – serve as *vox populi*. Pressures from the family however constrained Lincoln to pack his bags and migrate with his Ruby and the kids to Canada in 1993, leaving the management of the paper to Ody Fabian.

With missionary zeal, Ody pursued the journalistic call of "afflicting the comfortable and comforting the afflicted," running a series of expose on the toxic wastes at Clark Field, the drug menace in Angeles City, the garbage peril, and the multi-million-peso scams that hounded the Pampanga Capitol and resulted to the suspension of Gov. Manuel Lapid and the filing of administrative and criminal cases against him and some other provincial officials – a first in the annals of the province.

Best paper

On April 22, 1999, **The Voice** was cited the "Best in Investigative Reporting" primarily for its series on Lapid, and "Best in Newspaper Design" at the annual Community Press Awards of the Philippine Press Institute and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The first paper in Central Luzon to receive such accolades.

At the Pampanga Day 1998 celebrations, Ody was cited as the Most Outstanding

Kapampangan in the field of journalism. As much a testament to his personal attributes as a "fighting journalist" as to the contribution of **The Voice** to Pampanga.

It would appear that some journalistic genes of Apung Mando were passed on not only to his son Lincoln but also to Ody.

For one, there is this parallelism spanning 30 years. In April 1967, Apung Mando was appointed member of the Pampanga Peace and Order Council by Gov. Francisco Nepomuceno. In 1997, Gov. Manuel Lapid appointed Ody to that same council.

Ody has also continued with the tradition of **The Voice** taking partisan positions in elections. Exposing the infirmities of certain candidates while solidifying the capabilities of others. During Lincoln's watch, a Ramos sure win was rightly projected in 1992 along with a "Boking will not win" in Malabacat and sure victory to Roy David in Porac.

Winning predictions

In Ody's time, the paper missed by a measly 5 percent the percentage of votes Lapid gained in the 1995 gubernatorial contest. **The Voice** had it at 77 percent. Lapid got 82. Closer yet was the projection of 1st District Congressman Carmelo "Tarzan" Lazatin win in Malabacat and Magalang which the paper missed by only 0.69 percent, 56 percent projected as against 56.69 percent actual. The victory of Zeny Cruz-Ducut in the 2nd District, Oscar Rodriguez in the 3rd District, and Emigdio Bondoc in the 4th District was likewise correctly projected.

The Voice rightly predicted the winners in the mayoralty contests: Reynaldo Aquino (San Fernando), Benny Espino (Arayat), Romy Ronquillo (Sto. Tomas), Oscar Tetangco (Apalit), Lilia Pineda (Lubao), Roy David (Porac), Manuel Santiago (Guagua), Joey Lacson (Magalang), Jun Canlas (Bacolor), Bobong Flores (Macabebe), Manuel Bondoc (San Simon), Ramoncito Barro (Sta. Ana), Ben Gatus (Candaba), and Jovito Bondoc (San Luis).

In 1998, **The Voice** again correctly predicted the landslide re-election of Lapid, missing by a measly +1 his 71 percentage of the votes; the re-election of Rodriguez in the 3rd District; and the masterful win of Juan Pablo "Rimpy" Bondoc over the National Housing Authority chief Marciano Pineda in the 4th District. It wisely put at "either-way" the first district contest between Angeles Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan and the eventual winner, his vice mayor Francisco "Blueboy" Nepomuceno, and the second district fight between re-elected Ducut and eventual also-ran Porac Mayor Roy David.

The new mayors the paper batted for were Azor Sitchon (San Simon), Rico Laxa (Macabebe), Pat Guiao (Magalang), Quiel Gamboa (Porac) and Tirso Lacanilao (Apalit). **The Voice** also went all-out this time for Malabacat's Boking Morales in editorials, columns and news features supporting his bid and downgrading his opponent. Boking won of course. The paper also predicted as shoo-ins again Espino, Pineda, Aquino, Ronquillo, Canlas, Gatus, Fernando Baltazar of Sasmuan and Ernesto Punsalan of Mexico, who this time won most decisively over a field of five, unlike in 1995 when he had to go through the wringer of a protest, win, occupy the mayorship through police action, only to be unseated by the courts later.

Long way back in the '60s, Apung Mando showed where his balls were for his chosen candidates. Among his favorites were Ninoy Aquino running for senator in 1967, Ferdinand Marcos in his re-election bid in 1969, and "Mr. Public Servant all-the-time" Roger Tiglao for congressman in that same election year. There was congressional candidate Mac Fabian too whose political ads carried the endorsements of Secretaries Blas Ople and Conrado Estrella as well as former Huk Supremo Luis Taruc.

By the size and number of photos, space and column inches devoted to his candidacy, Dr. Emigdio Bondoc was clearly Apung Mando's pinaka-paborito. The image of and flattering stories on Tatang Midying, bidding for the Pampanga governorship in 1969, dominated the pages of **The Voice** throughout the campaign period. One full-body photo of Dr. Bondoc even appeared sans any story on the upper fold of the paper's front page.

It is indeed a pity that Apung Mando died without seeing the dawn of Tatang Midying's political victory in the fourth district of Pampanga and his emergence as among the most respected congressmen in the country.

In the 1970 campaign for the Constitutional Convention of 1971, **The Voice** had President Macapagal, Jose Suarez, poet Amado Yuzon, Bren Guiao and again, Mac Fabian as favorite candidates.

So, **The Voice** propped up the candidates of some and shot down those of others. So, the paper openly boosted some local administrations and torpedoed others. So, it was then. So, it is now. So, will it ever be. No big deal really as this is all part of the game local newspapers play, as the community's conscience.

That the paper has become an integral part of the political history and culture of Pampanga is an understatement. But for all its achievements, there is something that **The Voice** has failed to live up to. This is the dream of Apung Mando to have his beloved paper become **The Daily Voice**.

(Published as Chapter 8 of the author's book *Of the Press* (1999), reprinted here on the occasion of *The Voice's* 65th anniversary)



FOCUS ON... FROM PAGE 1

generation who went ahead to the great beyond, the likes of Sonny Lopez and Ody Fabian.)

Now, I want to tell the story of the first generation reporters of Pampanga. They should have been alive today they will be amazed on the stride made in local journalism. My favorite among them wasn't even my brother Greg who started as a reporter of the defunct Manila Chronicle in 1949 with Monching Mitra and Art Sampang as colleagues.

My favorite was Armando P. Baluyut aka Arpiba, father of Lincoln. Apong Mandong was a former policeman from Bacolor town. He resigned as a copper and started publishing the newsweekly *The Voice* with no staff except for Lincoln and of course with some help from me and Ram. The publication saw its birth in 1955. Initially, the newsweekly was a tiring one-man job with him as editor-publisher, proof reader, advertising and circulation manager altogether. The life blood of the paper were the judicial notices which he shared with Luzon Courier which was published by the late Tomas San Pedro.

Apong Mandong never really had an easy life. He was a beat policeman in the early years in Guagua town until he shifted his interest in publishing. He wrote prose and poetry mostly in the dialect. As a matter of fact he won a P3,000 prize money for a short story contest in 1981. In the literary circle he was known as Arpiba.

Apong Mandong wasn't rich but he was such a very generous 'boss'. Every time I do paging and editing the *Voice* with Ram Mercado we were always treated local delicacies which he bought inside those stores inside the Bacolor public market. He would even brought extra for us to take home.

In those years, the most popular newspapermen in Pampanga

were Silvestre Songco, Lino Sanchez Sr., Tomas San Pedro, Macario Fabian, Hector Soto, Marcelino Pangilinan, Butch Maglaqui and my brother Greg. Newsmen based in Camp Olivas were the more popular and influential considering their proximity to and their state of rubbing elbows with the military top brass.

It was also in those years when the Philippine Constabulary had four zones and Camp Olivas was the headquarter of the 1st PC Zone. There were only few constabulary generals in the whole organization? Notable among those assigned in Camp Olivas were Generals Lucas Cauton, Rafael Ilete, Felizardo Tanabe, Emilio Zerrudo, Tomas Diaz and Romeo Gatan among others

The local publishers like Apong Mandong and Tatang Tom had the unusual knack of knowing where to get financial support/advertising. Their invited columnists were the one espousing causes and undertaking individual crusades. In my case I was not contented being a correspondent of a national newspaper and one of Apong Mandong's columnists.

In between newspapering, I engaged myself in other ventures and became a radio commentator of the two radio stations in Angeles City, the Puyat owned DZAB and the DZYA, owned by the late Boss Danding Cojuangco. Apong Mandong also made use of these media outlets.

With the passing of Don Armando, the local literature community and provincial media suffered an irreparable loss.

Nonetheless, his son Lincoln, equally a dedicated media person, carried on the torch.



"Importanteng matulungan nating makabangon ang mga kababayan natin, ngayong panahon ng pandemya, lalo na yung may mga maliit na businesses. Gusto rin nating maipakilala sa lahat yung Gawang Angeleno, na kayang makipagsabayan sa buong mundo."

Mayor Carmelo 'Pogi' Lazatin Jr.

ANGELES CITY GOVERNMENT

