

# THE VOICE

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## NEWSWEEKLY



# Delta launches loan program for MSEs

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO** – The Provincial Government of Pampanga, in partnership with the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (PamCham) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), launched the Pampanga Loan Assistance Program for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) to provide financial support and capability enhancement to MSEs in the province.

Governor Dennis “Delta” Pineda, with PamCham officials led by President Terry David-Carlos and Chairman Jess Nicdao and DTI officials, led the program’s launch during the 78th General Membership Meeting of the Pampanga business chamber

at the Laus Events Center on July 10, 2024. According to data from the PamCham, MSMEs constitute 99.5 percent of all businesses nationally, approximately 89 percent of which are micro-enterprises and around 10 percent

small enterprises. These enterprises contribute about 35 percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Philippines, emphasizing their significant economic potential. **SEE PAGE 4**

**DELTA LAUNCHES**



**FINANCIAL LOAN.** Pampanga Governor Dennis “Delta” Pineda leads the distribution of the Php100,000 cash loan assistance to MSE owners in ceremonies held at the Laus Events Center on July 10, 2024 during the 78th General Membership Meeting of the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (PamCham). **(PAMPANGA PIO)**

## Construction of Clark medical center starts

**CLARK FREEPORT ZONE, Pampanga** — First Lady Marie Louise “Liza” Araneta-Marcos led the ceremonies officially kicking off the construction of the Clark Multi-Specialty Medical Center (CMSMC) here on July 10, 2024.

The multi-specialty medical center is a priority health project of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. by virtue of Republic

Act 11959 or the Regional Specialty Centers Act.

The First Lady was assisted by Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa, Pampanga Governor Dennis “Delta” Pineda, Pampanga Vice-Governor Lilia “Nanay” Pineda and Clark Development Corporation (CDC) President and CEO Agnes Devanadera. **SEE PAGE 4**

**CONSTRUCTION**



**CONSTRUCTION KICK-OFF.** First Lady Marie Louise “Liza” Araneta-Marcos (center), assisted by Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa (right), lead the time capsule-laying ceremony officially kicking off the construction of the Clark Multi-Specialty Medical Center in the Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga on July 10, 2024 which will bring a heart center, kidney center, lung center, children’s hospital and other specialty hospitals closer to the people. Assisting the First Lady are (L-R) Pampanga Governor Dennis “Delta” Pineda, Pampanga Vice-Governor Lilia “Nanay” Pineda and Clark Development Corporation (CDC) President and CEO Agnes Devanadera. **(PIA-3)**

## Clark to become global logistics, aviation hub

The Clark Civil Aviation Complex in Pampanga is taking huge leaps to become a global hub for logistics and aviation services with support from major international players that continue to pour investments into their facilities at the Clark International Airport (CRK). Bases Conversion and

Development Authority (BCDA) President and Chief Executive Officer Joshua M. Bingcang said the expansion plans of global companies like Federal Express Corp. (FedEx), UPS, and Lufthansa Technik AG will help the government realize its vision to transform Clark into a premier logistics and aviation hub.

“With its own international airport and accessibility to Northern Luzon and Metro Manila via expressways, Clark is perfect for air freight and aviation services—and international companies are certainly taking notice. The BCDA Group is excited to **SEE PAGE 4**

**CLARK TO BECOME**



Clark International Airport in Pampanga. **BCDA photo**

## City hall employees to receive ₱21-K bonus

**ANGELES CITY** — A total of 1,260 employees at City Hall will receive an additional Php21,000 bonus in December 2024.

This is contained in Memorandum No. 1486, Series of 2024 issued on July 9, 2024 by Mayor Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin, Jr.

The 1,260 City Hall employees include 915 permanent employees, 329 casual employees, and 16 contractual employees.

The Php21,000 additional benefits include the Productivity

Enhancement Incentive (PEI) of Php5,000 to be released on December 12; the Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA) bonus of Php10,000 on December 19; and, the Service Recognition Incentive (SRI) worth Php6,000 which will be released on December 23.

This is apart from their tax-free, year-end bonus which is equivalent to a month’s basic salary which will be released on November 18. **SEE PAGE 4**

**CITY HALL**



**DISCUSSION.** Angeles City Mayor Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin Jr. (center) leads a discussion with the Local Government Finance Team and employees’ union officials that eventually led to the announcement by the mayor of an additional Php21,000 bonus for local government employees. **(ANGELES CIO)**

# Pogi distributes lot numbers to 282 Margot families



**ANGELES CITY** — A total of 282 families from Barangay Margot recently received lot numbers from the city government here on July 10, 2024.

The activity is part of the efforts being undertaken by the city government led by Mayor Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin, Jr. to provide decent housing and land for urban poor families.

Lazatin, who personally turned over the lot numbers to the family-beneficiaries with City Councilor and Angeles City Human Settlement and Urban Development Officer (ACHSUDO) Atty. Arvin Suller, are inclusively working to continue providing programs that will help Angeles City residents, especially those who have lost their homes.

The 282 Barangay Margot family-beneficiaries who were displaced will be relocated in Barangay Sapangbato. In fact, according to ACSHUDO

Deputy Roque Nava, the family-beneficiaries have already received certificates of lot awards in April 2022.

“Alam naman po natin na ang liderato po ni Mayor Lazatin ay lumilingap sa kapakanan ng mga kababayan nating nangangailangan ng sariling tahanan,” Nava said.

This is not the first time the Lazatin administration pushed for the initiative to provide housing and distributed land titles to displaced families.

Since 2019, the mayor has already awarded 1,962 certificates of lot and distributed 787 land titles and deeds of donation to urban poor Angeleño families through the LUPAHO.

Also present during the awarding of certificates were members of the Barangay Margot Council led by Dominador Lising Jr. **(ANGELES CIO)**

## DOT urges support for AC’s World Culinary Awards bid

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO** — The Department of Tourism (DOT) is urging the public support to support Angeles City’s bid in the World Culinary Awards under the “Asia’s Best Emerging Culinary City Destination” category.

During the seventh episode of the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), DOT Regional Director Richard Daenos said Angeles City has been shortlisted following the submission of its profile as well as its visibility in activities related to gastronomy. “Highlight that our food is world-class will be a good brand for the Philippines. Our (culinary) processes really need to take center stage in the global map,” Daenos stressed.

For this year’s edition of the World Culinary Awards, Angeles City will represent the Philippines and will be competing against

other culinary hotspots, including Hanoi in Vietnam, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Kyoto in Japan, and Taipei in Taiwan.

The World Culinary Awards is the sister event of the World Travel Awards which was established in 1994. Often referred to as the “Oscars of the Travel Industry”, the prestigious event recognizes excellence in travel and tourism.

Daenos said Angeles City needs the support of all Filipinos by voting online.

To vote, individuals must register at [worldculinaryawards.com/register](http://worldculinaryawards.com/register) and then navigate to the Nominees 2024 Section after completing the registration.

Under the category for Asia, voters may find and click on Asia’s Best Emerging Culinary City Destination 2024, then select Angeles City, Pampanga (Philippines) to cast their vote. **(PIA REGION 3-PAMPANGA)**



**SUPPORT ANGELES CITY.** The Department of Tourism-Central Luzon (DOT-3) urges the public to support Angeles City’s bid in the World Culinary Awards under the “Asia’s Best Emerging Culinary City Destination” category. **(PIA 3)**

## SBMA cited for outstanding recycling efforts in CL

**SUBIC BAY FREEPORT** — he Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) was recently recognized from among other contenders in Central Luzon for its best efforts to upcycle waste.

SBMA OIC-Senior Deputy Administrator for Regulatory Group and SBMA Ecology Center Manager Amethya Dela Llana-Koval personally received the agency’s award for its “Outstanding Practice in Upcycling Operation” from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Central Luzon during the Environmental Summit 2024 held on June 28 at the Widus Hotel in the Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga.

With the theme “Celebrating the Excellence and Partnership of Environmental Champions”, Environmental Summit 2024 was held to recognize local government units (LGUs), industries and stakeholders with best practices in waste management.

Dela Llana-Koval acknowledged the various departments and offices of the SBMA and its stakeholders for their all-out support that contributed to the success of the Ecology Center’s events and activities.

“We are very grateful to the EMB for recognizing our efforts in solid waste management, especially in recycling and upcycling. It is with pride and honor that the Ecology Center shares this award with the entire agency. It is only through the

support of the SBMA departments and offices and our stakeholders that we are able to achieve this,” she said.

The environmental summit was attended by representatives of various agencies and LGUs in Central Luzon including governors, mayors, barangay captains, the SBMA, the Clark Development Corporation (CDC), the EMB, the DENR, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Provincial Environmental Management Unit (PEMU), the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Offices (MENROs), a w a r d e s from Region 3 **SEE PAGE 4 SBMA CITED**



**EFFORT ACKNOWLEDGED.** Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) OIC-Senior Deputy Administrator for Regulatory Group and Ecology Center Manager Amethya Dela Llana-Koval (4th from right) receives the “Outstanding Practice in Upcycling Operation” Award from officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Central Luzon in recognition of the SBMA outstanding practice in upcycling operations in the Subic Bay Freeport zone during the Environmental Summit 2024 held at the Widus Hotel in the Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga.

## Angeleño designer cited anew



**RICHARD STRANDZ**  
CREATION - BEST IN COSTUME  
BB. PILIPINAS 2024

**ANGELEÑO DESIGNER CITED ANEW.** Angeles costume designer Richard Strandz’s creation worn by 2024 Binibining Pilipinas International Myrna Esguerra captured the Best in Costume Award during the recently-held national beauty pageant. Mayor Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin extends his warmest congratulations to Strandz for once again showcasing the artistry of Angelesño designers. **(ANGELES CIO)**



*Congratulations!*  
**RICHARD STRANDZ**  
ANGELEÑO COSTUME DESIGNER  
Luid La Reng Angeleshos!  
Luid Ya Ing Siyudad Ning Angeles!  
MAYOR CARMELO POGI LAZATIN JR.

## Hann hosts career talks

Hann Resorts recently hosted a career talk for students of the Holy Angel University (HAU) to assist graduating students in their career path.

Hann Resorts officers who led the talk said that as an employer, one of their goals is to introduce Hann Resorts to a broader audience, including engaging graduating students in the region.

“It is always a joy to speak with young minds and contribute to molding them for the future,” Hann Resorts Assistant Vice-

President for Human Resources Anna Christi G. Galura said.

Galura said this is just the beginning of broader partnerships with Holy Angel University.

Hann Resorts was introduced to fourth-year students of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM), where we promoted the company as the employer of choice, provided career guidance, and discussed professional ethics in the workplace. **SEE PAGE 4 HANN HOSTS**



**HANN @ HAU.** Career Talk with students. **(PHOTO: HANN RESORTS LINKEDIN POST)**



# PINOY MARINO RIGHTS

ATTY. DENNIS GORECHO

## Universal jurisdiction over pirates as “the enemy of all mankind”

**P**IRATES are “hostes humani generis” or Latin for “the enemy of all mankind”. Piracy is a crime not against any particular state but against all mankind.

Thus declared Supreme Court Associate Justice George Malcom in the case of *People vs. Lol-Lo*, (GR No. 17958, February 27, 1922) which was decided more than a century ago on the issue of piracy involving two Moros and 12 Dutch subjects.

“The days when pirates roamed the seas, when picturesque buccaneers like Captain Avery and Captain Kidd and Bartholomew Roberts gripped the imagination, when grotesque brutes like Blackbeard flourished, seem far away in the pages of history and romance. Nevertheless, the record before us tells a tale of twentieth century piracy in the south seas, but stripped of all touches of chivalry or of generosity, so as to present a horrible case of rapine and near murder,” Justice Malcom said.

On June 30, 1920, six vintas intercepted two Dutch boats which were on its way in the midst of the islands of Buang and Bukid in the Dutch East Indies. The six vintas were manned by 24 armed Moros. The said Dutch boats were carrying Dutch men, women and children. At first, the Moros asked for food. But when they got on the Dutch boats, they seized all the vessel’s cargo, attacked nearly all of the men and brutally violated two of

the women by methods too tremendous to be described.

All of the persons on the Dutch boat, except the two young women, were again placed on it and holes were made for it to submerge.

The Moros finally arrived at Maruro, a Dutch possession. Two of the Moro marauders were Lol-lo, who also raped one of the women, and Saraw. At Maruro, the two women were able to escape.

Lol-lo and Saraw later returned to their home in South Ubian, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu. They were arrested there and were charged in a Sulu court with the crime of piracy.

The Court stressed that piracy is a crime not against any particular state but against all mankind. It may be punished in the competent tribunal of any country where the offender may be found or into which he may be carried. The jurisdiction of piracy unlike all other crimes has no territorial limits.

The Court ruled that the elements of piracy were present: It is robbery or forcible depredation on the high seas, without lawful authority and done animo furandi, and in the spirit and intention of universal hostility

Both were found guilty of the crime of piracy. Saraw was meted with a life sentence while Lol-lo was sentenced to be hung until dead.

Justice Malcom used the Latin term

“hostis humani generis” in the 1922 Lol-lo case, six decades before the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was signed in 1982 that espouses universal jurisdiction over piracy on the high seas. As of May 2023, 168 countries and the European Union are parties.

The key facets of piracy as per UNCLOS, Article 101 are (i) committed for private ends, (ii) takes place on the high seas, and, (iii) done by one ship on another ship.

UNCLOS allows, and indeed encourages, states-parties to arrest individuals participating in piracy on the high seas out of the jurisdiction of any state. Pirate ships lose all nationality and pirates are denied protection of the flag state. All states have the right to seize a pirate ship on the high seas and to prosecute in national courts.

Article 105 empowers the courts of the capturing state to decide the penalty to be imposed and determine what is to be done with the captured ship and property onboard.

Piracy as a criminal act that often employs the use of other common law crimes such as larceny, robbery, and murder.

Nautical piracies are prevalent in the seas of East and Southeast Asia and eastern Africa where acts of piracy were committed by or in cooperation with criminal

organizations involved in smuggling.

Throughout history, the crime of pirate predation on trade ships has plagued local and international maritime trade that is considered an international issue.

Acts of piracy threaten maritime security by endangering, in particular, the welfare of seafarers and the security of navigation and commerce. These criminal acts may result in the loss of life, physical harm or hostage-taking of seafarers, significant disruptions to commerce and navigation, financial losses to ship owners, increased insurance premiums and security costs, increased costs to consumers and producers, and damage to the marine environment.

International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez said in a statement on the Day of the Seafarer: “Let us remember those who have lost their lives while simply doing their jobs, serving on these ships. Their dedication and sacrifice must not be overlooked. Attacks on the innocent can never be justified, and I will continue to advocate incessantly for the safety and well-being of seafarers.”

(Atty. Gorecho heads the seafarers’ division of the Sapalo Velez Bundang Bulilan law offices. For comments, email info@sapalovelez.com, or call 09175025808 or 09088665786)

# DOT-3 launches new regional tourism brand

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO** — The Department of Tourism (DOT) officially launched the new regional tourism brand of Central Luzon.

Central Luzon DOT Regional Director Richard



Central Luzon DOT Regional Director Dr. Richard Daenos

Daenos explained during the seventh episode of the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas of the Philippine Information Agency (OIA) here that the new brand, aptly titled “Where Endless Stories Begin”, aims to encourage tourists to visit and revisit the diverse attractions of the region.

The brand launch features a promotional video showcasing the region’s tourism destinations and activities which will be distributed in the seven provinces of Central Luzon as part of their tourism programs.

Daenos said the creation of the brand was a process that took about a year, involving workshops, interviews, and branding activities to ensure the best representation of the region and the process was well-studied, focusing on the psyche of contemporary tourists.

“In Central Luzon, of course, when you visit it, you will experience different narratives. So, it is an endless story,” Daenos stressed.

At the same time, DOT shared its commitment to diversifying the region’s tourism product portfolio.

“Our diversification program will include culinary, culture, cruise, dive, education, film, golf, heritage, MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions) as well as nature, surf, and wellness,” Daenos explained.

The DOT official also pointed out the significance of the tourism industry to the country, pressing that the tourism industry not only contributes to the economy but also gives livelihood to the people in the locality.

“We recognize the importance of the tourism industry, with no less than our President saying the industry has been a reliable pillar.

It’s a reliable pillar, meaning, it is one source of our gems for the economy. At the same time, it is also a way to promote our assets and take care of both our cultural and natural assets,” Daenos stressed.

The DOT invites tourists to explore Central Luzon, emphasizing that there are many

beautiful places to discover, and the local communities are ready to welcome visitors.

Central Luzon has already welcomed about 1.23 million foreign and domestic travelers as of the first quarter of this year. (PIA REGION 3-PAMPANGA)



VISIT CENTRAL LUZON. Department of Tourism-Central Luzon Regional Director Richard Daenos invites tourists to explore Central Luzon’s beautiful places as he led the launch of the new regional tourism brand “Where Endless Stories Begin” during the seventh episode of the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) in the City of San Fernando. (PIA-3)

# NLEX boosts road safety initiatives

NLEX Corporation has stepped up its road safety advocacy with the launch of its ‘I Care for Strays’ program at Brgy. Patubig, Marilao in Bulacan. Part of the company’s Mission Road Safety campaign, the program aims to contribute to the prevention and management of stray animal incidents inside the expressway and along local roads.

In partnership with the Provincial Government of Bulacan, Municipality of Marilao, Bulacan Provincial Veterinary Office, Marilao Municipal Veterinary Office and the Estrella Animal Welfare Advocates, an orientation on animal welfare laws, responsible pet ownership, and stray animal population control was conducted for pet owners from Marilao and nearby municipalities. Over 300 cats and dogs also received free spay and neuter services as well as deworming and anti-rabies vaccinations.

“I-Care for Strays is our way of promoting and protecting animal welfare while ensuring the safety of our motorists and community members. By addressing and preventing incidents involving stray animals on expressways and local roads, we aim to safeguard everyone’s safety,” said NLEX Corporation Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management Division, Donna F. Marcelo.

Bulacan Governor Daniel Fernando also commended this advocacy saying, “Ang inyong malasakit sa kaligtasan at kapakanan ng ating mga hayop ay isang mahalagang hakbang tungo sa mas ligtas at mas maayos na daan dito sa lalawigan ng Bulacan.”

On the other hand, Marilao Mayor Henry Lutao assures NLEX of his support for programs that benefit Marilao residents. “We commend the dedication of NLEX in educating and assisting the

SEE 4  
NLEX BOOSTS



SAVING STRAY ANIMALS FOR SAFETY. Representatives from the NLEX Corporation, the Provincial Government of Bulacan, the Bulacan Provincial Veterinary Office, the Municipality of Marilao, the Marilao Municipal Veterinary Office, Barangay Patubig Council and the Estrella Animal Welfare Advocates join forces to launch the NLEX Corp.’s ‘I Care for Strays’ Program to the prevent and manage stray animal incidents at the NLEX and along local roads. (NLEX CORP.)

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THEVOICENEWSWEEKLY

## DELTA LAUNCHES... FROM PAGE 1

Thus, the loan program was established in accordance with Sangguniang Panlalawigan Ordinance No. 866, Series of 2024, to recognize the vital role of the sector in the provincial economy and to assist them in recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the program, MSEs can now avail of loans ranging from Php50,000 to Php100,000 without any interest or collateral. The loan repayment period ranges from six to 24 months with a two-month grace period.

Pineda said the provincial government has allocated Php40 million for the first year of the implementation of the program. The initial batch of beneficiaries consist of 10 MSE owners who received a loan

of Php100,000 each.

"Masaya po ako. First time po na maka-partner ng PamCham ang probinsya sa ganitong klaseng programa. Umaasa po ako na magtuloy-tuloy ito para marami po tayong negosyong matutulungan. Sa mga recipients ng loan assistance, congratulations po! Pakiusap ko po sa inyo bilang isang negosyante din, bigyan po natin ng halaga ang commitment natin at obligasyon natin sa ating negosyo," the governor said.

PamCham expressed gratitude to the governor for his commitment to provide MSEs with accessible financial support, thereby helping them avoid predatory lending practices.

"By providing accessible financial support through the Loan Assistance

Program, you are not only helping these businesses avoid predatory lending practices but also enabling them to thrive and become more productive. We express our deepest appreciation for your dedicated efforts and commitment to uplifting the micro and small enterprises in Pampanga. Your leadership is instrumental in ensuring sustainable economic development and prosperity for our province," PamCham President Carlos said.

Interested parties can apply for the loan program by visiting the Provincial Cooperative and Enterprise Development Office (PCEDO) or directly contacting DTI-Pampanga and PamCham offices. (PAMPANGA PIO)

## CONSTRUCTION... FROM PAGE 1

Herbosa said the project aims to bring government medical services such as treatment for heart, lung, and kidney diseases, among others, and other services closer to the people.

The Clark Multi-Specialty Medical Center is located in a 5.7-hectare area along Prince Balagtas Avenue in this Freeport.

Herbosa said Clark is one of 300 areas around the country that have been targeted by the government for the establishment of specialty hospitals by the year 2028.

There are currently 160 such

specialty hospitals built and opened around ne country in the second year of President Marcos's tenure.

A Renal Building and Children's Medical Center are the initial structures to be built at The Clark Multi-Specialty Medical Center.

The Department of Health (DOH) provided the Php1-billion as funding for the Renal Building which will be built by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The six-story building has a total floor area of 10,600 square meters and will initially have 110 beds that

can later be expanded to 272 beds. It is expected to be completed within 18 months.

The equally-sized Children's Medical Center will be funded by the Bloomberry Cultural Foundation, Inc. which provided Php1 billion. The project is also targeted to be completed within 18 months.

The Clark Development Corporation, meanwhile, will finance the construction of the Medical Arts Building the detailed engineering design for which is currently being reviewed. (PIA Region 3-Pampanga)

## CLARK TO BECOME... FROM PAGE 1

witness how these players transform the landscape of Clark into a global logistics hub," Bingcang said.

In March, CRK operator Luzon International Premiere Airport Development (LIPAD) signed a strategic partnership with UPS for the expansion of the latter's operations at the airport.

Expected to be operational by 2026, the expanded UPS Clark hub will strengthen the company's portfolio of integrated express, supply chain, and healthcare logistics services in the Asia-Pacific region.

Recently, LIPAD also signed an agreement allowing FedEx to expand and double the size of its gateway in Clark.

According to FedEx, this will enhance the company's capabilities to support local businesses that want to tap the international market as well as the growing demand for e-commerce, freight, and cold-chain shipments across the region.

Meanwhile, maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services for aircraft, engines, and components provider Lufthansa Technik Philippines also expressed intent to invest Php8 billion to build its second hangar in Clark.

To support the needs of these companies, the BCDA will undertake the expansion of CRK's airside facilities, including taxiways, aprons, landside access roads, and utilities, to

accommodate more aircraft, improve movement and turnaround times, and enhance the overall operational efficiency of the airport.

This effort is one of the priority projects being pitched by the national government as part of the Luzon Economic Growth Corridor.

"In order to attract more investors and sustain the momentum of Clark, the BCDA is committed to delivering the necessary infrastructure and support to businesses. This expansion is only the first phase of our long-term development plan for CRK. In the future, we will also develop a second runway for the airport, among others," Bingcang stressed.

## CITY HALL... FROM PAGE 1

At the same time, 3,484 Contract of Service (COS) employees who are also qualified for the Php3,000 year-end gratuity will receive theirs on December 5, 2024.

The memorandum was the result of a meeting at the Mayor's Office Conference Room on July 10, 2024 attended by Chief Adviser IC Calaguas, Executive Assistant IV

Reina Manuel, City Budget Officer Jane Pablo Nakpil, City Accounting Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Lilibeth Enriquez, Acting City Treasurer Arnel Escolangco, General Services OIC Evangeline Malonzo, and Association of Government Employees for a New Dynamic Angeles City (AGENDA) President Flordeliza Santos.

Santos thanked Lazatin on behalf

of the city government employees for taking care of them.

"Sa ngalan po ng mga empleyado ng city hall, kami po at nagpapasalamat sa walang humpay na biyaya mula kay Mayor Pogi. Maraming salamat po sa maagang pagseguro ng aming mga benepisyo na hindi lamang para sa amin kundi sampo ng aming mga pamilya," Santos said. (ANGELES CIO)

## SBMA CITED... FROM PAGE 2

and industries, among others.

The accolade is attributed to the Ecology Center's continuous conduct of Recyclable Collection Events, Scrap to Craft Contest in collaboration with schools within the Subic Bay Freeport, Green Runway Fashion competition, and other related environmental activities to reduce, recycle and upcycle wastes regularly witnessed by EMB R3 personnel from the Waste Management Division.

Other recognitions to promote environmental protection and waste management were the Most Compliant in Ecological Solid Waste Management Implementation, the Best Materials Recovery Facility, the Best in Composting Innovation, the Outstanding Support in Ecological Solid Waste Management Implementation, the Industry Partners in Environmental Protection, Enhancement and Restoration, to name a few.

Meanwhile, Dela Llana-Koval assured the Ecology Center, together with the entire agency, will do their best and further innovate to address solid waste management concerns.

The Environmental Summit is the culminating event for Environment Month which is observed annually by the Environmental Management Bureau-Region 3.

## HANN HOSTS... FROM PAGE 2

"We had the honor of hosting one of the largest schools in Central Luzon with over 17,000 students and considered by CHED as one of the country's top universities in terms of academic excellence," she said.

Hann Resorts is Pampanga's first fully integrated luxury resort, most notably developed in a 13-hectare property in Clark Freeport Zone,

Philippines.

It boasts of the biggest world-class Las Vegas-style gaming space in Clark that offers limitless thrills with its exciting raffle draws, junket gaming, VIP gaming, over 800 slot machines, 91 gaming tables, and 44 electronic table games. With the casino's vibrant ambiance is live entertainment, luxury retail area, and sumptuous 24-hour

food and beverage service.

The property also offers the finest hospitality experience and gastronomic indulgence with its internationally-acclaimed five-star hotels like Swissotel Clark and Clark Marriott, complemented by 15 distinctly curated food and beverage outlets. (JOJO C. DUE)

## NLEX BOOSTS... FROM PAGE 3

residents of its host communities towards better living. Programs like 'I Care for Strays' significantly impact their views on animal welfare and responsible pet ownership," he said.

Dog owner Maribeth Bondoc also shared her gratitude towards this project, "Salamat po sa NLEX at nagkaroon ng libreng kapon para sa mga alaga naming hayop. Malaking

tulag po ito lalo't mas mahirap pong mag-alaga ng hayop kung dumami po ito."

Aside from the 'I Care for Strays' program, NLEX Corporation also has a regular barangay-level information campaign called Kaligtasan Sa Daan (KalSaDa) where residents from NLEX, SCTEX, and NLEX Connector host communities are educated on

responsible road usage, road safety tips and ways to keep their environment safe for both residents and motorists.

NLEX Corporation is a subsidiary of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the toll road arm of the Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC).

## NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late **CAROLYN MARIE PEREYRA**, who died intestate on January 23, 2016, executed a deed of extra-judicial settlement over her estate with waiver of rights covered by **Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-038-2015002021 and Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-004-2015007319** before Notary Public Atty. Roman V. Raya, as per Doc. No. 65; Page No. 14; Book No. V; Series of 2024 and an Apostille signed by Kimberly M. Jordan, a Notary Public for the State of Florida, United States of America; and an Apostille signed by Capri Tiffany Bland, a Notary Public for the Commonwealth of Virginia, United States of America.

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY JULY 7, 14, 21, 2024

### Republic of the Philippines REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH 62 ANGELES CITY

Court's Cellphone Number: 0977-278-6274  
Court's Email Address: rtc1ang062@judiciary.gov.ph

**RE: PETITION FOR RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN DIVORCE,**

**R-ANG-24-00364-SP  
For: Recognition of Foreign Decree of Divorce and Cancellation or Correction of Entries in the Civil Registrar**

**HAVARD CHRISTENSEN  
Petitioner,**

**- versus -  
ALMA GATON  
CHRISTENSEN and the Civil Registrar General, Represented by the Local Civil Registrar of the Angeles City,**

**Respondents.**

X-----X

**ORDER**

Raffled to this Court is a Petition filed by Havard Christensen, through counsel, praying that the validity and enforceability of the Divorce Order issued by the Country Governor of Oslo and Akershus of Olo, Norway be recognized and an order be issued directing the Local Civil Registrar of Angeles City to change the status of the petitioner from "married" to "single".

Perusal of the Petition and its annexes, the Court finds the same to be sufficient in form and substance.

The Court hereby sets the hearing of this case on **September 11, 2024 at 9:00 in the morning** at the Session Hall of this Court, Hall of Justice Building, Regional Trial Court, Angeles City, when and where all persons who may have interest in the said Petition may appear and show cause, if any, why the same should not be granted.

The petitioner is ordered to serve, within five (5) days from receipt of this Order, copies of the Petition and its annexes to:

1. the private respondent Alma Gatton Christensen at her address in Norway;
2. the Office of the Solicitor General at 134 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City;
3. the Civil Registrar of Angeles City, Pampanga at City Hall Compound, Pulung Maragul, Angeles City; and
4. the Civil Registrar General, Philippine Statistics Authority, PSA Complex, East Ave. Diliman, Quezon City, and to show proof of said service to this Court.

Let the petitioner at his expense, publish this Order once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Pampanga in accordance with Section 4, Rule 108 of the Rules of Court before the date of hearing and submit proof of compliance thereof.

Furnish the petitioner, her counsel, the Office of the Solicitor General, Makati City; the Civil Registrar General, Philippine Statistics Authority, Quezon City; the Civil Registrar of Angeles City; and the Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court, Angeles City, with copies of this Order.

SO ORDERED.

June 5, 2024, Angeles City.

**JOCELYN P. GAMBOA-DELOS SANTOS**  
Presiding Judge

JPGDS/lal (IO-SpecPro)

**Copy furnished:**  
(7 copies)

**Office of the Solicitor General**

134 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229

**Local Civil Registry Angeles City**

City Hall Compound, Pulung Maragul, Angeles City

**Philippine Statistics Authority**

PSA Complex, East Ave. Diliman, Quezon City 1101

**Havard Christensen**

Nirvana Beach Resort, Balabag Main Road Station 2, Boracay Island Malay, Aklan

**Atty. Fhrea Mylie N. Yabut**

3rd Floor, Healing Time Building, Balabag, Malay, Aklan  
Email address: yabutlaw@gmail.com  
Mobile No.: 09073929419

**Atty. Daryl R. Yanga**

Clerk of Court Office of the Clerk of Court  
Regional Trial Court  
Angeles City

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY June 30, July 7, 14, 2024

# Bulacan Medical Center opens new department

**MALOLOS CITY, Bulacan** — The Bulacan Medical Center (BMC) recently opened its Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences which is part of the provincial government's health program under Governor Daniel Fernando's "Ten Point Agenda."

"The facility will provide free medication and eye surgery for residents, especially the less fortunate residents," Fernando said.

The provincial government allotted Php70 million for the facility.

Vice-Governor Alexis Castro said the opening of the facility is a clear indication of continued efforts to improve quality health service in the province and a response to the needs of residents, particularly those who cannot afford to go to private hospitals for treatment.

"All this is proof of our promise to improve the quality of life of every resident. Having quality health service is a right of every individual," Castro

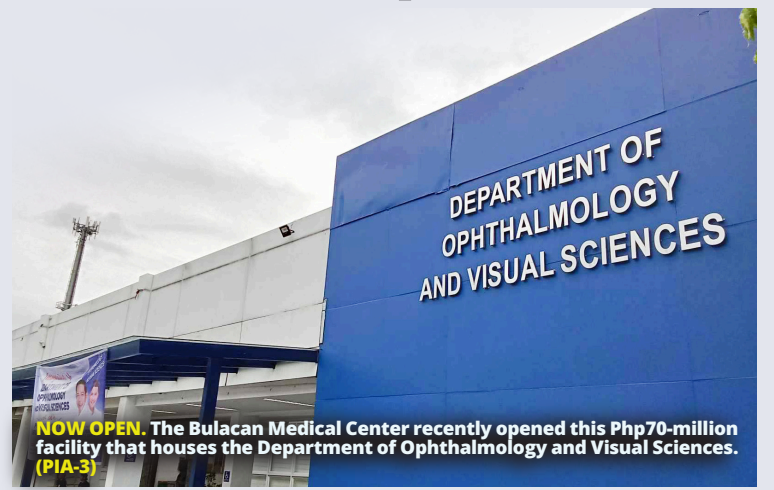
stressed.

Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences Chief Mary Joy de Leon said the BMC is the first government hospital in Central Luzon to acquire state-of-the-art medical equipment for laboratory and cataract surgery, pediatric ophthalmology, glaucoma screening, and other high-end equipment.

Jelai Aguilar, a resident of Barangay Mojon here, sees the new facility as an opportunity for them to avail of easy, better, and quality medical services for eye care and rehabilitation.

"We do not need to travel far, endure long trips and spend money for transportation expenses just to avail eye consultation services and surgery," Aguilar said.

The newly-opened facility was formerly BMC's Outpatient Department. **(PIA REGION 3-BULACAN)**



## Empowering Minds: The Crucial Role of Grade 6 Teachers in Reading Comprehension

by JOLLY ROSE C. VALDEZ

Reading comprehension is more than just understanding words on a page; it's about unlocking the power of knowledge and critical thinking. For grade 6 students, this skill becomes increasingly vital as they transition towards more complex subjects and higher academic expectations. At the heart of fostering strong reading comprehension skills lies the pivotal role of grade 6 teachers.

Grade 6 marks a significant milestone in a student's educational journey. It is a phase where reading comprehension skills are not just taught but solidified. Teachers at this level play a crucial role in laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning. By engaging students in diverse texts and guiding them through various comprehension strategies, teachers empower their students to extract meaning, infer, analyze, and evaluate information critically.

Every student learns differently, and grade 6 teachers recognize the importance of personalized instruction in enhancing reading comprehension. Through assessments, observations, and understanding individual strengths and challenges, teachers tailor their approach to meet the unique needs of each student. Whether through differentiated instruction, small group activities, or one-on-one support, teachers ensure that all students have the opportunity to develop their comprehension skills effectively.

Beyond classroom instruction,

grade 6 teachers cultivate a culture of reading within their classrooms and schools. By recommending engaging books, discussing literature, and integrating reading into various subjects, teachers inspire a love for reading that extends beyond the curriculum. This culture not only enhances comprehension skills but also nurtures a lifelong habit of reading for pleasure and enrichment.

Reading comprehension goes hand in hand with critical thinking and analysis. Grade 6 teachers guide students to ask questions, make connections, and draw conclusions from texts. They facilitate discussions that encourage students to explore multiple perspectives, challenge assumptions, and develop informed opinions. These skills not only strengthen comprehension but also prepare students to engage actively in academic discourse and real-world contexts.

Effective reading comprehension instruction extends beyond the classroom. Grade 6 teachers collaborate closely with parents, providing them with insights into their child's progress and offering strategies for support at home. Additionally, teachers foster peer interactions that promote collaborative learning and mutual support in developing comprehension skills. Such partnerships enhance the overall learning experience and reinforce the importance of reading both in and out of school.

Ultimately, the goal of grade 6 teachers in fostering reading comprehension skills is to empower students as active, confident learners. By equipping them with the tools to navigate texts independently, critically evaluate information, and communicate their understanding effectively, teachers prepare students for academic success and beyond. These skills not only support their current educational journey but also lay a solid groundwork for future academic and professional endeavors.

Grade 6 teachers play a pivotal role in empowering students with the essential skill of reading comprehension. Through their dedication, expertise, and commitment to personalized instruction, they nurture a generation of learners who are not only proficient in understanding texts but also capable of thinking critically, communicating effectively, and engaging meaningfully with the world around them. As we recognize the crucial role of grade 6 teachers in shaping the minds of young learners, we acknowledge their profound impact on fostering a community of literate, informed, and empowered individuals prepared to navigate the complexities of the future.

*The author is Teacher III at Alwindia Elementary School, Tarlac North A District, Tarlac City Schools Division, Region III-Central Luzon*

## Navigating the Future: The Importance of Leadership Training for SELG and YES-O Officers

by JOLLY ROSE C. VALDEZ

Student organizations like the Supreme Student Government (SELG) and Youth for Environment in Schools Organization (YES-O) serve as vital platforms for youth empowerment and civic engagement. These organizations, under the auspices of the Department of Education (DepEd), not only shape the school environment but also cultivate future leaders who are poised to navigate the challenges of tomorrow.

Leadership training for SELG and YES-O officers within DepEd is more than just a preparatory measure; it is a cornerstone of fostering responsible citizenship and effective governance among Filipino youth. Through structured programs and workshops, these officers are equipped with essential skills such as communication, teamwork, and decision-making. These skills are not only instrumental in their current roles but also serve as building blocks for their future endeavors, both within and outside educational settings.

SELG and YES-O officers are catalysts for positive change within their schools and communities. Leadership training instills in them a deep sense of social responsibility and environmental stewardship. Officers learn to initiate and lead projects that promote sustainability, raise awareness about pressing issues, and foster a culture of service and inclusivity among their peers. By engaging in such activities, these student leaders actively contribute to the holistic development of their fellow students and the broader community.

The world is evolving at an unprecedented pace, presenting new challenges and opportunities. DepEd's emphasis on leadership training for SELG and YES-O officers ensures that Filipino youth are not only prepared to face these challenges but also equipped to thrive in a globalized

society. Beyond academic excellence, leadership skills such as critical thinking, adaptability, and cultural awareness are increasingly valued in today's interconnected world. By nurturing these skills early on, DepEd ensures that its students are well-prepared to navigate and lead amidst complexities and uncertainties.

Investing in the leadership potential of SELG and YES-O officers is an investment in the future of the Philippines. These young leaders, with their passion, dedication, and skills honed through DepEd's leadership programs, are poised to become agents of change in various sectors—be it government, business, education, or civil society. Their ability to inspire, innovate, and collaborate will undoubtedly shape the trajectory of the nation, contributing to its progress and prosperity.

Leadership training for SELG and YES-O officers within DepEd is not just about honing individual skills but about nurturing a generation of conscientious leaders who are committed to making a positive impact. By empowering these student leaders with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed, DepEd not only strengthens the fabric of Philippine education but also lays the foundation for a brighter future where empowered youth lead the way towards a more inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous society. As we navigate the complexities of the future, investing in the leadership potential of our youth remains a strategic imperative for fostering a generation of responsible citizens and visionary leaders who will shape the destiny of the Philippines and beyond.

*The author is Teacher III at Alwindia Elementary School, Tarlac North A District, Tarlac City Schools Division, Region III-Central Luzon*

## The Future of Student Learning: The MATATAG Curriculum under the New DepEd Secretary

by MARIEL R. DINEROS

Education in the Philippines is poised for transformation under the leadership of the new Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary, who brings a fresh perspective and innovative strategies to enhance student learning. At the heart of this transformation lies the MATATAG Curriculum, envisioned to revolutionize educational practices and prepare Filipino students for the challenges of the 21st century.

The MATATAG Curriculum emphasizes a holistic approach to education, aiming to develop students intellectually, emotionally, and socially. Under the guidance of the new DepEd Secretary, the curriculum integrates core subjects with essential life skills such as critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration. This holistic framework ensures that students not only excel academically but also become well-rounded individuals capable of navigating complex global realities.

Central to the MATATAG Curriculum is the cultivation of 21st century skills. These skills, including digital literacy, adaptability, problem-solving, and entrepreneurship, are essential for students to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. The new DepEd Secretary emphasizes the integration of technology in education, ensuring that students are proficient in using digital tools for learning, communication, and

innovation.

Recognizing the pivotal role of educators in shaping student learning experiences, the new DepEd Secretary prioritizes comprehensive teacher training and professional development programs. These initiatives equip teachers with the pedagogical skills, technological proficiency, and innovative teaching strategies necessary to effectively implement the MATATAG Curriculum and inspire students to reach their full potential.

Education is a collaborative effort involving not just teachers and students but also parents, local communities, and industry partners. The MATATAG Curriculum under the new DepEd Secretary encourages active engagement and partnerships with stakeholders to enrich learning experiences, provide real-world applications of knowledge, and ensure the relevance of education to local contexts and global trends.

In line with DepEd's commitment to inclusive education, the MATATAG Curriculum underlines the importance of providing equitable learning opportunities for all students, regardless of background or ability. The new DepEd Secretary advocates for policies and programs that address educational disparities, promote diversity, and foster an inclusive learning environment where every

student feels valued and supported.

Beyond academic achievement, the MATATAG Curriculum aims to nurture responsible global citizens who are culturally aware, environmentally conscious, and socially responsible. Through experiential learning opportunities, community service initiatives, and civic engagement projects, students are encouraged to develop a deep sense of civic duty and contribute positively to society.

The MATATAG Curriculum under the leadership of the new DepEd Secretary represents a transformative vision for student learning in the Philippines. By prioritizing holistic development, 21st century skills, technology integration, teacher empowerment, community engagement, inclusivity, and global citizenship, the curriculum aims to prepare Filipino students to thrive in an increasingly interconnected and competitive world. As DepEd continues to evolve under the new leadership, the MATATAG Curriculum stands as a beacon of educational excellence, innovation, and equity, ensuring that every Filipino child receives a quality education that prepares them for a bright and successful future.

*The author is Master Teacher I at Harbort Elementary School, District of Calatrava 2, Schools Division of Negros Occidental, Region VI-Western Visayas*

## Re-imagining Teacher Well-being to Foster Effectiveness and Efficiency in Education

by PRINCESS D. ECHIVERRI

Teachers stand as the architects of knowledge, molding the minds of future generations. Their role is pivotal, yet the challenges inherent in the profession can profoundly impact their well-being. To unlock the full potential of educators and ensure the highest quality of education, it is imperative to reimagine teacher well-being, encompassing their physical, emotional, and psychological health. This holistic approach not only enhances personal satisfaction but also boosts professional fulfillment, directly influencing the quality of education imparted to students.

The demands on teachers today are multifaceted and daunting. From overwhelming workloads encompassing lesson planning and administrative tasks to navigating diverse student needs and the pressures of standardized testing, educators often face a high-stress environment. Insufficient resources further compound these challenges, hindering their ability to provide enriching learning experiences. The emotional toll of managing student behavior, familial issues, and societal pressures adds to this burden, significantly affecting their mental health.

Investing in teacher well-being yields substantial benefits for the education system as a whole. When teachers are physically and emotionally well, they deliver instruction more effectively, resulting in improved learning outcomes for students. Moreover, prioritizing well-being reduces burnout rates and enhances retention of experienced educators within the profession. A positive classroom atmosphere emerges, fostering productivity and creativity, thereby enriching the educational experience for all involved.

To foster a supportive environment for teachers and enhance educational effectiveness, several strategies are crucial. Streamlining administrative tasks, providing adequate support staff, and reducing workload expectations allow educators to focus more on teaching and less on paperwork. Ongoing professional development opportunities that encompass emotional resilience, stress management, and self-care are essential in building robust, well-rounded educators. Supportive leadership from school administrators, characterized by open communication and genuine appreciation for teachers' contributions, reinforces a culture of respect and collaboration.

Achieving work-life balance is paramount. Schools can facilitate this by offering flexible scheduling options and realistic workload expectations. Access to mental health resources and counseling services ensures that teachers receive the support needed for their personal and professional well-being, promoting longevity and effectiveness in their careers.

Re-imagining teacher well-being is not merely a matter of personal comfort but a strategic imperative for cultivating an efficient and effective education system. By addressing the challenges faced by educators and implementing comprehensive support strategies, we empower teachers to thrive in their roles as educators and mentors. As they nurture the minds of tomorrow's leaders, prioritizing their well-being is an investment in the future of education itself—a commitment to excellence, innovation, and enduring educational success.

*The author is Teacher III at Alilem Central School, Alilem District, Schools Division of Ilocos Sur, Region I – Ilocos Region*



# CIAC launches Urban Renewal, Heritage Program with TAGPUAN



Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) launched last July 9, its Urban Renewal and Heritage Conservation Program with a 200-meter wall mural as its centerpiece.

Executed by multi-awarded artist Archie Oculos, the mural called TAGPUAN was completed in a short span of only ten (10) days, made challenging by the unpredictable weather which switched from scorching hot to extremely rainy - as was the day of the launch.

CIAC President and CEO Arrey Perez was proud to formally present Tagpuan, which he says has transformed the common crossroad that it has always been through the years, “but the X that marks a great new spot, a new tagpuan and landmark for our community - to be, in a word, renewed.”

Perez commended artist Archie Oculos and his team for successfully transforming the bare walls into art “which tells the story of the past and the future of CIAC.”

The CIAC chief added “we should all be very proud of this accomplishment, not because it was made with magic, but because it was made with vision, imagination, resolve, and commitment — the kind that we, in CIAC, have given to realizing our seven flagship projects so that we can build Clark as our Airport City.”

He thanked Oculos and his team for executing the CIAC story so well, and the locators and sponsors who became partners in the endeavor.

“In kicking off our urban renewal and cultural heritage program, I hope that you all see what I see: that this mural is made of what we are made of: vision, passion, grit. That is all it takes to transform a place and build a city. So let’s get used to this. Let’s continue to make magic,” Perez concluded.



# The Best of Pampanga at MICECON 2024



Kapampangan royalty was showcased in the grand welcome dinner tendered for the participants of MICECON 2024 at Clark International Airport.

At Departure Gate 3, San Antonio Band 33 serenaded the attendants who were making their way to the venue with music that easily spelled “welcome.”

The best of Kapampangan cuisine, as prepared by five (5) of Pampanga’s best chefs - Sau del Rosario, Howard Dizon, Vince Garcia, Bong Sagmit and Cherry Pasion-Tan - was served. A few international entrees, given a dash of Kapampangan magic, were also served.

Central Luzon-based industries and products took centerstage in the strategically-placed booths around the venue. There was kulitan script, borlas cutting, aeta beadings, pottery and more.

Pampanga’s pride ArtiSta. Rita performed original Kapampangan songs. And true-blue Kapampangan beauty queen and tv host Emma Tiglao was the master of ceremonies.

Governor’s Night happened on July 11 at Royce Hotel and Casino. Vice Governor Lilia ‘Nanay’ Pineda welcomed the MICECON attendees. Present were CDC officials led by Chairman Edgardo Pamintuan President and CEO Atty. Agnes VST Devanadera and Department of Tourism Usec. Shereen Gail Yu-Pamintuan. Also there were Pampanga Board Members Fritzie David-Dizon, Cherry Manalo and Executive Assistant Edna Vitug.

Singer Erik Santos rendered a powerful performance.



Photos by Department of Tourism, Tourism Promotions Board and Jan Darren Guiwan