

# THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY

FOUNDED 1955



**Mediterranean food haven opens in Clark** **SEE BACK PAGE**

# Gov Delta leads relief operations



**RELIEF DISTRIBUTION.** Pampanga Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda leads the distribution of food packs to residents affected by massive flooding in the towns of Santo Tomas and Minalin. (PAMPANGA PIO)

**S**TO. TOMAS, PAMPANGA — The onslaught of rains spawned by Typhoon Carina that enhanced the Southern monsoon did not deter Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda as he braved floodwater and the torrent to lead relief efforts in this disaster-stricken town and neighboring Minalin Pampanga.

This after Pampanga was placed under the Red Rainfall Warning, which indicates a high risk of flooding in flood-prone areas.

Pineda immediately sprung into action to organize relief efforts for affected residents.

An emergency meeting of selected Pampanga

Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) members, chaired by the governor, was convened to assess the impact of the severe weather disturbance and coordinate the distribution of food packs, including rice,

**SEE PAGE 4**  
**DELTA LEADS**

## OFW Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Caravan in Tarlac

The OFW Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Caravan debuted on July 23, 2024 at the Bulwagang Kanlahi (Diwa ng Tarlak) in Tarlac City.

Tarlac Governor Susan Yap officially welcomed all the attendees while special messages were delivered by SSS President Rolly Macasaet, OWWA Administrator Arnel

Ignacio and OF Bank Officer-in-Charge Atty. Reo S. Andarino.

Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) Usec. PY Caunan administered the oath of office for the Tarlac OFW organization leaders, with Yap as witness.

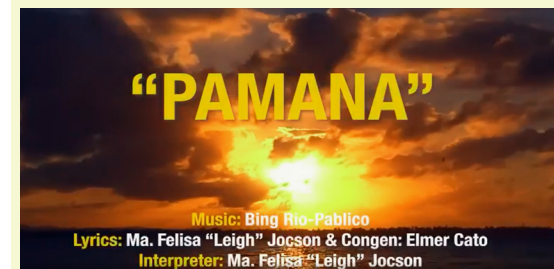
A major highlight of the event is the signing of the Sisterhood Agreement between Upper

Austria, represented by Austrian Ambassador to the Philippines Johann Brieger, and the Tarlac

**SEE PAGE 4**  
**OFW BAGONG**



## Song on the West PH Sea launched



**MILAN** — A patriotic song calling on Filipinos to unite and defend the interests of the Philippines in the South China Sea, or what is now known as the West Philippine Sea, was launched recently in Milan.

The song "Pamana" was written by Consul General Elmer G. Cato together with Kapampangan soprano Ma. Felisa "Leigh" Jocson and set to music by Baguio-based composer Bing Pablico.

"The song was written in response to recent troubling developments in the West

**SEE PAGE 4**  
**SONG**

## Sky to use Converge network

Sky Cable Corp. has entered into a commercial arrangement with leading Philippine fiber broadband service provider Converge Information and Communications Technology Solutions, Inc. (PSE: CNVRG) that will enable Sky to upgrade its network and improve services to its subscribers.

"Converge has built a superior state of the art fiber network nationwide that Sky customers will soon experience," Sky Chairman Mark Lopez said.

Sky President and Chief

Operations Officer Claudia Suarez said the initiative with Converge supports Sky's transformation plan that is aimed at improving Sky's products and services.

"Through the arrangement with Converge, we expect Sky and its subscribers to benefit from the world-class fiber network that Converge has built over the last few years," Suarez said.

Converge President and Co-Founder Maria Grace Uy said the arrangement will allow Converge to maximize its network and

increase port utilization.

"This will be a revenue boost for Converge consistent with similar arrangements with other players as we are able to continue to monetize further our excess network capacity," Uy said.

Converge has the largest fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) network in the Philippines with over 8,000,000 ports and a fiber footprint extending over 700,000 kilometers that reaches 16,000,000 Filipino homes nationwide.

**SEE PAGE 4**  
**SKY TO USE**

## PBBM cites MCC

"In the face of top global competition, the Mabalacat City College in Pampanga was awarded the Technological/Digital Innovation of the Year (in the Times Higher Education [THE] Awards Asia)". — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., SONA 2024

Thus said President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. as he mentioned the Mabalacat City College (MCC) in this year's State of the Nation Address (SONA).

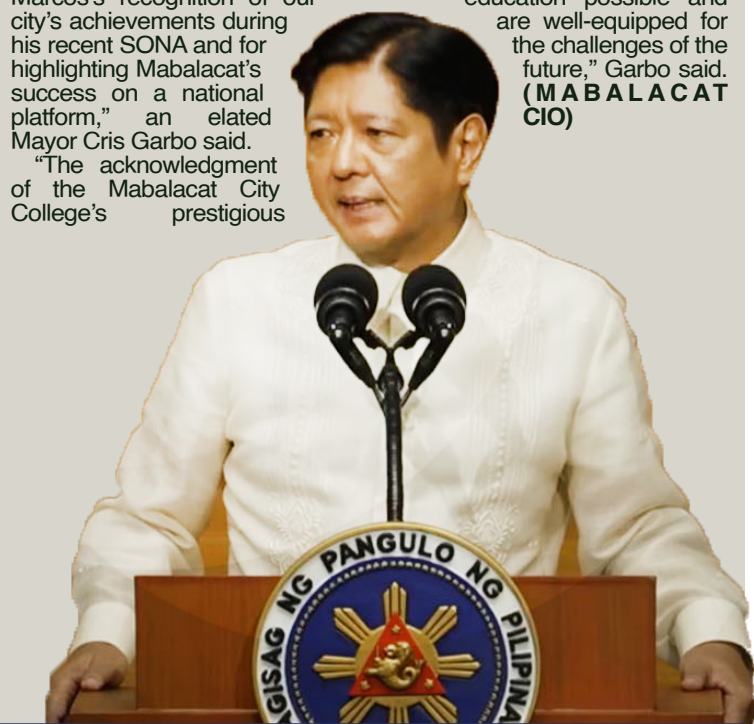
"I am delighted and honored by President Bongbong Marcos's recognition of our city's achievements during his recent SONA and for highlighting Mabalacat's success on a national platform," an elated Mayor Cris Garbo said.

"The acknowledgment of the Mabalacat City College's prestigious

award for Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year by the Times Higher Education just shows the sincerity and hard work we put into our local educational institution," Garbo furthered.

"I also want to express my gratitude to Mabalacat City College President Michelle Aguilar-Ong and the men and women of the Mabalacat City College for continuing to make the MCC a hub for innovation and progress in the field of technology and digitalization, helping ensure that our students receive the best education possible and are well-equipped for the challenges of the future," Garbo said.

(MABALACAT CIO)





# Comelec, PTFOMS ink MOA to protect media

**MANILA** — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) and the Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS) signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on July 23, 2024 to ensure the safety and respect for the rights of the members of the press covering the elections.

Signing the MOA were Chairman George Erwin Garcia and PTFoMS Executive Director Undersecretary Paul M. Gutierrez.

"This MOA is part of the continuing effort by the Marcos government to create a safe media environment for members of the press all over the country, especially during elections," Gutierrez said, recalling President Marcos Jr.'s instruction for the PTFoMS to work for a safer media environment for everyone.

The MOA is the first of its kind between the Comelec, an independent constitutional body, and the PTFoMS, the government's mechanism to address all violations on the right to life, liberty, and security of all members of the press, since the latter's creation under

Administrative Order No. 1 (AO1) in 2016.

It recognizes the important role of the press in scrupulously reporting and interpreting the news, taking care not to suppress essential facts nor distort the truth by omission or improper emphasis.

The agreement also seeks to provide media practitioners with a safe and protected space, free from any unnecessary interference in order to perform their duty to report truthful election related news.

Among others, the MOA seeks to consider any act of threat, harassment, illegal detention, torture, or physical violence to any member of the press a violation of the media's role under the Fair Election Act or RA 9006, the Omnibus Election Code, or the Revised Penal Code, as the case may be.

Garcia said he agreed to the MOA considering that poll workers also suffer from the same level of threats, harassments and loss of life being

SEE PAGE 4  
COMELEC



**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT SIGNING BETWEEN THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS AND THE PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON MEDIA SECURITY**  
Tuesday, July 23, 2024 | 10:00 AM  
Palacio Del Gobernador, Manila

The Commission on Elections and the Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS) signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on July 23, 2024 to ensure the safety and respect for the rights of the members of the press covering the elections. Signing the MOA were Chairman George Erwin Garcia and PTFoMS Executive Director Undersecretary Paul M. Gutierrez. (PTFOMS FACEBOOK PAGE)

# Public schools fumigated

**ANGELES CITY** — The city government here has the fogging and misting activities in all 54 public schools to ensure the safety of students and teachers from dengue as face-to-face classes are set to start on July 29, 2024.

The Anti-Dengue Task Force, formed from the Barangay Outreach Program, was deployed to all public schools since July 8 to carry out fogging and misting activities.

"Gusto kong masigurado na ligtas ang ating mga mag-aaral at guro laban sa dengue. Kaya naman patuloy ang ginagawang nating fumigation activities sa mga public schools," Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr. said.

Executive Assistant IV Reina Manuel has been tasked to supervise the fumigation operation.

Meanwhile, Department of Education-Angeles City Schools

Division Superintendent Engr. Edgard Domingo expressed sincere gratitude to Lazatin for the fumigation in public schools in the city.

"These activities are a great help to protect our learners from dengue. Our salute po to our LGU for always thinking of the welfare of our public schools," Domingo said.

Manuel said that aside from the fogging and misting program, the city government has also adopted the 4S Strategy — search and destroy, self-protection measures, seek early consultation, say yes to fogging in case of outbreak -- against dengue in public schools and the city's 33 barangays.

The mayor is also set to participate in the nationwide Brigada Eskwela on July 22 by donating paints and cements. (ANGELES CIO)



# To revive hog industry DA, Capitol distributes sentinel piglets in Pamp

**MINALIN, Pampanga** — The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Provincial Government of Pampanga, distributed 135 sentinel piglets to assist 45 local hog raisers in this town who were affected by African Swine Fever (ASF) to help restore their livelihood.

Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda, with Board Member Nelson Calara, Special Assistant to the Governor Angelina Blanco, and Provincial Veterinarian Dr. Augusto Baluyut, Jr., personally attended the event at the Barangay Bulac covered court recently.

"Nung atatandanan yu pu dati, anyang atin tamu pang ASF, pekamarakal la pu reng babi a kinata tamu keng balen Minalin. So, anyang mengutang

la pu nanu ing mumunang makatanggap babi, sabi ku, balen Minalin pamu pu dapat," said Pineda said.

Each recipient received three piglets and six bags of feed under the Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery Expansion (INSPIRE) Program of the DA-Central Luzon.

Bjorn Quiambao, Regional Livestock Program alternate focal person, said the sentinel piglets will be subjected to a 40-day fattening period before undergoing a PCR test to confirm they are free of ASF.

"Kaninang katabi ko ang municipal veterinarian, napag-alaman ko na nasa pink zone na ang Minalin. After ng pink, pwede na sila mag-yellow

if negative pa rin sa ASF," Quiambao explained.

The ASF Zoning System includes the Red Zone for confirmed ASF cases with strict quarantine, the Pink Zone as a buffer with extra surveillance and movement restrictions, the Yellow Zone for monitoring to prevent ASF spread, the Green Zone where ASF is absent but preventive measures continue, and the White Zone where areas that have been cleared of ASF return to normal activities with continuous monitoring.

Minalin Mayor Noel Philip Naguit expressed gratitude to the governor for selecting his town as the first recipient of the program in the province. (GOVERNOR'S OFFICE)



**LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE.** Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda and Minalin Mayor Noel Philip Naguit lead the distribution of assistance to 45 local hog raisers affected by African Swine Fever (ASF). (PAMPANGA PIOJ)

# Mayor Pogi checks on evacuees

Angeles City Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr. took a moment to sit down with the evacuees on July 25, 2024 to hear their stories during his visit at the Main Evacuation Center in Barangay Mining.

Lazatin assured that the city government will provide support and assistance to the evacuees.

Since Wednesday, the mayor has been monitoring the condition of the evacuees as he ordered the City Social Welfare and Development Office, headed by Edna Duaso to immediately attend to their needs.

To date, 48 families, composed of 270 individuals, are temporarily housed at the city's main evacuation center.

The families were evacuated on Wednesday as Typhoon Carina enhanced the Southwest monsoon causing heavy rains and the swelling of waterways in the city.

Lazatin wasted no time in ordering the forced evacuation of households living along the banks of the waterways to ensure their safety.

The needs of the evacuees such as food, blankets

and mats, among others, are readily available. (ANGELES CIO)



**BOOK DONATION.** Mabalacat City Tourism Officer Arwin Paul Alfonso Lingat (right) receives a copy of Down Memory Lane, a book written by the late Dr. Inez Cuyugan Quizon-David. A memoir of the life and times of the former UCLA-schooled educator, the book narrates her family's service to Don Honorio Ventura and his friendship with Senators Manuel Roxas and Sergio Osmeña. Presenting his personal copy of the book is Eduard David, son of Quizon-David who has served as a teacher, principal in some schools in Pampanga and a regional superintendent of the then Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (MECS). The copy is kept at the Tabnuan Cultural Center of Mabalacat City. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)





# KUWENTONG PEYUPS

ATTY. DENNIS GORECHO

## Two decades of Cinemalaya

“Loob, Lalim, Lakas” is this year’s theme of the 20th Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival that will run from August 2 to 11, 2024.

Competing in the Full-Length Category are: ALIPATO AT MUOG by JL Burgos; AN ERRAND by Dominic Bekaert and Sarge Lacuesta; TUMANDOK by Arlie Sumagaysay and Richard Salvadico; BALOTA by Kip Oebanda; GULAY LANG MANONG (NO MORE THAN VEGGIES) by BC Amparado; KANTIL (TRENCH) by Joshua Medroso; KONO BASHO by Jaime Pacena II; LOVE CHILD by Jonathan Jurilla; THE HEARING by Lawrence Fajardo and Honee Alipio; and, THE WEDDING DANCE by Julius Lumiqued.

Short Feature films in competition include: ABOGBAYBAY by P. Patindol; ALL THIS WASTED SPACE by C. Bringas; AMBOT WALAKO KABALO UNSAY I-TITILE INI by R. Villaverde; CROSS MY HEART AND HOPE TO DIE by S. Manasca; I WAS WALKING ON THE STREETS OF CHINATOWN by R. Capili; MAMA by A. Brizuela; MARIPOSA by M. Tampos; PAMALANDONG SA DANOW (REFLECTION IN THE MARSH) by B. Harani; PRIMETIME MOTHER by S. Calvento; and, THE RED TRAILS (AN BAGA SA DALAN) by M. Jolejole and R. Dolim.

The past winning films in the New Breed category are Pepot Artista (2005), Tulad ng Dati (2006), Tribu (2007), Jay (2008), Last Supper No. 3 (2009), Halaw (2010), Ang Babae sa Septic Tank (2011), Diablo (2012), Transit (2013), and Bwaya (2014).

The winners in the Directors’ showcase are Donor (2010), Bisperas (2011), Posas (2012), Sana Dati (2013) and Kasal (2014).

The winners in the Main competition are Pamilya Ordinaryo (2016), Respeto (2017), Kung Paano Hinihintay ang Dapithapon (2018), and John Denver Trending (2019), The Baseball Player (2022) and Iti Mapukpukaw (2023).

Eddie Garcia won Best Actor thrice for ICU Bed#7 (2005), Bwakaw (2012), and ML (2018) while Baron Geisler twice for Jay (2008) and Donor (2010).

Two actresses won the Best Actress awards twice: Merylle Soriano for Room Boy (2005) and Donor (2010) and Ina Feleo for Endo (2007) and Sanglaan (2009).

Two persons won the Best Director award twice: Aureus Solito for Pisay (2007) and Busong (2011) while the late Eduardo Roy, Jr. for Pamilya Ordinaryo (2011) and Fuccbois (2019). Roy died last February 21 due to pulmonary embolism.

Roy also directed Quick Change where transgender Mimi Juarez won as Best Actor in the 2013 New Breed section.

In the Directors’ Showcase, Vilma Santos won Best Actress in Ekstra (2013) while Nora Aunor won the following year for Hustisya (2014) while there was no winner for Best Actor in 2013.

In 2012, the best actress award was given in the Director’s Showcase to an ensemble, Judy Ann Santos, Iza Calzado, Agot Isidro, and Janice de Belen of Mga Mumunting Lihim. The same happened in the New Breed Category in 2007 when the

cast of Tribu grabbed the trophy for best actor award also as an ensemble.

The youngest winner of the best actor award was Noel Comia, Jr. for Kiko Boksingero (2017) when he was then 13 years old followed by 15-year old Jansen Magpusao for John Denver Trending (2019).

Other Best Actress awardees include Angel Aquino for Donsol (2006), Lovi Poe for Mayohan (2009), Eugene Domingo for Ang Babae sa Septic Tank (2011), Ama Quiambao for Diablo (2012), Irma Adlawan for Transit (2013), Eula Valdez for Dagitab (2014), Hasmine Killip for Pamilya Ordinaryo (2016), Angeli Bayani for Bagahe (2017), Ai-Ai Delas Alas for School Service (2018), Ruby Ruiz for Iska (2019), Max Eigenmann for 12 Weeks (2022) and Pat Tingjuy for Rookie (2023).

Best Actor awardees also include Alchris Galura for Batad (2006), Baron Geisler for Jay (2008), Lou Veloso for Colorum (2009), John Arcilla for Halaw (2010), Edgar Allan Guzman for Ligo na U, Lapit na Me (2011), Kristoffer King for Oros (2012), Dante Rivero for 1st ko si 3rd (2014), Tommy Abuel for Dagsin (2016), Tommy Alejandrino for The Baseball Player (2022) and Mikoy Morales for Tether (2023).

Only short films competed in 2015, 2020 and 2021.

Although it did not win the Best Film Award in 2005, “Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros” by fellow UP alumnus Aureus Solito became one of the icons of indie films.

I have been watching Cinemalaya since

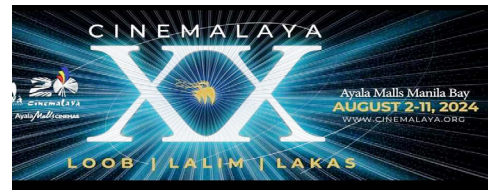
it started in 2004, or 20 years ago, which is held annually at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) and various cinemas.

My passion in watching Cinemalaya films perhaps is an offshoot of my exposure to experimental films during my college years in the late ‘80s and ‘90s at the UP Diliman where I saw several highly sensitive and political films.

The UP Film Center served as a venue to screen films free from censorship as some of them were even banned from commercial viewing.

Some of the films I saw included Lino Brocka’s “Maynila, Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag” (1975) and “Bayan Ko: Kapit sa Patalim” (1985), Ishmael Bernal’s “Himala” (1982), Mike de Leon’s “Sister Stella L.” (1984), and Marilou Diaz-Abaya’s “Karnal” (1984) and whose daring works portrayed revolt, labor unionism, social ostracism, and class division.

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



## Pogi delivers cement, paint for Brigada Eskwela in AC

**ANGELES CITY** — Mayor Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin, Jr. delivered his personal donations of cement and paint to all 57 public schools here on July 22, 2024 as part of his contribution for the Brigada Eskwela.

Each school received 40 liters of paint, paint rollers and 10 bags of cement which will assist public schools in their cleanup and restoration activities for the upcoming school year.

As early as 5 AM, a team was already deployed for the distribution of his personal donations, using 16 public utility vehicles and four trucks.

“Gaya po ng ating ipinangako, tayo po mismo ang bababa at pupunta upang iabot ang ating mga programa,” Lazatin said.

The distribution team was composed of Chief Adviser IC Calaguas; Angeles City Economic Development Investment Promotions Office Head Irish Llego; Executive Assistant IV Reina Manuel; Gender and Development Officer Mina Cabiles; Angeles

City Tourism Officer-in-Charge Anneleen Antonio-Sugui; Angeles City Tourism Auxiliary Head Michael Lising; Jane Calimquim, Von Ryan Sugui, Anne Salonga, and Sharmaine Gonzales.

It has been a personal advocacy and annual tradition of the mayor to extend a helping hand to the public schools for their Brigada Eskwela for the upcoming school year.

Lazatin entered public service as a City Councilor in 2013 and has participated in the nationwide Brigada Eskwela since.

He assured that pushing for and ensuring quality education will always be on top of his priority programs for Angeleños.

In 2023, more than 100,000 sets of school gear and supplies were prepared by the city government for all the students from the city’s 55 public schools, from kindergarten to Grade 12, and 72 Child Development Centers. **(ANGELES CIO)**



## NLEX BRAVE program empowers young women

NLEX Corporation recently launched another woman-centered community development program.

Dubbed the Barangay Responders and Advocates of Violence-Free Environment (BRAVE), the program empowers young women to play a more active role in their community by training them to become disaster and emergency responders for their respective barangays.

“Ang kababaihan ay may unique qualities na angkop sa tungkulin bilang community responders. Sila ay highly adaptable, sensitive, at compassionate. Ito ang mga dahilan kung bakit namin binuo ang isang programang magbibigay oportunidad sa mga kabataang babae na manguna o makatulong sa kanilang barangay sa pag-manage ng sitwasyon tuwing may disaster or emergency,” NLEX Corporation President and General Manager, J. Luigi L. Bautista said.

Twenty-five participants from select NLEX Connector host communities underwent a three-day training camp for the program in City of San Fernando,

Pampanga.

In partnership with the Girl Scouts of the Philippines Manila Council, a comprehensive training program on Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (BDRRM), emergency first aid, and self-affirmation exercises was conducted.

Jiu-jitsu World Champion Meggie Ochoa also taught the participants basic jiu-jitsu and self-defense techniques. She also shared an empowering message to the ladies, reminding them that despite the natural difference in physical strength between men and women, women can protect themselves and others using the right physical skills and knowledge.

“They can also be effective advocates of a violence-free environment. Programs like this will help them to be more equipped and ready to respond and act in emergencies,” Ochoa said.

All these activities aim to prepare young women to be physically, mentally, and emotionally fit for their new role as emergency responders. They were equipped with new

knowledge and skills and taught the importance of preparedness, resiliency, and standing up against violence.

“Sobrang importante po ang adbokasiya ng NLEX na hubugin ang kakayahan ng mga kabataang babae upang magamit sa pagtulung sa aming komunidad tuwing sakuna at sa tuluyang pagtigil ng anumang uri ng karahasan sa aming komunidad,” participant Shenna Orbe from Barangay 204 said.

Since 2005, NLEX has been at the forefront of corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives as part of their contribution to nation-building.

The company also launched two capacity-building programs this year: the Pag-unlad at Paglago ng Pamayanan (PUNLA), a comprehensive training program for women-led small businesses, and the Barangay Security Watch, an in-depth seminar designed to capacitate barangay police and officials with knowledge and skills in maintaining peace and order in their community.

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



**EMPOWERING WOMEN.** Participants and barangay officials from select NLEX Connector host communities with Meggie Ochoa, Girl Scout of the Philippines Manila Council and NLEX Corporation team during the launching of the NLEX Corp.'s Barangay Responders and Advocates of Violence-Free Environment (BRAVE) project. **(NLEX CORP.)**

**THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY**

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**THEVOICENEWSWEEKLY**



**DELTA LEADS... FROM PAGE 1**

canned goods, and coffee, provided by Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rex Gatchalian.

Pineda was then joined by PDRRMO Chief and Special Assistant to the Governor Angelina Blanco, Acting Provincial Social Welfare Officer Fe Manarang, and Pampanga Police Provincial Office Director P/Col. Jay Dimaandal to personally deliver aid to the affected communities.

A total of 535 food packs were

distributed here with the help of Santo Tomas Mayor John Sambo while 5,500 food packs were delivered to barangays in the coastal areas of Minalin with the assistance of Mayor Noel Philip Naguit.

"Importante na sa ganitong sitwasyon, nandito po kaming mga nanunungkulan para personal na maihatid ang tulong sa mga apektadong residente," the governor said, adding that the relief distribution will continue in other areas of the province to ensure

all flood-affected communities receive the necessary assistance.

Pineda extended gratitude to President Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos, Jr. and DSWD Secretary Gatchalian for their support and provision of the food packs.

The governor also advised residents during the relief distribution to evacuate early to designated evacuation centers to ensure the safety of vulnerable individuals, particularly children and the elderly.

**OFW BAGONG... FROM PAGE 1**

Provincial Government represented by Yap.

A special video message was given by Austrian State Councilor Dr. Wolfgang Hattmannsdorfer.

The OFW Serbisyo Caravan, an initiative of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) in partnership with the Provincial Government of Tarlac and the

PESO Tarlac Province, has lined up the services and activities for the Tarlaqueños which include an Overseas Job Fair, Government Services Assistance, e-Registration and OEC Printing, Reintegration Programs and Services, OFW Hospital Medical Services, Welfare Desk Assistance, and AKSYON Fund Assistance,

Anti-Illegal Recruitment and Anti-Human Trafficking Seminars, Legal Assistance, and a DMW Family and Children's Day.

About 5,000 jobs were offered to Tarlaqueños at the OFW Serbisyo Caravan, which ran until July 24.

The OFW Serbisyo Caravan will be held in key areas around the country. (TARLAC PIO)

**SONG... FROM PAGE 1**

Philippine Sea and the urgent need for Filipinos to unite and rally behind efforts to protect what is rightfully ours," Cato said.

The MTV version of "Pamana" recorded in the Philippines by Jocson was first seen and heard

by an estimated 15,000 Filipinos who attended the Sandiwa Fiesta Europa at Parco Idroscalo in Milan on June 30, 2024.

It was performed live a few days later by Jocson, baritone Joseleo Logdat, and Koro Hiraya

during the Amici Per Sempre III concert commemorating the 77th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Italy on July 6, 2024.

**SKY TO USE... FROM PAGE 1**

As of the end of March 2024, Converge serves 2.3 million residential broadband subscribers across the country.

"As everyone knows, the first business that I built on my own was in cable television and with the increasing availability of fiber technology outside the Philippines in the early 2000s, my wife Grace and I decided to enter the fixed broadband business. So, I'm really excited that we are able to help Sky, the leader in the cable business, in its own transformation program by providing them the latest optical fiber technology,"

Converge CEO and Co-Founder Dennis Anthony Uy said.

Converge Chief Operations Officer Jesus Romero said they are confident that Sky subscribers will have a better experience with faster broadband speeds with the fiber connectivity.

Carlo Katigbak, ABS-CBN president and CEO and concurrently a director at Sky, expressed confidence that the initiative with Converge will bring positive benefits to Sky subscribers.

"We believe that this is the best way to move forward and stay

focused on delivering superior customer experience," Katigbak said.

Aside from the network upgrade, the Sky transformation program also calls for increased operational efficiency, greater financial discipline, and organizationa

"We hope to replicate this business model and encourage other players to do the same. This is really all part of the mission of Converge to bring world-class connectivity to all Filipinos and leave no one behind in this digital age," Uy said.

**COMELEC... FROM PAGE 2**

experienced by journalists during elections.

"Ang dinaranas ninyo (journalists) tuwing eleksyon ay dinaranas din ng aming mga tauhan, partikular yung mga nasa field," Garcia said.

He also repeatedly stressed the important role played by the media in achieving the poll body's mandate of conducting clean, credible, free, honest, and orderly elections.

Both officials said the provisions of the MOA would take effect this

October in accordance with the start of the filing of certificates of candidacy (COCs) and would last until the end of the election period or until June 11, 2025.

"While violent incidents cannot be prevented especially during elections, we hope this MOA would serve to deter those contemplating to do harm against the media from doing so, especially among the candidates and their supporters," they added.

Any media practitioner whose rights are violated during the

covered period must report the incident immediately to the PTFoMS which would then immediately coordinate with the Comelec on the appropriate measure to be taken to address the incident.

The PTFoMS shall also be responsible in attesting that the victim is a legitimate member of the press and assist the victim in the filing of a formal complaint before the poll body. (PTFOMS FACEBOOK PAGE)

**Masinloc farmers receive pregnant buffaloes**

**IBA, Zambales** — The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) has entrusted a total of 18 pregnant dairy buffaloes to the Masinloc Farmers' Agriculture Cooperative (MFAC) in Zambales to help improve the livelihood of the cooperative member-farmers.

The MFAC was a recipient of the Dairy Herd Buildup Program of the PCC which aims to ensure and accelerate the increase in local dairy stocks and milk production.

"Milk is really our target to become their additional source of income," PCC Director Ericson Dela Cruz explained.

Prior to the entrustment, the 12 members of the cooperative were provided a two-day social preparation training where topics discussed include the readiness of the farmers and the dairy buffalo production and management.

Cooperative member Christian Tomas Nacin said they are thankful for being entrusted with the pregnant dairy buffaloes.

"These pregnant dairy buffaloes will help improve our livelihood. I sincerely thanked the PCC for giving them to us as our start-up," Nacin said. (PIA REGION 3-ZAMBALES)



**FARMERS' FRIEND.** The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) recently entrusted a total of 18 pregnant dairy buffaloes to the Masinloc Farmers' Agriculture Cooperative in Masinloc, Zambales as part of the Dairy Herd Buildup Program of the PCC to ensure and accelerate the increase in local dairy stocks and milk production. (PCC)

**AC officials inspect computer labs**

To ensure swift construction, Chief Adviser IC Calaguas inspected on July 22, 2024 the soon-to-be-inaugurated, state-of-the-art computer laboratories in two public schools in Angeles City.

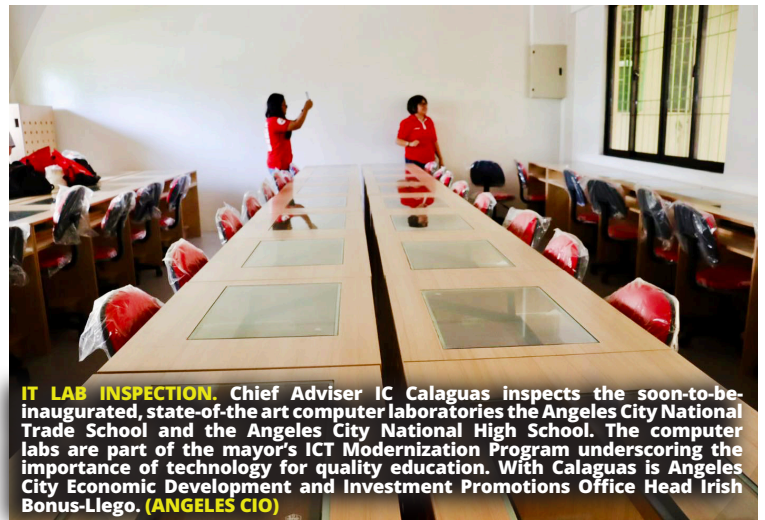
As instructed by Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr., Calaguas conducted the inspection of the upcoming modern computer labs which are part of the mayor's ICT Modernization Program which underscore the importance of technology in providing quality education.

Calaguas was joined by

Angeles City Economic Development and Investment Promotions Office Head Irish Bonus-Llego during the inspection at the Angeles City National Trade School and the Angeles City National High School.

Each of the said schools will be equipped with desktop computers and smart TVs. The installation of fiber optic internet connection will also be undertaken by the city government to further aid students in their studies.

Calaguas said the construction is expected to be completed this year.



**IT LAB INSPECTION.** Chief Adviser IC Calaguas inspects the soon-to-be-inaugurated, state-of-the-art computer laboratories the Angeles City National Trade School and the Angeles City National High School. The computer labs are part of the mayor's ICT Modernization Program underscoring the importance of technology for quality education. With Calaguas is Angeles City Economic Development and Investment Promotions Office Head Irish Bonus-Llego. (ANGELES CIO)

**Tarlac Governor lauds PBBM's 3rd SONA**

**TARLAC CITY, Tarlac** — Central Luzon Regional Development Council (RDC) Chairperson Tarlac Governor Susan Yap lauded the delivery of the 3rd State of the Nation Address (SONA) of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Highlighting all of the accomplishment in various fields and sectors, Yap noted that this is the best SONA she has ever heard so far.

"This is my 14th SONA ever since I joined public service and in all of those, this is the first time I took note (of the) 45 topics that the president discussed. First time. That's how impressed I was with the president's SONA on July 22. (A) very strong, very decisive and very clear message to all the Filipinos, especially his last statement," the governor said.

Yap pointed out that the president's order to ban all Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs) in the country by the end of the year is the best decision that a president can make.

"This strikes us in the heart because finally, someone heard us. As early as 2020, I've had many press releases. In January 2021, we did not want

POGOs in our province but it did happen. His ending statement last night made me very happy because finally, someone took a decisive step to ban POGOs," she stressed.

In his most recent SONA, Marcos ordered the banning of POGO operations to put a stop to the abuse and disrespect to the country's system of laws.

"Effective today, all POGOs are banned. I hereby instruct (Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation) PAGCOR to wind down and cease the operations of POGOs by the end of the year," the president stated.

Marcos also instructed the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to coordinate with economic managers to find new jobs for the displaced workers of the POGOs. (PIA REGION 3 -TARLAC)





## DMW warns OFWs on online illegal recruitment

**TARLAC CITY, Tarlac** — The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) is warning overseas jobseekers about illegal recruitment activities online, including recruiters on social media sites that demand placement fees to process documents and interviews to land jobs abroad.

DMW Undersecretary for Policy and International Cooperation Patricia Yvonne Caunan stressed that illegal recruitment nowadays is rampant in social media sites.

“Every day, illegal recruiters not only in the Philippines but also abroad are trying to recruit online and every day, we file cases and request sites such as Meta and Tiktok to take down the advertisements of these recruiters who are not following the law,” Caunan said.

She said the DMW is engaging in bilateral partnerships with various countries to introduce the 50-year-old framework of the country for

hiring Filipino workers.

“We strive to have bilateral labor agreements with different countries to protect Filipino workers who are already there and who are planning to go there. The fight against illegal recruitment and human trafficking is not a local problem. It is a problem that can be solved by bilateral cooperation and multilateral engagements,” Caunan stressed.

In the agreement of the Philippines with other countries, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who shall work in their country are not required to show money and pay any amount to be hired for a job.

To find legitimate jobs abroad, existing and aspiring OFWs may visit [dmw.gov.ph](http://dmw.gov.ph) for a list of approved job orders.

The DMW, through its Migrant Workers Protection Bureau, conducts Anti-Illegal Recruitment and Trafficking in Person seminars to raise awareness and provide information on the different ways illegal recruiters scam OFWs.

About 150 OFWs and their families, Public Employment Service Office (PESO) managers, and police officers participated in the seminar during the second day of the pilot OFW Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Caravan which was launched in Tarlac recently. **(PIA REGION 3-TARLAC)**



## On Staying MATATAG amidst Changes

by ROSELILY R. NAVIDAD

**MATATAG** - this is undoubtedly one of the most challenging tasks in public schools, particularly amidst the significant and rapid changes that continually test our resilience and commitment to education.

The term MATATAG has become a constant vocabulary in the educational sphere since the launch of the MATATAG Curriculum by Vice President Sara Duterte in August 2023. Designed to fortify the entire education system, the MATATAG Curriculum aims to prepare learners for a promising future. It promises to enhance Basic Education, addressing the country's ongoing challenges in international assessments, notably the PISA.

Yet, with the introduction of the MATATAG Curriculum came a plethora of associated terms. Educators have embraced this concept, adapting their approach to remain resilient in the face of mounting responsibilities imposed by the Department of Education. Some view it almost ironically as a “meme” due to the overwhelming workload it entails.

Personally, I cannot help but reflect on this era of MATATAG. Beyond being a mere educational concept or mandated curriculum, MATATAG embodies an attitude that ignites passion for learning. It compels us to remain steadfast in our mission to nurture the youth for their promising future. It reaffirms that teaching remains the noblest profession, urging us to uphold

and defend it at all costs.

Furthermore, MATATAG symbolizes Filipino learners eagerly awaiting their thirst for knowledge to be fulfilled. It symbolizes the Filipino spirit - resilient, persevering, and committed to positive change despite daunting challenges.

In today's educational landscape, embodying MATATAG amidst a department rife with challenges is not just a task; it's a profound calling that only the bravest are willing to embrace, endure, and champion. For dedicated educators who remain true to their core, MATATAG is more than a concept—it's a driving force propelling us towards the pursuit of excellence and the fulfillment of our students' potential.

MATATAG empowers us to continuously evolve and empower ourselves, knowing that our growth directly impacts the futures we shape. It serves as a powerful call for self-assessment and ongoing self-improvement, akin to the responsibility a mother feels for her child. It reminds us that our role extends far beyond the classroom; it's a sacred trust to nurture minds and hearts, preparing each learner for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

*The author is Teacher III at Castor Z. Concepcion Memorial National High School, Balaoan District, La Union Schools Division, Region I – Ilocos Region*

## DENR intensifies conservation efforts

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO** —

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is amplifying its conservation and sustainability initiatives in Central Luzon.

Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo of DENR-3 stressed during the eighth episode of the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) the regional office's strategic focus on environmental protection and sustainable development.

“Environment for Life encapsulates the DENR's two-pronged approach, combining comprehensive government and societal plans with strategic partnerships involving local government units, the academe, the private sector, and communities. We aim to foster a harmonious relationship between development and conservation,” Pablo said.

Under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyza's leadership, the agency has made significant strides in using geospatial technology to monitor

and manage natural resources.

The newly-established Geospatial Database Office plays a pivotal role in tracking biodiversity conservation and reforestation efforts through satellite imagery.

At the same time, Geographic Information System-based mapping helps identify areas susceptible to geological hazards such as landslides and flooding.

“Our geospatial initiatives allow us to set clear baselines and measure environmental changes accurately,” Pablo explained, stressing the technological integration is crucial for sustainable development and disaster risk reduction in the region.

The DENR has also bolstered forest preservation and protection efforts through its National Greening and the Intensified Forest Protection programs.

In Central Luzon, Pablo said over 87 million seedlings have been planted, creating nearly 137,000 hectares of new forests and generating over 546,000 jobs.

The agency plans to add

another 21,900 hectares of forest plantations nationwide by 2028, which will contribute significantly to increased forest cover.

Moreover, the DENR's efforts also extend to water resource management in accordance with Executive Order No. 22 that established the Water Resources Management Office, consolidating the sector for the first time in Philippine history.

The initiative has led to the mapping of 614 water sources and 986 water users, facilitating more efficient water resource utilization and infrastructure repurposing.

“Access to water is crucial for public health, agriculture, industry, and economic development. This integrated approach ensures that more communities receive this vital resource,” Pablo pointed out.

The DENR's multifaceted strategy highlights its commitment to balancing ecological preservation with economic growth, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for Central Luzon. **(PIA REGION 3-PAMPANGA)**



## Mastering Classroom Setup: A Blueprint for the First Month

by JOURNALYN D. ROBINO

Setting up your classroom for the new school year is akin to laying the foundation for a thriving learning environment. As you prepare for the first month of schooling, consider these essential strategies to ensure your classroom is optimized for success.

Begin with the basics: create distinct areas for different activities, such as a cozy reading nook with cushions and shelves stocked with books, and a designated space for group discussions with movable desks or tables. This arrangement encourages both independent learning and collaborative projects.

Next, infuse your classroom with personality and purpose. Decorate walls with educational posters, student artwork, and inspirational quotes that ignite curiosity and creativity. A visually stimulating environment not only engages students but also reinforces learning objectives throughout the year.

Establish clear expectations

and routines early on. Discuss classroom rules collaboratively, emphasizing respect and responsibility. Consistent routines for tasks like entering and exiting the classroom, transitioning between subjects, and managing supplies cultivate a sense of order and security among students.

Maximize the use of available technology by setting up designated areas for interactive learning. Whether it's a computer station for research or a multimedia corner for presentations, integrating technology seamlessly into your classroom enhances educational experiences and prepares students for the digital age.

Personalize student spaces to foster a sense of belonging. Assign each student a designated area to store their belongings, decorated with their name or personal touch. This small gesture promotes ownership and pride in their learning environment.

Create a dynamic classroom library stocked with diverse books that cater to various interests

and reading levels. Encouraging regular reading not only supports literacy development but also instills a lifelong love for learning.

Lastly, adapt and evolve based on feedback. Throughout the first month, observe how students interact with the classroom setup and gather their input. Their insights can provide valuable guidance for refining your arrangements and activities to better meet their needs.

By implementing these strategies, you lay the groundwork for a classroom that inspires learning, fosters creativity, and nurtures a positive educational experience from day one. Remember, the setup of your classroom is not just about physical space—it's about creating an environment where students feel motivated, supported, and excited to learn each day.

*The author is Teacher II at Buenavista National High School, Pura District, Schools Division of Tarlac Province, Region III – Central Luzon*





Members of the Pampanga Press Club had a chance to have a look-see and sample authentic grilled gastronomic treats at Couscousi Mediterranean Grill.

The sampling opened with freshly made bread served with hummus and babaghanoush. This was followed by salata machwiya, made with charcoal grilled bell peppers, tomatoes and garlic pulsed into a chunky mixture with olive oil, then garnished with tuna, olives and slices of boiled eggs.

The main dish was kabsa, tender browned chicken sprinkled with almond nuts, dried sultanas and a bewitching blend of spices, and nestled on fragrant basmati rice.

Also served was a platter of mixed grilled delights - beef kebab, chicken

kebab, kofta koobideh, lamb kebab and lamb chops - served with a garlic yogurt dip.

The meal was complemented by fine Italian wine served in an elegant carafe.

Couscousi has classy interiors, beautiful furniture and artful furnishings whose total vibe spells a perfect marriage of elegance and style. The moment you go through the door, you might get the feeling that you have been teleported to beautiful Tunisia.

There is a series of paintings of 'windows' that perfectly depict scenic Tunisia. The wall of windows was painted by a Kapampangan artist. The dining tables and chairs were also made by a Kapampangan.

Photos by Jan Darren Guiwan and Arlyn E. Lukban



Nourishment and wellness is a good mix at Barnhouse 2079, which houses Couscousi. Aside from the new Mediterranean food stop, the same building also has Core & Balance Pilates Studio and Core & Balance Kids Fitness Studio.

Experience Tunisia and enjoy a feast of the best Mediterranean grilled treats right in the heart of Clark. Visit Couscousi and you'll see!

Photos by Jan Darren Guiwan and Arlyn E. Lukban

# 21 All Day Dining turns ONE!



21 All Day Dining, the haven of flavors from all over the world, marked its first anniversary on 21 July.

An international culinary journey from sunrise to sunset, featuring the world's delectable treats awaits at 21 All Day Dining. Savor authentic Filipino, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Italian and Western cuisine, and cap your meal with scrumptious desserts and a wide range of beverages.

In celebration of its 1st Anniversary, 21 All-Day Dining has SPECIAL PROMOS for diners!

● 5 + 1 Free Seafood Buffet for just ₱2,500 per person net available for both lunch and dinner only.

● 3 + 1 Free Offer for just ₱1,888 for Lunch or ₱1,988 for Dinner until 30 September 2024.

Located conveniently at the 4th Level of Royce Hotel and Casino, 21 All Day Dining can conveniently seat up to 300 pax, and has 6 private rooms for intimate gatherings and celebrations #OnlyAtRoyce.

Hop on to 21 All Day Dining and open the doors to an amazing gastronomic experience with all the #FlavorsOfTheWorld.

Operational Hours:

Breakfast | Monday to Sunday | 6:00am – 10:00am

● ₱ 1488

Lunch | Friday to Sunday | 11:30am – 2:30pm

● ₱ 1888

Dinner | Monday to Sunday | 6:00pm – 10:00pm

● ₱ 1888 (Mondays to Thursdays)

● ₱ 1988 (Fridays to Sundays)

Take advantage of the 3+1 Free Promo, which happens every Friday (where 3 paying guests | 1 FREE) which runs until 30 September 2024.

For Inquiries and Reservations:

☎ +63 (045) 499 7888

☎ +63 917 300 1278 | +63 908 489 5241

✉ 21alldaydining@roycehotelcasino.com

