

# THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY

FOUNDED 1955

**MANILA MUSEUM & NATURE TOURS VIA NLEX CONNECTOR**

- NLEX Connector España Exit
- NLEX Connector Magsaysay Exit

**NLEX MUSEUM TOURS** SEE BACK PAGE

# Modern food hub eyed in Clark deal



**UNITY FOR FOOD SECURITY** (L-R) World Food Chain representatives Adam Cheng Tien Fook; CIAC Vice President for Operations and Business Development Brando Aguilera; Jeremy Nathaniel Gohkongwei, chairperson and chief executive officer of the Food Security Pte. Ltd., and World Food Chain Pte. Ltd. group; CIAC President Arroy Perez; Deputy Team Leader Mark Joseph Perez; Chief of Party Dr. Juanito Abaquin, and Abdolrazagh Mohammadi, CEO of the Emirates International Holdings Group. (PHOTO BY JOJO C. DUE)

**CLARK FREEPORT ZONE** – The Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) is eyeing a modern National Food Hub project at the civil aviation complex in Clark with the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between CIAC and global food tech companies Food Starter Philippines, a subsidiary of the Singapore-based Food Starter Pte. Ltd., and World Food Chain Pte. Ltd.

"This MOU advances our efforts to start developing a food hub ecosystem aggregator which will ensure sustainable food security solutions," CIAC President Arroy Perez said.

Chain are global sourcing and technology resource firms in the field of food procurement and operations dealing with global agricultural financing and investments.

SEE 4 MODERN FOOD

## Japanese firms urged: Expand PH presence

A Philippine delegation, led by Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto, engaged with top executives of Japanese companies during a recent trip to Japan to invite them to expand their presence in the Philippines.

The meetings were organized by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) field offices in Tokyo and were held on the sidelines of the Philippine Economic Briefing in Japan.

The Philippines aims to leverage on the technological expertise of these top-notch companies to spur industry development and economic growth.

Sojitz Corporation is involved in a wide range of global businesses, including manufacturing, trading, selling, importing, and exporting various products.

In the Philippines, they operate diverse businesses, from commodities trading to several investment projects in agriculture, food, telecommunication, infrastructure, property development, automotive, and mining.

Mitsubishi Corporation is a

## Lazatin's administration nets 27 awards, citations

**ANGELES CITY** – The administration of Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr. the past five years has received 27 awards and citations.

"For the past five years, three and a half years spent in a pandemic, the city government received a total of 27 awards and citations, a testament of our commitment to quality public service," the mayor said.

This is one of the highlights of Lazatin's Fifth State of the City Address (SOCA) he delivered on June 24, 2024 at the Sangguniang Panlungsod Legislative Building.

Among the recent feathers in the cap of

SEE 4 LAZATIN'S ADMINISTRATION



Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto (speaking) urges top executives of Japanese companies to expand their presence in the Philippines during a recent visit in Japan.

## Korean envoy thanks Delta

**STO. TOMAS, Pampanga** – Republic of Korea Ambassador to the Philippines Lee Sang-Hwa expressed

gratitude to the Pampanga Provincial Government for its support to the Korean community in the province during the ambassador's visit to the country's first Bagong Urgent Care and Ambulatory Service (BUCAS) Center in this town.

Lee was accompanied by Vice-Governor Lilia "Nanay" Pineda, Fourth District Rep. Anna York Bondoc-Sagum, Sto. Tomas Mayor John Sambo, Department of Health-3 (DOH-3) Regional Director Corazon Flores, and Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital (JBLMGH) Medical Chief Monserrat Chichico during the ocular visit on June 26, 2024.

The visit aims to evaluate the BUCAS center's operations and explore how the South Korean government can further enhance medical services in the province.

Lee thanked the vice-governor for the significant



**DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.** Republic of Korea Ambassador to the Philippines Lee Sang-Hwa, Vice-Governor Lilia "Nanay" Pineda, Sto. Tomas Mayor John Sambo, DOH personnel and JBLMGH Medical Chief Monserrat Chichico tour the first Bagong Urgent Care and Ambulatory Service (BUCAS) Center of Pampanga in Sto. Tomas on June 26. (PAMPANGA PIO)

**MAYOR CARMELO 'POGI' LAZATIN, JR.**  
AWARDS & CITATIONS RECEIVED SINCE 2019

**PERSONAL AWARDS**

- 2024: Global Franchise Award for Most Outstanding Local Chief Executive of the Philippines - Highly Urbanized City Category
- 2023: Most Outstanding Kapampangan Award in Government Service
- 2022: Philippine Icon in the Service of Solo Parents
- 2020: Awarded by the Anti-Corruption Civil Movement General Federation during the UN International Anti-Corruption Day in Korea
- 2019: Awarded by the Anti-Corruption Civil Movement General Federation during the UN International Anti-Corruption Day in Korea

**CITY GOVERNMENT AWARDS**

- 2024: National Finalist in the Walang Gutom Awards for the "Naging Pambansag" Program
- Ranked 9th among 3 Philippine Cities with the largest urban economies in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index
- 1st Runner-up Award for Top Tourist Destination City Category
- 2023: Seal of Good Local Governance
- 2022: Seal of Good Local Governance
- 2021: Awarded Top 5 Most Improved in the 8th Central Luzon Excellence Awards for Health (CLEAH)
- 2020: Awarded Top 5 Most Improved in the Competitiveness Index by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) (Financial Inclusion)
- 2022: Awarded Top 5 Most Improved in the Competitiveness Index by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) (Good Financial Housekeeping)
- 2021: Awarded Top 5 Most Improved in the Competitiveness Index by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) (Good Financial Housekeeping)
- 2020: Awarded Top 5 Most Improved in the Competitiveness Index by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) (Super Extra-Large Category)
- 2019: Awarded by the Department of Interior and Local Government for Anti-Drug Programs with Youth Exclusivity
- 2018: Top 10 in all cities in Central Luzon in revenue-generation
- 2019: Awarded by the Department of Interior and Local Government for Anti-Drug Programs with High Performance in Central Luzon in revenue-generation
- 2018: Top 10 in all cities in Central Luzon in revenue-generation
- 2019: 2nd Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2018: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2017: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2016: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2015: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2014: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2013: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2012: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2011: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2010: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2009: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2008: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2007: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2006: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2005: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2004: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2003: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2002: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2001: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category
- 2000: 1st Place in the Most Improved LGU in the High-Performing Cities Category

**SEE 4**

**MAYOR CARMELO 'POGI' LAZATIN JR.**  
Luid Ya Ing Siyudang Angeles!



## RLMMC now at 70%, more health units under construction

**ANGELES CITY** — The construction of the new, seven-storey Rafael Lazatin Memorial Medical Center (RLMMC), formerly known as the Ospital ning Angeles, is now at 70 percent and will continue in full swing.

At the same time, nine more primary health care units are set to be completed by November 2024.

Thus, said Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr. during his Fifth State of the City Address (SOCA) on June 24, 2024 at the Sangguniang Panlungsod Legislative Building.

The new, Level 2 city medical center will be inaugurated in October 2024 to serve Angeleños better.

With the influx of patients at the government-owned RLMMC, a total of 127,700 of which were served in 2022 and 136,169 in 2023, Lazatin said he understands the need for its improvement and thus is of utmost priority.

He said the city government procured a total of Pnp200 million worth of medical equipment and Pnp10 million of office equipment for the soon-to-rise hospital building. Lazatin said that with a 120-bed capacity, the hospital will be able to accommodate and serve more patients.

Since taking office in 2019,

access to public health services has been among the top priority programs of Lazatin.

At the same time, Lazatin revealed during the SOCA that nine more primary health care units are set to be completed by November 2024.

The primary health care units will be located in Barangays Pulungbulu, Pulung Maragul, Cutud, Anunas, Capaya, Amisic, Tabun, Malabianas, and Balibago.

When Lazatin assumed office in 2019, the city government only had six Rural Health Units (RHUs). Lazatin said the construction of nine more health care units, the city will have the ideal number based on the city's population.

"Last year, we started the construction of nine more primary health care units. With a population of 450,000, Angeles City must have at least 15 primary health care units. The RHUs are undergoing renovation with the guidance of the Department of Health," Lazatin said.

Like his father, former First District Rep. and Angeles City Mayor Carmelo "Tarzan" Lazatin, the mayor believes "those who have less in life must have more from the government". (ANGELES CIO)



## Spotlight on Clark airport at MICECON 2024

**by ARLYN LUKBAN**

With its premier facilities, good aesthetics and overall beauty, Clark International Airport (CRK) is a shoo-in for showcasing in the upcoming MICECON 2024.

During the Pampanga Press Club Media Forum held at the Plaza Premium Lounge of Clark International Airport (CRK), Clark Development Corporation (CDC) Tourism and Promotions Officer Ellen Lorenzo stressed that Clark is ready to host MICECON, which is scheduled on July 10 to 12.

"We are ready to host Micecon. We have been preparing since the day it has been awarded to Clark," Lorenzo said. "The event is set to highlight not only the festivities, but also the beautiful destinations like CRK and the new hotels in Clark."

The Tourism Officer said that Clark hosted MICECON 10 years

ago. "Now we have a new airport with the Plaza Premium (Lounge), and this is definitely the best time to showcase Clark to the world."

CDC has lined up several activities that guarantee a fun and festive atmosphere not just for delegates but also for host communities.

CDC Tourism and Promotions assistant manager Charisse Lacson said that the 700 delegates approved so far by the Department of Tourism, will be welcomed with a dinner at CRK.

Earlier, Prix Versailles, the World Architecture and Design Award at UNESCO, recognized CRK as one of the world's most beautiful airports.

Plaza Premium Lounge (PPL) Commercial Manager for the Philippines Marion Satumbaga, expressed that "As a company,

Plaza Premier is not just concerned about our business. We also try to give back to our community, the travel industry, as we are all partners in promoting destinations and the tourism industry."

There is a Plaza Premium Lounge in 80 international airports in 30 countries and regions.

Meanwhile, Luzon International Premier Airport (LIPAD) Communications Director Teri Flores affirmed that CRK will continue to mount more domestic and international flights.

"Only recently, JetStar has started its Clark-Singapore flights. And Hong (HK) Kong, an affiliate of Cathay Pacific, also commenced its Clark route."

The Pampanga Press Club Media Forum is staged in partnership with Plaza Premium Lounge and LIPAD Corporation.



Photos by RIC GONZALES

## 85 of 87 1st District barangays to pledge support for Pogi

**ANGELES CITY** — Of the 87 total barangays in the First District of Pampanga, 85 are expected to pledge support for the candidacy of Angeles City Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr. for District Representative.

"E naku man pu orihinal na maluto. Oneng anyang midnanan kung upayang akilala ke i Mayor 'Cong' Pogi, ana pin pu keng

ingles: 'This is where I belong,'" Danilo Nacu, president of the Liga ng mga Barangay in Angeles City, alluding to the fact that he did not start his political career as an ally of Lazatin, said.

"ikit ku mismu keng balen ning Angeles nung makananu yang tinipa, memasyal, at pintaanlang deng mangailangan. Ninu wari deng pakakalulum memalen ning

Angeles? Nung ikwa na kaming luguran at lingapan, mas agawa na keti keng mumuna a distritu ning Pampanga," Nacu added.

June Marimla, Magalang Liga ng mga Barangay president, also expressed the support of the barangay captains of the town for Lazatin.

"Ikami pung kapitán kení

85 OF 87

## Pampanga hosts 'Bagong Pilipinas' mobile clinics turnover

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO** — The Province of Pampanga recently hosted the turn-over ceremony for the "Bagong Pilipinas Mobile Clinics in the 7 Provinces of Central Luzon".

First Lady Louise Araneta-Marcos, representing President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., personally handed over the symbolic key to Central Luzon provincial governors, signifying the official turnover of the mobile clinics which were made using Toyota Coaster 2024 models.

"The nice thing about this is mayroon nang x-ray machine, lab equipment, at ultrasound na nakadikit sa loob para walang nakawan," the First Lady said.

The First Lady also disclosed that next year, the president will release another batch of mobile clinics for 1,500 municipalities.

According to Assistant Secretary of Health Atty. Paolo

Teston, the initiative was inspired by the First Lady's Lab for All Program that brings healthcare services closer to the people.

Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda expressed gratitude to the First Lady and the national government for their continuous support, not only for Pampanga but also for the provinces in Central Luzon.

"Malaking tulong po ang mga mobile clinics para sa pagsasagawa ng mga consultation at diagnostic procedures sa mga komunidad. Dahil dito, mas marami pang kababayan natin ang maaabot ng ating mga programang pangkalusugan," Pineda said, stressing the impact the initiative will have on improving healthcare access and services in remote and underserved communities across Central Luzon. (PAMPANGA PIO)



**MOBILE CLINICS TURN-OVER:** First Lady Louise Araneta-Marcos hands over the symbolic key to Central Luzon governors during the turnover ceremony of the Bagong Pilipinas Mobile Clinics on June 25, 2024. (PAMPANGA PIO)



**EYES ON THE FIRST DISTRICT:** Angeles City Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr. addresses the newly-elected Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials of the Municipality of Magalang during their Mass Oath-Taking on November 13, 2023 upon the invitation of Magalang Mayor Malu Lacson. Pampanga Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda administered the oath (ANGELES CIO FILE PHOTO)

## SFELAPCO advise customers of power charge fluctuations

The San Fernando Electric Light and Power Company, Inc. (SFELAPCO) has advised customers to prepare for possible changes in their monthly electric bills from June to September 2024.

The advisory follows the company's compliance with the recent directive of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) which requires all utilities to delay the collection of the June generation charge.

The generation charge, which is a pass-on fee collected by distribution companies and forwarded to the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) where distributors typically source their power, is the focus of the ERC directive.

The ERC has instructed a hold on issuing June 2024 bills until the final



84 SFELAPCO





# PINOY MARINO RIGHTS

## Raise the flag for Filipino seafarers!

A special flag ceremony was held last June 25, 2024 at the Rizal Monument in Luneta in celebration of the Day of the Seafarers in honor of all the hard-working Filipino mariners.

The 2010 Conference of Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) held in Manila adopted a resolution establishing the Day of the Seafarer every June 25. Its stated purpose is to recognize the unique contribution made by seafarers from all over the world to international seaborne trade, the world economy and civil society as a whole.

The resolution encourages governments, shipping organizations, companies, shipowners and all other parties concerned to duly and appropriately promote the Day of the Seafarer and take action to celebrate it meaningfully.

The hashtag #SafetyTipsAtSea looks at the seafarers' contribution to making the maritime sector a safer workplace.

The flag ceremony organized by SeaFam pays tribute to the Filipino seafarers wherein deployment in 2023 reached 578,626 with the corresponding dollar remittances amounting to US\$6,852,362.00.

In terms of deployment, the records from them Department of Migrant Workers showed that the total number of Filipino seafarers deployed overseas reached 376,663 in 2017; 937,502 in 2018; 507,730 in 2019; 217,223 in 2020; 345.52 in 2021; 385,239 in 2022; and, 578,626 in 2023.

The sea-based sector's remittance comprise at least 22 percent of the total OFW dollar remittances.

Records from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas indicate the sea-based sector's remittances for the past five years: US\$6,870,827,000 in 2017;

US\$6,139,512,000 in 2018; US\$6,539,246,000 in 2019; US\$6,353,522,000 in 2020; US\$6,545,002,000 in 2021; US\$6,715,880,000 in 2022; and, US\$6,852,362 in 2023.

The data showed that remittances increased in 2018 by US\$731,315,000, then increased in 2019 by US\$399,734,000, then decreased in 2020 by US\$185,724,000, then increased in 2021 by US\$191,450,000, then increased in 2022 by US\$172,878,000, then increased by US\$136,482.00 in 2023.

The hashtag is related to the theme of this year's World Maritime Day that will take place on September 26, 2024 which is "Navigating the Future: Safety First!"

The 2024 World Maritime Day theme reflects the work of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to enhance maritime safety and security, in tandem with the protection of the marine environment, whilst ensuring its regulatory development process safely anticipates the fast pace of technological change and innovation.

2024 also marks 50 years since the adoption of the 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention.

SOLAS is an important international treaty concerning the safety of merchant ships. It ensures that ships registered by signatory States comply with minimum safety standards in construction, equipment and operation of ships.

Flag States are responsible for ensuring that ships under their flag comply with its requirements and a number of certificates are prescribed in the Convention as proof that this has been done.

The tragic sinking of the Titanic on April 15, 1912 redefined the concept of maritime safety and led to the adoption of the SOLAS Convention in 1914.

The 1914 version was superseded by SOLAS 1929, SOLAS 1948, SOLAS 1960

(the first adopted under the auspices of the IMO) and SOLAS 1974.

In the Philippines, Stella Maris is tasked to coordinate with the public and private sectors the activities related to the celebration of National Seafarers Day (NSD).

Masses and prayers for the safe voyage of seafarers are traditionally part of the annual NSD, which is celebrated by virtue of Proclamation 828 by President Fidel V. Ramos on July 9, 1996 declaring August 18 as NSD. It was later moved to the last Sunday of September every year by Proclamation 1094.

Stella Maris is the Catholic Church's missionary work for the peoples of the sea, particularly seafarers, whether they be on merchant, passenger, war or fishing vessels.

The purpose of the proclamation is to give due recognition to the vital role of Filipino seafarers towards the development of the Philippines as a maritime country.

This year's NSD is set on September 29, 2024 with the theme "Marinong Filipino: Ligtas na Paglalayag!"

A pending legislation that stakeholders are awaiting is the passage of the Magna Carta for Filipino Seafarers.

"Every Filipino seafarer deserves greater protection from abuses and violations of his or her rights and welfare. This bill is for all Seafarers who have been called modern day heroes because of their economic contributions through remittances and, most importantly, because of their sacrifices in being homesick to give a comfortable life to their loved ones," according to Senator Risa Hontiveros as one of the principal authors.

(Peypus is the moniker of the University of the Philippines. Atty. Dennis R. Gorecho heads the Seafarers' Division of the Sapalo

Velez Bundang Bulian Law Offices. For comments, e-mail info@sapalovelez.com, or call 09175025808 or 09088665786.)

**THE VOICE**  
NEWSWEEKLY

**EDITORIAL TEAM**

Founder: **1 Armando P. Baluyut**  
Editor-Publisher: **Lincoln M. Baluyut**  
Business Manager: **Ruby Socorro I. Baluyut**  
News Editor: **Jojo C. Due**  
Lifestyle and Online Editor: **Arlyn E. Lukban**  
Chief Photographer: **Bert H. Basa**  
Layout Artist: **Charmane N. Cayanran**

**Main Office:**  
Unit F, St. Catherine Townhouses,  
St. Catherine Street, Villa Angelina Subd.,  
Brgy. San Jose, 2009 Angeles City

**Clark Sub-Office:**  
Bale Balita Clark Media Center  
Bldg. 2090 Rufino Cardinal Santos St.  
Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines

**Email:** thevoiceneews@bky.com  
thevoicemkg@gmail.com  
lincoln.baluyut@gmail.com

**Mobile Numbers:** (0919) 065 3608  
(0919) 002 5868

**Legal Rate:** PHP 150 per column centimeter  
**Commercial Rate:** PHP 200 per column centimeter  
**Subscription Rate:** 1 year - P1,200 / 6 months - P600

**THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY**

## Livelihood opportunities for Kapampangans boosted

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO** —

The Provincial Government of Pampanga, in cooperation with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), recently distributed livelihood grants to indigent Kapampangans through the help of the agency's Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program.

Vice-Governor Lilia "Nanay" Pineda and officials from DOLE led the assistance distribution to seven groups of solo parents and indigent residents in ceremonies held at the Benigno Hall at the Capitol Compound.

Beneficiaries include individuals from the towns of Sta. Ana, Bacolor, Sasmanan, Candaba, Guagua, San Simon, and

Floridablanca.

Each group, which is comprised of no more than 10 members, received 51, 25-kilogram sacks of rice to support the establishment of community-based businesses called "Bigasan sa Barangay" in their respective towns.

Skills Livelihood Program

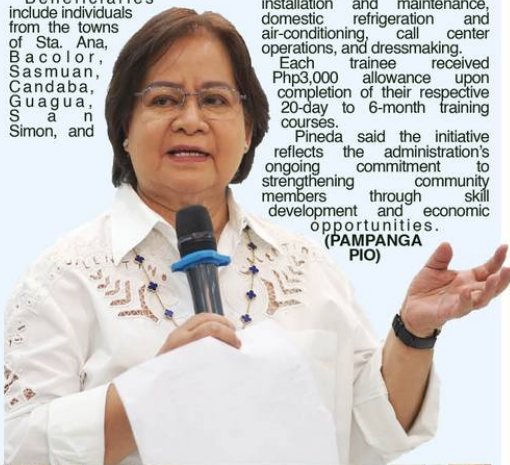
The event coincided with the distribution of allowance to 189 individuals who've completed various skills training programs facilitated by the Provincial Manpower and Training Center (PMTCC).

The participants received training in care-giving, housekeeping, electrical installation and maintenance, domestic refrigeration and air-conditioning, call center operations, and dressmaking.

Each trainee received Php3,000 allowance upon completion of their respective 20-day to 6-month training courses.

Pineda said the initiative reflects the administration's ongoing commitment to strengthening community members through skill development and economic opportunities.

(PAMPANGA PIO)



**LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE.** Vice-Governor Lilia "Nanay" Pineda leads distribution of assistance to seven groups of solo parents and indigent residents at the Benigno Hall, Capitol Compound. (PAMPANGA PIO)

## Pampanga Police get new motorcycles

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO** — In

a bid to enhance police visibility and ensure peace and order in the province, Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda led the turnover and blessing on June 27 of 53 new Kawasaki Pulsar N250 motorcycles for the Pampanga Police Provincial Office (PPO).

Pineda personally handed over the symbolic key for the motorcycle

to newly-appointed PPO Director P/Col. Jay Dimaandal.

"It is to po ay pandagdag sa service ng kapulisan natin sa kada bayan. Importante po ang peace and order. Kung wala kasing peace and order, hindi po unlad ang probinsiya natin," the governor stressed.

He urged the police officers who will be using the motorcycles to drive safely and maintain the units, pointing out the importance of the motorcycles for the continuous effort to maintain

safety in the province.

The Provincial Government procured 30 of the motorcycles while the remaining 23 were donated by the Pineda family. Earlier, 23 motorcycles had already been assigned to police stations in the cities and municipalities in Pampanga as part of the initial distribution.

Special Assistant to the Governor and PDRRMO Chief Angelina Blanco was also present during the ceremony. (GOVERNOR'S OFFICE)



**NEW PATROL MOTORCYCLES.** Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda leads the turnover and blessing of 53 new, Kawasaki Pulsar N250 motorcycles at the Police Provincial Office (PPO) on June 27 which will be used to maintain peace and order in the province. (PAMPANGA PIO)



## MODERN FOOD... FROM PAGE 1

Signatories with Perez in the MOU are Jeremy Nathaniel Gohkongwee, chairperson and chief executive officer of the Food Security Pte. Ltd. and World Food Chain Pte. Ltd. group; Chief of Party Dr. Juanito Abaquin; Abdolrazaghi Mohammadi, CEO of the Emirates International Holdings Group; and World Food Chain representatives Adam Cheng Tien Fook and Mark Joseph Perez.

"The partnership is the right move at the right time as it guarantees a modernization of the national food hub, and that we'll be able to address

key challenges in its operation, maintenance and sustainability," the CIAC chief added.

Perez said the Php8.5-billion, 62-hectare Clark National Food Hub project is set to replicate the state-of-the-art agro-logistics systems of food hubs in advanced Asian countries, raise the standards of food safety, and provide better opportunities for the local farmers, fisherfolk, and growers.

He added that through the MOU, Food Starter and World Food Chain will provide technical and advisory assistance on transport, trade and

investment, warehousing and storage infrastructure development, and, trade visits to strategic logistics hubs within members of the ASEAN.

Early this year, CIAC secured the nod of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) for the food hub project's inclusion in the Public Investment Program for 2023 to 2028, along with the approval for its Project Development and Monitoring Facility application for project preparation and transaction advisory support with the Public Private Partnership Center (PPPC). (CIAC-PAD)

## LAZATIN'S ADMINISTRATION... FROM PAGE 1

Lazatin was Angeles City being hailed one of the largest urban economies in the world, ranking fifth in the Philippines, according to UK-based think tank Oxford Economics Global Cities Index.

Apart from this are notable awards recognizing Lazatin's leadership, which include the Seal of Good Local Governance, SubayBAYANI, Gawad Kalasag and Gawad Makabata while the city was a National Finalist for Walang Gutom through the Walang Plastik, Plastik Palit Bigas Project.

He said the awards were achieved with the help of everyone at City Hall.

"With great pride and optimism, I

can state that with the help of all the Department Heads, Chief of Offices and our fellow government employees, we have kept our firebrand leadership burning. This is evident with the numerous recognitions and citations the city government received from prestigious government and non-government organizations here in our country and abroad," Lazatin stressed.

The mayor also cited the Angeles City Council led by Vice-Mayor Ma. Vicenta Vega-Cabigting and barangay officials whom he described are true and modern heroes.

"I take this opportunity to thank the men and women of the Angeles

City Hall, the Angeles City Council led by Vice-Mayor Ma. Vicenta Vega-Cabigting, and the Barangay officials and employees for their support for our administration and dedication to their sworn duties to each Angeleño," Lazatin said.

"Kayong lahat na kawani at kasamahan ko dito sa pamamahala sa Lungsod Angeles ang mga makabagabag at tunay na bayani. I can never thank you enough," Lazatin said.

Lazatin stressed he will not slow down, rather, will remain steadfast now more than ever and hold true to his promise that "No Angeleño will be left behind". (ANGELES CIO)

## JAPANESE... FROM PAGE 1

integrated business enterprise involved in project development, production, and manufacturing. In the Philippines, Mitsubishi handles the export and import of various products, consumer market activities as well as infrastructure and renewable energy development.

Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd specializes in research and development, manufacturing, and the sale of ceramic-based electronics. The Philippine Manufacturing Co. of Murata, Inc. (PMM) in Batangas is its largest production site in Asia, primarily producing multilayer ceramic capacitors.

Sumitomo Corporation engages

in multifaceted business activities, including product and service sales, import and export, and both domestic and international business investment. Sumitomo's investments in the Philippines include the First Philippine Industrial Park in Batangas which hosts approximately 150 manufacturing industries. It has also been supporting the country's railway projects, including MRT-3, LRT-1, the Metro Manila Subway, and the North-South Commuter Rail.

With Recto were: Office of the Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs (OSAPIEA) Secretary Frederick D. Go; Budget (DBM) Secretary Amenah

F. Pangandaman; National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan; DTI Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual; and, Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Jaime J. Bautista.

Also in the delegation were: Department of Energy (DOE) Undersecretary Felix Fuentebella; Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Deputy Governor Francisco G. Dakila, Jr.; Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) President and Chief Executive Officer Joshua M. Bingang; and, Philippine Ambassador to Japan Mylene Garcia-Albano. (DOF)

## KOREAN... FROM PAGE 1

support provided by the Provincial Government of Pampanga to over 10,000 Koreans residing in the province.

Central Luzon, particularly the Province of Pampanga, has become the home of at least 10,000 Koreans. They are living harmoniously with the local population. It's a good way of giving back to our Filipino friends. That is the driving force to strongly

recommend them to see the BUCAS facility here," the Korean official said.

Pineda, meanwhile, disclosed the plan of the provincial government to open another BUCAS facility near the Provincial Capitol to absorb the number of patients flocking to the JBLMGH and decongest the provincial hospital.

"Meron kami isang BUCAS center na gagawin ni Gov. Delta sa likod ng Capitol. Kasi nakita namin yung mga

taga Sta. Lucia, San Fernando at mga malapit sa likod ng Capitol dito pa sila pumunta. Meron naman kami malaking building doon. Bubuksan namin sa mga gustong magcheck-up," the vice-governor said.

To date, there are 17 BUCAS Centers established around the country that bring Level 3 hospital services closer to communities. (PAMPANGA PIO)

## 85 OF 87... FROM PAGE 2

Magalang, tatalakad kami pu kang Mayor 'Cong' Pogi. Bista man pu e mi ya pa akautos, ing kumpiyansa ampong tiwala mi, atsu pu kaya," Marimla added.

Meanwhile, Liga ng mga Barangay President Rey Pineda of Mabalacat City echoed the same sentiments and declared support for Lazatin.

"Ikami pu keti Mabalacat, kayabe da pu reng buong pwersa da reng barangay council, susuporta kami pu nung nanu

man pu itang kekayung paglaban keng kekataamung distrito," Pineda said.

The statements came after about 600 officers of sectoral groups from Angeles City, Mabalacat City, and the Municipality of Magalang, which include women, PWDs, LGBTQ, farmers, public transport groups, the Muslim community, indigenous peoples, senior citizens, and solo parents expressed support for Lazatin's candidacy.

On June 4, 2024, Lazatin announced that he will officially declare his candidacy for First Congressional District representative on June 28, 2024 on what would have been the 90th birthday of his late father, former Pampanga First District Representative and three-time Angeles City Mayor Carmelo "Tarzan" Lazatin.

Lazatin is currently serving his second term as Angeles City mayor. (ANGELES CIO)

## SFELAPCO... FROM PAGE 2

WESM bill is received, causing a delay in bill distribution to consumers.

Given the tight supply conditions in the Luzon grid leading to increased generation expenses, adjustments in electricity bills are being made in accordance with the ERC's instructions.

The SFELAPCO will gradually collect a portion of the June generation charges over the upcoming months to lessen the impact on consumers.

In the June bill, customers will see a significant reduction in the generation charge. In compliance with the ERC directive, only a quarter or 25 percent of the usual monthly add-on for generation will

be charged.

The remaining 3/4 or 75 percent of the charge will be spread out in installments across the July, August, and September 2024 billing cycles. Consequently, the Generation Rate for the next three months will see an increase of around Php2.63/kWh on top of the actual generation charge for the month.

The ERC initiated the measure to prevent consumers from being overwhelmed by the steep electricity prices from the WESM where SFELAPCO currently procures power.

As a result of certain power plants' malfunctions, there was a supply shortage while consumer

electricity demands surged during the summer. This led to a notable spike in electricity prices in the market.

"By spreading out the payment over multiple months, ERC aims to lessen the impact on customers," SFELAPCO noted.

Simultaneously, in response to the delayed distribution of the June electricity bills, SFELAPCO assures customers that payment due dates will be adjusted to allow them sufficient time to settle.

"The company acknowledges the importance of keeping customers informed and will continue to provide clear updates on any billing procedure changes," SFELAPCO said.

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

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late **MARCELINO T. TIOTUICO**, who died intestate on March 14, 2022, have executed a deed of extra-judicial settlement over his estate covered by a **Savings Account No. 000734-0782-98 USD** with **Bank of the Philippine Islands, Nepo Branch, Angeles City** before Notary Public **Arnel S. Santos**, as per Doc. No. 351; Page No. 22; Book No. XL1; Series of 2024.

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY June 16, 23, 30, 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 Oslo, 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 thereto.

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



## DAR distributes 366 has. to beneficiaries in CL

### CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has distributed about 366,493.3 hectares of land to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in Central Luzon as of May this year.

This was revealed by DAR Regional Director James Arsenio Ponce during the fifth episode of the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) where he highlighted the agency's continuous service to its beneficiaries through its various programs.

"For the Land Tenure Security Program, we have already processed claim folders for 446,127.7 hectares and completed land surveys for 47,286.7 hectares."

Ponce said.

F o r

Emancipation Patents/Certificate of Land Ownership Award registration, DAR has registered a gross area of 293,350.7 hectares, ensuring that more farmers now have legal ownership of their lands.

A significant milestone in ARB installation has also been achieved, with 412 ARBs successfully installed in their allocated lands, enabling them to utilize their lands productively.

Through the Agrarian Justice Delivery Program, DAR resolved 460 cases, demonstrating its commitment to addressing legal disputes and ensuring justice for ARBs, an achievement that underscores the agency's dedication to providing timely and fair resolution of agrarian-related conflicts.

The Agrarian Reform Development Sustainability Program has also made notable strides in

empowering ARBs.

The program has trained 17,047 ARBs, providing them the essential skills and knowledge to improve their agricultural practices and livelihood.

In addition, 11,811 ARBs have gained access to credit, providing them the financial support necessary to enhance their farming operations.

At the same time, DAR has supported 95 ARB organizations, strengthening their capability to support members and promote sustainable agricultural development.

The agency continues to advance land tenure security, deliver agrarian justice, and empower ARBs through its comprehensive programs, contributing to the overall growth and development of the region's agricultural sector. (PIA REGION 3-PAMPANGA)



**AGRARIAN ASSISTANCE.** The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) awards a 50 horsepower, farm tractor with complete accessories to the Cama Juan Multi-Purpose Cooperative in San Antonio, Nueva Ecija which DAR Regional Director James Arsenio Ponce reported during Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas of the PIA is part of the agency's support for 95 agrarian reform beneficiary organizations to strengthen their capability to support members and promote sustainable agricultural development. (PIA-3)

## AC gov't gets P1M assistance in the 2024 Walang Gutom Awards

The Angeles City Government led by Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr. received Pnp1 million worth of assistance from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. after the city government's Walang Plastik: Plastic Palit Bigas Project was included in the Top 17 of the 2024 Walang Gutom Awards.

The national government recognized the project for its positive impact and innovative approach to end hunger and malnutrition in Angeles City. The assistance was provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) through its Sustainable Livelihood Program.

The Walang Plastik: Plastic Palit Bigas Project is among the Top 17 national finalists from 101 entries.

"Hindi man po tayong pinalan na pumasok sa Top 10, malaki pa rin po ang aking pasasalamat sa Galing Pook Foundation at DSWD dahil napansin at nakita po nila ang pagisikap ng Angeles City Government upang wakasan ang kagutuman sa siyudad," Lazatin said.

"Tuluy-tuluy pa rin po ang Walang Plastik project dahil nais ko pong masigurado na walang Angeleñong magugutom, walang Angeleñong kumakalam ang sikmura, at walang Angeleñong matutulog ng gutom," the mayor stressed.

City Social Welfare and

Development Office (CSWDO) Chief Edna Duaso, City Planning and Development Officer Engr. Nilda Quito, Environmental Management System Head Francis Panglilan, and City Nutrition Officer Francis De Guzman accompanied Lazatin during the awarding ceremony in Malacañang Palace.

A total of 101 local government units (LGUs) submitted their program entries for the Walang Gutom Awards from all 17 regions of the Philippines. The selection process involved rigorous screening, validation, and panel interviews by the National Screening Committee which identified the most outstanding initiatives.

The National Screening Committee is composed of esteemed leaders in their respective fields: Dr. Emma Porio, Gisela Tiongson, Dr. Helen Day, Ramon Derigne, Dr. Alfredo Valdez Jr., M/Gen. Fernando Mesa, and Danilo Songco.

From the initial 101 entries, 68 were endorsed for first screening while 38 applications were dismissed due to lack of verifiable results and program duration. Of the 68, 25 advanced to the second screening. Five barangays, nine municipalities, seven cities and four provinces underwent three levels of program validation: an onsite program validation by DSWD; a presentation by

the Local Chief Executive and program team to the NSC; and, a conversation with program partners and participants with the NSC.

Before the last week of May, the NSC endorsed 17 of the 25 validated programs as national finalists, consisting of two barangays -- Barangay Naggasican, Santiago City and Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City; six municipalities -- Tipo-Tipo, Basilan; Irosin, Sorsogon; Palompon, Leyte; Bacnotan, La Union; Asuncion, Davao del Norte; and, Magallanes, Cavite; six cities -- Angeles City; Cadiz City; Iloilo City; Mati City; Kidapawan City; and Bagu City; and three provinces -- Bilarin; Quirino; and, Isabela.

During the project presentation last June 25, Lazatin highlighted the contribution of the Walang Plastik project in the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2: Zero Hunger, and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Lazatin also pointed out that the program has reached the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program beneficiaries with 3,356 families or 87 percent of the 3,858 beneficiaries availing of the program.

A significant decrease in the number of malnourished children was also observed, from 1,500 malnourished kids in 2021 to 617 kids in 2022 which further dropped 563 kids in 2023.

To date, the Walang Plastik Project, which was launched by Lazatin in January 2022, has already collected 3,180,374 kilos of plastic which has been exchanged with by Angelfios for the same amount of rice.

The Walang Gutom Awards is an award given by the DSWD and the Galing Pook Foundation (GPF) to the most innovative and effective local governance programs addressing food insecurity and hunger around the country.

Meanwhile, the Angeles City government has also submitted the Walang Plastik: Plastik Palit Bigas Project as entry in the Galing Pook Awards, a pioneering program that searches and recognizes innovative practices by LGUs. (ANGELES CIO)



**AWARDED ANEW.** Angeles City Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr. with City Social Welfare and Development Officer Engr. Nilda Quito, Environmental Management System Head Francis Panglilan, and City Nutrition Officer Francis De Guzman during the 2024 Walang Gutom awarding ceremony in Malacañang Palace. (ANGELES CIO)

## Baler residents urged to consider online freelancing

**BALER, Aurora** — The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) encourages residents here to consider online freelancing for higher-paying opportunities.

About 50 students, content creators, digital professionals, and aspiring freelancers learned to improve their competitiveness and develop their own domestic Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) companies during the ASCEND: Digital Workers to Digital Agency Owners learning sessions held in this town.

In a video message, DICT Undersecretary for ICT Development Jocelle Batapata-Sigue cited the agency's commitment to enabling online freelancing throughout the country.

"Through the Empowering Digital Workers of the Gig Industry Ecosystem in the Philippines (EDGE) Program, DICT aims to sustain the growth of the gig economy and enhance the competitiveness of Filipino online freelancers," Sigue said.

The DICT official also encouraged Baler digital workers to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the

ASCEND learning sessions to develop, advance, and compete in the mainstream market.

"With a growing community of remote workers, Baler is an ideal locale for hosting the ASCEND learning sessions. The event is really the municipality's entry point to this opportunity. I hope the talent pool will step up, transition, and embrace the opportunities that are before you through this initiative," she stressed.

The event featured testimonials from successful online freelancers who became entrepreneurs.

On behalf of the participants, Tiara Mejos expressed gratitude to the DICT for providing them with opportunities and inspiration to advance their careers in the digital business.

"It was a good workshop and I learned a lot. Always good to hear from people who are successful in their fields," Mejos said.

Since 2017, the DICT has been enabling online freelancing by implementing a number of programs which include Rural Impact Sourcing, Digital Jobs Training, and freelancing opportunities through EDGE PH. (PIA REGION 3-AURORA)



**ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES OPENED.** At least 50 students, content creators, digital professionals, and aspiring freelancers in Baler, Aurora learn to improve their own domestic BPO companies during the ASCEND: Digital Workers to Digital Agency Owners learning sessions of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). (PIA-3)

## DOH clarifies dengue facts vs myths

**CABANATUAN CITY, Nueva Ecija** — The Department of Health (DOH) recently dispelled the spreading myths about the dengue in line with the observance of National Dengue Awareness Month this June.

DOH Central Luzon Center for Health Development Entomologist Jeffrey De Guzman said one of the myths circulating about dengue is that individuals that have had dengue before will not get the disease again.

"Dengue has four serotypes. Once a person is afflicted with one dengue serotype, they will not get dengue from that type again. However, they can still be susceptible to the other types," De Guzman explained.

Another myth is that people should avoid dengue patients because they are contagious.

"It is unnecessary to avoid people with dengue. Dengue is transmitted only through the bite of an infected female Aedes mosquito. Sneezing, saliva, or other secretions from an infected person are not contagious," he clarified.

He also cited a common belief that dengue mosquitoes only bite at night.

De Guzman stressed that mosquitoes carrying dengue often bite from sunrise to sunset; hence, they are called "day biters".

The DOH officer also clarified the misconception that dengue mosquitoes only lay eggs in dirty water or environments and that all mosquitoes carry the dengue virus.

"Dengue-carrying mosquitoes lay eggs in stagnant or still water, even if it is clean and clear," he pointed out.

"Not all mosquitoes carry the dengue virus. Only the Aedes mosquito carries the disease-causing virus. But this does not mean that we should be complacent because other mosquitoes can cause other diseases like malaria," De Guzman stressed.

Regarding treatment, there is a claim that the Tawa-tawa plant is an effective remedy for dengue.

"Tawa-Tawa or Gatas-Gatas has not yet been proven to cure dengue. For now, tawa-tawa is only registered as a supplement. Further studies are needed to see the effect of the plant

against dengue," De Guzman said.

He also dismissed the misconception that antibiotics are believed to be necessary for dengue treatment, pointing out that dengue is caused by a virus. So antibiotics, which are for bacteria, therefore, are not needed.

"Currently, there is no medicine for dengue. Hydration, or sufficient water intake, is the primary management for the disease," he explained.

"Like other viral infections, dengue can heal within a few days, contrary to the belief that dengue can last for weeks to months. However, the illness can extend for several weeks if there are complications," De Guzman added.

De Guzman reiterated that dengue can pose serious health risks, potentially leading to complications that can be fatal. So he encourages immediately consulting with the nearest healthcare providers when dengue symptoms, such as sudden fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, and muscle and joint pains, occur.

"Not everyone with dengue develops rashes. Don't wait for the rashes to appear before considering it might be dengue," he stressed.

He said dengue cases may rise during the rainy season, so DOH urges the public to practice the 4S DOH approach against dengue: search and destroy mosquito breeding sites; secure self-protection measures; seek early consultation; and, support fogging or spraying in hotspots where an increase in cases has been registered for two consecutive weeks to prevent an outbreak.

National Dengue Awareness Month is observed in June by virtue of Proclamation No. 1204, series of 1998. (PIA REGION 3-NUOVA ECJIA)





## Mastering the 4Fs (Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division): Unleashing Creativity and Innovation in Teaching Four Fundamental Operations

by ROMMEL LOPEZ BUCAO

In the landscape of modern education, mastering the foundational operations of mathematics—addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division—goes far beyond computational skills. These fundamental operations serve as the building blocks upon which students develop critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and a deep understanding of mathematical concepts. Embracing creativity and innovation in teaching these operations not only enhances academic achievement but also prepares students for success in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

At the core of education lies the necessity for students to not only understand but also apply mathematical principles effectively. Mastery of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division equips students with essential tools to analyze, interpret, and solve problems across various disciplines. Whether calculating financial budgets, designing experiments in science, or analyzing data in social studies, these operations form the basis for logical reasoning and informed decision-

making. Moreover, creativity in teaching the 4Fs encourages active engagement and deeper learning among students. By incorporating hands-on activities, educational games, and real-world applications, teachers ignite curiosity and foster a love for mathematics. Interactive approaches not only make learning enjoyable but also demonstrate the practical relevance of mathematical operations in everyday life, motivating students to explore concepts independently and develop a sense of ownership over their learning.

Innovative teaching methods also emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of mathematics. From engineering to science, mastery of the 4Fs opens doors to diverse career paths and fields of study. DepEd's promotion of these operations within a broader context encourages students to see mathematics as a dynamic tool for innovation and problem-solving across disciplines. This holistic approach not only enriches students' educational experiences but also prepares them to adapt and thrive in an

ever-evolving global economy. Furthermore, collaboration between educators, parents, and the community is crucial in supporting students' mastery of the 4Fs. By reinforcing learning at home through practical applications and engaging activities, families play a pivotal role in solidifying students' understanding and confidence in mathematical operations.

Mastering addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division is foundational to academic success and lifelong learning. By unleashing creativity and innovation in teaching these fundamental operations, DepEd empowers students to think critically, solve complex problems, and envision new possibilities. This approach not only prepares students for future academic and professional endeavors but also cultivates a generation of innovators and leaders equipped to tackle global challenges with confidence and competence.

*The author is Teacher III at Calayan West Central School, Calayan West District, Schools Division of Cagayan, Region II – Cagayan Valley*

## Cultivating Agriculture in DepEd Schools: Fostering a Sustainable and Hands-On Approach to Farming Education

by ROMMEL LOPEZ BUCAO

The integration of agriculture into the curriculum of Department of Education (DepEd) schools represents a transformative approach to education, fostering practical skills, environmental stewardship, and sustainable practices among students. By bringing farming education into classrooms and school grounds, DepEd not only equips students with essential knowledge but also instills a deep appreciation for agriculture's role in food security and community development.

The importance of cultivating agriculture in DepEd schools lies in its ability to provide students with hands-on learning experiences that transcend traditional classroom settings. Through activities such as planting, tending to crops, and harvesting, students gain practical insights into agricultural processes while developing critical skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and responsibility. These experiences not only enhance academic learning but also prepare students for future careers in agriculture or related fields.

DepEd supports agriculture education through diverse initiatives tailored to local contexts and resources. Schools are encouraged to establish garden plots, orchards, or even small farms where students actively participate in agricultural activities under the guidance of teachers and local experts. This practical approach not only reinforces theoretical knowledge but also fosters a sense of pride and accomplishment as students witness the fruits of their labor firsthand.

Furthermore, integrating agriculture into the curriculum promotes sustainability and environmental consciousness

among students. DepEd emphasizes the importance of organic farming practices, water conservation, and biodiversity preservation. By teaching students to respect natural resources and adopt sustainable farming methods, DepEd cultivates a generation of environmentally aware citizens who are equipped to address global challenges such as climate change and food insecurity.

Parents and community engagement play a crucial role in supporting agricultural education in DepEd schools. Families are encouraged to participate in farming activities, workshops, and educational events, fostering a collaborative learning environment that extends beyond the school gates. This partnership strengthens community ties, promotes local agriculture, and empowers students to become ambassadors for sustainable farming practices in their communities.

In conclusion, cultivating agriculture in DepEd schools represents a holistic approach to education that nurtures practical skills, environmental stewardship, and community engagement. By providing hands-on learning experiences and promoting sustainable practices, DepEd prepares students to become responsible stewards of the environment and active contributors to the agricultural sector. This commitment not only enriches educational experiences but also cultivates a sustainable future for generations to come.

*The author is Teacher III at Calayan West Central School, Calayan West District, Schools Division of Cagayan, Region II – Cagayan Valley*

## Navigating Growth: How Gross Motor Skills Shape Kinder Development in DepEd Schools

by IRENE RAMOS AGAMATA

In education under the Department of Education (DepEd), the development of gross motor skills holds profound significance. These skills not only facilitate physical abilities but also serve as fundamental building blocks for cognitive, social, and emotional growth among kindergarten learners.

Within DepEd schools, the cultivation of gross motor skills begins early, as teachers recognize the pivotal role movement plays in holistic development. Through structured activities and play-based learning, children engage in exercises that promote balance, coordination, and strength. These foundational skills lay the groundwork for more complex movements later in life, ensuring children are equipped to navigate physical challenges with confidence.

Physical education (PE) activities within DepEd curriculum play a crucial role in fostering gross motor skills. These activities are designed not only to enhance physical

fitness but also to cultivate teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership qualities. By participating in activities such as running, jumping, and ball games, kindergarten learners acquire essential social skills, including cooperation and communication, which are vital for their overall development.

Beyond PE activities, DepEd schools integrate gross motor skill development into everyday classroom activities. Teachers incorporate movement breaks, outdoor playtime, and sensory-motor activities into their lesson plans. These practices not only support physical health but also enhance learners' ability to concentrate, retain information, and engage actively in learning.

Moreover, DepEd schools emphasize inclusive education practices, ensuring that children of all abilities have opportunities to develop gross motor skills in supportive environments. Adapted physical education activities cater to diverse needs, promoting equality and

empowering every child to participate fully in their educational journey.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to actively support gross motor skill development at home, reinforcing the importance of physical activity and outdoor play. Collaborative efforts between teachers and families create a cohesive approach to nurturing learner's physical abilities and overall well-being.

Within DepEd schools, the focus on gross motor skills is integral to fostering comprehensive development among kindergarten learners. By prioritizing physical education, inclusive practices, and supportive learning environments, DepEd ensures that every child has the opportunity to thrive physically, socially, and academically, laying a strong foundation for their future success.

*The author is Teacher III at San Manuel Elementary School, Sto. Niño District, Schools Division of Cagayan, Region II – Cagayan Valley*

## Empowering Independence: Teaching Children Essential Self-Help Skills in DepEd

by IRENE RAMOS AGAMATA

In the realm of early childhood education overseen by the Department of Education (DepEd), the cultivation of self-help skills among kindergarten learners holds profound importance. These foundational skills are more than just practical; they are integral to nurturing independence, confidence, and holistic development in young children.

Firstly, fostering self-help skills from an early age empowers children to become more self-reliant and capable individuals. By learning tasks such as dressing themselves, organizing their belongings, and managing personal hygiene, kindergarten learners gain a sense of accomplishment and autonomy. These skills not only enhance their physical capabilities but also contribute significantly to their emotional and social well-being by boosting self-esteem and fostering a positive self-image.

Moreover, cultivating self-help skills within the educational context supports the overall development of the child. DepEd recognizes that these skills lay a crucial foundation for future academic success and lifelong learning. By integrating self-help activities into daily routines and classroom practices, teachers not only teach practical life skills but also promote cognitive development, problem-solving abilities, and critical thinking skills.

Furthermore, the cultivation of self-help skills promotes inclusivity and equal opportunity within DepEd schools. Teachers

strive to create environments where every child, regardless of ability or background, can participate actively and develop at their own pace. Teachers adapt teaching methods to cater to diverse learning needs, ensuring that all students receive the support and encouragement needed to master self-help skills effectively.

Additionally, collaboration between educators, families, and guardians is essential in reinforcing these skills both at school and at home. DepEd encourages parents to support their children in practicing self-help tasks, promoting consistency and continuity in learning experiences. This partnership not only strengthens children's confidence but also fosters a positive educational environment where each child feels valued and supported in their growth and development.

Within DepEd education, cultivating self-help skills among kindergarten learners is pivotal in shaping well-rounded individuals. By empowering children to take initiative, develop independence, and build essential life skills, DepEd schools prepare them to thrive academically, socially, and personally. These skills are a cornerstone of holistic education, laying a strong foundation for lifelong success and contributing to the overall well-being of each child.

*The author is Teacher III at San Manuel Elementary School, Sto. Niño District, Schools Division of Cagayan, Region II – Cagayan Valley*

## Speak Up! Cultivating Expression and Language Skills in Kinder

by IRENE RAMOS AGAMATA

In the vibrant world of early childhood education, fostering expressive language skills in kindergarten is not just about teaching words; it's about nurturing the voices of our youngest learners. Under the guidance of the Department of Education (DepEd), schools are dedicated to creating nurturing environments where children not only learn to speak but also to express themselves confidently and creatively.

From the moment children enter kindergarten, teachers in DepEd schools prioritize language development as a keystone of their educational journey. Through a blend of structured activities and play-based learning, children are encouraged to explore language through storytelling, role-playing, and engaging conversations. These activities not only build vocabulary and grammar skills but also foster critical thinking and imagination.

DepEd schools recognize the importance of multilingualism in

a diverse society. They celebrate linguistic diversity by integrating native languages alongside Filipino and English, providing children with a rich tapestry of linguistic experiences. This approach not only supports children in learning multiple languages but also instills pride in their cultural heritage.

Teachers within DepEd schools play a crucial role in cultivating language skills by creating inclusive classrooms where every child feels valued and encouraged to participate. They employ interactive teaching methods, such as songs, rhymes, and games, to make learning enjoyable and effective. By providing positive reinforcement and personalized guidance, teachers empower children to express themselves fluently and confidently.

Furthermore, collaboration between educators, families, and the community enhances the language development process. DepEd encourages parents to engage in language-rich activities at home, such

as reading together and discussing daily experiences. This partnership reinforces learning and ensures continuity between school and home environments.

DepEd's commitment to cultivating expression and language skills in kindergarten sets a solid foundation for children's future academic and personal success. By nurturing their ability to communicate effectively, appreciate diverse languages, and express themselves creatively, DepEd empowers children to confidently navigate their educational journey and thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. In the end, DepEd inspires a generation of young learners to find their voices and contribute meaningfully to society.

*The author is Teacher III at San Manuel Elementary School, Sto. Niño District, Schools Division of Cagayan, Region II – Cagayan Valley*



## NLEX launches barangay security watch

NLEX Corporation, in collaboration with the PNP-Region 3 and the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC), initiated a skills enhancement training to capacitate barangay police and officials with knowledge and skills in maintaining peace and order in their areas of responsibility.

"The Barangay Security Watch is NLEX's latest initiative under our Mission Road Safety Program. This aims to address juvenile delinquency and maintain peace and order in areas traversed by our expressway. Through this program, we also aim to reduce expressway and community-related concerns that affect the safety of both motorists and residents in our host communities," NLEX Corporation President and General Manager J. Luigi L. Bautista said.

The program includes an assembly of leaders and officials, skills enhancement workshop for the barangay police, and production of road safety campaign materials for the barangays.

Forty (40) LGU representatives and barangay leaders from Malabacat City and Floridablanca in Pampanga and Dinalupihan and Hermosa in Bataan attended the assembly in Camp Olivias in the City San Fernando, Pampanga. Road safety matters, including possible causes of stoning incidents, were discussed and action plans to mitigate occurrence were drafted with the help of the JJWC.

"We appreciate NLEX's commitment to help their host communities maintain peace and order. Most of all, they are serious in addressing juvenile delinquency, something that is evident in their various programs. They have shown concern for the people, especially the youth, by implementing programs aimed at improving their well-being," JJWC Officer-in-Charge for Policy Research and Development Division Esmeralda H. Distor said.

At the same time, 80 barangay police also underwent training on the legal implications related to stoning and other torts, self-defense, arresting and handcuffing techniques, citizen's arrest and warrantless arrest, handling of children at risk (CAR) and children in conflict with the law (CICL), barangay intelligence network, and proper filing of blotter.

PRO3 Regional Community Affairs and Development Division Chief P/Col. Marites A. Salvador, commended the participants for their eagerness to learn and enhance security in their respective communities.

"It's a good thing that we have free training for our community leaders and policy enforcers. Through this effort by NLEX and the dedication of the participants, we are positive we will avoid security and community-related concerns soon," Salvador said.

Baron Castro, SK chairman of Barangay San Ramon, Floridablanca,

Pampanga, expressed gratitude for the program and shared his most valuable learning.

"Salamat sa pagpapauunawa sa amin ng kahalagahan ng Anti-Stoning Ordinance at sa mga posibleng implikasyon nito kung sakaling hindi maisakatuparan. Sisiakapin namin na wala ng magiging ganitong incidente sa aming barangay at makakaasa po kayo sa aming patuloy na pakikipagtulungan sa NLEX-SCTEX upang mas mapatubig ang kalagayan ng aming komunidad," Castro said.

The NLEX commits to promote road safety awareness through its Mission Road Safety Program. Aside from the Barangay Security Watch, seminars for transport organizations are also being conducted through its Usapang Driver Program while kaligtasan sa Daan (KalsDa) sessions are held in NLEX-SCTEX-NLEX Connector host communities for road safety awareness.

In addition, the NLEX Road Traffic Safety Hub and Park in Malabacat City, Pampanga and the newly-released 'Ang Bida ng Kalsada' picture book further strengthen the company's road safety advocacy campaign.

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

## Stakeholders establish council vs child labor

**SAN JOSE, Tarlac** — Concerned government agencies and institutions in Central Luzon signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) recently to establish the Regional Council against Child Labor (RCACL) which seeks to protect children from all forms of abuse, exploitation, violence, discrimination, cruelty and poverty.

Labor and Employment Undersecretary and National Council against Child Labor Alternate Chairperson Benjo Santos Benavidez said the government seeks to create an enabling environment for children to fulfill their dreams.

"We want our children to be free — free to choose what they want and who they want to be. This MOA is proof of our commitment not only to step up the work that we are doing but also to scale up to eliminate child labor," Benavidez said.

He disclosed that based on statistics, about 2.6 percent, or two to three of 100 child laborers, are in Central Luzon.

"While this is significantly low, the government targets to completely eliminate incidents of child labor not only in the region but in the entire country. We aim to change the lives of child laborers, their families and their communities through the implementation of the Philippine Program against Child Labor," Benavidez stressed.

He also cited the initiatives of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in the campaign such as the profiling of child laborers, monitoring of companies' compliance with Anti-Child Labor Law, carrying-out the Sagip Batang Manggagawa program, and awarding of livelihood grants to child laborers and their families.

Under the MOA, the DOLE is the lead agency in amplifying the

government efforts against child labor and establishing measures to prevent, reduce or end all its forms.

Member of the RCACL include the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Justice, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Council for the Welfare of Children, the National Economic and Development Authority, and the Philippine Information Agency.

Also among the members of the council are the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, the Philippine Statistics Authority, the PNP, the National Bureau of Investigation, the National Youth Commission, the Child Protection and Trafficking Philippines, a Child's Trust is Ours to Nurture, Inc., Asurion Philippines, and the United Pulp and Papers Corp. Employees' Union.

The MOA signing was among the highlights of the observance of World Day against Child Labor in Central Luzon that was held here.

Other activities include the distribution of livelihood packages worth Php30,000 each to 74 parents of child laborers in Tarlac; and, an awarding of certificates of eligibility under the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program to 36 parent-beneficiaries from Pampanga, Bataan and Bulacan.

This year's World Day against Child Labor observance has the theme "Let's Act on Our Commitments: End Child Labor" while the national theme is "Bawat Bata, Malaya: Mithin ng Nagkakaisang Bangsa." (PIA-REGION 3, TARLAC)



**FOR PEACE AND ORDER.** The NLEX Team and the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC) with Barangay Security Watch participants during the skills enhancement training to capacitate barangay police and officials with knowledge and skills in maintaining peace and order in their areas of responsibility.



**DONATING IS CARING.** The Philippine Red Cross - Olongapo City Chapter, in cooperation with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) through the Public Health and Safety Department (PHSD), joins the celebration of the 20th anniversary of World Blood Donors' Day with a bloodletting activity at the Ayala Malls Harbor Point in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. (SBMA MEDIA PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT)



**END CHILD LABOR.** Labor and Employment Undersecretary and National Council against Child Labor Alternate Chairperson Benjo Santos Benavidez stresses the government's campaign to eliminate child labor not only in Central Luzon but in the entire country during the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement establishing the Regional Council against Child Labor in Central Luzon to protect children from all forms of abuse, exploitation, violence, discrimination, cruelty and poverty. (PIA-3)

## Expressive Evolution: Strategies for Enhancing Kinder's Language Skills

by IRENE RAMOS AGAMATA

Imagine a kindergarten classroom buzzing with excitement, where children's voices fill the air with laughter, stories, and questions. In this dynamic environment, language skills are not just taught; they are cultivated through creative strategies that inspire a lifelong love for communication and social learning.

Teaching language skills among kindergarteners is of paramount importance as it lays the groundwork for their academic success and social development. Language skills encompass not only the ability to speak and listen but also to understand and express thoughts and emotions effectively. Early mastery of these skills fosters confidence, enhances cognitive abilities, and prepares children to engage actively in classroom activities and social interactions.

In DepEd classrooms, a variety of strategies are employed to cultivate language skills among kindergarteners. Storytelling sessions stimulate imagination and vocabulary expansion, while interactive reading exercises encourage active listening and comprehension. Group discussions and role-playing activities promote verbal communication and teach children how to articulate their ideas and opinions with clarity.

Families and peers play a pivotal role in supporting and enhancing language skills outside

the classroom. At home, parents can engage in conversations, read aloud, and encourage their children to ask questions and share experiences. Peer interactions, both in and out of school, provide opportunities for children to practice language skills, negotiate meanings, and develop empathy and social competence.

As the saying goes, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Similarly, the journey to mastering language skills starts with simple conversations, stories, and games. By fostering an environment where language is celebrated and practiced daily, educators, families, and peers collaborate to empower kindergarteners to become effective communicators and lifelong learners.

Enhancing kindergarteners' language skills is not just about teaching words; it's about nurturing their ability to express themselves confidently and connect meaningfully with others. Through innovative strategies, supportive environments, and collaborative efforts, we pave the way for their expressive evolution and ensure they are equipped with essential skills for future success.

*The author is Teacher III at San Manuel Elementary School, Sto. Niño District, Schools Division of Cagayan, Region II – Cagayan Valley*

## Language Foundations: Building Blocks of Receptive Language in Kindergarten

by IRENE RAMOS AGAMATA

Receptive language skills form the essential foundation upon which children build their ability to understand and interpret spoken language, laying the groundwork for effective communication and academic success. In kindergarten, the development of receptive language is crucial as it not only supports comprehension but also enhances social interactions and cognitive growth.

Within the framework of the Department of Education (DepEd), fostering receptive language skills is a priority. DepEd emphasizes creating inclusive and language-rich environments where kindergarteners are exposed to diverse language experiences. By integrating native languages alongside Filipino and English, DepEd celebrates linguistic diversity and ensures that all children have the opportunity to develop strong receptive language abilities.

To improve receptive language

skills, DepEd encourages a variety of interactive classroom activities. Teachers incorporate storytelling, group discussions, and interactive reading sessions to engage students and enhance their understanding of spoken language. Visual aids, gestures, and role-playing activities are also used to reinforce comprehension and encourage active participation.

Parents play a crucial role in nurturing receptive language at home. DepEd encourages parents to engage in regular conversations, read aloud to their children, and provide opportunities for listening and responding. By creating a language-rich environment outside of school, parents support and reinforce the skills taught in the classroom.

Building a partnership between teachers and parents is essential in nurturing receptive language among kindergarteners. Teachers can involve parents by providing them with guidance on

effective language development activities to do at home. Regular communication between teachers and parents ensures that children receive consistent support and reinforcement, both in school and at home.

While DepEd plays a pivotal role in fostering receptive language skills in kindergarten, the partnership between teachers and parents is crucial for maximizing children's language development. By working together to create supportive environments and engaging in meaningful activities, educators and parents can empower kindergarteners to become confident and proficient communicators, setting a strong foundation for their future academic and personal success.

*The author is Teacher III at San Manuel Elementary School, Sto. Niño District, Schools Division of Cagayan, Region II – Cagayan Valley*





# NLEX Museum Tours

## Via the NLEX Connector

It's almost needless to say that Manila has a lot to offer and with NLEX Connector in place, it has opened doors to unforgettable Manila experiences. Regardless, if you're coming from the north or south of the metro, you can access some of the most iconic and valued places in the city for culture and nature appreciation.



## Dose of History and Culture at the Museums

Manila has been one of the key cities that sits at the forefront of important historical events that shaped our nation. To better understand and learn about this, you can visit the museums which house the biggest collections of artifacts and artworks from the pre-colonial period up to this day.

A prominent landmark in Manila, the National Museum of Fine Arts is a must-visit, as it showcases the evolution of Philippine art with 29 galleries and hallway exhibitions comprising of 19th century Filipino masters, National Artists, leading modern painters, sculptors, and printmakers.

There's also the National Museum of Natural History at the former building of the Department of Tourism with neoclassical architecture which has 12 permanent galleries that exhibit the Philippines' rich biological and geological diversity.

Go deeper into the heart and soul of the Philippines when you also visit The National Museum of Anthropology. It is a treasure trove of cultural artifacts in Manila that offers a meaningful journey into the Philippines' rich history and diverse ethnicities.

All these museums are just a walking distance from each other as these attractions are situated just within the same area. If you are starting with the National Museum of Fine Arts, take the NLEX Connector Espana Exit going to Quiapo, Manila then head towards Ermita and find its building along T.M. Kalaw Ave. For the National Museum of Natural History, head towards Agrifina Circle inside Rizal Park while the National Museum of Anthropology is just located at the P. Burgos Drive, also within Rizal Park.

Another museum to visit in Espana, Manila is the UST Museum which was established in 1867, considered as the oldest existing museum in the Philippines. It showcases pre-colonial artifacts, the Philippine revolution era, and an ethnographic collection. It's also rich in collections of flora and fauna specimens, including fossils, insects, and marine life.

There's also something to discover at the official residence of the Philippine presidents. By heading towards the Malacanang Complex in San Miguel, Manila via the NLEX Connector Magsaysay Ave Exit, you'll find a cluster of heritage houses that shows a glimpse of how the past presidents lived their lives and the Filipino culture, as well.

There's Bahay Ugnayan, which is also a museum that highlights President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s presidential journey; The Goldberg Mansion, a french-inspired mansion; and the Teus Mansion, a 19th-century historical residence that now serves as Presidential Museum.

## Manila's Urban Oasis

Dubbed as Manila's Last Lung, Arroceros Forest Park is a refreshing delight to see and experience at the heart of the metro. Guests can exercise, walk, admire the landscaped gardens, and breathe in fresh air with over 3,000 trees surrounding the area. The park is located at Antonio Villegas St., Manila (near the corner of Padre Burgos Ave. and Taft Ave.); accessible via the NLEX Connector Espana Exit.

Whether you're up for unwinding at Arroceros Park or you're enthusiastic to learn more about the Philippines, there are so many great places to explore in Manila. As NLEX Connector streamlines your travel between these destinations, you can now truly get lost in these cultural treasures and natural beauty.



The Mabalacat City Government proudly celebrates your **70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY** with you.

Congratulations, and may the Lord's blessings continue to shine upon you all!

MAYOR **CRIS GARBO**



# HAPPY and BLESSED 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

## THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY