

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY

FOUNDED 1955



Wage hike seen in CL

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — A new minimum wage rate in Central Luzon will take effect on October 17, 2024 after its affirmation by the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) and publication in a local daily.

Wage Order No. RBIII-25 mandates a Php50 to Php66 increase in the daily minimum wage of workers in private establishments in Central Luzon.

"The Php50 to Php66 increase will be given in two tranches: Php25 to Php41 upon effectivity of the wage order on October 17, 2024, and another Php25 effective April 16, 2025," Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) Chairperson and Department of Labor and Employment-Central

Luzon Regional Director Geraldine Panlilio explained.

Under the first tranche, the new minimum wage in the Provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales will be Php525 for non-agriculture, Php495 for agriculture, and Php515 for retail/service.

Upon implementation of the second tranche, the minimum wage in the Provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales will be Php550 for non-

agriculture, Php520 for agriculture, and Php540 for retail/service.

On the other hand, the minimum wage in the Province of Aurora, upon effectivity of the first tranche, will be Php475 for non-agriculture, Php460 for agriculture, and Php410 for retail/service.

Upon implementation of the second tranche, the minimum wage in Aurora will be Php500 for non-agriculture, Php485 for agriculture, and Php435 for retail/service. (PIA REGION 3-PAMPANGA)

PHOTO BY DOLE CENTRAL LUZON

MINIMUM WAGE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR WORKERS IN REGION 3

Wage Order No. RBIII-25

SECTOR / INDUSTRY	BATAAN, BULACAN, NUEVA ECIIJA, PAMPANGA, TARLAC, ZAMBALES		AURORA	
	STARTING OCTOBER 17 2024	STARTING APRIL 16 2025	STARTING OCTOBER 17 2024	STARTING APRIL 16 2025
NON-AGRICULTURE	₱ 525	₱ 550	₱ 475	₱ 500
AGRICULTURE	₱ 495	₱ 520	₱ 460	₱ 485
RETAIL / SERVICE	₱ 515	₱ 540	₱ 410	₱ 435

Converge, Netflix team up

By Arlyn E. Lukban, Lifestyle & Online Editor

Leading pure fiber internet provider Converge ICT Solutions Inc. has recently announced a new collaboration with Netflix, the world's largest streaming service in terms of subscriber base.

The collaboration will be headlined by the new Converge Netflix Bundle, where new and existing FiberX customers will be able to have both an internet and Netflix plan, all in one. The new offering aims to provide countless entertainment options and a better streaming experience for FiberX users.

The new Converge Netflix Bundle will include a boosted FiberX plan with 325 Mbps speeds for faster streaming, a Netflix subscription with a lock-in period of 36 months, a new WiFi-6 Next Gen Modem, and a Converge Xperience Box with

Freemium Channels—all put together into one subscription for the convenience of the customer.

Aside from the easy set-up and unified billing, the new Converge Netflix Bundle will power subscribers with better entertainment options. Households will have access to both the sought-after Netflix favourites and the FiberX internet of Converge, which has again been lauded as the fastest internet in the Philippines based on Q1 to Q2 2024 data during this year's Ookla® Speedtest Award™.

The new Converge Netflix Bundle aims to give endless entertainment at a price that fits your budget. Aside from the FiberX and Netflix plans, the

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CONVERGE, NETFLIX

Kambilan team file COCs in CSFP

By Arlyn E. Lukban, Lifestyle & Online Editor

The Kambilan Team, led by former Second District Board Member Mylyn Pineda-Cayabyab and incumbent City of San Fernando Mayor Vice-Mayor BJ Lagman, were accompanied by family, friends and supporters as they marched in the streets of the Pampanga Provincial Capital City of San Fernando on October 7 to file their Certificates of Candidacy (COCs) at the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) office.

The group assembled at the Capitol Grounds then walked to the Metropolitan Cathedral of San Fernando to hear Mass officiated by Archbishop Emeritus Paciano 'Apung Ceto' Aniceto.

After the Mass, the team proceeded to the COMELEC in the city to file their respective COCs.

Pineda-Cayabyab will formally seek the mayoralty post of the capital city while Lagman will seek reelection as vice-mayor.



Bishop Ambo named Cardinal

Pope Francis has named Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) President and Kalookan Bishop Pablo Virgilio David a new cardinal, along with 20 others from various places around the world.

Pope Francis made the announcement during his weekly Sunday Angelus at the Vatican City on Sunday, October 6, 2024.

The pope said the consistory for the creation of new cardinals will be held on December 8, 2024, just a few days before the opening of the Jubilee Year of 2025.

Upon becoming a cardinal, David will become one of three cardinals in the Philippine Catholic Church. The other two are Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle and Manila Archbishop Cardinal Jose Advincula.

David, popularly known as Bishop Ambo, was born in Betis, Guagua, Pampanga and was ordained as a priest for the Archdiocese of San Fernando in 1983. He became auxiliary bishop of San Fernando in 2006 before he was appointed bishop of Calookan.

He is recognized as one of the Philippines' foremost biblical scholars, having earned a Doctorate in Theology from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, and has 41 years of priesthood and 18 years as a bishop experience.

He is known as a staunch critic of the notorious war on illegal drugs championed by former President Rodrigo Duterte that saw many alleged drug-related killings.

Zero-emissions aircraft, hydrogen production eyed

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) has signed a partnership agreement with Australian zero emissions aircraft designer and manufacturer AMSL Aero to explore a new zero-emissions aircraft industry and provide the catalyst for a hydrogen production industry in the Philippines.

The partnership between



AMSL Aero's Vertia vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft

BCDA and AMSL Aero involves collaboration and knowledge sharing to develop an ecosystem for low-cost zero emissions aircraft and hydrogen energy that has the potential to connect the archipelago of the Philippines by passenger and freight carriage air bridges, coupled with strategically located hydrogen production plants for clean energy production.

This will lead to the preparation of a feasibility study, which may include technical and commercial study of the project with potential developments within the BCDA's properties.

AMSL Aero is an Australian-based sustainable development aerospace technology company that produces a world-leading,

long-range hydrogen-electric Vertical Take Off and Landing (VTOL) aircraft, the Vertia.

The Vertia is a next-generation aircraft that takes off like a helicopter and flies fast and smoothly like a fixed-wing aeroplane at a very low cost per hour. The aircraft will be a highly efficient, long-range zero-emissions VTOL with a range of up to 1,000 kilometers and cruising speeds of 300 kilometer-per-hour.

The BCDA is AMSL Aero's second international partnership, with its first international agreement signed with Life Flight in New Zealand on 24 September, 2024. AMSL Aero also



Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Joshua M. Bingcang (second from the left) and AMSL Aero Pty Ltd CEO Max York sign agreement to explore opportunities for low-cost, zero-emission, and hydrogen-powered aircraft in the Philippines. BCDA Senior Vice President for Investment and Financial Management Hedda Y. Rulona and StB Giga Factory Inc. CEO Dennis Chan Ibarra serve as witnesses. (BCDA)

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ZERO-EMISSIONS

Displaced Balubad residents OK relocation in Magalang

ANGELES CITY — About 2,000 families from Sitio Balubad, Barangay Anunas here have agreed to be relocated to San Idefonso, Magalang town where they will each receive 50-square-meter lots under the city government's socialized housing project.

City Councilor Atty. Arvin "Pogs" Suller, officer-in-charge of the Angeles City Human Settlements and Urban Development Office (ACHSUD), facilitated a meeting with the affected families on October 4, 2024 on behalf of Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr. to discuss their relocation options.

"Upon Mayor Lazatin's instructions, we presented the homeowners-beneficiaries with three choices — expropriation proceedings or relocation to Barangay Mining or Magalang town. After a majority vote, they chose the Magalang property for their new community," Suller shared.

Suller said the initial plan was to allocate 45 square meters per beneficiary but the mayor expanded it to 50 square meters at the residents' request.

"Sa katunayan po, the original plan was 45 square meters per household. It was adjusted to 50 square meters upon the request of our beneficiaries to Mayor Lazatin," Suller explained.

The homeowners' Acting President Mary Joy Paragas expressed the residents' approval of the relocation plan saying: "We are grateful to Mayor Lazatin for considering our request and providing us with a better option. Buo po ang aming suporta para sa proyektong relokasyon na ito na magsilbing pong bagong panimula para sa aming lahat".

The ACHSUD has already started mapping and tagging the tenants to ensure the smooth and safe relocation of the displaced families.

The relocation effort follows

the passage of resolutions by the Angeles City Council, led by Vice-Mayor Vicky Vega-Cabigting, on October 17, 2023 which authorized Lazatin to initiate expropriation proceedings or purchase parcels of land at Sitio Balubad, Barangay Anunas, for the city's socialized housing project.

"Gaya po ng pangako ko, walang bibitaw, hindi ako bibitaw, hindi ko kayo iiwan," Lazatin assured to the beneficiaries.

The beneficiaries were displaced after private real estate firm Clarkhills Properties Corp. took over the property they were living in which led to resistance and several violent and bloody clashes between the residents and the company's demolition crew.

At least seven persons were injured in one of the more violent clashes involving armed security guards and local policemen. (ANGELES CIO)



PCCI-Tarlac is finalist for outstanding chamber awards

TARLAC CITY, Tarlac — The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Tarlac (PCCI-Tarlac) qualified as a finalist for the 2024 Most Outstanding Chamber Award (MOCA).

The MOCA recognizes local chambers that contributed to business growth and development of the community through its active involvement in the advocacy to improve the business climate and provide a sustainable environment for the expansion of commerce and industry.

PCCI-Tarlac President Aileen Chan acknowledged the contribution of the members in the advocacy to promote

a progressive economy and enhance the viability of business in the community.

"I would like to thank all the members of PCCI-Tarlac. This alone is not an effort of mine but the collective undertakings of everyone. We're looking forward to October 4 which is the final judgment for the MOCA," Chan said.

She expressed appreciation and gratitude to the national government agencies, local government units (LGUs) and the Provincial Government of Tarlac for their assistance and cooperation in supporting and boosting local businesses in the province.

Chan added they are working closely with the LGUs to invite and encourage budding entrepreneurs to join their organization as she noted that the chamber serves as the venue to gain friends, establish connections and create networks.

Meanwhile, Department of Trade and Industry-Tarlac OIC-Provincial Director Florencia Balilo lauded the strengthened partnership of PCCI-Tarlac with the members of the Tarlac Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Council (MSMEDC) to propel programs for the advancement of local

SEE PAGE 4
PCCI-TARLAC



NEW OFFICERS. The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Tarlac (PCCI-Tarlac) introduces the newly-elected directors for Chamber Year 2025-2026. They will be part of the 16-member board with the current president, Aileen Chan, and will elect among themselves the incoming officers. (PIA-3)

Clark locators back PW's innovative waste processing

Prime Waste Solutions (PWS) Pampanga has earned praise from businesses in the Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone in Pampanga for its innovative waste management services and commitment to environmental responsibility as it began commercial operations as the sole authorized service provider for the collection of residual waste in Clark.

Environmental Engineer Daniel Navarro of POSCO Eco & Challenge Co. Ltd. said the goal of PWS Pampanga is aligned with their company's program on pollution prevention, which includes efficient material use.

"Dito sa aming proyekto, hindi pa namin nape-perfect ang waste segregation kaya

kami nagkaroon ng interest kay Prime (Waste) dahil mayroon silang sufficient na machines at automated segregation," Navarro said, adding they were impressed with the facility during a recent visit.

PWS Pampanga's facility in Porac is designed to handle up to 5,000 tons of solid waste daily, employing advanced technology to maximize resource recovery and to reduce landfilled waste by 20 percent or less.

"Yung waste na nare-recover upon segregation, may tamang mapupuntahan, like ginagawa nilang RDF or refuse derived fuels. So, yung basura, mapapakinabangan pa," Navarro said.

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CLARK LOCATORS



Collaborative plans for 'ber' months in Subic bared

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — Resident tourism stakeholders here recently presented various activities that aim to boost tourist arrivals for the rest of the "ber" months.

The presentation of activities was made during the Talakayan sa Freeport Media Forum held at the Weltz Bar of the Terrace Hotel by Hospitality Alliance of Subic (HAS) President of Corporate Affairs Pamela Khonghun who bared their plans for the Freeport for the months of October, November and December.

"This October, we are promoting the Subic Bay Hauntfest 2.0, since the first one was launched last year. To recap, we held the hauntfest at the Rotonda Food Park of the Moonbay Marina with our members having their stalls and presentations," Khonghun said.

The event was held on October 31, 2023, which included a Trick or Treat, Magic Show, Halloween Costume Competition, and a Block Party. She said Luke Mijares, DJ Arhiz Picache, Sweet Patatas, Ultimasias, and 8oz were the featured performers during the Block Party.

Last year's celebration also saw the staging of the Halloween Skele-bration where tourists participated in the costume contest at the Harbor Point Ayala Mall. She said tourists were able to go Trick or Treating in the various hotels at the Subic Freeport.

"This year, we are planning to hold the Subic Bay Hauntfest 2.0 at the Boardwalk Area. There will be many activities with most of last year's activities to be held again this year. It will be as grandiose as last year's

SEE PAGE 4
COLLABORATIVE PLANS



HOLIDAY PLANS. Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chairman and Administration Eduardo Jose L. Aliño (seated at center) joins members of the Hospitality Alliance of Subic Bay Freeport Zone (HAS) during a meet and greet at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center (SBMCC). (SBMA MEDIA PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT)



PINOY MARINO RIGHTS

ATTY. DENNIS GORECHO

Threat of marine litter to human health, food security, economy and environment

Some 352,479 kilograms of trash and debris, ranging from plastics to other waste materials, were collected in 250 coastal sites across the country during the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) last September 21, 2024.

ICC is the world's largest volunteer effort for the ocean's health and is being conducted every third Saturday of September of each year to raise awareness about the impact of plastic pollution on marine life and ecosystems.

ICC engages people to remove marine litter or trash from beaches, rivers, lakes and waterways and to identify and record trash/debris items collected in an Ocean Trash Data form.

The ICC was part of the activities of this year's 29th National Seafarers' Day (NSD) and 25th National Maritime Week (NMW) with the theme "Marinong Filipino: Ligtas na Paglalayag" spearheaded by Stella Maris Philippines and the Philippine Coast Guard.

Marine litter is any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded directly or indirectly into the sea, rivers or on beaches.

Marine litter poses threats to human health, food security, economy and environment, including degradation of marine and coastal habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity.

A major source of pollution are single-use disposable plastics which come in various forms such as straws, sachet packs, bags, cutleries, cups, and plastic bottles which are meant to be used only once, before being thrown away.

If there are no drastic interventions, by 2050 there will be more plastics than fish in the ocean.

Plastic bags take 10-20 years to decompose while plastic bottles take 450 years.

These items tend to shrink into smaller pieces (called microplastics), which never achieve full decomposition and return to the food cycle through ingestion by fish and other animals as "false food", causing digestive failure, suffocation, starvation, drowning and eventually death. Some animals become fatalities due to entanglement.

The Philippines, which disposes 2.7 million tons of plastics per year, is considered the third largest global contributor to the 8 million tons of

plastics that are estimated to flood our oceans each year.

More than 163 million plastic sachet packets, as well as 48 million shopping bags and 45 million thin-film bags are used and disposed of daily in the country.

The more visible manifestations of the problem due single-use plastics include the clogging up of waterways, drainage systems, and therefore contributing to floods.

Marine litter, specifically plastic pollution, was discussed by Von Hernandez of the Break Free From Plastic Movement during one of my Amigos Marino online show as part of 2021 Earth Day celebration.

Hernandez echoed the call of environmental groups for the passage of a comprehensive Single-Use Plastic Ban as an essential policy tool to stop plastic pollution by shifting corporate dependence on throwaway packaging models to more sustainable reuse and refill systems.

Single-use plastic is not a clean-up problem but a pollution problem, Hernandez stressed, adding that the only way to prevent it is to stop its production and avoid using them in the

first place.

This means looking at plastic at the different stages of the life-cycle, and not just treating it as a waste management or consumer responsibility issue, which is what the plastic industry wants.

Marine pollution, including handling of garbage from ships, is addressed by Annex V regulations of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), as first drafted in 1973 and amended in 1978.

MARPOL seeks to ensure that the marine environment is preserved by the elimination of pollution by all harmful substance which can be discharged from the ship.

Annex V, which came into force on 31 December 1988, expressly prohibits all ships from discharging garbage, which includes all kinds of food, domestic and operational waste, all plastics, cargo residues, incinerator ashes, cooking oil, fishing gear, and animal carcasses generated during the normal operation of the ship and liable to be disposed of continuously or periodically.

The most important feature of the

Annex is the complete ban imposed on the disposal into the sea of all forms of plastics, including but not limited to, synthetic ropes, synthetic fishing nets, plastic garbage bags and incinerator ashes from plastic products which may contain toxic or heavy metal residues.

It specifies the distances from land in which materials may be disposed of and subdivides different types of garbage and marine debris.

The requirements are much stricter in a number of "special areas".

There must be a garbage management plan which is a complete guideline that comprises of a written procedure for collecting, storing, processing, and disposing of garbage generated onboard ship.

Vessels are obliged to deposit plastic waste at reception facilities ashore as port state signatories are required to provide adequate and appropriate reception facilities.

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

Switches flicked in Pampanga, Tarlac politics

Switches abounded in the political scene in the provinces of Pampanga and Tarlac as local leaders, related at that, have traded places during the filing of Certificates of Candidacy (COCs) for the upcoming May 12, 2025 National and Local Mid-Term Elections.

In the Province of Pampanga, Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda announced at the last minute on October 8, the last day of filing, that he and his mother, Vice-Governor Lilia "Nanay" Pineda, will switch places with the elder Pineda now running for the gubernatorial seat and the son sliding to vice-governor.

Despite The Big Switch or Trading of Posts, the governor assured that he and the vice-governor will continue providing good service to everyone.

The move is a comeback for Nanay

Pineda. She completed three terms as governor from 2010 to 2019 before passing over the helm to her son, Delta, who will be completing his second term next year.

They are up against businessman and former Candaba Mayor Danilo Baylon who will have for his running-mate former Governor Among Ed Panlilio who is making a comeback.

In Tarlac Province, the Yaps also made a switch. Rep. Christian "CY" Yap will now run for governor while former governor and Congressman Victor "VY" Yap will run for Second District Congressman.

Governor Susan Yap, meanwhile, will be seeking the mayoral seat of the provincial capital Tarlac City.

In Angeles City, Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr. and his brother, Pampanga First District Representative Carmelo "Jon"

Lazatin II, traded places with the mayor now gunning for the Congressional Seat while his brother will fill the gap for city mayor.

Pogi will be challenged for the Congressional Seat by Mike Pangilinan while Jon and running-mate incumbent Vice-Mayor Vicky Vega-Cabigting will face former PNP Chief Oscar Albayalde and his vice-mayoral candidate former city councilor Amos Rivera who both have a full line-up of incumbent councilors and council hopefuls.

Meanwhile, in Mabalacat City, there was no switch but a father-daughter team as Mayor Crisostomo Garbo officially filed his COC for a third term as mayor with his running-mate, daughter Board Member and former three-term councilor Winwin Garbo.

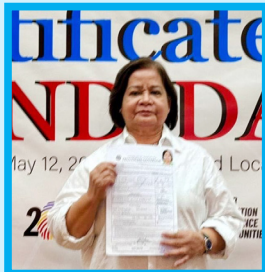
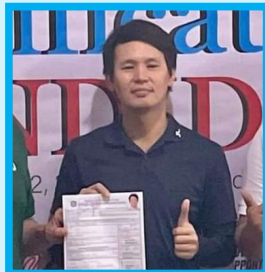
The filing drew a massive crowd of approximately 10,000 supporters, showcasing a strong backing for Garbo

and his team which include incumbent councilors Timothy Dee, Doc Cocoy Tiglao, Noel Castro, Rox Peña, Carlo Dizon, Jerry Magsino, along with incumbent Barangay Captains Elmer Mendiola and Elmer Calaguas, and former MCTEG head Ralph Lauren David.

Garbo will be challenged by Vice-Mayor Gerald Aquino, his former running mate in the previous elections, for the top city post.

A similar team-up occurred in the Municipality of Porac where incumbent Mayor Jing Capil filed his COC for reelection with his only daughter Ma. Jen Capil as his running-mate.

Incumbent Vice-Mayor Francis "Budoy" Tamayo yielded his post to the younger Capil but assured the people that he would stand by the Capils and serve in whatever capacity. (JOJO C. DUE)



Converge hints on new upcoming content direction

Telcos are presented with new revenue opportunities with the significant shift in the customers' content consumption behavior. From traditional passive television, customers now turn to over-the-top (OTT) media services which bypass traditional distribution networks to deliver content straight to users' devices.

Philippines' leading fiber broadband and technology provider Converge ICT Solutions Inc. is not passing up on this opportunity as it leverages on its pure fiber network to offer innovative services beyond connectivity.

In the recently concluded APOS, the premier conference for the media, telecoms, and entertainment in Asia, held in Bali, Indonesia last September 24-26, Converge CEO and Co-Founder Dennis Anthony Uy shared how the company intends to leverage on OTTs to retain, and potentially attract, subscribers.

"This is a key part of our strategy. All the available content right now – news, entertainment, gaming, and sports – are all part of the individual home niche. We believe we can take advantage of these to maintain that stickiness with our customers," said Uy, who was speaking for the Philippines in the session on "Future of Connectivity".

Other one-on-one interviewees during the session were Telkomsel CMO Derrick Heng to represent Indonesia, AIS Chief Consumer Business Officer Prthana Leelapanang for the discussion on Thailand, and Singtel Deputy CEO

Anna Yip for Singapore.

In recent years, the service experienced massive growth spurts as Netflix, Disney+, and HBO Go, to name a few, became household names in entertainment. A study from the Trade Desk and Kantar showed that the Philippines' OTT users stood at 36 million in 2021, accounting for over two billion hours spent on video streaming per month.

Uy noted that part of the business direction of Converge is to aggregate and host these services in a central hub where customers can conveniently select their preferred content on demand. To do this, he added that Converge is preparing its backend to cater to the data requirements of content providers.

The company is currently strengthening its data center network with two additional data centers in the pipeline. The critical infrastructures are expected to support the delivery of vast amounts of data, which is crucial for high-quality gaming and streaming.

By early next year, two international data links – the South East Asia-Hainan-Hong Kong Express Cable System (SEA-H2X) and Bifrost Cable System – are also set to be operational for Converge to address the increasing capacity demands in their respective regions.

"With our domestic and international fiber networks in place, we are well positioned to bring customers the best digital experience," said Uy who also joined around 50 other business leaders in the region in the exclusive

CEO Forum during the APOS.

Converge was named the "Fastest Internet Service Provider in the Philippines" again at the Ookla® Speedtest Award™ for the first half of 2024, repeating this sterling performance which was first recognized last year. Converge was also named the most consistent high-speed performance in most areas across its network for the second year in a row and achieved the best latency time for fixed networks, ensuring a seamless online experience for users.

Converge entered the pay-TV segment with Vision, through its affiliate Pacific Kabelnet, which is a value-added service that provides all-in-one entertainment through up to 88 multi-genre and multi-language channels, including access to OTT apps such as Spotify, Viu, Disney+, Curiosity Stream, Prime Video, and

HBO Go.

Likewise, it also offers its existing subscribers free access to Blast TV, an ad-supported streaming platform, featuring a wide range of viewing options covering sports, movies, news, and factual entertainment.

According to Statista, revenue in the OTT video market in the Philippines is forecasted to reach \$572.5 million in 2024. The segment's revenue is also anticipated to demonstrate a compounded annual growth rate of 5.44 percent, "leading to a projected market volume of \$746 million by 2029."

At present, Converge has more than 700,000 kilometers of fiber footprint in the Philippines to reach over 16 million homes nationwide, making it the biggest fiber to the home network in the country.



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CONVERGE, NETFLIX... FROM PAGE 1

bundle will also offer an additional Boost Mode, a new WiFi-6 Next Gen Modem, and a Converge Xperience Box with Freemium Channels.

The Converge Xperience Box is a Google-certified Android TV box that allows the customer to download apps such as YouTube, Spotify, and streaming apps like Netflix. Aside from these, it will also allow customers to play games or access Google's integrated assistant. The Xperience Box can support 4K streaming, Wi-Fi, and already comes with the Freemium package, offering 15 free-to-air TV channels.

The Converge WiFi6 Next Gen Modem, another inclusion in this exclusive and all-in-one bundle, is a router that enables the efficient

performance of networked devices in dense areas. With its improved Wi-Fi speed, better coverage, and efficient device management, the new Converge WiFi6 Modem can give three times better wireless performance in dense and highly populated settings.

The new Converge Netflix Bundle starts at Php 1,798 per month, inclusive of a Converge FiberX plan with boosted speeds of 325 Mbps, a WiFi6 modem, a Converge Xperience Box, and a Basic Netflix subscription that can support one HD stream at a time.

Customers can avail of more premium bundles that can support multiple devices streaming at the same time and can offer additional Boost

Modes with speeds of up to 200 Mbps. For existing subscribers, the Converge Netflix Bundle is available as an exclusive add-on starting at Php298 per month.

With a wide range of entertainment options available on Netflix, the convenience of the Converge Xperience Box, and the FiberX plan & Boost Modes, both powered by the fastest internet in the country, the Converge x Netflix bundle will give customers endless choices at faster speeds at a more affordable rate.

For more information on the Converge x Netflix bundle, as well as Converge's other products and offerings, visit convergeict.com/fiberx. To become a Converge subscriber, visit gofiber.ph.

COLLABORATIVE PLANS... FROM PAGE 2

celebration," Khonghun said.

She also disclosed the newest project in collaboration with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), the Paskuhan sa Boardwalk that will feature the "12 Days of Christmas" Food Fair, a Parol-Making Competition, and a Caroling Competition.

The HAS will collaborate with tourism stakeholders here to

create uniform Christmas lanterns to display, lighted up and featured at the Boardwalk Area to liven up the area during the Yuletide season. The group aims to boost the number of visitors in the area where most hotels are situated just a stone's throw from each other.

Khonghun said the alliance is opening its doors to local media practitioners to further promote

their endeavors.

She also expressed her gratitude to SBMA Chairman and Administrator Eduardo Jose L. Aliño for continuously collaborating and supporting the endeavors of the HAS in promoting this premier Freeport as a tourist destination. **(SBMA MEDIA PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT)**

ZERO-EMISSIONS... FROM PAGE 2

has aircraft orders from a leading Australian aviation operator, Aviation Logistics.

Max York, AMSL Aero CEO, said the partnership with BCDA has the potential to help drive the future of aerospace and clean energy production as well as support economic development for the Philippines.

"The partnership agreement with BCDA, and also the recently signed partnership with Life Flight New Zealand, clearly demonstrates the global demand and opportunity for hydrogen-powered VTOL technology. These agreements will enable AMSL Aero

to further develop our innovative Vertia technology to support multi-national requirements for passenger, cargo, air rescue, aeromedical and military air operations," York said.

Meanwhile, BCDA President and CEO Joshua M. Bingcang said the agreement with AMSL Aero will build a strong partnership with a world-leading sustainable aviation manufacturer.

"This agreement also supports our vision to transform New Clark City into a smart and sustainable metropolis, which includes modern energy and transport infrastructure. We look forward

to progressing this partnership to achieve positive technological, economic and social outcomes for the Philippines," Bingcang said.

Based in Sydney, Australia, AMSL Aero has secured more than AUD\$55 million in funding from major private investors, government programs and customers to develop the Vertia, which is currently progressing through the civil aviation certification process, and is set to change the way people use air travel once it enters production within the next few years.

CLARK LOCATORS... FROM PAGE 2

PWS's practices not only boost operational efficiency but also promote a sense of pride in environmental responsibility.

Environmental Officer Allan Pedroso of Hilmarc's Construction Corp. said: "Dahil Prime Waste na ang mag-cater sa aming basura, masaya po kami at nakakatulong kami sa environment dahil mayroon silang proper segregation ng basura".

As PWS continues to align its goals with those of its customers, it paves the way for a greener future, reflecting a shared commitment to

sustainability.

Prime Waste Solutions (PWS) Pampanga commence on October 6, 2024 its collection of residual waste within the Clark Freeport and the Clark Special Economic Zone with newly-installed bins to ensure proper handling and disposal of waste across the area.

"We deployed our bins round the clock the past week as part of our comprehensive service, ensuring that waste collection is streamlined and efficient from day one. We are ready to fully start servicing Clark's locators," PWS

Pampanga President Cara Peralta said.

With its strategic location, PWS Pampanga can effectively meet the waste management needs of businesses and local governments throughout Central and Northern Luzon.

"We are focused on forging partnerships with clients seeking more effective waste management solutions, ensuring they receive tailored support and innovative services for a successful transition," Peralta stressed. **(PRESS RELEASE)**

PCCI TARLAC... FROM PAGE 2

businesses.

"Various projects were initiated through the leadership of PCCI-Tarlac President and MSMEDC Chairperson Aileen Chan such as the Tarlac BizConEx where a caravan of services was successfully conducted. PCCI-Tarlac also provided support to our young entrepreneurs through DTI's conduct of the YEP You Can Be Your Own Boss Program," Balilo explained.

She also cited the financial support of PCCI-Tarlac to aid individuals realize their full potential as entrepreneurs.

"The DTI appreciates the support of PCCI-Tarlac to our Tarlac MSMEs with their provision of additional financial assistance to further expand their operations," she added.

Just recently, PCCI-Tarlac elected its directors for chamber year 2025-2026.

New directors set to assume office next year include Faye Aquino, Leandro Atienza, Glenn Carreon, Ellis Chua, Winston Chua, Daisy Co, Mico David, Basti Dijamco, Gene Nicolas, Yoly Palomo, Maiko Pascual,

Bebet Reyes, Cathy See, and Tet Taguines.

They will be part of the 16-member board with the current president, and will elect among themselves the incoming officers. **(PIA REGION 3-TARLAC)**

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

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late **SPS. ROSALINA G. MASANGCAY** and **JOSE T. MASANGCAY**, executed a **DEED OF EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OVER THEIR ESTATES WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS** covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 112436-R**, containing an area of **Three Hundred Seven Five (375)** square meters, more or less; **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 112437-R**, containing an area of **Three Hundred Eighty Eight (388)** square meters, more or less; **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 112438-R**, containing an area of **Three Hundred Fifty (350)** square meters, more or less and **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 112439-R**, containing an area of **Three Hundred Fifty (350)** square meters, more or less before Notary Public Arnel S. Santos, as per Doc. No. 557; Page No. 63; Book No. XL; Series of 2024.

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY September 29, October 6, 13, 2024

Republic of the Philippines REGIONAL TRIAL COURT THIRD JUDICIAL REGION BRANCH 53

GUAGUA, PAMPANGA
Email: rtc1gga053@judiciary.gov.ph
Mobile No. 0942-202-6217

IN RE: PETITION FOR CANCELLATION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF CHARLES MEYER MACASPAC LI UNDER LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY NO. 91-4936,

CHARLES MEYER MACASPAC LI SP PROC, NO, G-24-2841
represented by his atty-in-fact LIZA MACASPAC ARAÑES,

Petitioner,
-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF LUBAO, PAMPANGA, AND THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL (PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY), MANILA,

Respondents.

x-----x

ORDER

This case was re-raffled to this branch on September 16, 2024 in view of the voluntary inhibition of the Presiding Judge of RTC Branch 51 of this jurisdiction, considering her prior inhibition in all cases being handled by Atty. Romeo B. Torno.

The petition alleges in essence:

Petitioner is of legal age, married, Filipino and a resident of No. 21 Purok 4, Laucpao, Barangay Lourdes, Lubao, Pampanga. She was born to Spouses Viju W. Li and Gerly G. Macaspac. He is represented by his aunt and attorney-in-fact Liza Macaspac Arañes.

From the time he came to knowledge, he has been using Lubao, Pampanga as his place of birth which is registered in his Certificate of Live Birth issued by the Local Civil Registrar of Lubao under LCR No. 91-4936 on November 14, 1991.

When he got married in Dubai, he was able to obtain a copy of his birth certificate in the Philippine Statistics Authority but his place of birth indicated therein was in St. Luke's Medical Center, 279 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City. Said birth certificate was registered on August 28, 1989. Hence, the earlier mentioned certificate of live birth is considered a double registration.

The petition prays for the cancellation of petitioner's Certificate of Live Birth registered in the Local Civil Registrar of Lubao, Pampanga under LCR No. 91-4936, to avoid confusion and double registration.

Finding said petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for hearing on **November 13, 2024 and November 27, 2024 at 8:30 in the morning**, at the courtroom of this Court.

Let this Order be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Pampanga.

Let copies of this order and the petition be furnished the Office of the Solicitor General at 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor of Pampanga, City of San Fernando, Pampanga; the Civil Registrar General, Philippine Statistics Authority, Quezon City; the Local Civil Registrar of Lubao, Pampanga and the Local Civil Registrar of Quezon City.

The Civil Registrars concerned and any person having or claiming any interest under the entries where corrections are sought may, within fifteen (15) days from notice of the petition, or from the last date of publication, file their opposition thereto, and appear on said date and time and show cause why this petition should not be granted.

SO ORDERED.

Guagua, Pampanga, September 19, 2024.


MARIA CONCEPCION A. YUMANG
Presiding Judge

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY October 6, 13, 20, 2024

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE ALBERTO L. SIGUA

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late **ALBERTO L. SIGUA** have executed a deed of extra-judicial settlement over his estate covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 042-2021006297**, containing an area of **Three Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Five (3,355)** square meters, more or less; **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 523199-R**, containing an area of **Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Four (7,724)** square meters more or less; **PORTION OF TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 538783-R**, containing an area of **Four Thousand Two Hundred Ten (4,210)** square meters, more or less; **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 387121-R**, containing an area of **Eight Hundred Fifty Three (853)**, square meters, ore or less; **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 387122-R**, containing an area of **Seven Hundred (700)** square meters, more or less; **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 184518**, containing an area of **One Hundred Forty Four (144)** square meters, more or less; and **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 042-2017016238**, containing an area of **One Hundred Seventy Two (172)** square meters, more or less, before Notary Public Arnel S. Santos, as per Doc. No. 541; Page No. 60; Book No. XL; Series of 2024.

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY September 29, October 6, 13, 2024

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
 THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
 Angeles City
 rtc1angocc@judiciary.gov.ph

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS (successor-in-interest of BPI Family Saving Bank, Inc.),
 Mortgagee-Petitioner,

EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135 as Amended by Act No. 4118 FC Case No. 2024-0061

- versus -

CHARMAINE V. DULNUAN herein represented by **MARK ANTHONY G. BONIFACIO** as her true and lawful Atty-in-fact, Borrower/Mortgagor.

x-----x

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as Amended filed by the above-named Mortgagee, **BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS (successor-in-interest of BPI Family Saving Bank, Inc.)**, with principal office and place of business at Tower One, Ayala North Exchange, 6796 Ayala Avenue Corner, Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City, with branch office at Bank of the Philippine Islands Pampanga Retail Loans Center, BPI San Fernando Hi-way Main Branch Building, Olongapo-Gapan Road, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, against the Borrower/Mortgagor, **CHARMAINE V. DULNUAN** herein represented by **MARK ANTHONY G. BONIFACIO** as her true and lawful Atty-in-fact, with residence, postal, and collateral address/es at # 197 Obillo St., Poblacion 1, Moncada, Tarlac; and Lot 3 Block 8, SMDC Cheerful Homes, Brgy. Sta. Maria and Brgy. Bundagul, Mabalacat City, Pampanga, in order to satisfy the mortgage debt therein which as of 05 July 2024, amounts to **Eight Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Nine and 17/100 (Php822,249.17)**, Philippine Currency, excluding interests, penalties and additional daily interest and penalties up to the date of sale, in addition attorney's fees and other charges all secured by this Mortgage, the undersigned Sheriff IV hereby gives notice and announces that on the **5th day of November 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the Mabalacat Municipal Trial Court in Cities, Branch 1, Mabalacat City located at Building 2, Unit 32-35, Great Mall of Central Luzon, Xevera, Tabun, Mabalacat City, Pampanga**, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash and in **Philippine Currency**, the following parcel of land with all the improvement existing thereon, to wit:

TCT NO. 045-2023000243

A parcel of land situated in **STA. MARIA, MABALACAT, PAMPANGA, LUZON, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:**

LOT NO: 3, BLOCK NO: 8, PLAN NO: PCS-03-021923
PORTION OF: LOT 2 TO 9, PCS-03-012744, LOT 188-D-7, PSD-03-083529, LOT 188-D-8-G AND LOT 188-D-8-1, (LRA) PSD-414557 AND LOT 13, (LRA) PCS-E2013000109

LOCATION: STA. MARIA, MABALACAT, PAMPANGA, LUZON

BOUNDARIES:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	SW	LOT 4, BLOCK 8, PCS-03-021923
2-3	NW	ROAD LOT 7 (6.50 M. WIDE), PCS-03-021923
3-4	NE	LOT 2, BLOCK 8, PCS-03-021923
4-1	SE	LOT 50, BLOCK 8, PCS-03-021923

AREA: THIRTY SIX SQUARE METERS (36), MORE OR LESS

Prospective buyers/bidder may investigate for themselves the above-mentioned parcel of land for their information and protection.

In the event that the scheduled public auction should not take place, the same will be conducted on 03 December 2024 at the same time and place without further notice.

Angeles City, August 5, 2024.

GARRY M. PANGILINAN
 Sheriff IV
 Contact no. 09503207109

Copy Furnished:

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS (successor-in-interest of BPI Family Saving Bank, Inc.) at Tower One, Ayala North Exchange, 6796 Ayala Avenue Corner, Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City

Bank of the Philippine Islands Pampanga Retail Loans Center BPI San Fernando Hi-way Main Branch Building, Olongapo-Gapan Road, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga

CHARMAINE V. DULNUAN herein represented by **MARK ANTHONY G. BONIFACIO** as her true and lawful Atty-in-fact at #197 Obillo St., Poblacion 1, Moncada, Tarlac and Lot 3 Block 8, SMDC Cheerful Homes, Brgy. Sta. Maria and Brgy. Bundagul, Mabalacat City, Pampanga.

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY October 6, 13, 20, 2024

Clark aviation campus to meet future job demand

CLARK FREEPORT ZONE — The Clark International Airport Corp. on Monday announced a new initiative aimed at producing globally-qualified and high-performing personnel that will meet the strong global demand for aviation-industry workers and professionals.

The CIAC said the agency's business ventures team was directed to roll-out plans to build the aviation campus with comprehensive curricula and state-of-the-art facilities strategically situated near the Clark International Airport inside the government-owned civil aviation complex.

In a 2023 Aviation Talent Forecast by CAE Inc., a Canadian aviation training service provider, it was estimated that within ten years, around 1.3 million civil aviation professionals will be needed, which includes 284,000 new pilots, 402,000 new technicians, and 599,000 new cabin crew staff.

The CIAC's aim is to position Clark as the nation's lead source of globally-qualified and high-performing aviation professionals such as skilled pilots, air traffic controllers, aeronautical engineers, aircraft mechanics, radio specialists, and ground support executives and operators.

The CIAC is following the lead of Transportation Undersecretary Roberto C.O. Lim who, earlier this month, said the Department of Transportation is partnering with various aviation schools to establish specific programs that will inspire young people to pursue careers in aviation and aerospace, noting that the current global shortage of aviation personnel presents a unique opportunity for individuals seeking long-term careers in the field.

Lim then cited the upcoming CIAC's Asia Pacific Aviation Campus, and other initiatives such as Airbus' proprietary training program, the Airbus Competence Training Academy, along with the Philippine State College of Aeronautics' national aviation campus and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines' Civil Aviation Training Center.

The CIAC said the Philippines' civil aviation education needs an industry upgrade, starting with reputable and comprehensive pilot training programs, along with skills training in components and assembly manufacturing which will expand into production engineering, procurement and distribution.

The government-owned firm also noted the aviation campus will redefine the aviation landscape

in the country, provide exceptional opportunities and empower the next generation of Philippine aviation professionals.

The campus will be equipped with technical skills training colleges, research centers and laboratories, a flight operations center, and in-air technology with simulation facilities, a cutting-edge educational and training hub and fostering excellence and innovation in aviation.

As it stands, three of the world's largest MRO providers are in Clark—Singapore Engineering, Lufthansa Technik, and Hong Kong's Metrojet Engineering—establishing Clark's readiness and foothold in the aviation industry and gearing the Philippines to be a key player in the region.

The aviation complex is being managed by CIAC and is currently home to the privately-run Clark International Airport, the mixed-use business district Clark Global City, and around 50 locators that include logistics and aviation-related businesses. **(CIAC-PAD)**



DOH cites health champs

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — The Department of Health Central Luzon Center for Health Development (DOH-CLCHD) cited local government units, health facilities, and partner institutions for their outstanding contributions to ensure efficient health service delivery to every citizen in the region.

DOH Regional Director Corazon Flores said the Central Luzon Excellence Awards for Health (CLEXAH) serves as recognition of merit and token of thanksgiving bestowed by the DOH to organizations for their support and implementation of the various health programs and initiatives that went beyond standard indicators to ensure the provision of quality healthcare services in their communities.

"Our achievement in DOH (Central Luzon) is not our achievement alone. It's your achievement from the local government units, from the provincial hospitals, that benefit all the constituents of Central Luzon," Flores said.

She added that the region was able to survive all the earthquakes, flooding, outbreaks, and other problems encountered in the past because everyone worked together and did their part selflessly.

For its 10th CLEXAH awarding rites, with the theme "A Decade of Health Champions: Celebrating 10 Years of Exemplary Healthcare Services and Commitment in Central Luzon", a total of 61 institutions were awarded in 10 categories.

The awardees are the Pioneer Four-Star Green and Safe Health Facilities which include the Escolastica Romero District Hospital, the Aurora Memorial Hospital, the Overseas Filipino Workers' Hospital, and the Concepcion District Hospital.

The Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital (JBL) and Dr. Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center were recognized as Five-Star Green and Safe Health Facilities while the Inspirational Four-Star Green and Safe Health Facilities include the Rogaciano M. Mercado Memorial Hospital, Congressman Enrique "Henry" M. Cojuangco Memorial District Hospital, Gilberto

O. Teodoro Memorial Hospital, and M.V. Gallego Cabanatuan City General Hospital.

Tarlac Province was cited as the Green, Safe, and Healthy Province Awardee while the Malaria-Free Province Award was given to Nueva Ecija and Zambales provinces.

The Good Practice in Health Award was given to Hermosa, Bataan; Casiguran, Aurora; the Province of Bataan; Olongapo City, Zambales; and Talavera, Nueva Ecija while the Excellence Award on Universal Healthcare Implementation went to Tarlac and Bataan provinces.

Special Awards for Partners in Program Implementation were conferred to the Barangay Health Worker Federation; the Mariveles Mental Wellness and General Hospital; the Mega Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center; the Treatment and Rehabilitation Center – Bataan; the Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center; the Dr. Paulino Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center; JBL; the Talavera General Hospital; the Joni Villanueva General Hospital; the Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc.; the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and, the World Health Organization (WHO).

The provincial governments of Bulacan and Zambales as well as the local governments of Hagonoy, Guiguinto, City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulakan, and Paombong in Bulacan; San Luis and Dingalan in Aurora; Gapan City in Nueva Ecija; Anao

and Mayantoc in Tarlac; Sasmuan in Pampanga; and Candelaria, San Antonio, and Masinloc in Zambales won the Excellence in the Implementation of the 8-Priority Health Outcomes Award.

Meanwhile, the provincial governments of Bulacan and Bataan and the local governments of Dingalan, Aurora; City of San Jose Del Monte, Guiguinto, Angat, and Balagtas in Bulacan; Pantabangan, Rizal, and the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija; and Guagua and Sta. Ana in Pampanga, were cited with the Outstanding Performance in 2023 LGU Health Scorecard.

On behalf of the awardees, Bulacan Provincial Health Officer Edwin Tecson, who delivered Bulacan Governor Daniel Fernando's message, said the awards they received are proof that they meet local health reforms and national health targets based on DOH programs.

Tecson added that in Bulacan, the health of the people is their top priority and the very reason why they are advocating for the Universal Health Care Law.

"With these awards, let us be reminded that true excellence is about resilience to overcome health crises, the ability to discover innovative approaches to sustainable development programs, and inclusivity where everyone benefits and everyone is valued. Bulacan will continue to be your partner in maintaining a healthy, safe, and prosperous region in the country for a long time," he said.



Cultivating Integrity in Philippine Education to Combat Academic Dishonesty

by HARVEY LORD G. GUILLERMO

Addressing academic dishonesty is a pressing issue within the Philippine educational, particularly as the Department of Education (DepEd) continues to promote integrity and ethical standards among students. As educational institutions strive to uphold values of honesty and accountability, it is crucial to confront the various forms of academic dishonesty that permeate the system, including cheating, plagiarism, and the misuse of technology.

In recent years, incidents of academic dishonesty have been highlighted in various DepEd scenarios, from students collaborating to share answers during exams to the growing prevalence of plagiarism in assignments. These actions not only undermine the credibility of the education system but also rob students of the opportunity to engage deeply with their learning. When students resort to dishonest practices, they miss out on the critical thinking, problem-solving, and ethical decision-making skills that education aims to cultivate.

One effective approach for DepEd to address this issue is through the implementation of comprehensive educational programs that emphasize academic integrity. Workshops and seminars that explain the consequences of dishonesty, alongside the importance of ethical behavior, can help students understand the long-term implications of their actions. By integrating discussions about integrity into the curriculum, educators can foster a culture that values honesty and accountability, encouraging students to take pride in their own work.

Furthermore, the role of teachers cannot be overstated. Teachers and administrators must serve as role models, demonstrating ethical

behavior in their own practices. By establishing clear policies on academic dishonesty and ensuring that students are aware of these guidelines, educators can create an environment where integrity is prioritized. Consistent enforcement of these policies is essential; when students see that dishonest behavior has consequences, they are more likely to think twice before engaging in it.

Technology also plays a significant role in both facilitating and combating academic dishonesty. With the rise of online resources, students have greater access to information but are also more vulnerable to temptation. DepEd can leverage technology to combat this issue by implementing software that detects plagiarism and by encouraging responsible use of online resources. Teaching students how to properly cite sources and encouraging them to engage in original thought are vital steps in promoting academic integrity.

Finally, engaging parents and guardians in discussions about academic honesty can reinforce the values being taught in schools. By fostering a home environment that supports ethical behavior, families can play a crucial role in shaping students' attitudes toward integrity.

In conclusion, addressing academic dishonesty requires a multifaceted approach that involves education, role modeling, and community engagement. By prioritizing integrity within the educational framework, DepEd can cultivate a generation of learners who value honesty, critical thinking, and personal responsibility, ultimately strengthening the entire educational system in the Philippines.

The author is Teacher III at Malasin Elementary School, Claveria East District, Schools Division of Cagayan, Region II – Cagayan Valley

Cultivating Critical Thinking in a Complex World for the Future of Education

by KHATRINE T. TURDA

Developing critical thinking skills is essential in today's complex world, where information is abundant and often misleading. Critical thinking empowers individuals to analyze information, evaluate arguments, and make reasoned decisions. To cultivate these skills, engaging in reflective practices is vital. Reflection allows individuals to consider their thought processes, question their assumptions, and explore alternative viewpoints. This process can be initiated through journaling or discussing complex topics with others, fostering a deeper understanding of different perspectives and encouraging open-mindedness.

Incorporating Socratic questioning into daily conversations can significantly enhance critical thinking. This method involves probing questions that challenge assumptions and encourage deeper exploration of topics. Instead of accepting statements at face value, asking "Why?" or "How do you know that?" compels individuals to clarify their reasoning and consider evidence. By practicing this technique regularly, individuals not only refine their analytical skills but also learn to communicate their thoughts more effectively.

Another powerful strategy is to engage with diverse sources of information. Exposure to various viewpoints, whether through reading books, watching documentaries, or participating in discussions, broadens one's understanding of complex issues. This variety helps to develop the ability to synthesize information, recognizing that most issues are multifaceted and do not have straightforward solutions. Evaluating the credibility of sources is equally important;

discerning reliable information from misinformation enhances one's ability to make informed decisions.

Participating in group discussions or debates can also foster critical thinking. These interactions encourage individuals to articulate their viewpoints while simultaneously considering counterarguments. This back-and-forth exchange not only sharpens reasoning skills but also teaches the value of humility and adaptability, as participants must sometimes reconsider their positions in light of new evidence or persuasive arguments.

Another effective approach is the practice of problem-solving through real-world scenarios. Engaging with practical challenges, whether in academic settings or daily life, cultivates analytical skills. Individuals can analyze problems, brainstorm solutions, and evaluate outcomes, which promotes a hands-on understanding of critical thinking processes. This experiential learning reinforces theoretical knowledge and demonstrates the practical applications of critical thinking.

Finally, developing metacognitive skills is crucial. Being aware of one's thought processes allows individuals to monitor their reasoning and recognize cognitive biases that may cloud judgment. This self-awareness fosters a more deliberate approach to thinking and decision-making. By embracing these strategies, individuals can cultivate a mindset that values inquiry, skepticism, and the pursuit of truth, essential traits for navigating the complexities of modern life.

The author is Teacher I at Bacsay Elementary School, Claveria East District, Schools Division of Cagayan, Region II – Cagayan Valley

From Classroom To The World: Celebrating And Honoring The Unsung Heroes On Their Special Day

by JEFFRY L. CABICUNGAN

As we celebrate Teachers' Day, it's a moment to pause and celebrate the dedication and passion of those who play an invaluable role in shaping our future – our teachers. Often regarded as unsung heroes, teachers are the driving force behind every student's journey from classroom to the world.

Teachers' Day is not just a date on the calendar but a heartfelt tribute to the individuals who inspire, challenge and nurture students to give their full potential. Their contribution goes far beyond the confines of their classrooms. They are the architect of tomorrow, imparting knowledge, values and skills that students carry into every aspect of their lives. Each lesson they teach and each encouragement they offer builds a foundation for the future.

In an era where technology rapidly evolve and amid pandemic, teachers remain steadfast in their commitment to their oath. They adapt new methods and tools to engage their students, foster

critical thinking and prepare them for a complex world. Whether its integrating digital tools, addressing diverse learning needs, or creating inclusive environments, teachers demonstrate resilience and creativity in their approach.

Today, we celebrate not only the curriculum they deliver but the profound influence they have on their students' personal growth. Teachers ignite curiosity, build self-confidence, and instill a love for learning. They often go beyond their duties, providing emotional support and guidance that shape students' lives in ways that extend far beyond academic achievements.

Honoring teachers involves acknowledging the long hours they spend preparing lessons, grading assignments, and attending professional development. It's about recognizing their sacrifices, including the personal time they invest in their students' success. Their work is characterized by patience, dedication, and an unwavering belief in the potential

of every student.

This Teachers' Day let's express our gratitude and respect through acts of appreciation—be it a simple thank-you note, a thoughtful gift, or a public acknowledgment of their efforts. Schools and communities can come together to celebrate teachers with events and recognition programs that highlight their invaluable contributions.

In conclusion, Teachers' Day is a powerful reminder of the extraordinary impact teachers have, extending from their classrooms to the world. By celebrating and honoring their dedication and passion, we not only recognize their tireless efforts but also reinforce the importance of education in shaping a better future for all. To all the teachers out there: thank you for being the unsung heroes who light the way for generations to come.

The author is Teacher III at Bidduang National High School, Bidduang, Pamplona, Cagayan

The Role of Empathy in Teaching: Understanding and Supporting Students

by LORIE R. TINARIPE

Empathy is more than just a buzzword; it is a critical component of effective teaching. Empathy in the classroom involves a teacher's ability to recognize, understand, and respond to the emotional and educational needs of their students. This compassionate approach can significantly impact students' academic performance, well-being, and overall learning experience.

Empathy fosters a supportive and inclusive classroom environment, where students feel valued and understood. When teachers demonstrate empathy, they create a safe space where students are more likely to engage, take risks, and express themselves openly. This emotional support is particularly crucial for students facing personal challenges or difficulties in their learning journey.

A teacher's empathetic approach can also help in building strong, trusting relationships with students. These relationships form the foundation of effective teaching and learning. When students know their teacher genuinely cares about their success and well-being, they are more motivated and willing to invest in their own learning. This positive connection encourages a growth mindset, where students are more likely to persevere through challenges and seek

help when needed.

Empathy in the classroom is reflected in various ways. An empathetic teacher actively listens to students, acknowledging their feelings and concerns without judgment. This involves more than just hearing words; it includes observing non-verbal cues and providing thoughtful, supportive responses. For instance, a teacher might offer encouragement to a student struggling with a difficult assignment or provide extra support to a student going through a tough time.

Another key indicator of empathy is the ability to adapt teaching methods to meet diverse student needs. Empathetic teachers recognize that each student learns differently and may face unique challenges. They adjust their instructional strategies and provide personalized support to ensure that all students can succeed. This might involve offering additional resources, modifying assignments, or providing one-on-one guidance.

Teachers can cultivate empathy by actively engaging with their students and creating opportunities for open dialogue. Building strong relationships involves showing genuine interest in students' lives, celebrating their achievements, and addressing their concerns with compassion.

Regular check-ins and informal conversations can help teachers stay attuned to their students' needs and emotions.

Incorporating social-emotional learning into the curriculum can also enhance empathetic interactions. SEL programs teach students to recognize and manage their own emotions, as well as understand and empathize with others. By modeling these skills, teachers reinforce the importance of empathy and emotional intelligence in the classroom.

Empathy is a cornerstone of effective teaching, deeply influencing students' educational experiences and outcomes. When teachers demonstrate genuine understanding and compassion, they foster a positive and supportive learning environment. This empathetic approach not only enhances students' academic achievements but also contributes to their emotional and social development, preparing them for success both inside and outside the classroom. By prioritizing empathy, educators can build stronger connections with their students and create a more inclusive and effective learning environment.

The author is Teacher III at Balete Elementary School, Tarlac South B District, Tarlac City Schools Division, Region III-Central Luzon

Beyond the Textbook: Assessing the True Measure of Effective Education Through Real-World Application

by LORIE R. TINARIPE

The true measure of effective education extends beyond the confines of textbook learning. It involves assessing whether students can transfer and apply their acquired knowledge to new and varied situations. This capacity for application is a fundamental indicator of deep, meaningful learning and cognitive development. It signifies that students have not only absorbed information but have also integrated it in ways that demonstrate practical understanding and problem-solving skills.

Application is crucial because it reflects a student's ability to utilize their knowledge in real-world contexts. When students are able to apply what they have learned, they show that they can make connections between theoretical concepts and practical scenarios. For example, if students learn about mathematical principles in the classroom, their ability to use these principles to budget personal expenses or solve real-life problems demonstrates a profound grasp of the material. This kind of application reveals that their learning goes beyond

rote memorization, illustrating a deeper, more functional comprehension of the subject matter.

Effective application of knowledge is marked by several key characteristics. Students who can apply their learning often exhibit strong problem-solving abilities, using their knowledge to tackle real-world challenges. They may display creativity and innovation, employing their understanding in novel ways to develop unique solutions or projects. Additionally, critical thinking plays a role in application; students should be able to analyze and evaluate situations using their knowledge, which involves making informed decisions based on evidence. Another important aspect is the ability to draw connections between classroom learning and real-life situations, indicating that the knowledge is not confined to theoretical exercises but has practical relevance.

To foster students' ability to apply their learning, educators can implement various strategies. Project-based learning, for instance, involves students in hands-on projects that require

them to use their knowledge in practical ways. Problem-based learning presents students with complex, open-ended problems to solve, encouraging them to apply their understanding creatively. Interdisciplinary approaches, where students link concepts from different subjects, also promote the application of knowledge across various domains. Reflective practices, where students consider how their learning can be used in different contexts, further enhance their ability to apply what they have learned.

The ability to apply knowledge to new situations is a key indicator of effective learning. When students can transfer their learning to real-world scenarios, it demonstrates that they have achieved a deeper understanding of the material. Educators play a vital role in facilitating this process through engaging and practical learning strategies that encourage students to use their knowledge in diverse and meaningful ways.

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Empowering Students Through Realistic Goal Setting in Philippine Education

by LOVELLA L. MENDOZA

Setting realistic goals for students is a fundamental aspect of the educational process that can significantly impact their motivation, achievement, and overall development. When students have clear, attainable objectives, they are more likely to engage meaningfully with their learning and develop a sense of ownership over their educational journey. Realistic goals provide a roadmap that guides students toward success, helping them to navigate the challenges they may encounter along the way.

One of the primary benefits of establishing realistic goals is the boost in student motivation. When goals are achievable, students feel a sense of accomplishment as they make progress. This incremental success reinforces their belief in their abilities and encourages them to tackle increasingly challenging tasks. In contrast, setting unrealistic goals can lead to frustration and feelings of inadequacy, ultimately diminishing motivation and enthusiasm for learning. By ensuring that goals are aligned with students' individual capabilities, educators create an environment where students are empowered to strive for excellence without feeling

overwhelmed.

Moreover, realistic goals foster a growth mindset among students. When they understand that goals can be achieved through effort and perseverance, they are more likely to embrace challenges rather than shy away from them. This mindset is crucial for developing resilience, as students learn to view setbacks as opportunities for growth rather than as indicators of failure. Teachers can encourage this growth mindset by helping students set goals that reflect their interests and aspirations while also challenging them to step outside their comfort zones.

In addition to enhancing motivation and fostering resilience, setting realistic goals allows for better self-assessment. When students have clear benchmarks to measure their progress, they can reflect on their learning and identify areas for improvement. This self-awareness is vital for personal development, as it encourages students to take responsibility for their educational experiences. By regularly evaluating their progress toward their goals, students can adjust their strategies and approaches, cultivating essential skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving.

Furthermore, realistic goal-setting promotes collaboration between students, teachers, and parents. When teachers involve students in the goal-setting process, they encourage open communication and ensure that everyone is aligned on expectations. This collaborative approach fosters a supportive learning environment where students feel valued and understood. Parents also play a crucial role, as they can reinforce their children's goals at home, creating a holistic support system that enhances student success.

Setting realistic goals is vital for fostering motivation, resilience, and self-awareness in students. By guiding students in establishing achievable objectives, educators create a positive learning environment that encourages personal growth and collaboration. This practice not only enhances academic performance but also prepares students for lifelong learning, equipping them with the skills they need to navigate the complexities of their futures.

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Fostering Positive Behavior in Philippine Classrooms

by MICHELL V. CALARAMO

Managing student behavior is a critical aspect of effective teaching and learning. Establishing a positive classroom environment fosters not only academic achievement but also social and emotional development. One of the most effective strategies for managing student behavior is to create clear expectations. By outlining rules and procedures at the beginning of the school year, teachers provide students with a framework within which they can operate. These expectations should be communicated consistently and reinforced regularly, allowing students to understand the consequences of their actions and the importance of adhering to classroom norms.

Building strong relationships with students is another vital strategy for behavior management. When teachers take the time to connect with their students on a personal level, it fosters trust and respect. This relationship can be established through informal conversations, showing genuine interest in students' lives, and actively listening to their concerns. When students feel valued and understood, they are more likely to engage positively in the classroom and exhibit appropriate behaviors. Additionally,

establishing a sense of community within the classroom can enhance this relationship. Group activities, collaborative projects, and team-building exercises can help create a supportive environment where students feel comfortable expressing themselves.

Positive reinforcement plays a crucial role in managing behavior effectively. Recognizing and rewarding desirable behaviors can motivate students to repeat those actions. This can be done through verbal praise, small rewards, or special privileges. Celebrating achievements, whether academic or behavioral, reinforces positive actions and encourages a culture of respect and cooperation. This approach also emphasizes the importance of focusing on what students are doing right rather than merely addressing misbehavior.

When addressing inappropriate behavior, it is essential to approach the situation with empathy and understanding. Instead of resorting to punitive measures, teachers can use restorative practices that encourage students to reflect on their actions and consider the impact of their behavior on others. This not only promotes accountability but also teaches valuable lessons in conflict resolution and empathy.

Allowing students to participate in discussions about their behavior can help them develop critical thinking skills and foster a sense of ownership over their actions.

Creating a structured classroom environment is also vital for managing behavior. A well-organized classroom reduces distractions and provides a sense of stability for students. Consistent routines and procedures help students understand what is expected of them, allowing them to focus more on learning and less on navigating chaos. Furthermore, incorporating engaging and varied instructional methods can maintain students' interest and reduce behavioral issues that stem from boredom or frustration.

Effective behavior management involves a combination of clear expectations, strong relationships, positive reinforcement, empathetic responses to misbehavior, and structured environments. By implementing these strategies, educators can create a positive and productive classroom atmosphere that fosters both learning and personal growth.

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Navigating Classroom Management Through the Lens of Socioeconomic Status

by RODEL P. AGCAOILI

Classroom management is a critical aspect of effective teaching, encompassing strategies and practices that create a conducive learning environment. Among the various factors influencing classroom management, socioeconomic status plays a significant role. Socioeconomic status affects not only the resources available to students but also their behavior, engagement, and overall academic performance.

Students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds often face unique challenges that can impact their behavior in the classroom. These challenges may include limited access to educational resources, unstable home environments, and increased stress due to financial instability. As a result, students may exhibit behaviors such as disengagement, lack of focus, or even disruptive actions. Understanding these challenges is crucial for educators who aim to implement effective classroom management strategies.

One impact of socioeconomic status on classroom management is the variation in students' preparedness for learning. Students from higher socioeconomic status backgrounds may arrive at school with more resources, such as books, technology, and parental support. In contrast, those from lower socioeconomic status backgrounds may lack these

resources, leading to disparities in readiness to learn. Educators must recognize these differences and adapt their management strategies accordingly. This may involve providing additional support, such as individualized attention or differentiated instruction, to help bridge the gap.

Moreover, the emotional and psychological factors associated with low socioeconomic status can affect students' interactions with peers and teachers. Stressors related to financial instability or family issues can lead to anxiety and behavioral problems in the classroom. Teachers who are aware of these challenges can foster a more supportive environment by building strong relationships with their students. Establishing trust and open communication can encourage students to feel safe and valued, which is essential for effective classroom management.

Additionally, socioeconomic status influences the level of parental involvement in a child's education. Parents from higher socioeconomic status backgrounds may have more time and resources to engage in school activities and support their children's learning at home. In contrast, those from lower socioeconomic status backgrounds might struggle to participate due to work commitments or lack of transportation. Teachers in DepEd can address this disparity by

fostering partnerships with families and creating flexible opportunities for involvement that accommodate diverse circumstances.

Effective classroom management in the context of varying socioeconomic statuses also involves creating an inclusive environment. Implementing culturally responsive practices can help ensure that all students feel represented and respected, which is essential for maintaining a positive classroom atmosphere. Encouraging collaboration among students from different backgrounds can also promote empathy and understanding, further enhancing classroom dynamics.

Socioeconomic status significantly impacts classroom management by influencing students' preparedness, behavior, and engagement. Teachers must be equipped to recognize and address these challenges, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment that meets the needs of all students. By doing so, they can enhance the learning experience and promote academic success for every learner, regardless of their socioeconomic background.

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NBI expands clearance services

CLARK FREEPORT ZONE

— The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has enhanced public access to its services by introducing mobile clearance units and streamlining online processes in Central Luzon.

"These efforts aim to make it easier for residents across the region to secure the crucial NBI clearance, often required for employment, travel, and other legal purposes," NBI Acting Regional Director Isaac Carpeso Jr. explained during the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA).

Carpeso stressed the importance of NBI clearance and its role in the daily lives of Filipinos.

"Aside from our core investigative work, the issuance of an NBI clearance is critical for employment, both locally and abroad, visa applications, and other legal processes," he said.

The NBI's mobile service, dubbed "NBI Clearance on-Wheels", brings clearance application services directly to communities, ensuring greater accessibility for individuals who may not have easy access to regional or district offices,

as Carpeso stressed the bureau's ongoing commitment to providing efficient and accessible services.

"The initiative reflects our focus on making NBI services as convenient as possible for the public," he pointed out.

As of September 15, the NBI-Central Luzon Regional Office has processed 51,939 applications, 2,680 of which are first-time jobseekers who received their NBI

clearance free, as provided under the Republic Act No. 11261 or the First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act.

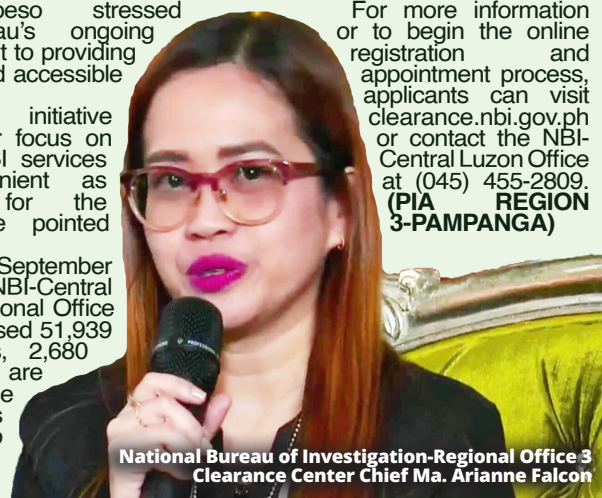
Meanwhile, NBI-Regional Office 3 Clearance Center Chief Ma. Arianne Falcon discussed recent improvements to the clearance application process.

"To ensure convenience and efficiency, we streamlined the entire process. Applicants can now register, schedule appointments, and make payments online through various payment channels like e-wallets and online banking," Falcon explained.

Once registered and payment is made, applicants can visit the nearest NBI Clearance Center on their scheduled appointment date for photo and biometric processing. Falcon added that the entire process for applicants to receive their clearance can take as little as one week.

"We've also introduced an online renewal system for faster service. Renewals can be processed within a day at our main office in Manila, and door-to-door delivery is available for those outside the National Capital Region, taking about seven to ten working days," she said.

For more information or to begin the online registration and appointment process, applicants can visit clearance.nbi.gov.ph or contact the NBI-Central Luzon Office at (045) 455-2809. (PIA REGION 3-PAMPANGA)



National Bureau of Investigation-Regional Office 3 Clearance Center Chief Ma. Arianne Falcon

DOLE-3 boosts CL employment drive

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

— The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is actively promoting employment and safeguarding workers' rights in Central Luzon.

During the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), DOLE Assistant Regional Director Alejandro Inza Cruz emphasized the agency's efforts to create meaningful employment, enhance human resources, and protect worker welfare, all while maintaining industrial peace.

"Our aim is to ensure that every Filipino worker enjoys full, decent, and protected employment," Cruz stated, adding that DOLE's team of over 400 staff in the region drives labor initiatives, playing a key role in achieving this vision.

Cruz highlighted the success of the agency's year-round job fairs which effectively connect job seekers with employers.

At the Labor Day Job Fair, over 5,432 participants applied for more than 34,000 available vacancies where 290 applicants were hired on the spot.

Similarly, the June 12 Independence Day Job Fair attracted 3,644 attendees, resulting in 246 immediate hires.

Altogether, DOLE's job fairs this year have led to over 3,000 on-the-spot hires.

"These job fairs are essential in addressing unemployment and providing immediate work opportunities for Filipinos," Cruz cited.

In addition to facilitating employment, DOLE actively ensures labor standards compliance across key industries. This year, the agency inspected more than 4,000 establishments, focusing on sectors such as manufacturing, construction, agribusiness, and business process outsourcing.

"These inspections address workplace issues and uphold workers' rights as we are committed to keeping workplaces compliant

and protecting the rights of workers," Cruz stressed.

He also underscored DOLE's flagship livelihood programs, which assist disadvantaged workers.

Through the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program, nearly 5,000 beneficiaries in Central Luzon received Php65 million in livelihood support this year. Among the recipients were 590 parents of child laborers who received livelihood packages designed to take their children out of hazardous labor and ensure sustainable incomes.

"Supporting the parents of child laborers is the key to combating child labor and helping families break the cycle of poverty," Cruz explained.

Other beneficiaries included 83 jeepney drivers and operators affected by the public utility vehicle modernization program. DOLE provided Php30,000 worth of in-kind assistance to help them start small businesses, such as goat and hog raising, ice cream selling, and LPG retailing. The agency also extended grocery and rice retailing packages to 44 parolees to support their reintegration into society.

The DOLE's Emergency Employment Program also served as a critical source of relief, providing temporary jobs to 175,810 individuals this year and disbursing Php966.96 million in wages.

In collaboration with the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), DOLE facilitated temporary work for 449 Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) through activities such as grass cutting, waste segregation, and vegetable planting.

"These programs not only provide immediate assistance but also restore workers' dignity by enabling them to contribute to society," Cruz said.

Through its range of employment, labor law compliance, and livelihood support programs, DOLE continues to make significant strides in improving the lives of Filipino workers in Central Luzon. (PIA REGION 3 - PAMPANGA)



Genteel Home: from Silungan to Ugnayan

Genteel Home, the premier furniture brand known for its bespoke, handcrafted pieces that combine elegance with functionality, recently took Singapore by storm with its Silungan experience, which is a mere prelude to its upcoming Ugnayan move.

and collaboration within the creative community. Genteel Home Primary Designer and CEO Katrina De Leon says Ugnayan, which will be showcased in the elegant booth designed by celebrated Filipino architect Royal Pineda, will feature pieces that are a “reflection of my soul.”

Silungan reflected Genteel Home’s commitment to preserving local craftsmanship while fostering innovation.

“Ugnayan is a narrative of communal living, and well represents the close family ties that we Filipinos have,” said De Leon, who has become known to be passionate about artistry and design, bringing her creative vision and attention to detail into every project.

Ugnayan: Bridging Creativity and Community
From Silungan, Genteel Home moves forward with Ugnayan, an initiative that fosters connection



Pamangan Fiestang Kapampangan

A Celebration of Kapampangan Cuisine

October is Fiesta month in Angeles City. And in keeping with the Fiesta vibe, Kuliat Foundation, Inc., the Angeles City Government, through the Angeles City Tourism Office and partner kitchens staged Pamangan Fiestang Kapampangan last October 5.

the region’s unique flavors and cooking techniques.

The festive gastronomic event gathered local chefs, home cooks, and food lovers to enjoy famous Kapampangan delicacies like sisig, bringhe, buro, petition, tibok-tibok and so much more.

Pamangan Fiestang Kapampangan is a vibrant food festival that celebrates the rich culinary heritage of Pampanga, known as the culinary capital of the Philippines. “Pamangan” means “food” in Kapampangan, and the event highlights traditional Kapampangan dishes, showcasing

Pamangan Fiestang Kapampangan was a certified treat for anyone eager to experience the heart and soul of Kapampangan culture through its renowned cuisine.²¹

Photos by Arlyn E. Lukban

