

# THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY

FOUNDED 1955



**Best Western Plus Metro Clark: Back to the '80s** **SEE BACK PAGE**

# Protect the watershed-Pogi



**STATEMENT OF MAYOR CARMELO "POGI" LAZATIN, JR. ON ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION IN ANGELES CITY WATERSHED, BARANGAY SAPANGBATO**

For the past five years, the Angeles City Local Government has waged a consistent reforestation effort at the Angeles City Watershed in Barangay Sapangbato.



The City Government has successfully planted more than 100,000 trees through the collective efforts of its employees, and through the 'adopt-a-watershed' program of the private sector, teachers, students, and Non-Government Organizations.

This is in line with our advocacy to protect the environment, prevent flooding in the City, and ensure that future generations of Angeleños will have a viable source of clean water.

**A**NGELES CITY Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr. has issued a stern warning that illegal constructions will not be tolerated at the Angeles City watershed in Barangay Sapangbato here.

Lazatin said that the Angeles City Watershed is a vital resource of the city and a portion of Barangay Sapangbato has been designated as a 'Non-Buildable Zone' under the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) of the Angeles City local government. "Any attempts to illegally construct within the 'Non-Buildable Zone' threaten not only the ecological balance of the watershed but also the safety and well-being of Angeleños," the mayor said.

"Our priority is to protect the integrity of the Angeles City Watershed, ensuring its natural function as a buffer against flooding and a reliable source of water. This is not just a matter for today's needs but about safeguarding our future," Lazatin pointed out.

"Therefore, I have ordered an immediate **SEE 4 PROTECT THE WATERSHED**

## Pampanga 2nd in PH locally-sourced income

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO** — The Pampanga Provincial Government earned two national awards in local finance, reflecting the excellence of Governor Dennis Pineda in finance generation and management.

The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) of the Department of Finance (DOF) ranked Pampanga second among the Top 10 provinces in Local Source Revenues (LSR) in nominal terms in 2023, generating Php2.345 billion.

The province inched up its ranking from No. 3 in 2022. According to BLGF Memorandum Circular No. 017-2024, the LSR in nominal terms consists of real property tax, business tax, regulatory fees, service/user charges, receipts from economic enterprise and others.

Like in 2022, Pampanga ranked second again in terms of ratio of LSR to total current operating income (TCOI) **SEE 4 PAMPANGA**



## IPMR joins AC council

**ANGELES CITY** — For the first time in its history, an Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) is joining the Angeles City Council.

This after Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr. initiated the creation of one plantilla position for Sangguniang Member in Supplemental Budget No. 4 which was approved by the City Council headed by Vice-Mayor Vicky Vega-Cabigting on September 17, 2024.

Lazatin welcomed the development as he wants to preserve the unique biodiversity of the Aeta community in Barangay Sapangbato which relies on the knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities who live in direct contact with nature.

At the same time, Lazatin also initiated the selection of another position for barangay councilman in Barangay Sapangbato to represent indigenous people.

para sa ating mga kapatid na Aeta dahil kabilang na po sila sa boses sa ating konseho na maglalayong mas mapangalagaan ang kanilang mga karapatan, kultura, at adhikain," Lazatin said.

Carlos Salvador, who was elected by the city's Aeta clan in Barangay Sapangbato, will take the position of IPMR in the City Council while Jun Jun Tolentino was elected Barangay Kagawad of Barangay Sapangbato pursuant to Republic Act 8371 or **SEE 4 IPMR**



## Graft raps filed vs Capil, et al

The Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) and the PNP have filed graft complaints against suspended Porac, Pampanga Mayor Jaime Capil and several other local officials in connection with illegal activities in their jurisdiction.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) confirmed that, in addition to Capil, respondents include Vice-Mayor Francis Laurence Tamayo, Business Permit and Licensing Office (BPLO) Officer-in-Charge Emerald Vital, and Sangguniang Bayan members Rohner Buan, Rafael Canlapan, Adrian Carreon, Regin Clarete, Essel Joy David, Hilario Dimalanta, Michelle Santos, and John Nuevy Venzon.


The officials are accused of violating Sections 3(e), (f), and (j) of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Bulacan Provincial Prosecutor Ramoncito Ocampo Jr. stated that the charges resulted from a coordinated investigation by the PAOCC, DOJ, and PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), along with the Inter-Agency Council against Trafficking.

The case stemmed from the operations of Lucky South 99, an illegal Philippine Offshore Gaming Operator (POGO) in Central Luzon, which authorities claim was involved in cyber scam activities.

The respondents are alleged to have approved permits for the company from 2021 to 2023 with undue haste, despite incomplete application forms.

They are also accused of failing to address reports of criminal activities, including human trafficking, tied to Lucky South 99. **(PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY)**



**Photo by PNA**



# DepEd pushes reforms to enhance student success

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO** — The Department of Education (DepEd) is intensifying its efforts to address the widening learning gap in the Philippines which has reached a 5.5-year disparity



Department of Education OIC-Region 3 Director Ronnie S. Mallari

between the students' current skills and their expected grade levels.

During the 21st episode of the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), DepEd OIC-Regional Director Ronnie S. Mallari discussed findings from a study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

"Our learning gap is now 5.5 years. This means that all Grade 11 students today perform at a level comparable to a 6th Grader," Mallari explained.

To close the gap, he said DepEd will revise the

curriculum, implement targeted learning strategies and improve student retention rates. He stressed the importance of profiling students based on their learning approaches—whether they are directive, collaborative, or self-directed learners.

"By understanding these profiles, DepEd can implement targeted strategies that meet learners' needs and help close the gap. We are implementing strategic directions, particularly in Region 3, as we must take the data seriously," he stressed.

Mallari also cited the high national dropout rate where only 150 of every 1,000 students who start Kindergarten manage to graduate from Grade 12. He explained that DepEd is currently streamlining the Senior High School curriculum to combat this issue.

"This is the proposed reduction in subjects for Grade 11 from 18 to just six with a focus on communication, science, and mathematics," Mallari said.

This streamlined curriculum aims to align with the K to 12 Program's goals of ensuring that Grade 12

SEE PAGE 4  
DEPED

# Japanese firm tapped to boost BCDA connectivity

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with independent telecom tower operator LBS Digital Infrastructure Corporation (LDIC) to undertake a digital infrastructure project to boost internet connectivity in the New Clark City in Tarlac, the Morong Discovery Park in Bataan, Camp John Hay in Baguio City, and areas at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

BCDA President and CEO Joshua M. Bingcang and LDIC President and CEO Ramoncito S. Yu III signed the MOU to fast track discussions with mobile network operators and get their approval in the deployment and subleasing of common towers at the New Clark

City, the Morong Discovery Park, Bonifacio Global City, and Camp John Hay.

The LDIC is a home-grown independent telecommunications tower operator majority owned by major investment and trading Japanese house Sojitz Corporation and Filipino-based firm New Founderco Holdings Corporation.

"Our partnership with LDIC represents a significant step in our goal to ramp up internet connectivity in our developments. Through this initiative, we can build the right infrastructure that will advance and propel the digitalization of businesses and communities present in our developments," Bingcang explained.

This project is in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s program to tap private sector expertise to harness the efficiency of common towers and other passive information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure in providing reliable internet connectivity for all Filipinos.

The LDIC, as prescribed in the MOU, will conduct studies to determine the financial viability and feasibility of the digital infrastructure project without any cost to BCDA, as well as submit pre-investment and business studies within one year upon BCDA's approval.

Aside from LDIC, local telecommunication tower

SEE PAGE 4  
JAPANESE



A bird's eye view of the New Clark City sports complex. (BCDA)

# BCDA inks 3 MOUs with Korean firms

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) signed three new memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with Korean business experts to help the government-owned and -controlled corporation in transforming the New Clark City into Asia's preferred investment and tourism destination.

On the sidelines of Philippines-Korea Business Forum at the Manila Hotel in Manila on October 7, 2024, BCDA and RMS Platform signed an MOU to explore partnership opportunities on smart city infrastructure development, including a proof of concept on an eGovernment digital platform for New Clark City.

The proposed platform is

seen to be a one-stop shop for citizens and locators, providing them access to city information, various web-based services, and online transactions.

The BCDA also signed an MOU with the Korea Overseas Infrastructure and Urban Development Corporation (KIND) for studies on the development of affordable residential communities in New Clark City.

The BCDA and KIND will explore innovative solutions for developing housing projects that are both cost-effective and sustainable, ensuring that the communities provide quality living environments for Filipino families.

SEE PAGE 4  
BCDA



**PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS.** The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and the Korea-based RMS Platform signed on October 7, 2024 a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to explore partnerships on smart city infrastructure development. (BCDA)

# DOH boosts programs on health ageing

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO** — The Department of Health (DOH) Central Luzon Center for Health Development (CLCHD) is strengthening programs that will improve the quality of life of senior citizens.

DOH CLCHD Non-Communicable Diseases Cluster Senior Health Program Officer Agnes Alipio said they are implementing the Healthy and Productive Ageing Strategic Framework to ensure better health for all aging Filipinos through the provision of health service packages and integration of continuum quality of care in various settings.

"Under this framework, we have four core strategies: health promotion, disease prevention, curative, and long-term care, which we are implementing in collaboration with different national government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders," Alipio said.

For health promotion, Alipio said older people should be educated and reminded how to remain healthy by being physically active, refraining from smoking and drinking alcohol, eating healthy and nutritious foods that are appropriate for their age, getting enough rest and sleep, and promoting spiritual and psychosocial well-being to

avoid stress and anxiety. She said it is also important to educate the elderly on prevention from communicable diseases such as pulmonary tuberculosis pneumonia, and COVID-19 as well as non-communicable diseases like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hypertension, and diabetes.

"For the primary prevention, we offer free immunization against flu and pneumonia. For secondary prevention, screening for early detection of chronic diseases, including common types of cancer, is important. And for our tertiary prevention, there should be appropriate clinical management of diseases to mitigate their severity," Alipio shared.

SEE PAGE 4  
DOH



# 'Siete Palabras' documentary lauded

**ANGELES CITY** — Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr. expressed heartfelt congratulations to the creators of the short documentary "Siete Palabras" after it received the Jury Award for Best Documentary at the International Film Festival Manhattan 2024.

Directed by Jayson Gantan Pabalan and produced by Nicanor Abelardo Soriano, the documentary celebrates a century-old tradition in Barangay Lourdes Northwest in this city showcasing the cultural and spiritual heritage of the community.

Lazatin lauded the team's achievement, noting that the documentary not only brings international recognition to the city's rich history but also fosters a deeper appreciation for local traditions.

"Their work highlights the beauty and identity of our city's culture and resiliency. I commend them for presenting Angeles City with such creativity, hard work, and dedication," Lazatin said.

The documentary shows the religious traditions practiced in the barangay during the observance of Holy Week.

The film, which delves into the community's long-standing religious observance, was praised for its storytelling and for preserving the legacy of faith and unity that defines Barangay Lourdes Northwest.

The city government, though Lazatin's programs, continues to support artistic endeavors that promote the city's heritage, encouraging future projects that will inspire Angeleños and showcase their talents on the global stage. (ANGELES CIO)





# KUWENTONG PEYUPS

ATTY. DENNIS GORECHO

## Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) and the struggle for self-determination



**D**ESPITE the enactment of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) or R.A. No. 8371 27 years ago, conflicting laws and policies have made the implementation of this law quite challenging.

This was the pronouncement of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), through its Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples (ECIP), on the 47th Indigenous People's Sunday last 13 October 2024 with the theme "Lakbay-Laya: Pilgrims of Hope in Ancestral Domain".

"The celebration of IP Sunday aims to highlight the current situations of indigenous peoples, garner support from our non-indigenous brothers and sisters, and provide the necessary assistance to alleviate the challenges faced by approximately 15 million indigenous people throughout the country," says Ifugao and Mountain Province Bishop Valentin C. Dimoc, D.D., ECIP chairperson in his letter of appeal.

Bishop Dimoc stressed that "it is crucial to place greater emphasis on our indigenous sisters and brothers, who have long been excluded from many decisions".

In their July 1978 assembly, the CBCP designated every second Sunday of October as IP Sunday wherein priests are expected to give homilies and commentaries on the plight of the IPs as well as encourage Christian lowlanders to express their solidarity with the IPs' struggle for self-determination.

The IPRA was signed into law by President Fidel Ramos on October 29, 1997 to support the cultural integrity of IPs, the right to their lands, and the right to self-directed development of these lands.

Former Senator Juan Flavio Velasco, one of IPRA's authors, noted that the "IPs are the offsprings and heirs of the peoples who have first

inhabited and cared for the land long before any central government was established".

The Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC) said in a paper that much of the legal controversy emanates from overlapping and unclarified jurisdiction of various departments of the government, particularly in the processing and awarding of tenurial instruments.

Despite the aspirations of IPRA, the LRC noted that it may not be interpreted to mean limiting the jurisdiction of Courts nor does it imply that the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) has primary and sole jurisdiction over all Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)/IPs claims and disputes to the exclusion of the regular courts. This also applies to the few criminal cases.

The Supreme Court issued on August 15, 2023 a Writ of Kalikasan against Ipilan Nickel Corp. and Celestial Nickel Mining and Exploration Corp. and in favor of the ICCs of Brooke's Point, Palawan.

It found that the continued mining operations and excavation of nickel may cause irreparable environmental damage to the Mt. Mantalingahan protected area and the ICCs' ancestral domain as exhibited by extreme flooding and contamination of fishing areas.

"The indigenous peoples' struggle for their rights has long been enduring. Their struggle for the recognition of their rights to land and self-determination is rooted in their effort for cultural and human survival. We should honor the struggle of our people," according to my UP Law professor and now Supreme Court Associate Justice Marvic Leonen in the case of Sama vs People (G.R. No. 224469, January 5, 2021).

Leonen underscored that IPRA recognizes that IPs have a claim of ownership, not only upon the ancestral domain but also

on the resources found in them. It acknowledges that the ancestral domain and the resources located therein constitute the IPs' basis for their cultural integrity.

Justice Leonen stressed in *Ha Datu Tawahig vs. Lapinid* (G.R. No. 221139, March 20, 2019) that the IPRA was adopted precisely recognizing that indigenous peoples have been "resistant to political, social, and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and cultures, and became historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos".

In *Daco vs Cabajar*, (G.R. No. 222611, November 15, 2021), Justice Leonen said that IPRA grants the ICCs the ownership and possession of their ancestral domains and ancestral lands, and defines the extent of these lands and domains. The ownership given is the indigenous concept of ownership under customary law which traces its origin to native title.

"Tumandok" is the biggest winner for this year's Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival that centered on the struggle of the Ati indigenous people to reclaim their ancestral domain in Iloilo.

It won Best Film "for its focus on a marginalized sector of Philippine society; for its nearly epic sweep of the life and landscape of a people disempowered by the wealthy and the powerful and victimized by government neglect and corruption; for its highly convincing characters and effective ensemble acting by a cast of non-professional actors; and for its highly effective filmmaking in defense of the rights of indigenous people to their ancestral domain".

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

## NLEX renovates NOLCOM chapel as thank you

NLEX Corporation, in partnership with its contractor, has renovated the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel of the Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Tarlac City as part of its commitment to social responsibility for its neighboring communities.

NLEX Corporation President and General Manager J. Luigi L. Bautista expressed that this act is a humble way of showing gratitude for the unparalleled service of the soldiers who have dedicated their lives to the people and the country. NLEX hopes that the renovated chapel will serve as a sanctuary for the soldiers, providing a place to find peace and renew their spiritual strength.

Built in the 1960s, the chapel has been a shelter for Catholic uniformed personnel and nearby communities, especially during times of disaster. Despite facing deterioration over the years, the chapel has continued to strengthen the faith of its visitors. NLEX Corporation recognized the profound impact the chapel has had on the lives of those who

have served to uphold peace and stability, particularly in the Northern and Central Luzon regions where the expressway traverses. Therefore, the tollway company pledged to undertake its renovation without hesitation.

NOLCOM Deputy Commander Commo Karl A. Decapia PN expressed gratitude to NLEX Corporation and all the people behind the project. He also shared a meaningful message with his fellow soldiers: "Let us use this temple of God to uplift each other, support each other, and inspire each other to become the best versions of ourselves," he stated.

The chapel repair was part of the NOLCOM refurbishment project led by NLEX. Last year, NLEX, with partner construction firms, completed the renovation of the NOLCOM transient facility.

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



(From left to right) MPTC Director and Consultant Rodrigo E. Franco; Mr. Francis Pramis; NOLCOM Deputy Commander Commo Karl A. Decapia PN; NLEX President and GM J. Luigi L. Bautista; and MSGC Chairperson, Dr. Myrna Mallari

## Kambal Trade Fair opens

**ANGELES CITY** — Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr. led the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the One Town One Product (OTOP) Trade Fair on October 15, 2024 at the Plaza Angel of the Museo ning Angeles.

Dubbed the "Kambal Festival Trade Fair", the trade fair showcases "Gawang Angeleño" products from the city's OTOP Store. It will be up until October 26, 2024 and opened from 8 AM to 8 PM.

"Our administration will continue promoting locally-made products and hosting various trade fairs as part of this year's Fiestang Kuliat celebration," Lazatin said.

The mayor was joined by Chief Adviser IC Calaguas, Executive Assistant IV Reina Manuel, Angeles City Economic Development and Investment Promotion Office headed by Irish



Bonus-Llego, and the Mutya ning Angeles 2024 candidates during the opening ceremony.

Barangay Sto. Rosario Captain Rey Cosme and Kuliat Foundation Inc. President Lincoln Baluyut also showed support for Angeleño products.

Trade fair participants include Impact Balibago Arts and Crafts (IBAC), K's Creations, Tamayuq, Izzamway, Teresa's Mashroom,

Woodcraft by Madison, Tabak's, Cutud Weavers, Ellen Turla, Flores Handicraft, Micary Fragrance, Super EC, Tsokola-T, Glitz and Glamz, Ataste of Angel's Food Delights, Macabebest Halo-halo, Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita, and Organics Farmers.

The OTOP Store was revitalized in 2019, as one of the flagship projects of the Lazatin administration. (ANGELES CIO)



THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY

ISSN 0115-6845

EDITORIAL TEAM

Founder: † 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: Charmaine N. Cayanan

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: thevoicenewsweekly@gmail.com  
 thevoice.mktg@gmail.com  
 lincoln.baluyut@gmail.com

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

Legal Rate: PHP 160 per column centimeter  
 Commercial Rate: PHP 200 per column centimeter  
 Subscription Rate: 1 year - P2,000 / 6 months - P1,000



THEVOICENEWSWEEKLY



**PROTECT THE WATERSHED... FROM PAGE 1**

thorough composite inspection of the area by the Office of the City Building Official (OCBO), the City Engineering Office (CEO), the Business Permit and Licensing Division (BPLD), the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), the City Planning and Development Office (CPDO), the City Health Office (CHO) Sanitation Division, and officials of Barangay Sapangbato," he said.

The mayor also said that they will seek the help of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to preserve the area.

"All illegal constructions must be shut down without delay," Lazatin stressed.

At the same time, Lazatin called on Angeleños to help him in protecting the Sapangbato Watershed.

"I am appealing to all Angeleños to be vigilant and help us protect the Sapangbato Watershed. If you see illegal activities at the watershed,

whether it is construction or any action that could harm the environment, immediately report these to the city government. The future of our water supply and the safety of our community depend on it," the mayor stressed.

Lazatin underscored the importance of the watershed's protection and its vital role to sustain the city's environmental balance. As a non-buildable zone in the CLUP and Zoning Ordinance, illegal construction activities threaten its stability and the safety of Angeleños.

Meanwhile, the composite city government team that inspected the watershed area shut down six business establishments while two residential houses were given cease-and-desist orders to stop construction.

BPLD Head Enrico Romero revealed the six establishments that were shut down, three restaurants and three resorts, were all operating without business permits.

For the past five years, the Angeles City Local Government has waged a consistent reforestation effort at the Angeles City Watershed.

The City Government has successfully planted more than 100,000 trees, so far, through the collective efforts of its employees and through the 'Adopt-a-Watershed' Program of the private sector, teachers, students, and non-government organizations (NGOs).

"This is in line with our advocacy to protect the environment, prevent flooding in the city, and ensure that future generations of Angeleños will have a viable source of clean water," Lazatin said.

"Let this serve as a strong warning: ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES IN THE WATERSHED WILL NOT BE TOLERATED," the mayor stressed. (ANGELES CIO)

**IPMR... FROM PAGE 1**

the Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997.

RA 8371 mandates the representation of IPs in all policy making bodies and other local legislative councils and to enjoy the same privileges as the regular members of the legislative bodies.

The council will welcome the IPMR as its 13th member, and the Department of Budget and Management approved the City Council's appropriation ordinance for the classification of the newly-created position for Salvador's new office and staff.

According to the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), IPMR representatives are tasked with creating a legislative agenda in partnership with the community they represent.

Furthermore, IP consultative bodies

advance grassroots representation by providing a platform for IP elders and leaders.

In 2023, Lazatin initiated the selection of IPMR in the City Council to strengthen the indigenous peoples' capacity to advocate for their rights.

Lazatin ordered City Councilor Atty. Arvin "Pogs" Suller to help the Aeta community in Barangay Sapangbato in creating an IPMR in the City Council.

During the general assembly in 2023, the elders and leaders of the Aeta communities in Sitio Target, Sitio Babo and Sitio Bliss crafted and presented the local guidelines for the IPMR.

Meanwhile, the NCIP aided them to validate and document the selection process with the assistance of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). (ANGELES CIO)

**DEPED... FROM PAGE 2**

graduates are college-ready, employable, and prepared for entrepreneurship or middle-skill careers.

Mallari assured DepEd Region 3 personnel that change is underway and urged collaboration to achieve the goal of delivering quality education.

"I hope we can all work together to provide the quality education our learners deserve. Let's strive for a

Magara at Bagong Pilipinas," he stressed.

As DepEd implements these changes, the focus remains on fostering an educational environment that equips students with the necessary skills to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. This commitment to close the learning gap reflects a dedication to the future of the nation's youth. (PIA REGION 3-PAMPANGA)

**PAMPANGA... FROM PAGE 1**

at 39.65 percent.

The TCOI consists of locally sourced income and external sources like national tax allotment and others, the BLGF stated.

Records from the BLFG showed that Pampanga has been in the top rankings since 2019.

"Ang mga awards pong ito ay patunay ng mabuti at maayos nating

pag-gobyerno. Mga Kapampangan po ang nakikinabang sa kita na ginagamit natin para sa mga serbisyo sa kanila," Pineda said. (PAMPANGA PIO)

**BCDA... FROM PAGE 2**

These signing events coincided with Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's first state visit to the country, with the aim of enhancing bilateral relations between South Korea and the Philippines in a myriad of fields of cooperation, including infrastructure development and trade and investments.

On October 08, 2024, BCDA and Korea-based Fine TME signed another MOU for the development of a collaborative framework to conduct studies on the efficient operation and maintenance of New Clark City sports facilities.

Through the introduction of latest technologies, this partnership aims to promote the New Clark City as a premier hub for national and international sports events in Asia.

"The willingness of our Korean partners to share their expertise in building smart, inclusive cities will help us set global standards on urban development in the country through the New Clark City. We are confident that with their expertise and technical know-how, we can further transform the New Clark City into the Philippines' model for urban development catalyzed by smart city and sustainable technologies," BCDA President and CEO Joshua Bingchang said.

Transforming the whole of Clark into Asia's next investment and tourism destination is the BCDA Group's contribution to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s Build Better More Program, consistent with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 9 which is helping to build resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation.

**JAPANESE... FROM PAGE 2**

operator PhilTower Consortium Inc. has expressed interest in partnering with BCDA to further improve digital connectivity in BCDA's developments such as Bonifacio Global City, New Clark City, and the Morong Discovery Park.

PhilTower currently has existing rooftop cell sites at the New Clark City, located at the Government Building and the National Academy of Sports.

The BCDA is also implementing the commercialization of the passive ICT infrastructure in the New Clark City, which is seen to form the foundation for a robust fiber infrastructure and competitive retail internet services in the 9,450-hectare metropolis.

These initiatives are consistent with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 9, helping to build resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. (BCDA)

**DOH... FROM PAGE 2**

Aside from this, she also said that people should be aware of the geriatric syndrome and watch out for dementia, delirium, depression, constipation, urinary incontinence, frailty, sensory deficit, and other degenerative diseases.

"The elderly are more vulnerable and prone to injuries due to these conditions. That's why if we are aware of these, we can support and take care of our elderly better to avoid accidents," Alipio stressed.

On the curative aspect, Alipio said DOH is working on increasing the affordability and access to essential medication and ensure appropriate cost-effective use of current and new drugs.

Republic of the Philippines  
Regional trial court  
Third Judicial Region  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
Hall of Justice Building  
City Hall Compound, Angeles City  
rtc1angacc@judiciary.gov.ph

HOME DEVELOPMENT  
MUTUAL FUND (known as PAG-  
IBIG FUND),  
Mortgagee.

EXTRA-JUDICIAL  
FORECLOSURE OF REAL  
ESTATE MORTGAGE  
UNDER ACT 3135, as  
AMENDED  
FC Case No. 2024-0083

- versus -

JUSTIN PAUL ABAD SANTOS,  
Mortgagor.

x-----x

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial application for sale under Act 3135, as Amended filed by the above-named Mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND, a government financial institution duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the Republic Act No. 9676 with principal office at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, 1200 Makati City, herein represented by its Atty-in Fact, ENGR. DANILO P. CATOLOS, c/o Jeffrey A. Ramientas, CPA, GREATSOURCE CORPORATION, No. 2546 A. Bonifacio St. Bangkal, Makati City, against the Mortgagor, JUSTIN PAUL ABAD SANTOS, likewise of legal age, with residence and postal address at No. 4110 9th St., Marisol Subd., Brgy. Ninoy Aquino, Angeles City and/or of Lot 14, Blk., 17 Fiesta Communities Porac II, Manibaug Paralaya, Porac, Pampanga, in order to satisfy the mortgage debt therein which as of 15 June 2024, amounts to SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY SIX THOUSAND NINETY THREE PESOS and 93/100 (Php686,093.93), Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest and other charges, all secured by this Mortgage, the undersigned Sheriff IV hereby gives notice and announces that on the 28th day of October 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the Municipal Trial Court of Porac, 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. 042-2021000195

A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN THE BARANGAY OF MANIBAUG PARALAYA, MUNICIPALITY OF PORAC, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, ISLAND OF LUZON, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

LOT NO: 14 BLOCK NO: 17 PLAN NO: PSD-03-209758  
PORTION OF: LOT 136-A, PSD-38457  
LOCATION: BARANGAY OF MANIBAUG PARALAYA, MUNICIPALITY OF PORAC, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, ISLAND OF LUZON

BOUNDARIES	LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT(S)
	1-2	NE	LOT 12, BLOCK 17, PSD-03-209758
	2-3	SE	ROAD LOT 18, PSD-03-209758
	3-4	SW	LOT 16, BLOCK 17, PSD-03-209758
	4-1	NW	LOT 15, BLOCK 17, PSD-03-209758

AREA: FORTY FIVE SQUARE METERS (45), 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 28 November 2024 at the same time and place without further notice.

Angeles City, 28 August 2024.

CLAUDE B. BALASBAS  
Sheriff IV  
Contact no. 09206373475

Copy furnished:

- HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND - The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, 1200 Makati City, herein represented by its Atty-in Fact, ENGR. DANILO P. CATOLOS, c/o Jeffrey A. Ramientas, CPA, GREATSOURCE CORPORATION, No. 546 A. Bonifacio St., Bangkal, Makati City
- JUSTIN PAUL ABAD SANTOS - No. 4110 9th St., Marisol Subd., Brgy. Ninoy Aquino, Angeles City and/or of Lot 14, Blk., 17 Fiesta Communities Porac II, Manibaug, Porac, Pampanga

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY October 20, 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  
represented by his atty-in-fact LIZA  
MACASPAC ARAÑES,

Petitioner, SP PROC, NO, G-24-2841  
-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. Macasapac. He is represented by his aunt and attorney-in-fact Liza Macasapac 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



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

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

**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 Dilemmas of Teachers in Implementing the MATATAG Curriculum in DepEd

by **ARIEL S. VALLEDOR**

The implementation of the MATATAG curriculum by the Department of Education (DepEd) in the Philippines presents a series of dilemmas for teachers that can hinder the effectiveness of educational reforms. While the intention behind MATATAG is commendable—aiming to provide a holistic, learner-centered approach—it faces significant challenges that affect teachers' ability to adapt and thrive in this new educational landscape.

One primary dilemma teachers face is the lack of adequate training and resources. Despite the curriculum's emphasis on innovative teaching strategies, many educators feel ill-equipped to implement these changes. Professional development programs, while essential, are often insufficient in both duration and depth. Teachers may receive brief workshops without follow-up support, leaving them overwhelmed and unsure of how to integrate new methods into their classrooms effectively. This gap in training not only affects teachers' confidence but also limits students' learning experiences, as educators may revert to traditional methods out of necessity.

Additionally, the MATATAG curriculum requires a shift in assessment practices, moving from rote memorization to a more comprehensive evaluation of students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills. However, teachers face the dilemma of balancing these new assessment criteria with the pressures of standardized testing. The emphasis on measurable outcomes often forces educators to prioritize test preparation over meaningful learning experiences, creating a conflict between the curriculum's objectives and the realities of accountability measures.

Another significant concern is the issue of curriculum overload. Teachers report feeling burdened by the extensive content and expectations outlined in MATATAG. This overload not only diminishes the quality of instruction but also leads to teacher burnout. With limited time to cover an already packed syllabus, educators struggle to foster a deeper understanding of subjects among their students, undermining the curriculum's goals of nurturing critical and creative thinkers.

Moreover, the implementation

of MATATAG also raises concerns regarding inclusivity. Teachers are tasked with addressing diverse learning needs within their classrooms, yet the curriculum may not provide adequate strategies for differentiating instruction. This challenge can exacerbate educational inequities, as students who require additional support may not receive the attention they need, further complicating teachers' responsibilities.

In conclusion, while the MATATAG curriculum aims to revolutionize education in the Philippines, its successful implementation is fraught with dilemmas for teachers. Addressing the lack of training and resources, balancing assessment pressures, managing curriculum overload, and ensuring inclusivity are critical steps that must be taken. Without adequate support and systemic changes, the intended benefits of MATATAG may remain unrealized, leaving both teachers and students at a disadvantage in the evolving educational landscape.

**The author is Master Teacher 1 at Cabuyoan Elementary School, Panganiban District, Schools Division Office of Catanduanes, Bicol Region**

## The Implications of Delayed Delivery of Learner Materials in DepEd

by **RODEL P. AGCAOILI**

The delayed delivery of learner materials by the Department of Education (DepEd) in the Philippines has become a pressing issue that undermines the quality of education and exacerbates existing inequalities. While logistical challenges are often cited as reasons for these delays, the ramifications extend far beyond mere inconvenience, impacting both teachers and students in profound ways.

One of the most critical implications of delayed materials is the disruption of the learning process. In a rapidly evolving educational landscape, timely access to textbooks, workbooks, and other instructional resources is essential for effective teaching and learning. When materials arrive late, teachers are forced to improvise, often resorting to outdated resources or makeshift solutions that can compromise the quality of instruction. This situation not only hampers the ability to deliver the curriculum effectively but also diminishes student engagement and motivation, as learners are deprived of the tools necessary to fully participate in their education.

Moreover, the delays exacerbate educational inequities,

particularly for students in underprivileged areas. Schools in rural or underserved regions often face greater challenges in acquiring materials, and any delay compounds these issues, leaving students at a disadvantage compared to their peers in more affluent areas. This disparity can lead to widening achievement gaps, undermining the very goals of the education system to provide equitable opportunities for all learners. In an era where educational equity is a paramount concern, such delays are not just logistical failures; they represent systemic injustices that can affect a generation of students.

Additionally, the delayed delivery of learner materials places immense pressure on teachers. With the expectation to deliver high-quality instruction regardless of resource availability, teachers find themselves in a constant state of stress and frustration. This scenario can lead to burnout and decreased job satisfaction, further exacerbating the teacher shortage crisis in the country. When teachers are overwhelmed, their ability to foster a supportive and engaging learning environment diminishes, negatively impacting student outcomes.

Furthermore, the issue reflects a broader systemic failure within the DepEd. Persistent delays suggest inadequate planning, resource allocation, and management. To build a robust educational system, it is crucial for the government to address these logistical challenges proactively, ensuring that schools have the materials they need at the start of the academic year. Investing in efficient supply chain management and prioritizing timely distribution can significantly enhance the learning experience for all students.

The delayed delivery of learner materials in DepEd is a multifaceted issue that disrupts the educational process, exacerbates inequalities, and places undue strain on teachers. Addressing this challenge is essential for fostering a more effective and equitable education system, ensuring that every student has access to the resources they need to succeed. Timeliness in material delivery is not merely a logistical concern; it is a fundamental component of a thriving educational environment.

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

## Subic Bay Port hosts 23rd ports conference

**SUBIC BAY FREEPORT** — The Port of Subic Bay in this premier freeport recently hosted the 23rd International Network of Affiliated Ports (INAP) Conference on October 16, 2024.

INAP Subic Organizing Committee Chairman and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Deputy Administrator for Operations Martin Kristoffer Roman said with this year's theme, "Promoting Resiliency and Disaster Preparedness", Heads of Ports shared their best practices in port and environmental management to promote mutually-beneficial opportunities for all the ports, especially the member-ports.

Roman explained that INAP is an organization of ports established in Japan in 1998 where Subic port is one of the founding members. The two-day conference is held annually and had just concluded in the

incoming INAP chairman's home port. In 2014, the Port of Subic Bay also hosted the INAP conference.

Best practices with respect to environmental protection and disaster preparedness were also shared by member-ports, namely: the Ports of Cebu and Davao, Philippines; the Port of Chittagong, Bangladesh; Colombo, Sri Lanka; Dangjin, South Korea; Mokpo, Korea; Kochi, Japan; Qingdao, China; and, Tanjung Perak, Indonesia.

Delegates from Thailand and Vietnam also joined the conference to observe the benefits of INAP membership.

"For the Port of Subic Bay, we shared emerging and green technologies, that will help reduce carbon footprints, and similar projects, whether completed or upcoming," INAP Subic Organizing Committee Vice-Chairman and Seaport Assistant General Manager

Philip Lazaro said.

A highlight of the conference was the formal turnover of the INAP leadership from the Port of Kochi, Japan to the Port of Subic Bay.

The INAP conference also included a tree-planting activity by the Heads of Ports, plant tours and a bay cruise on the waters of Subic Bay.

Roman thanked the Subic Bay International Terminal Corp. (SBITC), the Subic Bay Freeport Grain Terminal Services Inc., and La Banca for their partnership and active participation in the planning of activities for the 23rd INAP Conference.

Around 300 stakeholders, port users, residents, locators, and neighboring local government units joined the 58 delegates from the member-ports during the symposium.

**(SBMA MEDIA PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT)**





# Best Western Plus Metro Clark

## Retro Pulse, The New Wave Era A Suppliers Night



Best Western Plus Metro Clark, the must-visit and must-experience hotel north of Manila, paid homage to its valued suppliers with an '80s inspired 'Ready, Set, Glow' party whose theme is 'Retro Pulse - The New Wave Era'.

Garbed in their glowing outfits, the guests took a step back in time by moving and grooving to the magical music of the amazing 1980s.



LINCOLN M. BALUYUT



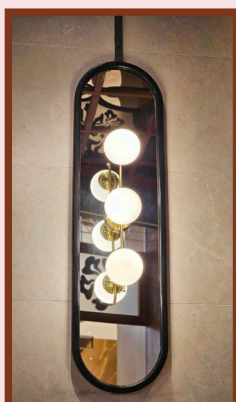
## Las Flores: Hola A Buena Comida

Comida deliciosa con buena compania. Delightful food with good company. That is the best description of the fun, hearty and delicious lunch we had in the company of our favorite people, at our newfound favorite Spanish resto.

contemporary presentation. Guests can indulge in classic tapas, flavorful paellas, and expertly crafted cocktails, all while enjoying an ambiance that is a perfect mix of warm, inviting and cozy.

Las Flores offers a refined dining experience with a taste of Spain's rich culinary traditions. Nestled within the luxurious 8th Avenue wing of Hann Resort, this elegant restaurant blends authentic Spanish flavors with

With its focus on fresh ingredients and traditional recipes, Las Flores promises a delightful journey through Spain's vibrant cuisine, perfect for intimate lunches with friends, dinners with family and special celebrations with loved ones.



ARLYN E. LUKBAN