



Beautéderm hosts block screening for 'Call Me Mother' Page 6

# Gov centers 2026 agenda on healthcare, youth dev't

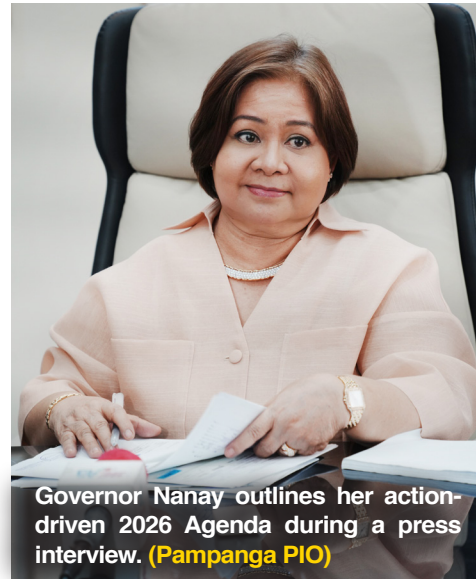
**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO** — Governor Nanay Pineda has unveiled a focused and action-driven 2026 Agenda on Healthcare and Youth Development, emphasizing inclusive care, faster government response, and stronger support systems for vulnerable sectors across the province.

During a press interview at the Capitol Compound, the Governor outlined her agenda that include the passage of ordinances to institutionalize dedicated care centers for individuals with autism and to establish Youth Care Centers for young people experiencing psychological and mental health concerns. These initiatives are anchored on the Alagang Nanay mandate, ensuring that compassionate and accessible care remains a priority of the provincial government.

The Capitol also plans to significantly strengthen its feeding programs to address malnutrition, particularly among children and families in high-risk and underserved communities. At the same time, the provincial government is committed to sustaining Zero Balance Billing in public hospitals by ensuring that funding remains flexible, responsive, and immediately deployable, allowing healthcare services to be delivered without delay.

To accelerate implementation, the

SEE PAGE 4  
GOV



Governor Nanay outlines her action-driven 2026 Agenda during a press interview. (Pampanga PIO)



## CIAC backs return of Hot Air Balloon Fest in Clark

**NEW CLARK CITY** — The Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC), through its Clark Aviation Capital (CAC) flagship projects, has expressed full support for the Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta (PIHABF) at New Clark City, citing its role in strengthening Central Luzon's position as a tourism and events hub.

CIAC said the return of the international festival to Clark reflects the gains from continued investments in aviation, connectivity, and master-planned developments in the area. These developments are supported by the ongoing expansion of leisure spaces and outdoor parks within Clark Aviation Capital and nearby growth areas, which are designed to host large-scale public gatherings, MICE activities, and international events.

The state-run firm noted that while Clark continues to grow

as a premier aviation and logistics center, it is also emerging as a lifestyle and events destination. CIAC emphasized that the development of open green spaces and flexible event venues highlights its commitment to balanced and sustainable growth that benefits both the economy and the community.

CIAC, through Clark Aviation Capital, said it looks forward to welcoming visitors, families, and aviation enthusiasts to Clark and to supporting events such as the Hot Air Balloon Fiesta, which help generate economic activity and strengthen community engagement.

Meanwhile, CIAC announced that it will provide free shuttle rides to the event venue for the duration of the Hot Air Balloon Fiesta. A mini bus will be stationed at the Clark International Airport (CRK) P2P Bus Terminal to serve attendees.



## DID YOU KNOW? 1st Aeta lawyer

Wayda Cosme is the first Aeta to become a lawyer, passing the bar exams in 2001 at the age of 26. After graduating from the Harvardian Colleges in the City of San Fernando through a scholarship, she became a lawyer for the Clark Development Corporation (CDC).

An advocate for indigenous rights, she was invited to attend the United Nations 20th session working group on indigenous peoples in Geneva, Switzerland in 2022 to speak on issues regarding ancestral

domain, human rights, and discrimination.

Her life story was featured in an episode of the GMA-7 drama anthology show "Magpakailanman" titled "Abot Tanaw Ang Bukas," where she was portrayed by actress Jolina Magdangal.

Her journey is widely celebrated as a milestone for indigenous representation and a testament to overcoming systemic barriers through perseverance. (Photo courtesy of GMA-7 Magpakailanman)

## ACPO launches ‘Biggest Loser’ Program

**ANGELES CITY —** The Angeles City Police Office (ACPO), led by City Director PCOL Joselito E. Villarosa Jr., officially launched the ‘Biggest Loser Program’ at the ACPO Covered Court.

The program, participated in by PCOs and PNCOs, highlights ACPO’s commitment to health, wellness, and physical fitness among its personnel.

In his message, PLTCOL Gerald T.

Licyayo, DCDA, encouraged participants to stay disciplined and motivated, stressing that a healthy lifestyle improves both personal well-being and professional performance.

The Biggest Loser Program aims to enhance fitness, promote discipline, and strengthen camaraderie within ACPO, supporting the office’s mission to build a healthy and resilient police force.



## Clark Marriott Hotel earns ASEAN MICE Venue Award

**CLARK FREEPORT —** Clark Marriott Hotel has begun the year on a high note after being recognized once again at the ASEAN Tourism Standards Awards, receiving the ASEAN MICE Venue distinction.

The recognition affirms the hotel’s

commitment to rigorous service standards and excellence in providing world-class meeting, incentive, convention, and exhibition (MICE) facilities. With this latest honor, Clark Marriott Hotel

SEE PAGE 4  
CLARK  
MARRIOTT



## DSWD opens Pag-Abot processing center at Capitol



**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO —** The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in partnership with the Provincial Government of Pampanga, has opened the Pag-Abot Processing Center at the Capitol Compound to strengthen social protection services for street dwellers and other vulnerable sectors.

DSWD Field Office III Innovation Division OIC-Chief Marites Liwanag said the facility aims to protect children, individuals, and families engaged in street begging and homelessness, which expose them to risks and accidents on major roads and public spaces.

“Staffed by trained social workers, the Pag-Abot Processing Center provides case assessment, documentation, and case management to determine appropriate interventions, including psychosocial support, livelihood assistance, and referral to long-term programs,” she explained.

With its 16-bed capacity and basic living facilities, the center can accommodate

clients from distant regions for up to 15 days while arrangements for reintegration to their home regions are processed.

Clients from nearby areas are closely coordinated with their respective local government units (LGUs) for immediate reintegration.

Liwanag added that the establishment of the Pag-Abot Processing Center emphasizes the need for early intervention and proper values formation among children and youth.

For her part, Governor Lilia Pineda expressed her support for the initiative, noting that collaboration between national agencies and LGUs is essential in addressing the needs of vulnerable sectors in the province.

With the opening of the facility, both DSWD and the provincial government expect a reduction in the number of street dwellers, especially during the holiday season, while improving the overall well-being of vulnerable individuals and families.

## AC celebrates dual honors for child-friendly governance

**ANGELES CITY —** Angeles City has earned dual recognition in the 2025 Presidential Award for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities (PACFMC), securing honors as a National Finalist and Regional Winner.

The City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO), led by Officer-in-Charge Francis Daw Guzman, formally presented the plaques of recognition to Mayor Carmelo “Jon” Lazatin II. The awards were conferred during ceremonies held on December 22, 2025, at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City, led by the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

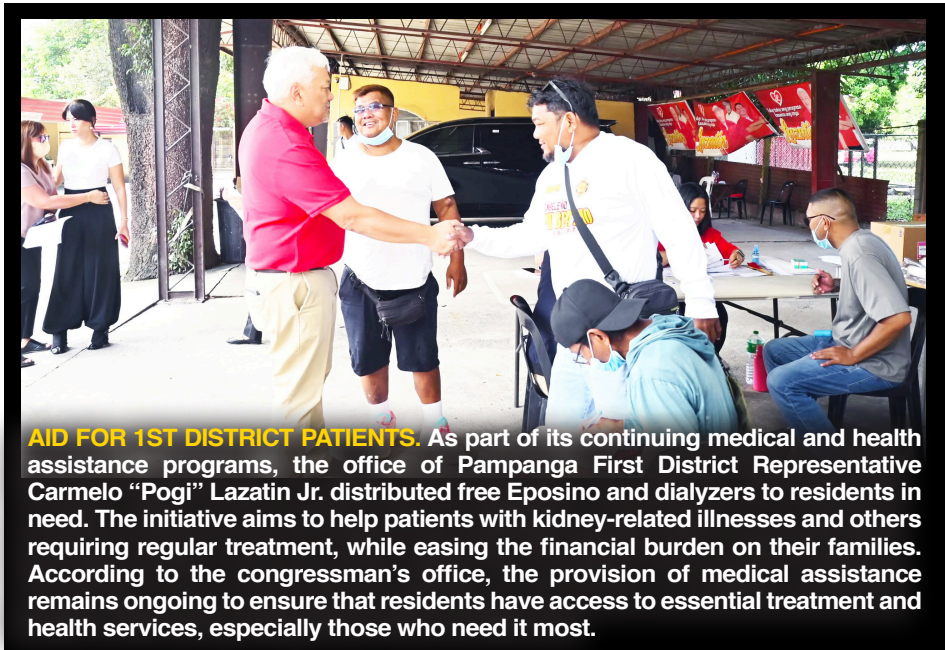
The recognitions highlight Angeles City’s sustained efforts in promoting child-friendly local governance through responsive policies, inclusive programs, and community-based initiatives that protect and nurture

children’s rights and welfare.

Mayor Lazatin thanked the CSWDO and all partner offices for their continued commitment to programs that support the holistic development of Angeleño children. He said the achievement reflects the collective efforts of city departments, barangay officials, and stakeholders working together to build a safe and empowering environment for the youth.

CSWDO played a key role in the city’s PACFMC performance by providing guidance, implementing programs, and coordinating child-focused services at both city and barangay levels.

The dual honors further strengthen Angeles City’s position as a model local government unit in child-friendly governance and reaffirm its commitment to placing children at the center of local development.





## THE GLOBAL BEAT

BY GERALD LACUARTA

**A**S I watched the calendar turn to 2026, I was sincerely hoping for a peaceful and fresh start to the new year. Unfortunately, that hope has been overshadowed by the reality that we are starting the year with a world at war. Multiple armed conflicts, protests, maritime incidents, and humanitarian crises continue to persist globally, bringing with them a heavy toll of civilian casualties and displacement. Below, I have provided an overview of these key ongoing issues based on the most recent developments.

**Occidental Mindoro Clash (Philippines):** On New Year's Day 2026, a clash broke out in Abra de Ilog between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the New People's Army (NPA). The AFP stood by the operation, stating they responded to resident reports of armed rebels in the area. The encounter resulted in the death of an alleged NPA recruit and student from a Manila university. While the military describes the incident as a response to reports of armed presence, it highlights the tragic local reach of internal conflict as the

# A World at War: Ongoing Conflicts and Crises Entering 2026

new year begins.

**Ukraine-Russia War:** The conflict continues into its fourth year with ongoing Russian advances in some areas and Ukrainian defenses in others. Casualties remain high, with widespread displacement and damage to infrastructure affecting millions.

**Aleppo, Syria Escalation:** In early January 2026, intense fighting erupted in Aleppo between Syrian government forces and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). The clashes, centered in the Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiyah neighborhoods, have displaced over 46,000 people in just a few days, resulting in civilian deaths and the closure of several major hospitals.

**Thailand-Cambodia Border Conflict:** A fragile ceasefire agreed on December 27, 2025, holds after clashes that displaced over one million people. A January incident wounded a Thai soldier, described by Cambodia as an operational error. Travel advisories recommend avoiding areas within 50 kilometers of the border.

**Iran Protests:** Nationwide demonstrations, triggered by economic collapse including sharp currency depreciation and high inflation, have spread to over 110 cities. Security forces of the Islamic regime have conducted arrests and used force, resulting in dozens of deaths and thousands detained.

**Venezuela Crisis:** On January 3, U.S. forces captured former President Nicolás

Maduro and his wife in Caracas. Maduro faces U.S. charges related to narco-terrorism and drug trafficking, with a not guilty plea entered. The development has heightened regional tensions.

**U.S. Seizure of Russian-Flagged Tanker Bella 1/Marinera:** On January 7, U.S. forces boarded and seized the oil tanker in the North Atlantic. The vessel, sanctioned for alleged involvement in illicit oil transport linked to Venezuela and Iran, had evaded earlier attempts near the Caribbean. Russia condemned the action as a violation of international maritime law.

**U.S. Immigration Enforcement Operations in Minnesota:** Large-scale ICE operations in Minneapolis escalated tensions after an agent fatally shot a 37-year-old woman on January 7. Local officials have activated emergency measures and National Guard preparations amid widespread protests.

**Sudan Civil War:** Fighting between rival forces persists for a third year, with famine impacting millions. Reports indicate over 150,000 deaths and 10 million displacements, alongside blocked humanitarian aid.

**Middle East Tensions (Gaza, West Bank, Syria, Lebanon):** Intermittent violence continues in Gaza and the West Bank. Syria faces post-Assad instability risks, while Lebanon deals with economic challenges and potential conflict escalation.

**Myanmar Civil War:** Resistance groups

challenge junta control, with ethnic organizations advancing in some areas and high civilian displacement.

**Sahel Insurgencies and Haiti Gang Violence:** Armed groups expand influence in countries like Mali and Burkina Faso. In Haiti, gangs control significant areas, hindering aid and governance.

Looking at this list, it is heartbreaking to see how far we are from the peaceful 2026 I had envisioned. These aren't just headlines; they represent a staggering amount of human suffering, from families in Sudan facing famine to a student in Mindoro whose life ended just as the year began. Beyond the front lines, I see how this "world at war" touches all of us.

When a tanker is seized or a region destabilizes, we feel it here at home as crude prices climb above \$95 per barrel and our grocery bills rise because of disrupted supply chains.

My wish for this year remains the same, though it now feels more like a plea: I hope for a shift toward sustained dialogue and genuine international effort. We need to prioritize protecting lives and stabilizing the markets that ordinary people rely on to survive.

Peaceful outcomes benefit everyone—especially the families bearing the heaviest burdens of these crises—and I still choose to believe that a commitment to diplomacy can eventually turn the tide toward the stability we all deserve.



## KUWENTONG PEYUPS

BY: ATTY. DENNIS GORECHO

**T**HE 2025 Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) highlighted legal and societal issues through films that showed law as a tool for justice and dignity.

The films "Bar Boys", "Call Me Mother", "Manila's Finest", "ImPerfect" and "Unmarry" showcased diverse legal realities focusing on issues like adoption, human rights, family law, and corruption reflecting the festival's theme, "A New Era for Philippine Cinema."

"Bar Boys After School" (2025) is a sequel set a decade after the events in the original film Bar Boys (2017). It follows best friends Erik (Carlo Aquino), Torran (Rocco Nacino), Chris (Enzo Pineda) and Joshua (Kean Cipriano) as they grapple with the continuous search for meaning in their careers and personal lives.

They confront their life choices, and find new roles as mentors to the next generation of law students Sassa Gurl, Will Ashley, and Therese Malvar who are dealing with the same systemic pressures.

The film shows how they are rediscovering and navigating their careers while caring for their sick former professor, Justice Hernandez (Odette Khan).

"Call Me Mother" deals with adoption for members of the LGBT+ community and the queer struggle of being an adoptive parent.

It follows Twinkle (Vice Ganda), a queer mother, who is preparing to formally adopt his son, Angelo, by finalizing his adoption papers. However, a legal requirement forces him to reconnect with Angelo's

biological mother, former beauty queen Mara (Nadine Lustre).

The film depicted what it truly means to be a mother as it takes into account the perspectives of both the biological and adoptive mother, showing how the two mothers are right in their own ways.

"Manila's Finest" depicts the degradation of police integrity shortly before the declaration of Martial Law under the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos Sr.

Set in 1969 and the early 1970s, it is a tale of policemen seeking to uphold justice amid gang wars, student protests led by activists from the University of the Philippines, and government intervention.

Policemen Homer (Piolo Pascual), Conrad (Ariel Rivera), and Billy (Enrique Gil), are consumed by the murder case of troublemaking teenagers in the slums.

It revolves around a group of police officers in Manila's Police District led by its interservice rivalry and eventual integration with the Philippine Constabulary Metropolitan Command (MetroCom) under the pretense of disputed incidents cited as justification for Martial law.

A scene depicted Pascual insinuating his option to continue his legal studies as the film shows how an institution intended for justice can be transformed into an instrument of state oppression.

In *Aberca vs. Ver* (G.R. No. L-69866 April 15, 1988), the Supreme Court said that "the duty to prevent or suppress lawless violence, insurrection, rebellion and subversion xxx cannot be construed as a blanket license or a roving commission untrammelled by any constitutional restraint, to disregard or transgress upon the rights and liberties of the individual citizen enshrined in and protected by the Constitution."

"Unmarry" revolves around Celine (Angelica Panganiban) and Ivan (Zanjoe Marudo) who separately process the dissolution of their marriage through annulment cases

handled by a common lawyer, Atty. Lambridas (Eugene Domingo).

Both used as ground the psychological incapacity under Article 36 of the Family Code which the Supreme Court interprets "as a serious, grave, and incurable condition existing at the time of marriage, making a spouse unable to fulfill marital duties". Recent rulings emphasize that the incapacity doesn't need to be a diagnosed illness that can manifest later.

"ImPerfect" revolves around the romantic relationship of two adults with Down syndrome. Jessica (Krystel Go) and Jiro (Earl Amaba) as they strive for independence in a world that often limits them. The movie celebrates their journey, emphasizing that they have the right to love and live fully, challenging stigmas and showcasing their abilities.

The script essentially incorporates aspects of R.A. No. 7277 (Magna Carta for Persons with Disability) that provides for self-development, self-reliance, and integration of PWDs into mainstream society. It also prohibits discrimination and outlines basic rights across various areas such as employment, education, and health.

Movies play a powerful role in shaping public perception of crime and justice by creating narratives that influence how society views victims and offenders.

Films can act as catalysts for public discourse by dramatizing real legal cases or introducing fictional narratives steeped in contemporary ethical dilemmas.

Movies with legal undertones have always held up a mirror to our society, forcing us to confront uncomfortable truths about how justice really works—and how it fails.

\*\*\*

(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, email info@sapalovelez.com, or call 09088665786)

# MMFF films on law as tool for justice and dignity

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THEVOICENEWSWEEKLY

PPC at (almost) 77: Reflections through film and fun

The Pampanga Press Club (PPC) recently gathered for its General Assembly and Christmas Party at Asuncion's Private Dining.

After the formal meeting, members dove into games, cheers erupted as raffle prizes were drawn, and laughter filled the room. Conversations flowed easily, ideas were exchanged freely, and solidarity took center stage as plans for the club's upcoming 77th anniversary began to take shape.

The event was made even more special by venue owner Chef Felix Niño Asuncion, who curated a menu exclusively for the occasion.

In its nearly 77 years of existence, the Pampanga Press Club has lived through its own share of action, suspense, drama, and even comedy—much like the films in the current run of the Metro Manila Film Festival.

Like 'Bar Boys' and 'Bar Boys: After School', PPC members keep watch over one another, quietly tracking how each colleague navigates professional crossroads and personal challenges, stepping in when guidance or support is needed.

'Call Me Mother' finds its parallel in the club's nurturing core, with mothers and mother figures — led by former Chairmperson and now Director Tonette Orejas — helping shape the organization's

heart.

'I'mPerfect' mirrors PPC's own truth: imperfect yet excellent, flawed yet brilliant, divided at times but ultimately united by a shared love for the craft.

In 'Love You So Bad', the risks of loving deeply echo the difficult choices journalists face — where passion for truth can come with consequences.

The echoes of 'Manila's Finest' ring loud in a club born nearly eight decades ago, having witnessed and documented the gritty realities of society.

'Rekonek' reminds members of life without screens, gadgets, technology and connectivity — and how reconnection, both digital and human, reshapes perspective. And when situations 'Shake, Rattle & Roll', the club's bearings, better judgment and renewed purpose often prevail, yielding stronger stories and deeper bonds.

As 'UnMarry' explores relationships tested by conflict, PPC stands as proof that no disagreement, no crisis, and no clash of opinion has ever been strong enough to break its union.

Like a well-loved film that endures beyond its final reel, the Pampanga Press Club presses on —seasoned by time, bound by story, and ready for its next great chapter. Definitely Truth Driven at 77! (Arlyn E. Lukban)



**SM GREEN MOVEMENT**

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**SM WRAPS UP 2025 WITH MILESTONE.**

Wrapping up SM has wrapped up 2025 with a record breaking milestone, remaining committed to empowering communities with environmental best practices that are scalable, innovative, and of greater service to the nation.

GOV... FROM PAGE 1

province will maximize the capacity of its more than 3,000 Capitol employees, mobilizing them to support healthcare delivery, social services, education initiatives, and community outreach programs. This coordinated workforce approach is intended to shorten processing times and bring government services closer to the people.

"Good governance means seeking out those in need, not waiting for them to line up at the Capitol," she said.

Education and employment form another key pillar of the 2026 agenda. The Capitol will actively identify kabalens who wish to continue their studies through the Alternative Learning System and will forge partnerships with technical and vocational institutions to assist Grade 12 graduates who are unable to secure employment by providing them with relevant skills training and certification.

In addition, the provincial government will intensify its efforts to identify sectoral groups and individuals in need of assistance, particularly those suffering from illness, to ensure that no one is overlooked and that support reaches those who need it most.

Governor Pineda stressed that 2026 will be a year defined by execution rather than paperwork.

"By 2026, there should be no documents left idle. Every plan must result in concrete action, and every program must deliver real services. Government work must be fast, responsive, and felt by our people," the Governor said.

The 2026 agenda reinforces the provincial government's commitment to efficient governance, inclusive healthcare, and youth empowerment, with the clear goal of translating policies into immediate and meaningful impact for every Kapampangan.

CLARK MARRIOTT... FROM PAGE 2

becomes the first and only hotel in Clark to receive the ASEAN MICE Venue award for three consecutive terms.

Hotel management credited the achievement to the dedication of its associates, whose consistent service and professionalism have upheld international benchmarks for meetings and events. The hotel also

expressed gratitude to its partners and guests for their continued trust and support.

Clark Marriott Hotel said the award strengthens its resolve to further elevate standards for meetings and events, not only in Clark but across the wider ASEAN region.

Republic of the Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION  
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA  
Office of the Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff

BDO UNIBANK INC., REPRESENTED BY LEINE A. DE CASTRO  
Petitioner-Mortgagee

Extra-Judicial Foreclosure Case No. 177-25

-Versus-

SPOUSES ROSIE FE BACANI CELESTINO AND DOMINADOR ELARCO CELESTINO, REPRESENTED BY DAISY BACANI, ATTORNEY-IN-FACT,  
Respondents-Mortgagors.

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135/1508 filed by BDO UNIBANK INC., REPRESENTED BY LEINE A. DE CASTRO , Mortgagee, with postal address at 33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas, No. 12, ADB Avenue, Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong City against SPOUSES ROSIE FE BACANI CELESTINO AND DOMINADOR ELARCO CELESTINO, REPRESENTED BY DAISY BACANI, ATTORNEY-IN-FACT, Mortgagors, with residence and postal address at (1.) No. 76 Pasileng Sur, Binalonan, Pangasinan (2.) Lot 5, Block 7, Phase 2C, Revolution Flavourscapes at the Lakeshore, Brgy. San Rafael, Mexico, Pampanga to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of October 28, 2025 amounts to TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY SIX PESOS & 56/100 (Php 2,499,156.56) excluding penalties, attorney's fees and expenses of foreclosure, the undersigned duly authorized sheriff will sell at public auction on February 12, 2026 at 10:00 AM or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Regional Trial Court, Capitol Compound, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, to the highest bidder for CASH or Manager's Check and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all improvements, to wit:

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 042-2023028896

“LOT NO. 5, BLOCK NO. 7, PLAN NO. PCS-03-023356, PORTION OF: LOTS 3 TO 8, PSD-035413-061672 (OLT) AND LOT 2 (LRA) PCS-E2018000508 LOCATION: BRGY. OF SAN RAFAEL, MUN. OF MEXICO, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, ISLAND OF LUZON X X X CONTAINING AN AREA OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE (121) SQUARE METERS MORE OR LESS. X X X”

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on February 19, 2026, without further notice.

City of San Fernando, Pampanga, December 23, 2025.

(SGD.)  
GILBERT G. AQUINO  
Sheriff IV  
RTC-Branch 42, CSFP

- Cc:
- BDO UNIBANK INC., REPRESENTED BY LEINE A. DE CASTRO  
33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas, No. 12, ADB Avenue, Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong City
  - Spouses Rosie Fe B. Celestino and Dominado Elarco Celestino – No. 76 Pasileng Sur, Binalonan, Pangasinan  
- Lot 5, Block 7, Phase 2C, Revolution Flavourscapes at the Lakeshore, Brgy. San Rafael, Mexico, Pampanga
  - Daisy Bacani Bautista – 843 Sto. Nino Villa II, Brgy. Partida, Norzagaray, Bulacan

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY December 28, 2025, January 4, 11, 2026

E R R A T U M

BDO UNIBANK, INC., represented by LEINE A DE CASTRO,  
Mortgagee,

E.C. CASE NO. 2025-0170

-versus-  
ARZENNEATHE TENIAS ANDIZO, represented by RUTHEZ BENYASAN ALINGAY, Attorney-in-fact.,  
Debtor/Mortgagor

Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgage under Act. No. 3135, as Amended

x-----x

T.C.T. NO. - 045-2022011216-

LOT NO: 18 BLOCK NO: 69 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-I (LRA) PSD-414557 AND LOT 13, PCS-E2013000109

Management regrets the error.

E VOICE NEWSWEEKLY December 28, 2025, January 4, 11, 2026



# 26th Hot Air Balloon Fest takes off in February



PIHABF EVENT DIRECTOR CAPT. JOY ROA

BCDA PRESIDENT AND CEO  
JAKE BINGCANG

PPC President Lincoln Baluyut, Tarlac Gov. Christian Yap, Bingcang and Roa during PPC's KapiHann at Swisotel Clark



TARLAC GOV. CHRISTIAN YAP

The 26th Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta (PIHABF) is set to fill the skies of New Clark City (NCC) with color and excitement from February 13 to 15, 2026, offering a packed lineup of aviation-themed activities, competitions, and family-friendly attractions.

PIHABF Event Director Captain Joy Roa said this year's fiesta continues to expand beyond visual spectacle, serving as a platform to develop Filipino aviators and drone pilots and prepare them for international competitions.

Roa shared the details during the KapiHann media forum of the Pampanga Press Club (PPC) held in partnership with Hann Resorts, held on January 7. The other guests are BCDA President and CEO

Joshua Bingcang and Tarlac Governor Christian Yap.

Among the main attractions are 22 special-shaped hot air balloons and a 550-drone aerial display, set to create vibrant daytime flights and synchronized night shows. A major highlight is the Kyzx Hoverbike Demonstration, the first public showcase of a Philippine-invented hoverbike, underscoring local innovation in aviation technology.

The event will also host a series of competitive aviation and drone sports, including the Paragliding Accuracy Competition, Paramotor Beach Ball Competition, FPV Drone Racing, and Drone Soccer Competition, with organizers aiming to form national teams that can represent

the Philippines in international meets.

Beyond competitions, the fiesta offers a wide range of activities for all ages. These include RC airplane games, paper airplane contests, kite flying, and ultralight aircraft displays by the Angeles Flying Club. Visitors can also watch helicopter flight demonstrations, enjoy car drifting and motorsports, browse through a fly market, and join various kiddie activities.

Education and youth development remain key advocacies of the PIHABF. Aviation career seminars will be held during the event, featuring professionals who will share their experiences to inspire young Filipinos to explore careers in aviation.

A special highlight for couples and spectators is the Valentine Dinner with Night

Glow, where illuminated hot air balloons and synchronized drone displays will light up the night sky.

Tickets are priced at ₱750, with free shuttle services to be provided in coordination with local government units. Transport hubs will be set up in Capas, Bamban, and Clark, with directional billboards along NLEX to guide visitors.

Founded by former Tourism Secretary Mina Gabor, the PIHABF has been held at New Clark City since its 24th edition. Governor Yap reiterated the full support of the Tarlac provincial government, while BCDA officials said logistics and transport arrangements are in place to ensure a smooth and accessible event for the public.

For his part, Gov. Yap said that the staging of the PIHABF will help the province economically and socially with all the benefits it brings to spur tourism and the economy.

"This will help the province economically, socially. The trickle-down effect on hotels, tour operators and cottage industries. We want to promote this for better tourism economic activities in Central Luzon," Gov. Yap said.

Meanwhile, Bingcang also expressed gratitude to the provincial government of Tarlac for its support to PIHABF and the New Clark City being its venue.

(Ric Gonzales, Arlyn E. Lukban, Jan Darren)

## Beautéderm hosts block screening for 'Call Me Mother'



Beautéderm Corporation, led by President and CEO Rei Anicoche Tan, recently hosted an exclusive block screening of "Call Me Mother," a Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) entry topbilled by The Unkabogable Vice Ganda, who earned the Best Actor award for the role.

Originally intended as a low-key event, the screening gained public attention after Vice Ganda casually mentioned it on 'It's Showtime', much to the surprise of Tan. Despite the buzz, the gathering retained its intimate and heartfelt tone, bringing together guests for a meaningful cinematic

experience at SM Cinema in SM Telabastagan.

The screening filled the theater for an evening that balanced laughter and reflection — echoing the emotional core of the film.

"Call Me Mother" is a comedy-drama that explores the idea of 'chosen family'. Vice Ganda plays Twinkle, a nurturing maternal figure on the verge of completing the adoption of Angel (Lucas Andallo). The story takes a dramatic turn with the arrival of Mara (Nadine Lustre), Angel's biological mother, setting off a powerful exploration

of motherhood, sacrifice, and acceptance.

For Beautéderm, the block screening was more than a movie night. It served as a platform to support meaningful storytelling and to celebrate Vice Ganda, who was recently named brand ambassador of Belle Dolls, Beautéderm's beauty drink. The event also reflected the longstanding partnership between Tan and Vice Ganda, which includes collaborative scholarship initiatives even before this latest brand engagement.