

THE **VOICE** NEWSWEEKLY
FOUNDED 1955



Swings, cheers, and champions shine at 10th SGH Golf Cup 2026 P6

Pharma ecozones eyed in aviation complex, NCC



Philippine Pharma Procurement Inc. (PPPI) President and Chief Executive Officer Maria Blanca Kim B. Lokin and Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) President and CEO Joshua M. Bingang sign a memorandum of understanding for the conduct of a collaborative study on the development of pharmaceutical economic zones within the Clark Civil Aviation Complex in Pampanga and New Clark City in Tarlac. BCDA Chairperson Atty. Larry Paredes and PPPI Sales Manager Olga L. Layog witness the signing. (BCDA photo)

CLARK — The Philippine Pharma Procurement, Inc. (PPPI) and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) officially entered into a strategic partnership, marking a significant leap toward transforming the Philippines into a regional hub for pharmaceutical manufacturing and life sciences.

The two agencies signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to undertake a comprehensive collaborative study for the development of specialized pharmaceutical economic zones. The initiative will explore strategic business opportunities within the Clark Civil Aviation Complex (CCAC) in Pampanga and New Clark City in Tarlac.

The signing sets in motion efforts to stimulate industrial development in these areas, particularly in pharmaceutical manufacturing, medical equipment production, cold chain logistics, and research and development.

This is in sync with the Marcos administration's goal of accelerating ecozone

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PHARMA

CRK holds full-scale security drill



Members of the PNP AVSEGroup, including its Special Operations Unit, demonstrated a drill designed to assess and enhance existing security and crisis management protocols.

CLARK FREEPORT — The Clark International Airport (CRK) conducted its first full-scale security exercise, simulating an aircraft hijacking scenario to test emergency response capabilities and inter-agency coordination.

The exercise was carried out in partnership with the Philippine National Police Aviation Security Group (PNP AVSEGroup) and involved a controlled drill designed to assess and enhance existing security and crisis management protocols.

Members of the PNP AVSEGroup, including its Special Operations Unit, demonstrated negotiation procedures and tactical assault operations aimed at resolving the simulated threat while prioritizing the preservation of life and protection of human rights.

Office of Transportation Security Administrator Undersecretary Gilberto DC Cruz cited the strong coordination among airport authorities, law enforcement agencies, emergency responders, and aviation security teams during the exercise. He described the tactical assault

component as "one of the most precise SOU executions" he has witnessed.

Cruz said the drill underscores the importance of preparedness and forms part of broader security measures in line with the country's hosting of upcoming ASEAN-related engagements in Clark.

Luzon International Premiere Airport Development Corp. (LIPAD) President and Chief Executive Officer Noel Manankil said the exercise reinforces the airport operator's commitment to passenger safety.

"Through these exercises, we strengthen our capabilities, identify areas for improvement, and ensure readiness in responding to any crisis," Manankil said.

The simulation involved coordinated participation from airport security personnel, local law enforcement, and emergency medical services.

Airport authorities reported that regular flight operations and terminal services continued as scheduled, with no disruption to passengers during the exercise.

RDC III endorses ₱197.4-B budget proposals for 2027

The Central Luzon Regional Development Council (RDC III) successfully convened its First Quarter Full Council Meeting and endorsed the FY 2027 Tier 2 budget proposals of 32 regional line agencies (RLAs) and 12 state universities and colleges (SUCs) at the DEPDev Regional Office III.

The Tier 2 programs and projects, with a proposed investment total of ₱197.64 billion, are expected to accelerate inclusive economic growth, strengthen social services, enhance governance systems, promote environmental sustainability, and modernize infrastructure across the region,

consistent with the strategic priorities outlined in the Central Luzon Regional Development Plan (CL-RDP) 2023–2028 Midterm Update.

The Council also approved the adoption of the RDC III Interim Manual of Operations. While a more comprehensive and updated manual is currently being finalized, the interim Manual will serve as a functional and enabling framework to ensure the continuity, consistency, and efficiency of Council operations. Through standardized procedures and clearer institutional protocols, the

SEE PAGE 4
RDC III



The Central Luzon Regional Development Council (RDC III) successfully convened its First Quarter Full Council Meeting, led by Zambales Governor and RDC III Chairperson Hon. Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr. Also in attendance were Pampanga Vice Gov. Dennis Pineda, Tarlac Gov. Christian Yap, PamCham president Atty. Paul Yusi, and Hausland PCEO Atty. Ryan Tan.

PhilHealth's YAKAP, GAMOT bring healthcare to Kapampangan families

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — Kapampangan families in Pampanga can look forward to better health care with the launch of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation's (PhilHealth) Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP) and Guaranteed Accessible Medications for Outpatient Treatment (GAMOT).

The initiative brings preventive health services closer to communities, helping residents live healthier lives while ensuring essential medicines are accessible to those who need them most.

Governor Lilia Pineda, Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Teodoro Herbosa,

and PhilHealth President and Chief Executive Officer Edwin Mercado formally launched the programs during the Luzon Governors' Forum at Royce Hotel, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga on March 25.

Through these programs, PhilHealth members and their dependents can access free health screenings, unlimited consultations, laboratory tests, cancer screenings, and essential medicines at accredited YAKAP clinics and GAMOT pharmacies across the province.

Pineda said the collaboration puts the health and well-being of Kapampangans

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PHILHEALTH



Pampanga Governor Lilia Pineda highlights that the provincial government will continue to champion Universal Health Care and will support the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation's Yaman ng Kalusugan Program and Guaranteed Accessible Medications for Outpatient Treatment to build stronger, healthier Kapampangans. (Pampanga PIO)

Mayor Jon honors dedicated city employees at Loyalty Awards 2026

ANGELES CITY — Mayor Carmelo 'Jon' Lazatin II expressed heartfelt gratitude to the employees of the Angeles City Government for their unwavering dedication, integrity, and care in serving every Angeleño.

During the Loyalty Awards Ceremony 2026, city workers who have devoted many years to public service were recognized for their commitment. Mayor Lazatin emphasized that true service is measured not just by years of work, but by the depth of care and honesty in performing one's duties.

"Mas mahalaga ang loyalty sa serbisyo kaysa sa loyalty sa pulitiko," he said, highlighting that while leadership may change over time, the role of city employees

remains crucial as the backbone of an effective and efficient government.

He added, "Ang inyong sipag, tiyaga, at dedikasyon ang pundasyon ng patuloy na pag-unlad ng lungsod. Ipagpatuloy ninyo ang pagbibigay ng serbisyonng may puso at paninindigan—ang paggawa ng tama, higit sa kung ano ang madali o nakasanayan."

Mayor Lazatin encouraged all staff to continue serving with principle and heart, and extended his warmest thanks and congratulations to all Angeles City Government employees for inspiring the delivery of genuine, people-centered service.



CARMELO 'JON' LAZATIN II
Local Government Unit of Angeles
Honorary Atty-at-Law to the Provincial Government
Office of the City Mayor

SM Malls nationwide unite for World Down Syndrome Day

SM Supermalls across the country came together to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day on March 21 with a nationwide initiative under its Corporate Social Responsibility arm, SM Cares. The campaign, titled "SM is All for Down," highlights SM's commitment to creating inclusive spaces where everyone is welcomed, respected, and valued.

Observed every March 21 to recognize the triplication of the 21st chromosome that causes Down syndrome, the global awareness day became an opportunity for SM to amplify advocacy in its malls nationwide, engaging communities in meaningful, synchronized activities.

One Mic, One Message: Real Voices,

Real Inclusion

Central to the campaign was "One Mic, One Message: For the Down Syndrome Community." Standing microphone installations were placed in every SM Mall, inviting employees, frontliners, and customers to share heartfelt messages for persons with Down syndrome.

Messages ranged from simple affirmations to declarations of respect and belonging:

- "You belong here."
- "You are seen, valued, and respected."
- "This space is for you, too."

Mall Managers closed each session, emphasizing that

SEE PAGE 4
SM MALLS



At SM Mall of Asia, the Globe shines bright with one message: Your Most Loved SM Supermalls is All for Down.

JBLMGH boosts life-saving care with new facilities

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — The Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital (JBLMGH) has strengthened its life-saving capabilities with the launch of two new facilities aimed at improving patient safety and ensuring uninterrupted care.

Hospital chief Dr. Monserrat Chichioco said the newly opened Reprocessing Unit for Medical Devices (RUMED) and Medical Oxygen Generating Plant (MOGP) enhance infection control and secure a stable oxygen supply for patients. Both facilities were inaugurated on March 15 and funded through the hospital's internal revenues.

Chichioco noted that the expansion of surgical services has increased the need for a reliable and specialized system for sterilizing medical instruments. At the RUMED, all equipment undergoes

a stringent, closely monitored process—from manual and ultrasonic cleaning to automated disinfection and advanced sterilization that eliminates microorganisms.

Each instrument is inspected, packaged with chemical indicators, and subjected to strict quality control measures, including biological and system tests. The facility is designed with a unidirectional workflow and controlled air systems to ensure clear separation between contaminated and sterile zones.

Meanwhile, the MOGP guarantees a continuous supply of medical-grade oxygen, producing up to 99.5 percent purity and generating the equivalent of 400 to 500 cylinders daily. The oxygen is directly supplied

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JBLMGH



JBLMGH chief Dr. Monserrat Chichioco said the newly opened Reprocessing Unit for Medical Devices (RUMED) and Medical Oxygen Generating Plant (MOGP) enhance infection control and secure a stable oxygen supply for patients.

MPTC expands KaBiyahé program to more Luzon tollways

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — The Manuel V. Pangilinan-led Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), together with its joint-venture partners, the Bases Conversion Authority (BCDA) for SCTEX and the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) for CAVITEX, agreed to extend the KaBiyahé Rebate Program to the two expressways.

The extension supports the government's call to provide temporary financial relief to the transportation sector. It aims to stabilize transportation cost for essential goods, support commerce, and economic activity amid rising fuel costs.

As part of this initiative, MPTC shall now implement the KaBiyahé Rebate Program for qualified Class 2 Public Utility Buses (PUBs), and modernized jeepneys, as well as Class 3 vehicles for two months from March 23 to May 22, 2026 for all passages along NLEX, SCTEX, and CAVITEX (R1 Expressway and R1-Expressway Extension). The rebates that will be credited effectively roll back toll rates to their levels prior to the most recent adjustment.

Eligibility:
Class 3 vehicles
To avail of the program, they must:
• Be a valid Easytrip subscriber in good standing with sufficient load.
• Not be enrolled in any other toll rebate or discount programs on MPTC expressways, such as the Toll Exemption

for Agricultural Trucks. Public Utility Buses (PUBs) and modernized jeepneys

To qualify, they must:
• Enroll in the KaBiyahé program by submitting required documents via email to

customer@mpct.com.ph.
• Be accredited operators registered with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

• Be an Easytrip pre-paid account subscriber in good standing with sufficient load.

• Not be enrolled in any other toll discount programs on MPTC toll roads.
Application Period for Public Utility Buses (PUBs) and modernized jeepneys:
• March 23 to April 5, 2026

Note: Qualified transport owners with any citation or traffic violation during the program period will be excluded from the rebate program.

Meanwhile, Class 1 Public Utility Jeepneys (PUJs) operating along the northern routes will continue to benefit from the PASSADA Program. For CAVITEX, the Abante Program will be reactivated for two (2) months. Abante allows those currently enrolled in the program to get rebates equivalent to the difference between the new rates and the rate prior to the latest toll adjustment in CAVITEX.



THE GLOBAL BEAT
BY GERALD LACUARTA

Declaring an Energy Emergency Solves Nothing Without Real Reforms

MALACAÑANG signed Executive Order No. 110 last Tuesday declaring a national energy emergency for one full year. The reason? The worsening conflict in the Middle East that has sent global oil prices skyrocketing.

The order allows advance payments for fuel, creates a crisis committee, and promises faster coordination to keep fuel and basic goods moving. Malacañang calls it decisive action. Many of us see it as just another piece of paper.

The Philippines imports 98 percent of its oil, mostly from the Gulf. Since the trouble there escalated, diesel and gasoline prices at the pump have more than doubled. Transport groups are already planning strikes. Small fleet owners in Pampanga, Bulacan, and Tarlac are going over their talaan ng gastos at the end of each day and shaking their heads. Kahit paano nilang i-kwenta, kulang pa rin. Many are already operating on very thin margins.

Yes, the EO gives the government legal cover to buy fuel faster and tap emergency reserves if needed. But the real problem was never the lack of legal power. It was and still is the slow bureaucracy that ties everything in knots.

A distributor friend from Mindanao told me off the record that nothing much has changed on the ground. The

same layers of approvals, forecasts, and paperwork are still there. For a logistics manager in Davao or a trucker here in Central Luzon, it is still guesswork: Will the next vessel clear on time? Or should he buy expensive spot-market fuel and just eat the loss?

This is not the first time we have seen this script. Every oil price spike or big typhoon, Malacañang declares an emergency. It buys some breathing room, but the old problems remain: too much dependence on imported oil, very slow progress in renewables, and a subsidy system that patches things up without building real strength.

The new order talks about a “whole-of-government” approach and finding new supply sources. That sounds good. But it does not fix the long delays in approving LNG terminals or the repeated setbacks in geothermal and solar projects. These are the reasons we remain vulnerable every time a tanker route gets disrupted.

Investors watching Southeast Asia notice this pattern quickly. When a government chooses to declare an emergency instead of doing the hard reforms, the message is clear: real changes are still on the back burner.

Officials say there is no need to panic. They claim we have about 45 days of fuel stocks and new shipments are coming. That may be true on paper. But ask the provincial governors managing public transport or the small operators here in Clark and along the SCTEX: Will this actually bring fuel at prices that will not trigger another round of fare hikes or force them to cut services?

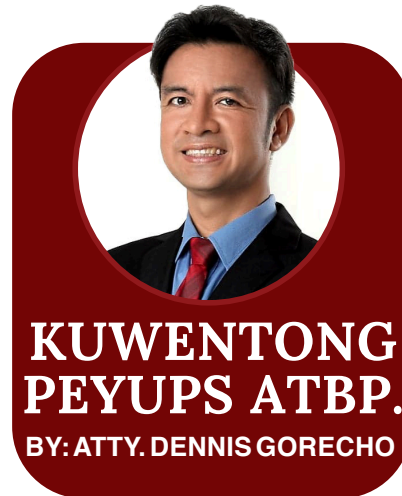
Declaring an energy emergency is a big decision, but it is only the first step. Building real resilience so we do not keep repeating this every few years is much harder.

Until Malacañang pairs this emergency order with clear deadlines to diversify our energy sources, speed up renewable projects, and simplify the messy import and subsidy rules, this one-year declaration will only serve as a temporary band-aid. It buys political time while the same old weaknesses continue to grow.

The latest Middle East conflict did not create our energy problem. It only exposed what many in the industry have known for years: our energy policy is always reacting, never getting ahead.

The EO changed the legal wording. It did not change the daily struggle of our bus drivers, truckers, and small operators when the next price adjustment hits and they have to recompute their kita at gastos late into the night.

And that, sadly, is the real story.



KUWENTONG PEYUPS ATBP.
BY: ATTY. DENNIS GORECHO

Purple walis tambo for women empowerment

vendors, human beings, will lose their place.”

The Baguio City government recently cancelled the controversial SM Prime Holdings redevelopment project following strong opposition from local vendors and residents.

“This is not the end. Our fight has just begun. We have proven that we can push back a giant corporation through our unity,” said Sofia Villanueva, president of the Women Vendors Association.

I was present last March 8 during the gathering at the public market Block 4 in celebration of International Working Women’s Day.

Proclamation No. 227 (1988) declared March as Women’s Role in History Month, while Republic Act No. 6949 established March 8 as National Women’s Day, both aiming to acknowledge the valuable contributions of women in society and promoting gender equality.

The venue was graced with people wearing purple to symbolize solidarity with women’s rights and struggles, with discussions featuring women leaders and representatives from various sectors, including market vendors, advocates, and youth organizers.

Performances were complimented with discussions on various pressing issues affecting women and the broader Filipino public, including the market’s mallification, the rising prices of basic commodities, privatization of essential services such as water and electricity, and calls for accountability against corruption.

I empathize with them as my mother was a market vendor herself when she was young.

When we were growing up, I remember times when Mama scolded us, “Buti nga kayo di nyo naranasan ang magtinda ng kamatis sa palengke.” Then she would cry. Perhaps, this was her way of saying that whatever the benefits we were enjoying then were due to their hard work. This is something that children have to realize: that parents will sacrifice a lot for the future of the kids.

The public market issue was also the focus of the recent 28th Word Cup Philippines National Journalism Conference in Baguio attended by more than 200 campus journalists nationwide.

Speakers include the author and former members of College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) Nonnette Bennet, Eugene and Ana Marie Calapit, and Jennifer Lee Bonto.

The conference focused on the importance of fact-checking and contextual reporting on issues that shape communities with a call for young journalists to use their platforms to report responsibly.

*** (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 0908-8665786.)

I bought a purple-colored broom or walis tambo at the Baguio City Public Market in solidarity with the women vendors during the celebration of the International Working Women’s Day last May 8.

The Baguio public market has been a cultural symbol of the city since it was established in 1913.

Located at the lower end of Session Road along Magsaysay Avenue, this traditional market is a sensory experience with a maze of shops selling souvenir items like colorful native handwoven bags, textiles, wood carvings, walis tambo, specialty foods and the buzz of bargaining between vendors and shoppers.

With a total land area of about 3.25 hectares, the market has been a major trading center for more than a hundred years for products from the Cordillera region, including vegetables, fruits, meat, flowers, and coffee.

The market is made of six postwar structures finished with the same Baguio stone used in the earlier market buildings, which were inaugurated in April 1952.

It survived bombings in World War II, but several destructive fires in 1960, 1970, 1992 and 2008 have gradually diminished the old market.

The redevelopment plan or “mallification” of the historic trading center has been the subject of debate for the past years.

The controversial SM Prime Holdings redevelopment project involves public-private partnership (PPP) proposal to build a P4.5-billion multilevel facility that include the construction of a 4-story building that would have accommodated all 4,000 vendors currently selling meats, vegetables, fish, clothes and other goods, along with an eight-level parking building.

The vendors would be relocated to a temporary market site in the Slaughterhouse Compound.

Several protests were held that highlighted concerns over vendor displacement, rent hikes, loss of livelihood, market ownership and threats to the traditional culture of the market while also calling for transparent and locally led redevelopment.

Critics stressed that modernization process should not only benefit corporations but should serve the people and preserve the city’s cultural and economic heritage.

National Artist for Film and Broadcast Eric “Kidlat Tahimik” de Guia said in a letter that despite the market’s need for redevelopment, he warns that corporations prioritize profit over people.

Kidlat said that corporations are focused on “super efficiency just to get quick cash in, cash out. But the very colorful market



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EDITORIAL TEAM

Founder: † Armando P. Baluyut
 Editor-Publisher: Lincoln M. Baluyut
 Business Manager: Ruby Soccorro I. Baluyut
 Lifestyle and Online Editor: Arlyn E. Lukban
 Chief Photographer: Bert H. Basa
 Layout Artist: Charmane C. Soriano

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

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

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

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THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY

PHARMA... FROM PAGE 1

of accelerating ecozone development to create jobs, attract investments, expand growth in regions outside Metro Manila, and support inclusive economic progress.

Building a “factory-to-port” ecosystem

The partnership seeks to address the Philippines’ long-standing reliance on imported medicines by creating a dedicated ecosystem for pharmaceutical manufacturing, research, and distribution. By integrating the world-class logistical advantages of the Clark airport complex with the industrial capacity of New Clark City, the BCDA and PPPI aim to create a seamless “factory-to-port” environment.

This collaboration serves as a

key expansion of PPPI’s vision for the national pharmaceutical industry. It directly complements PPPI’s ongoing partnership with the Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) for the development of the Pharmaceutical Logistics Hub at CIAC.

“This signing bridges the gap between logistics and manufacturing,” said PPPI President and CEO Maria Blanca Kim B. Lokin. “By studying the feasibility of specialized pharmaceutical ecozones, we are not just building warehouses; we are creating a high-tech environment where research, production, and global distribution can thrive in one place.”

Enhancing healthcare supply chains

The study will focus on several

high-impact areas designed to attract both global and local investment.

It will begin with site identification, locating optimal areas within New Clark City and CCAC for state-of-the-art manufacturing plants and R&D laboratories. It will also emphasize logistical integration, leveraging Clark International Airport to ensure rapid, temperature-controlled transit of pharmaceutical products. Finally, the study will address incentive frameworks, creating a competitive environment to attract global pharmaceutical giants while supporting local drug manufacturers.

“Developing pharmaceutical ecozones is a key priority for BCDA in Clark. By positioning Clark as an integral part of the country’s healthcare

ecosystem, we are improving access to medicines, fostering innovation, and enhancing the nation’s capacity to meet healthcare needs. At the same time, this initiative supports high-value job creation, attracts investment, and stimulates inclusive and sustainable growth for the Philippines,” said BCDA President and CEO Joshua M. Bingcang.

Economic and social impact Beyond healthcare, the development of these specialized zones is expected to be a major economic driver for Central Luzon. The project is projected to generate thousands of high-value jobs for Filipino scientists, pharmacists, and engineers, further strengthening the country’s specialized workforce.

RDC III... FROM PAGE 1

Manual is expected to facilitate more timely, coordinated, and evidence-based decision-making.

Among the other key resolutions adopted were: (i) support to DILG’s Local Government Code of 1991 Review and Amendment Program (ReVamP) and the BSP’s Paleng-QR PH Plus Program; (ii) designation of the DOST III and DTI III as RDC III representatives to the 2026 Presidential Filipino Innovation Awards National Selection Committee; (iii) reconstitution of the Regional Land Use Committee (RLUC III) as a special committee under RDC III to strengthen land use and spatial planning coordination; and (iv) adoption of the DENR’s Five-Year Banaba Strategic Roadmap, aimed at promoting sustainable resource utilization and inclusive industry development.

A report on the 17th RDC Private Sector Representatives (PSRs) National Convention held in Davao City was likewise presented, highlighting the active engagement and growing contribution of PSRs in advancing national and regional

development priorities. The Convention served as a dynamic platform for policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and strengthening public-private collaboration in addressing key development challenges requiring national government attention.

The meeting was presided over by Zambales Governor and RDC III Chairperson Hon. Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr. Also in attendance were Bataan Governor Jose Enrique S. Garcia III, Tarlac Governor Christian Tell A. Yap, and Pampanga Vice Governor Dennis G. Pineda, along with DEPDev Region 3 officials led by Regional Director Nerrisa T. Esguerra and Assistant Regional Director Aladin A. Ancheta. The assembly was attended by more than 130 participants, comprising representatives from national government agencies, local government units, state universities and colleges, and the private sector, demonstrating strong multi-stakeholder commitment to advancing Central Luzon’s development agenda.

PHILHEALTH... FROM PAGE 2

the forefront, emphasizing that primary care is the first line of defense in achieving longevity and quality of life.

She added that the provincial government will continue to champion Universal Health Care (UHC) and support PhilHealth’s YAKAP and GAMOT programs to build stronger, healthier Kapampangans.

With strong coordination among the Provincial Government of Pampanga, DOH Regional Director Corazon Flores, PhilHealth Acting Vice President Ma. Emily P. Roque, local government units, health care providers, and other government and private partners, all nine district hospitals and the provincial hospital in Pampanga are now accredited YAKAP clinics.

Each clinic also hosts a GAMOT pharmacy, ensuring wider access to essential medicines.

These hospitals are Diosdado P. Macapagal Memorial Hospital in Guagua, Escolastica Romero District Hospital in Lubao, Romana Pangan District Hospital in Floridablanca, Domingo B. Flores District Hospital in Macabebe, Dr. Andres J. Luciano District Hospital in Magalang, Dr. Emigdio C. Cruz Sr. Memorial Hospital in Arayat, Jose Songo Lapid District Hospital in Porac, Mabalacat District Hospital in Mabalacat City, Ricardo P. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital in the City of San Fernando, and San Luis District Hospital in San Luis

town. PhilHealth members can select their preferred YAKAP clinic through the PhilHealth office, the eGovPH mobile app, or the member portal at www.philhealth.gov.ph.

The programs cover 21 essential medicines at YAKAP clinics and 54 essential medicines at GAMOT pharmacies, amounting to P20,000 worth of benefits per member annually.

To expand primary care services to all communities, PhilHealth officials, including Branch Manager Rowena Zabat-San Mateo, City of San Fernando Head Ma. Elizabeth Banting-Capuli, and Angeles City Head Robert Padron, ensure that 138 accredited YAKAP clinics, 50 GAMOT pharmacies, and accredited cancer screening test facilities across the province are undergoing system and readiness procedures.

This development aligns with the national government’s UHC program and reinforces preventive care as the foundation of healthier, more resilient communities.

By providing accessible health services and essential medicines, Pampanga residents are better protected during emergencies, economic challenges, and health risks.

JBLMGH... FROM PAGE 2

through the hospital’s central pipeline system, reaching wards, intensive care units, operating rooms, and emergency departments.

The facility also includes an in-house cylinder refilling system, improving emergency readiness while reducing

costs and dependence on external suppliers.

Supervised by the Department of Health, JBLMGH has been serving Central Luzon since 1921. Chichioco credited the agency’s continued support, which allowed the hospital to allocate its own revenues for key infrastructure upgrades.

SM MALLS... FROM PAGE 2

inclusivity begins with leadership and is nurtured at every level of the organization.

Inclusion in Action: Training and Everyday Practice

SM also reinforced its commitment through comprehensive Sensitivity Training for mall teams, tenants, security personnel, janitorial staff, and all customer-facing frontliners. Watch parties and “All for Down” guide posters promoted proper assistance, respectful communication, and dignified support for persons with disabilities, embedding inclusion into daily operations.

Building a Nationwide Movement

The March 21 activations lead up to a larger event: the SM Cares Happy Walk on March 29, expected to gather over 6,000 participants nationwide. Families, advocates, employees, and partners from Luzon to Mindanao will unite to celebrate ability, dignity, and belonging, demonstrating SM’s year-round support for the Down syndrome community.

Through initiatives like “SM is All for Down,” SM Cares reinforces that inclusion is central to how SM creates experiences—for customers, families, and future generations.

DA... FROM PAGE 5

project is expected to boost farmer-to-consumer marketing, reduce transport costs and post-harvest losses, and ensure a more stable market for agricultural products.

She added that the initiative will also contribute to strengthening food security and improving the local economy in Bongabon.

Meanwhile, Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija Acting Provincial Agriculturist Jobeat Agliam emphasized the importance of strengthening collaboration among national agencies, local government units, and food producers to sustain agricultural development.

Canaan East Rice and Onion Producers Cooperative Manager Leonora Almerol expressed gratitude for the assistance received through the program.

“Labis ang aming pasasalamat sa Department of Agriculture na isa kami sa nakatanggap ng grant ng

KADIWA Financial Program ni Pangulong Marcos at hindi po namin sukata akalain na ibigay po sa amin ang two million... lto po ay nagbigay buhay sa aming mga magsasaka sa Canaan East kasi dati ang hawak lang po namin ay kolong-kolong na lumang-luma ngunit ngayon ay may maayos na kaming sasakyan (We are very grateful to the Department of Agriculture for selecting us as one of the beneficiaries of the KADIWA Financial Program of President Marcos, and we never expected to receive two million pesos. This has given new life to our farmers in Canaan East because we used to rely on old motorized carts, but now we have a proper vehicle),” Almerol said.

The DA Central Luzon continues to strengthen agricultural enterprises through programs that boost farmers’ income, improve market access, and ensure food security in the country.

NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ISSUE WITH SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late **VIRGINIA SIBUG MANALANG**, legally married to **MARCELO GARCIA MANALANG**, executed a **DEED OF EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY AND APOSTILLE** over her estate covered by **Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. 98221, containing an area of TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY (25,590) SQUARE METERS**, more or less, before **Jonnifer M. Lacanlale**, as per Doc. No. 77; Page No. 79; Book No. XXVI; Series of 2026 and Apostille signed by Notary Public NSW **Yi Ern Phang**.

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY MARCH 22, 29, APRIL 5, 2026

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
ANGELES CITY

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY.	F.C. CASE NO. 2025-0214
Mortgagee,	EXTRAJUDICIAL
-versus-	FORECLOSURE SALE
LIBRADA V. GUILLERMO (now MRS. LIBRADA V. GUILLERMO-HUDGINS),	PROCEEDINGS OF
Borrower/Mortgagor.	MORTGAGED REAL
	PROPERTY/IES

-----x
SUZETTE P. GUILLERMO,
Co-Borrower.
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NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE

Upon extrajudicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended filed by the Mortgagee, METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY, with principal business office at GT TOWER INTERNATIONAL, 6813 AYALA AVENUE CORNER H. V. DELA COSTA STREET, BARANGAY BEL-AIR, MAKATI CITY against the Borrower/Mortgagor, LIBRADA V. GUILLERMO (now MRS. LIBRADA V. GUILLERMO-HUDGINS), with postal address/es at (1) Lot 2, Block 3 Main Road corner Calachuchi Street, Grandview Heights 2, Brgy. Mawaque, Mabalacat, Pampanga 2010, (2) Lot 4, Block 3, Grandview Heights 2, Brgy. Mawaque, Mabalacat, Pampanga 2010, and (3) No. 15 Iriga Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Brgy. Sta. Teresita, Dapitan, Quezon City 1114, and Co-borrower, SUZETTE P. GUILLERMO, with postal address at 2E 3rd Avenue Street, Camp, Crame, Quezon City 1111 in order to satisfy the mortgage debts which as of November 14, 2025 amounts to SEX MILLION TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE PESOS AND 54/100 (P6,267,375.54), Philippine Currency, as principal balance including interest and penalty and other legal charges allowed by law, the undersigned Sheriff IV hereby gives notice and announces that on April 15, 2026 at 10:00 o’clock in the morning at the Municipal Trial Court in Cities, Mabalacat City, located at Bldg. 2 Unit 33, Great Mall of Central Luzon, Tabun, Mabalacat City, Pampanga, will sell at public auction for CASH or MANAGER’S CHECK and in Philippine Currency, the following parcel of land with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 045-2021000109

“A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 2 BLOCK 3 OF THE CONSOLIDATION AND SUBDIVISION PLAN PCS-03-015485, BEING A PORTION OF THE CONSOLIDATED LOT 12, PCS-03-002527 (OLT) AND LOT 13-B, PSD-03-082370, L.R.C. REC. NO.), SITUATED IN THE BARRIO OF MAWAQUE, MUN, OF MABALACAT, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, BOUNDED ON THE SW, ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 1, BLK. 3; ON THE NW, ALONG LINES 2-3-4 BY ROAD LOT 4: ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 4-5 BY ROAD LOT 1; AND ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 5-1 BY LOT 4, BLK. 3, ALL OF THE CONSOLIDATION-SUBDIVISION PLAN. x x x CONTAINING AN AREA OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN (127) SQUARE METERS. x x x

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on May 14, 2026 at the same time and place without further notice.

Angeles City, January 14, 2026

(SGD)
NELSON V. MANARANG
Sheriff IV

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY. March 22, 29, April 5, 2026

Tarlac rolls out measures to ease effects of Middle East tension

TARLAC CITY — The Provincial Government of Tarlac has begun implementing measures to mitigate the effects of the ongoing tension in the Middle East, particularly on fuel prices and affected overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

With the situation significantly affecting fuel supply and driving up costs, Governor Christian Tell Yap said the provincial government is pursuing strategies to reduce dependence on fuel.

“We’re already starting ang ating mga paraan kung paano tayo mag-transfer to renewable energy tulad ng solar, electric vehicle. We’re looking at electric buses at kung ano pa ang pwedeng maitulong sa movement ng tao (We are already starting ways to transition to renewable energy such as solar power and electric vehicles. We are also looking into electric buses and other ways to improve the movement of people),” Yap said.

In line with energy conservation efforts, the provincial government has also adopted a four-day workweek scheme.

Yap clarified that the new arrangement does not reduce total working hours and will not affect the delivery of public services.

He also emphasized that these measures aim to ensure workers can

continue reporting to their jobs despite rising fuel costs.

The provincial government also committed to facilitating national government assistance programs for the transport sector to help operators manage expenses and maintain stable fares.

Meanwhile, the capitol assured that OFWs affected by the situation will receive immediate assistance through the newly opened offices of the Department of Migrant Workers and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) at the Tarlac Capitol Center.

“Kung may mga concerns regarding OFW, kaka-open lang ng ating mga opisina ng Department of Migrant Workers, OWWA dito sa ating Kapitolyo, na tanggapan kung anuman ang pwedeng maitulong (If there are concerns regarding OFWs, our offices of the Department of Migrant Workers and OWWA here at the Capitol have just opened and are ready to provide whatever assistance they can)” Yap added.

With the ongoing tension affecting the country, the Provincial Government of Tarlac committed to providing full support and assistance not only to its employees, transport groups, and OFWs, but to all sectors affected by the situation.



Governor Christian Tell Yap (2nd from right) shares the initiatives of the provincial government of Tarlac to cushion the effects of the ongoing tension in the Middle East during a joint meeting of the Provincial Peace and Order Council, Provincial Anti-Drug Abuse Council, and Provincial Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict.

Team Zambales charges ahead in 2026 CLRAA

Team Zambales is off to a strong start in the 2026 Central Luzon Regional Athletic Association (CLRAA), racking up medals and aiming for the top spot to qualify for the 2027 Palarong Pambansa.

The CLRAA, featuring student-athletes from the seven provinces of Region III under DepEd, kicked off last March 21 in Tarlac, co-hosting this year’s meet with Aurora. As of March 25, Zambales ranked second overall with 18 gold, 22 silver, and 25 bronze medals, narrowly trailing Bataan’s 24-17-12 tally. Defending champion Olongapo City follows with 18-22-17, Bulacan with 16-20-22, and Tarlac with 13-6-13.

Zambales started strong on Day 1, with swimmers clinching gold in the 200m freestyle for elementary boys and girls. Day 2 saw more victories, including gold in the 50m butterfly for elementary girls and the 4x500m medley relay.

Governor Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. visited the athletes at New Clark City Athletics Stadium, pledging continued provincial support and urging them to “Go for gold.” He added that the early success reflects the province’s focus on sports development and hints at more victories ahead.

Zambales is also preparing to host the 2027 Palarong Pambansa, investing P500 million in a new sports complex in Iba and implementing a comprehensive training program for athletes.

Jade Ballesteros of the Provincial Sports Development Office said local athletes are eager to sustain their winning momentum as the Tarlac stage wraps up Friday. The second stage, hosted by Aurora from April 9–13 after Holy Week, will feature competitions in archery, arnis, basketball, dancesport, football, futsal, sepak takraw, table tennis, and volleyball.



Governor Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. poses with athletes at New Clark City Athletics Stadium, pledging continued provincial support and urging them to “Go for gold.”

DENR, partners strengthen turtle, mangrove protection in Bataan



BALANGA CITY — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), together with government, private sector, and community partners, signed two Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) to strengthen marine turtle protection and expand mangrove forest conservation in Bataan.

Covering the Sagip Pawikan Conservation and Protection Project (SagipPaWeCan) in Morong and the adoption of an additional mangrove area in Orani, the agreements reinforce efforts to protect coastal ecosystems while encouraging community participation and long-term environmental stewardship.

The partnerships involve the DENR, Provincial Government of Bataan, AboitizPower’s GNPowr Mariveles Energy Center Ltd. Co. (GMEC), GNPowr Dinginin Ltd. Co. (GNPD), concerned local government units, and people’s organizations.

Aligned with the national government’s environmental agenda, the initiatives support biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and community-based protection of coastal and marine resources through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Under the SagipPaWeCan project, partners will protect marine turtle nesting habitats in Sitio Fuerte, Morong, through hatchery management, habitat monitoring, coastal patrols, and environmental education activities.

Marine turtles, locally known as pawikan, play a vital role in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems. However, they continue to face threats from climate change, poaching, and coastal development.

Of the seven marine turtle species found worldwide, five occur in Philippine waters, including the critically endangered hawksbill and leatherback turtles.

The Pawikan Sitio Fuerte Association, a local people’s organization at the forefront of the conservation effort, has so far released more than 57,000 pawikan hatchlings into the waters of Bataan, reflecting the gains of sustained community-based conservation in the area.

Complementing the marine turtle protection

initiative, the second MOA covers the adoption of an additional 12-hectare mangrove area in Sitio Pulo, Barangay Kabalutan, Orani.

The newly adopted area expands the initial 20 hectares earlier adopted by AboitizPower in 2023. The project includes enrichment planting, habitat monitoring, protection activities, and livelihood opportunities for partner communities.

These efforts support the protection and restoration of coastal habitats that serve as natural barriers against storm surges, breeding grounds for marine life, and sources of livelihood for local residents.

AboitizPower GMEC-GNPD Vice President for Corporate Services Andrea Mellind Madrid said the company has committed P37.4 million to support the two environmental initiatives, stressing that its role goes beyond power generation to responsible corporate citizenship and community partnership.

“Ang AboitizPower po ay hindi lamang negosyo na nagbibigay ng kuryente, kami po ay tunay na partner ng komunidad, tagapangalaga rin ng kalikasan, at katuwang ninyo sa pangmatagalang pag-unlad,” Madrid said.

DENR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo underscored the value of science-based and inclusive partnerships in sustaining coastal and marine resources.

“The DENR is committed to building science-based, inclusive partnerships that protect biodiversity while empowering local communities. By ensuring compliance with national environmental laws and providing scientific and technical expertise, DENR is steering Bataan’s conservation projects toward long-term resilience and ecological integrity,” Pablo said.

Both initiatives are being implemented under Project Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilience and Environmental Sustainability through Multi-stakeholder Engagement, which promotes multi-stakeholder collaboration in building resilient and sustainable communities.

The agreements underscore the importance of collaboration in protecting natural resources and enabling communities to play an active role in coastal and marine conservation.

DA grants ₱7-M KADIWA aid to Nueva Ecija coops

BONGABON, NUEVA ECJA — The Department of Agriculture (DA) Central Luzon, through its Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division, granted financial assistance to farmers’ cooperatives in Bongabon.

Bongabon East Farmers and Fisheries Cooperative and Canaan East Rice and Onion Producers Cooperative received a total of ₱7 million under the KADIWA Financial Grant Assistance Program.

According to the DA, this assistance aims to strengthen the capacity of farmers and fisherfolk as reliable suppliers of

agricultural products while improving the country’s food distribution system.

Of the total amount, ₱5 million was granted to the Bongabon East Farmers and Fisheries Cooperative for the procurement of two hauling vehicles and working capital to enhance logistics and marketing operations.

Meanwhile, ₱2 million was awarded to the Canaan East Rice and Onion Producers Cooperative for the purchase of a hauling vehicle and trading capital to improve delivery systems and market linkage.

DA Central Luzon Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division Chief Carmencita Nogoy said the

SEE 4
DA



Members of the Bongabon East Farmers and Fisheries Cooperative and Canaan East Rice and Onion Producers Cooperative receive KADIWA financial grants from the Department of Agriculture Central Luzon to enhance logistics, improve market access, and strengthen their role as reliable suppliers of agricultural products. (DA Central Luzon)

Swings, cheers, and champions shine at 10th SGH Golf Cup 2026

It was a day of powerful drives, precision shots, and vibrant camaraderie as over a hundred players took to the greens for the Savers Group Holdings, Inc. (SGHI) Golf Cup on March 26 at Pradera Verde Golf and Country Club.

From the 7 a.m. gunstart, the fairways came alive with friendly competition among SGHI partners and dealers, turning the tournament into a lively celebration of sport, connection, and shared success.

Stealing the spotlight were the tournament's top performers. Lico Gozun and Richnell Albano emerged as the Overall Low Gross Champions with an impressive score of 63, while Dexter Pelias and Darwin Cosca claimed the Overall Low Net title with a score of 65.

In the Partner divisions, Jesus Romero and Joaquin Romero dominated Class A to secure the championship, while Ar. Danson Elvin Go and Ar. Daniel Go topped Class B, and Grace Castillo and Nilo Zantua ruled Class C.

Meanwhile, in the Guest category, Shiela Ward and Ar. Mike Ponio captured the Class A crown, Ysabel Francesca Que and Paula Erica Baltazar led Class B, and Rolly Barnes and Heller Garcia triumphed in Class C.



Class A Partners Champion:
Jesus Romero
Joaquin Romero

Class A Guest champions:
Shiela Ward and Arch Mike Ponio



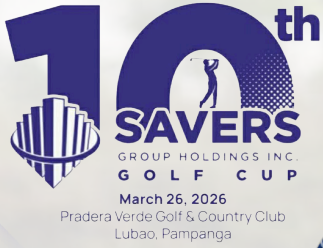
Class B Guest Champion:
Ysabel Francesca Que
Paula Erika Baltazar

Class C Guest Champion:
Rolly Barnes
Heller Garcia



Highlighting individual excellence, Joaquin Romero blasted a massive 361-yard Longest Drive, while Dexter Pelias showcased pinpoint accuracy with a Nearest to the Pin finish of just 1 foot and 8 inches.

More than just a tournament, the SGHI Golf Cup proved to be a spirited gathering—where competition met celebration, and every swing strengthened the bonds within the SGHI community.



Eden Springs Mountain Resort reopens

Showcases 'Community-Built Tourism'

By Arlyn Lukban | Photos by PPC

Eden Springs Mountain Resort in Barangay Inararo, Porac, has officially reopened, highlighting a tourism model that puts the community—and its indigenous Aeta residents—at the center of development. Once devastated by tons of lahar, the area has transformed over decades into a sustainable ecotourism destination, thanks to years of persistence, partnership, and "bayanihan" from locals and private stakeholders.

The reopening on March 25 featured the signing of a partnership agreement among Atty. Kyle Viola, Pinatubo Mountainero chairman Bari Silvestre, and Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative Norman King.

Atty. Viola emphasized that the resort is "owned by the community" and cannot be sold. He stressed that the venture's focus is on ecological and sustainable development while ensuring the welfare of the residents. "This is a partnership built on trust, with the community's welfare in consideration," he said.

King shared that their collaboration with the Viola family and Pinatubo Mountainero was a conscious choice, rooted in years of support during their struggle for ancestral land rights. "We are not here to make money. We want sustainable tourism and livelihood opportunities for our people," he said, noting that nearly half of Porac's upland areas fall under indigenous ancestral domain.

Silvestre described the Inararo tours as a "roller coaster ride which will make you feel all sorts of emotions" offering ATV adventures, hot springs, and pumice salt scrub massages, while also generating tangible benefits for the local community. "Beyond the destination, this is community-built tourism," he said, emphasizing that residents constructed trails, signages, and bridges that opened up the area to visitors.

Acting Vice Mayor Canlapan and Kap Benson King echoed the sentiment, highlighting that the project ensures upland communities are included, preserves nature, and serves as a model for replicable community-based tourism in Porac and beyond.

The Eden Springs reopening demonstrates how vision, partnership, and the active involvement of indigenous communities can transform once-neglected lands into sustainable destinations—proving that tourism can thrive when it is truly built by the community, for the community.

