

THE
VOICE
NEWSWEEKLY

FOUNDED 1955



Plaza Premium Lounge: When waiting becomes a sweet treat **P6**

₱40M allotted for Lubao Bamboo Hub expansion



TIEZA led by CEO and GM Mark T. Lapid has allotted ₱40 million for the expansion of the Lubao Bamboo Hub in Barangay Catalina. With him were PCL-Pampanga Chapter President Maynard T. Lapid, TIEZA's Engr. Gregory Oller and Lubao Mayor Esmie Pineda.

LUBAO — Tourism development in Pampanga continues to gain momentum as the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) committed an additional ₱40 million for the expansion of the Lubao Bamboo Hub, reinforcing efforts to promote sustainable and community-driven tourism.

TIEZA Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Mark T. Lapid personally led an inspection of key tourism projects in the province, including the Bamboo Hub in Barangay Catalina, alongside PCL-Pampanga Chapter President Maynard T. Lapid and TIEZA's Engr. Gregory Oller. The team was welcomed by Lubao Mayor Esmie Pineda and Councilor Jayson Victorino.

The ₱40-million funding will support Phase 2 of the Bamboo Hub's development, building on the ₱23.5-million Phase 1 which introduced attractions such as the Hanging Bridge and Floating Market. The expansion is expected to be completed within the year and will feature new attractions including a floating restaurant, pedestrian bridge, and additional boats to enhance the visitor experience.

Mayor Pineda said the project will create more jobs and livelihood opportunities for residents, while boosting small businesses and promoting local bamboo-based products. She emphasized that the initiative highlights Lubao's

SEE PAGE 4
₱40M



The Bureau of Customs Port of Clark profiles the 6,156 grams of ketamine seized recently. The ₱30.78 million worth of contraband, declared as solar cables, arrived from the Netherlands and was bound for Pasig City. (BOC)

BOC Port of Clark seizes ₱30.78-M in illegal drugs

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) Port of Clark seized about 6,156 grams of ketamine worth ₱30.78 million declared as solar cables.

Authorities reported that the parcel arrived from the Netherlands and was bound for Pasig City.

Operatives from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) conducted a K-9 sniff test, which yielded positive indications for narcotics.

Samples submitted to PDEA for chemical analysis confirmed the substance as ketamine, which is classified as a dangerous drug under Republic Act (RA) No. 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

A warrant of seizure and detention was issued against the parcel for violations of

the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act in relation to RA 9165.

BOC Port of Clark District Collector Jairus Reyes stressed these operations highlight the port's sustained vigilance against drug smuggling, and noted the importance of advancing Customs capabilities in combating sophisticated smuggling methods.

"Smugglers continue to evolve their tactics, and so must we. Strengthening our profiling systems and continuously building the expertise of our examiners are key to staying ahead and protecting our borders," he said.

For his part, BOC Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno highlighted the broader impact of the agency's enforcement efforts on Filipino communities. **BOC PORT OF CLARK**

SEE PAGE 4

Clark eyes world-class racing hub

ANGELES CITY — The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) has initiated discussions with the Philippine Racing Commission (PhilRaCom) for the potential development of a world-class horse racing track in Clark, a move seen to strengthen the area's sports tourism appeal.

The proposed project is expected to generate employment, attract investments, and open new economic opportunities while elevating Clark's profile as a premier destination for sports and leisure, according to BCDA President and CEO Joshua "Jake" Bingcang.

The meeting was attended by Pampanga First District Representative Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr. and PhilRaCom Chairman Aurelio "Reli" De Leon, who discussed possible areas of collaboration. Both parties underscored the importance of ensuring that the development aligns with international standards while supporting the growth of the local horse racing industry.

The initiative forms part of BCDA's broader strategy to position Clark as a leading sports tourism hub, integrating infrastructure, investment, and world-class facilities to drive sustained and dynamic growth.



BCDA President and CEO Joshua "Jake" Bingcang has initiated discussions with the PhilRaCom led by Chairman Aurelio "Reli" De Leon and First District Representative Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr. for the potential development of a world-class horse racing track in Clark.

Capitol proposes no-cost river dredging ahead of rainy season

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — Gov Nanay Pineda led an inter-agency meeting to fast-track proposed dredging activities along the Pampanga River as part of flood mitigation efforts ahead of the rainy season.

Officials from the Department of

Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), and the provincial

SEE PAGE 4
CAPITOL



Ahead of the rainy season, Gov. Lilia Pineda leads an inter-agency meeting to fast-track dredging activities along the Pampanga River as part of flood mitigation efforts.

CLLEX Package 4 cuts Tarlac–Cabanatuan travel to 20 minutes

Travel time between Tarlac and Cabanatuan City is expected to drop from one and a half hours to just 20 minutes following the opening of Contract Package 4 of the Central Luzon Link Expressway (CLLEX).

The newly opened segment connects directly to the Tarlac–Pangasinan–La Union Expressway, enabling faster and more efficient travel for motorists across Central Luzon.

SEE PAGE 4
CLLEX



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., joined by DPWH Secretary Vince Dizon and DOTr Acting Secretary Giovanni Lopez, leads the opening of the Central Luzon Link Expressway Contract Package 4, linking TPLEX to Cabanatuan City (PCO)

Mayor Jon tightens business security measures in AC

ANGELES CITY — Mayor Carmelo “Jon” Lazatin II led a high-level peace and order meeting to strengthen security across the city’s business districts, underscoring his administration’s firm stance on protecting lawful enterprises and maintaining public safety.

Presiding over discussions with the Angeles City Police Office and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Lazatin emphasized that a safe and stable environment is essential to economic growth and investor confidence. He made it clear that the city will not tolerate illegal activities that threaten

businesses, workers, and residents. “Safety is non-negotiable,” Lazatin stressed, vowing strict enforcement of laws and transparent operations to safeguard the local business sector.

The meeting focused on coordinated strategies to curb illegal practices, including schemes disguised as legitimate partnerships. The mayor warned investors and business operators to remain vigilant, stressing that any entity found violating national laws will face appropriate penalties regardless of local ties.

SEE PAGE 4
MAYOR JON



To strengthen security across the city’s business districts, Mayor Carmelo “Jon” Lazatin II leads a high-level peace and order meeting, underscoring his administration’s firm stance on protecting lawful enterprises and maintaining public safety.

Cong Pogi hears out AC youth leaders

ANGELES CITY — Pampanga First District Representative Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin, Jr. welcomed earlier today Angeles City’s youth leaders as he heard their proposed projects focused on education and healthcare.

A total of 24 Sanggunian Kabataan (SK) chairpersons presented their initiatives, highlighting plans to establish e-libraries across communities and to conduct medical missions aimed at improving public health access. The group

was led by SK Federation Vice President Dennis Duya of Barangay Cutcut.

Cong Pogi expressed openness to supporting the proposed city-wide programs, recognizing the role of young leaders in driving community development.

Also present during the meeting was Chief Political Affairs Officer Reina Manuel, who joined the discussions on how to further strengthen collaboration between the local government and the SK sector.



Congressman Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin, Jr. poses with Angeles City’s youth leaders during a meeting where he heard their proposed projects focused on education and healthcare.

DSWD, Mabalacat distribute cash aid to tricycle drivers

MABALACAT CITY — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the Mabalacat City Government, began distributing cash assistance to tricycle drivers under the city’s Tricycle Operators and Drivers’ Association (TODA) on Wednesday, April 8.

Around 2,000 TODA members received ₱5,000 each as part of the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) program. The payout was reported to be orderly and well-organized.

Mayor Geld Aquino expressed gratitude

to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for the continued implementation of programs that support the transport sector. He also thanked Pampanga Gov Nanay Pineda and Vice Governor Delta Pineda for the Pampanga Capitol’s ongoing support of initiatives benefiting Mabalacat residents.

Mayor Aquino noted that the program provides significant help to beneficiaries, especially drivers affected by rising fuel costs, and added that the city government plans to provide additional assistance to TODA members in the coming weeks.



Around 2,000 TODA members received ₱5,000 each as part of the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, in coordination with the Mabalacat City Government.

Students gain skills for safe, respectful spaces

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — About 80 Kapampangan students from the City College of San Fernando, Pampanga (CCSFP) participated in a gender and development (GAD) forum on safe spaces, safe digital spaces, and gender-fair communication held inside the school campus.

The forum, organized by the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), focused on helping students understand their role in creating respectful, inclusive, and safe environments in schools, online platforms,

and future workplaces.

CCSFP President Gloria Bañas urged students to reflect on how their actions affect others.

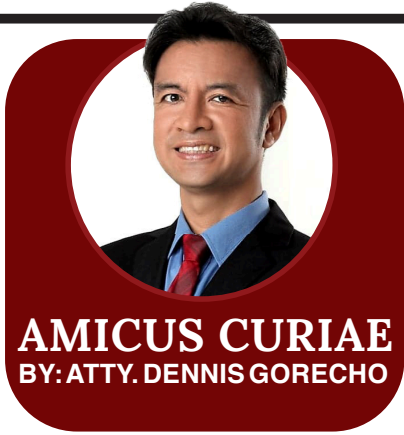
“Being active on social media doesn’t give us the right to bully or disrespect others. In your future workplace, you will meet many people, and one thing you should carry with you is respect for everyone,” she said.

Students learned about

SEE PAGE 4
STUDENTS



Faculty and students of the City College of San Fernando, Pampanga share their insights on various topics including safe spaces, safe digital spaces, and gender-fair during the gender and development forum conducted by the Philippine Information Agency. (PIA 3)



AMICUS CURIAE
BY: ATTY. DENNIS GORECHO

The power of art in the fight for the West Philippine Sea

STREET art is a legal form of artistic expression that always had a history of being influenced by prevailing social issues.

Street art makes daily activities more interesting by adding character to what would otherwise just be grey and boring walls.

The first national West Philippine Sea (WPS) Mural Festival was conceived as a nationwide competition among Filipino artists to create public artworks that promote patriotism and support efforts to protect the WPS.

“Join the WPS mural festival and turn blank walls into vibrant masterpieces that celebrate our rights, seas, heritage, and future!” said Rear Adm. Jay Tarriela as Philippine Coast Guard spokesperson for the WPS.

Carrying the theme “Kulayan ang Karagatan para sa Kalayaan,” the festival aims to strengthen public awareness and highlight the role of art in expression and nation-building.

Under the guidelines, selected mural entries must be at least 15 square meters, displayed in public spaces, and supported by written permission from property owners.

The top three entries will be awarded ₱1,000,000 (first place), ₱500,000 (second place), and ₱350,000 (third place). A total of 100 winners will receive ₱30,000 each.

Registration runs from February 10 to April 10, 2026, with winners to be announced in July 2026.

Documentary filmmaker Baby Ruth Villarama said that the WPS mural festival seeks to bring the story of the sea closer to the heart of every Filipino.

Her film “Food Delivery” chronicles the country’s struggle to assert its rights in the WPS and the daily hardships of Filipino fishermen.

The five-member United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) Arbitral Tribunal released on

July 12, 2016 its decision in favor of the Philippines on most of its submissions on the WPS issue.

UNCLOS, adopted in 1982 and in force since 1994, is the international treaty establishing the comprehensive legal framework for all ocean space, maritime activities, and resources. It defines rights, jurisdictions, and responsibilities, covering zones like the territorial sea and exclusive economic zone

Since around 2009, China has steadily increased its efforts to consolidate its position in the WPS with varied tactics, including using its military, coast guard, and maritime militia to harass foreign ships; exploring and extracting resources in disputed areas; and constructing artificial islands and basing military and civilian assets there.

The Philippines initiated on January 2013 the arbitration case (Philippines vs. China, PCA Case No 2013-19) wherein it sought, among others, a declaration that the countries’ respective rights and obligations regarding the waters, seabed, and maritime features of the West Philippine Sea are governed by the UNCLOS.

The key findings of the July 12, 2016 ruling include:

(a) China’s claims to historic rights and resources within its nine-dash line have no legal basis;

(b) None of China’s claimed land features in the Spratly Islands are an island capable of generating a 200-nm exclusive economic zone;

(c) China violated the Philippines’ sovereign rights by interfering with Philippine oil exploration activities, prohibiting Philippine fishing vessels from operating, failing to prevent Chinese fishing vessels from operating, and conducting land reclamation in areas where the Philippines enjoys sovereign rights to explore for and exploit natural resources;

(d) China violated its marine environmental protection obligations under UNCLOS by causing “severe harm to the coral reef environment” with its land reclamation activities and harvesting of endangered species.

China is legally bound by the tribunal’s ruling by virtue of its ratification of UNCLOS. But China reacted negatively to the ruling, maintaining it was “null and void.”

“Give that to me? Son of a bitch, that’s just a piece of paper. I’ll throw it in the waste basket,” former President Rodrigo Duterte said in a press conference.

Duterte’s dismissal of the unanimous ruling as a piece of wastepaper is the same tenor that Beijing used to reject the ruling when it first came out.

Former Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio said that “the battle to defend the nation’s EEZ from China mirrors those our forebears waged against colonizers from the 16th to the 20th century, where the country’s best and brightest gave their lives to make the Philippines free”.

I was the president of the Maritime Law Association of the Philippines (MARLAW) when the WPS arbitral ruling was released in 2016.

MARLAW is an organization of lawyers and other professionals engaged in maritime practice, and helps spur the development and advancement of the interests of the various stakeholders in the Philippine maritime industry, as well as the maritime interests of the Philippines.

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THE GLOBAL BEAT
BY GERALD LACUARTA

Digital Fog of War: How Misinformation Shapes the Middle East Crisis

trouble with host-country laws.

Locally, false stories have already popped up claiming that Philippine EDCA sites could become Iranian targets. The Department of National Defense quickly pushed back, stressing there is no credible direct threat to the Philippines and calling out content that deliberately stirs fear.

This hits home because the Philippines knows disinformation all too well. We were once called “patient zero” for fake news during the 2016 elections, and we’ve been fighting troll farms, coordinated fake accounts, and AI-generated attacks ever since. Revisionist history, deepfake videos against politicians, and foreign influence ops have all chipped away at public trust and widened our divisions.

When alarming, unverified clips about the Middle East start flooding Filipino timelines, many people share them out of genuine concern. But all too often, truth becomes the victim. The mechanics are the same everywhere: people are quick to post without verification, and emotions rule over evidence.

The consequences are real. Misinformation can push OFWs into risky choices based on rumors. It can shake confidence in government efforts to protect them. And in a country already dealing with South China Sea tensions and deep political rifts, this imported chaos can make our own problems worse.

So what can we actually do? As ordinary readers and citizens, start by pausing before you share. Ask simple questions: Is this from a verified source? Have several reputable outlets — local or international — confirmed it? Is the post clearly trying to trigger fear or rage instead of giving real information?

Support solid fact-checkers and real journalism. Push platforms to do better, but also sharpen your own digital literacy. Tools for spotting AI fakes, recycled videos, and missing context are getting easier to use.

The government has a part to play too. The Philippine authorities’ quick advisories on Middle East disinformation have been helpful. Long-term, we need stronger media literacy programs in schools and communities so Filipinos can better navigate this AI-saturated information environment.

The tensions between the US, Israel, and Iran show that today’s conflicts are not just fought with missiles and drones. They are fought with narratives. Here in the Philippines, where social media already shapes elections, public opinion, and even how we see foreign policy, learning to resist unverified drama is not optional. It is necessary for staying an informed citizen.

The Middle East conflict is a stress test for habits Filipinos already have. The people sharing AI-generated footage of sinking carriers today are, in many cases, the same people who shared fabricated Marcos-era history in 2022. The subject matter is different. The reflex is identical. Patient zero status was supposed to mean something — a hard lesson learned early. What it should have taught us is that no app update or platform policy can fix those habits for us. People should care enough about truths and facts before they hit the share button.

EVEN as a shaky two-week brokered ceasefire between Iran and the United States barely holds, Israeli strikes continue in Lebanon and tensions simmer over the Strait of Hormuz. On social media, though, a completely different war is raging.

Viral posts are spreading wild claims by the hour: massive strikes that supposedly wiped out entire bases, fake photos of American aircraft carriers sinking, AI-generated videos of cities turned to rubble, and rumors that top officials are fleeing or preparing for the worst.

Just recently, one story claimed Israel’s leadership had abandoned the country, hinting at imminent nuclear escalation. As this is being written in the midst of a two week US-Iran ceasefire, there is zero credible evidence to back that up. While people are indeed moving away from active conflict zones, these over-the-top narratives usually mix scraps of truth with heavy speculation. And they travel much faster than the facts can catch up.

This is not an isolated case. Since the US-Israel-Iran conflict flared up again in late February 2026, there has been an unprecedented wave of misinformation. Researchers have tracked dozens of false claims gaining hundreds of millions of views.

Pro-Iran accounts have been flooding feeds with AI-generated clips showing the USS Abraham Lincoln going down or Tel Aviv in ruins, many of them recycling old footage or even video game scenes. On the other side, old protest videos are being reused to exaggerate unrest in Iran or inflate military victories. Deepfakes have put world leaders in ridiculous situations, shown captured soldiers who were never captured, and depicted tragedies that did not happen where or when claimed. Even real events, like strikes that did cause civilian deaths, have been twisted with synthetic additions for maximum emotional impact.

Fact-checkers have spotted the usual patterns: heavy emotional language, anonymous “sources,” lightning-fast spread on X and Facebook, and those slippery disclaimers like “rumors suggest” that let posters avoid any real responsibility. The end result is a thick digital fog that twists how people see the conflict, stokes fear and anxiety, and makes actual diplomacy even harder.

In war, truth is often the first casualty. In 2026, artificial intelligence has made the weapons of deception faster, cheaper, and far more convincing.

For Filipinos, this distant conflict hits closer to home than many realize. Hundreds of thousands of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) remain in the Middle East, vulnerable to regional instability. he Department of Migrant Workers and Malacañang have repeatedly warned people to be careful about panic-inducing misinformation that could even get them in

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THEVOICENEWSWEEKLY

Fernandinos to access up to ₱20-K free meds under PhilHealth GAMOT program

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — Treatment] program.

Fernandinos can now access up to P20,000 worth of free essential medicines annually following the launch of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) GAMOT [Guaranteed and Accessible Medications for Outpatient

The program, launched at the City of San Fernando Central Pharmacy in partnership with the Department of Health and PhilHealth, aims to reduce out-of-pocket

SEE PAGE 4 FERNANDINOS

The city government of San Fernando launches the PhilHealth GAMOT program to reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenses by giving qualified individuals access to free medicines for outpatient and maintenance treatments. (CSFP CIO)

₱40M ... FROM PAGE 1

commitment to sustainable tourism rooted in local culture. During the visit, Lapid also inspected the ₱30-million restoration project of the historic San Agustin Church in Lubao, as well as the solar lighting project at Sta. Rita Eco Park extending to the Sta. Barbara Bridge in Bacolor, aimed at improving safety

CLLEX ... FROM PAGE 2

Among those set to benefit is motorist Mark Jaybert Nolasco, who regularly travels between the two cities for his small lechon business. He said the shorter route will help cut fuel expenses and support stable pricing of goods. Public Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon highlighted the importance of the project amid rising fuel costs. "Kasi 'pag napaiksi natin yung oras ng biyahe ng mga kababayan natin, bababa ang konsumo ng gasolina at diesel, bababa rin ang gastos nila. Tapos, mas madali pa silang makakauwi sa mga pamilya nila nang mas mabilis," Dizon said. He added that the expressway will also help decongest MacArthur Highway, particularly during peak travel periods such as Holy Week. Meanwhile, Acting Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez said infrastructure projects like CLLEX are vital in ensuring efficient mobility and stable commodity prices. "Ito po ay isang magandang proyekto sapagkat

STUDENTS... FROM PAGE 2

Republic Act 11313, otherwise known as the Safe Spaces Act, how to communicate using gender-fair language, and ways to promote safety and respect in both physical and digital spaces. Many shared that the discussions gave them new awareness about the impact of their words and behavior. CCSFP Vice President for Academic Affairs Melanie Briones encouraged students to use the lessons learned in the forum beyond the classroom. "Your voices matter. Claim your space—lead with change, lead with courage. If there are challenges, we rise together," she urged. For his part, PIA Regional Head William Beltran highlighted the importance of continuous commitment to gender equality. "GAD is about creating environments that respect everyone—regardless of gender, background, or age. We should also support vulnerable groups, such as women with disabilities, who face extra challenges,"

FERNANDINOS ... FROM PAGE 3

healthcare expenses for the public. Under the initiative, qualified PhilHealth members may avail of medicines for outpatient and maintenance treatments, helping ease the financial burden of families for healthcare. Mayor Vilma Caluag expressed optimism that the program will directly benefit Ferdinandinos by improving access to needed medications. "Bukod sa pagpapababa ng out-of-pocket expenses, inaasahan din na mapapabuti ng programang ito ang adherence ng mga pasyente sa kanilang gamutan na magresulta sa mas maayos na gamutan at pag-iwas sa komplikasyon ng sakit. (Apart from reducing out-of-pocket expenses, this program is also expected to improve patients' adherence to their treatment, which will result in better treatment and prevention of disease complications)," she said. The mayor added that the initiative expands access to medicines for PhilHealth members. "Ang PhilHealth GAMOT program ay isang inisyatiba na naglalayong palawakin ang access ng mga miyembro ng PhilHealth sa abot-kaya, de-kalidad, at tuluy-tuloy na suplay ng mga kinakailangang gamot. (The PhilHealth GAMOT program is an initiative

DENR ... FROM PAGE 5

Director Ralph Pablo said the partnership reflects the importance of collaboration in advancing sustainable forest management and environmental protection. He emphasized that the agreement shows how the government, private sector, and local communities can work together to carry out long-term and meaningful reforestation initiatives while promoting responsible stewardship of natural resources. As the lead implementing agency, DENR will provide technical supervision and assistance to ensure the effective implementation of the project. Its support will include survey and planning, monitoring, documentation, and capability-building activities. For its part, APREC will finance the project, including rehabilitation, maintenance, protection, and community awareness initiatives throughout the five-year implementation period. Meanwhile, GAKAI, a community-based people's organization, will take the lead in on-the-ground activities such as nursery establishment, seedling

and tourism appeal. Lapid reaffirmed TIEZA's continued support for tourism infrastructure projects in Pampanga, underscoring their role in strengthening local economies and attracting more visitors across the province.

kapag ginagamit na natin ito, maiiwasan din natin ang mga traffic pagdating sa ating mga alternate roads... At ang isa sa mga pinag-uusapan nga namin ni Secretary Vince, at least makakatulong din tayo sa kalakal ng mga goods natin, at makakadagdag sa pag-stabilize ng presyo ng mga bilihin," Lopez said. The new segment, stretching from the San Juan Interchange in Aliaga to the Cabanatuan exit, completes Phase 1 of the 29.2-kilometer, four-lane expressway. It is expected to serve around 11,500 motorists daily. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. led the opening of the segment and announced it will be toll-free until December to help ease traffic along MacArthur Highway. The ₱10-billion CLLEX Phase 1 project was funded through official development assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency and forms part of efforts to strengthen Luzon's transport network through improved east-west connectivity.

he noted. The forum included interactive sessions, case studies, and question-and-answer portions that allowed students to practice what they learned, preparing them to foster safe and inclusive environments in school, online, and future workplaces. PIA Pampanga Information Center Manager and Regional GAD Focal Marie Joy Carbungco reminded students that building safe spaces requires effort from everyone. "Creating safe and inclusive spaces—offline and online—is a shared responsibility. Each of you can make a difference by promoting respect, fairness, and inclusivity in your communities." By the end of the forum, students were not only informed but also inspired to carry the principles of respect, inclusion, and gender sensitivity into their daily lives, helping to create safer and more equitable spaces wherever they go.

that aims to expand PhilHealth members' access to affordable, quality, and continuous supply of essential medicines," Caluag noted. The GAMOT program is integrated with the Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP), which provides primary care services such as check-ups, laboratory tests, dental care, and access to 21 essential medicines through accredited clinics. Meanwhile, the GAMOT program covers 54 essential medicines that may be availed based on prescriptions issued by YAKAP-accredited physicians. To avail of the benefits, members must ensure their PhilHealth records are updated, consult with a YAKAP physician, and secure a prescription, which can be used to claim medicines from accredited facilities. Six rural health units and the San Fernando Super Health Center have been designated as YAKAP clinics, while the City of San Fernando Central Pharmacy serves as the main GAMOT facility. Officials said the initiative strengthens the implementation of Universal Health Care by ensuring a more inclusive and strengthened health system, where every Filipino has adequate access to necessary medicines.

production, planting, maintenance, and protection of the project sites in close coordination with DENR and APREC. DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office Zambales chief Marife Castillo said the project will plant fruit-bearing trees, bamboo, and timber species, with preference given to native species to help enrich existing vegetation and support long-term forest recovery. "Protecting and rehabilitating our forestlands requires not only resources, but also strong partnerships and shared accountability. Through this agreement, we are helping ensure that reforestation efforts are sustained and that local communities remain active partners in caring for our natural resources," Castillo said. The initiative supports the national government's Enhanced National Greening Program, which aims to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation through reforestation and sustainable forest management.

BOC PORT OF CLARK ... FROM PAGE 1

"Every drug shipment we stop represents lives protected and families spared from harm. This is not just enforcement—it is our duty to safeguard the well-being of

every Filipino," he said. BOC remains steadfast in securing the country's borders and protecting the Filipino people from the dangers of illegal drugs.

CAPITOL ... FROM PAGE 2

government discussed plans to lower water levels and reduce flooding, particularly in flood-prone areas such as Masantol and Macabebe. The project will be implemented at no cost to the government, with private entities funding the

dredging operations, while DPWH and DENR will oversee execution. Governor Pineda stressed the urgency of the initiative to ease long-standing flooding concerns among residents, as agencies coordinate with private contractors for its immediate rollout.

MAYOR JON ... FROM PAGE 2

As part of strengthened oversight, the Business Permit and Licensing Division was directed to intensify inspections, particularly on foreign-operated establishments, to ensure compliance with regulations, proper documentation, and

adherence to labor standards. Lazatin reaffirmed the city government's commitment to fostering a secure and business-friendly environment, positioning Angeles City as a safe hub for investment and enterprise.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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Office of the Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff

<p>BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, <i>Petitioner-Mortgagee.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-versus-</p> <p>MARC RODDEN VILLAREAL IGNACIO AND ELIZABETH PUZON ANGELES, <i>Respondents-Mortgagors.</i></p>	<p>E.J.F. No. 29-26 Real Estate Mortgage under Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118</p>
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x-----x
NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135/1508 filed by Petitioner-Mortgagee **BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS**, with its principal office at Tower One, Ayala North Exchange, 6796 Ayala Avenue corner Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City and branch office address at Bank of the Philippine Islands Pampanga Retail Loans Center, BPI San Fernando Hi-way Main Branch Building, Jose Abad Santos Avenue, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, against Respondents-Mortgagors, **MARC RODDEN VILLAREAL IGNACIO AND ELIZABETH PUZON ANGELES**, with residence and collateral address at Blk. 26, Lot 3, Phase 1A, Apahap St., Brgy. Northbay Blvd., South Kaunlaran, City of Navotas and Blk. 22, Lot 14, Amaia Scapes Pampanga, Brgy. Sapang Maisac, Mexico, Pampanga, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of February 23, 2026, amounts to **PESOS: ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY FOUR and 53/100 (Php 1,862,594.53)** excluding penalties, attorney's fees and expenses of foreclosure, the undersigned duly authorized deputy sheriff will sell at public auction on **MAY 20, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.** 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 properties with all improvements, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 042-2024016582
" x x x
LOT NO: 14 BLOCK NO. 22 PLAN NO. PCS-03-018411
PORTION OF: LOT 4, PCS-03-008702; LOT 3-D, PSD-03-096132:
LOCATION: BARANGAY OF SAPANG MAISAC, MUNICIPALITY
OF MEXICO, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, ISLAND OF
LUZON x x x
AREA: SEVENTY FOUR SQUARE METERS (74), 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 May 27, 2026, without further notice. Prospective buyers and bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the property described above, and the encumbrance thereon, if any there be.

City of San Fernando, Pampanga, April 06, 2026.

(SGD)
Julio M. Cunanan
Sheriff IV/RTC-BR.45. CSF(P)

COPY FURNISHED:
1.) BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS - 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, JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVENUE, DOLORES, CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
2.) MARC RODDEN VILLAREAL IGNACIO & ELIZABETH PUZON ANGELES - BLK. 26, LOT 3 PHASE 1A, APAHAP ST., BRGY. NORTHBAY BLVD, SOUTH KAUNLARAN, CITY OF NAVOTAS/BLK. 22, LOT 14 AMAIA SCAPES PAMPANGA, BRGY. SAPANG MAISAC MEXICO PAMPANGA
3.) ATTY. NOEL C QUIOC - RM 206 & 208, PLAZA GARCIA BUILDING, DOLORES CRY OF SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
4.) THE VOICE

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY. April 12, 19, 26 2026

PH, US join forces with Japan, Australia in SALAKNIB 2026

PALAYAN CITY (PIA) — The Philippine Army and the United States Army Pacific (USARPAC) have joined forces with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and the Australian Army for the 2026 iteration of the Philippines–United States Joint and Combined Exercise SALAKNIB.

Launched on April 6 at Fort Ramon Magsaysay in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija, the exercise aims to strengthen soldiers' capabilities in mission command

systems interoperability, joint warfighting through aviation integration, combined arms operations, and operations in land-dominated environments.

Japan and Australia are joining SALAKNIB for the first time as participants and observers, marking the largest iteration of the exercise to date.

The Philippine Army and the USARPAC have been conducting SALAKNIB since 2015 under the framework of the Mutual

Defense Treaty.

"This year, SALAKNIB brings together more than 7,000 groups—a powerful demonstration of unity and shared purpose. More importantly, it represents a convergence of capabilities, experience, and results aimed at enhancing our collective defense readiness," Philippine Army Vice Commander and Land Component Command–Luzon Commander Major General Efren Morados stated in his keynote remarks.

He added that the exercise is "guided by a clear and strategic purpose to strengthen combined arms operations, deepen multi-domain interoperability, and reinforce a credible and resilient regional security architecture."

Morados further emphasized that SALAKNIB provides a platform for allied forces to operationalize these frameworks alongside partners, ensuring readiness to respond with speed, precision, and coordinated effort against evolving threats.

Meanwhile, US Army 25th Infantry Division Commanding General Major General James Bartholomees described the exercise as a demonstration of unity among allied forces.

"Our exercise, named SALAKNIB, meaning shield, reflects the essence of what we do here—four nations standing shoulder to shoulder, united in common

defense and shared purpose," he said.

Bartholomees also underscored the longstanding alliance between the Philippines and the United States, stating, "The United States is proud to call the Philippines our oldest treaty ally in the Pacific, with a bond forged 73 years ago that has strengthened decades of shared sacrifice, trust, and friendship."

Over the coming weeks, participating troops will train in jungle operations, live fire ranges, and small unit tactics, focusing on interoperability across intelligence, fires, maneuver, sustainment, and command and control functions.

The exercise will also serve as a buildup to the larger joint exercise Balikatan, further enhancing coordination and readiness among allied forces.

"While our shields are interwoven, potential adversaries clearly see the unity, the capability, and the resolve of our land forces. Together, we will ensure peace, deter aggression, and preserve a free and open Indo-Pacific," Bartholomees furthered.

SALAKNIB Phase 1 runs from April 6 until April 17 and will be followed by Exercise Balikatan from April to May and SALAKNIB Phase 2 from May to June 2026.

The multilateral exercises cover maritime and territorial defense, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, as well as amphibious and combined arms operations.



The Philippine Army and United States Army Pacific join forces with Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and Australian Army for the launch of the Philippines–United States Joint and Combined Exercise SALAKNIB 2026 at Fort Ramon Magsaysay in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija. (Philippine Army)

Tarlac LGU, DSWD give out aid for trike drivers

TARLAC — The Department of Social Welfare and Development - DSWD, in partnership with the Tarlac City Government, has begun distributing financial assistance to tricycle drivers affected by rising fuel costs.

Tarlac City Mayor Susan Yap led the rollout of the Cash Relief Assistance Payout (Batch 1), providing immediate support to drivers grappling with the impact of increasing oil prices linked to

ongoing tensions in the Middle East.

The initiative forms part of the local government's efforts to cushion the transport sector from economic pressures and help sustain daily livelihoods.

Mayor Yap emphasized that the city remains committed to prioritizing the welfare of Tarlaqueños through concrete and compassionate public service, particularly in times of economic strain.



Republic of the Philippines
Third Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
Angeles City

Email:rtc1angocc@judiciary.gov.ph | Hotline: 0931 938 2192

CHINA BANK SAVING, INC.,
Mortgagee,

Extra Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgage Under Act No. 3135 as Amended
FC Case No. 2026-0004

- versus -
CATHERINE JASMINE R. RICAFORT,
Mortgagor/Borrower.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extrajudicial Application for sale under Act No. 3135, as Amended filed by the mortgagee, **CHINA BANK SAVING, INC.**, with principal place of business at 12th Floor, China Bank Saving, Inc. Building, No. 314 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City, against the *mortgagor/borrower*, **CATHERINE JASMINE R. RICAFORT**, of legal age, Filipino Citizen and with postal address/es at: (1). Block 24, Lot 52, Phirst Park Homes Magalang PH 1A, B4 Barangay Sto. Rosario, Magalang, Pampanga; (2). No.19 Natividad Street, Christine Village, Dela Paz, Pasig City, in order to satisfy the mortgage debt therein which as of 30 December 2025, amounts to **One Million Six Hundred Forty-Six Thousand One Hundred Ninety-One Pesos and Fifty-Four Centavos (Php1,646,191.54)**, 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 **5th May 2026 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the Municipal Trial Court, Magalang, Pampanga located at ground floor, Magalang Legislative building, San Nicolas I, Magalang Pampanga**, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for **cash or manager's check and in Philippine Currency**, the following parcel of land with all the improvement existing thereon:

TCT NO. 045-2024017954

A parcel of land situated in **BARANGAY OF SANTO ROSARIO, MAGALANG, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, ISLAND OF LUZON, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:**

LOT NO: 52, BLOCK NO: 24, PLAN NO: PCS-03-023814
PORTION OF: CONNS-SUBD OF LOTS A,B,C,D,E,F,G, PSD-03-154386 (AR), LOTS A,B,C, PCS-03-015233 (AR) & LOT 458, MAGALANG CAD

LOCATION: BARANGAY OF SANTO ROSARIO, MUNICIPALITY OF MAGALANG, PAMPANGA, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, ISLAND OF LUZON.

BOUNDARIES:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	SW	Lot 90, MAGALANG CADASTRE
2-3	NW	Lot 53, Block 24, PCS-03-023814
3-4	NE	ROAD Lot 26, PCS-03-023814
4-1	SE	Lot 51, Block 24, PCS-03-023814

AREA: FIFTY-TWO (52) SQUARE METERS, 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 **26th May 2026** at the same time and place without further notice. Angeles City, 2nd February, 2026.

(SGD)
GARRY M. PANGILINAN
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished
CHINA BANK SAVING, INC
at 12th Floor, China Bank Saving, Inc. Building, No. 314 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue. Makati City

CATHERINE JASMINE R. RICAFORT
(1) Block 24, Lot 52, Phirst Park Homes Magalang PH 1A, B4 Barangay Sto. Rosario, Magalang, Pampanga
(2) No. 19 Natividad Street, Christine Village, Dela Paz, Pasig City

DENR leads forest rehab in Zambales

IBA, Zambales — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has partnered with AP Renewable Energy Corporation (APREC) and the Gala Aeta Kuliwig Association Inc. (GAKAI) to strengthen forest rehabilitation and protection efforts in Zambales.

The three parties recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement to restore, maintain, and protect over 74 hectares of forestland in the

towns of San Marcelino and Subic over a five-year period.

Under the agreement, DENR, APREC, and GAKAI will jointly carry out activities such as seedling production, tree planting, plantation maintenance, and site protection to help improve forest cover and rehabilitate the adopted areas.

DENR Regional Executive



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources signs a Memorandum of Agreement with AP Renewable Energy Corporation and the Gala Aeta Kuliwig Association Inc. to strengthen reforestation and forest protection efforts in Zambales. (DENR)



PLAZA PREMIUM LOUNGE: *When waiting becomes a sweet treat*

There's a certain thrill that comes with traveling. From planning the itinerary, imagining new places, and finally setting off for the journey. But somewhere between the excitement and takeoff lies a familiar pause: the wait.

For many travelers, airports mean long hours—arriving three to four hours early for international flights, or at least two for domestic trips. After check-in, security lines, and immigration formalities, the anticipation can slowly give way to fatigue.

But at Plaza Premium Lounge Clark, waiting transforms into something far more indulgent.

Tucked conveniently near the departure gates of Clark International Airport, the lounge offers a welcome retreat from the usual airport rush. Inside, travelers are greeted with plush seating, quiet corners, and thoughtfully designed spaces that cater to both rest and productivity. Whether you're looking to unwind on a comfortable couch or catch up on work at a charging-equipped desk, the lounge provides a seamless blend of comfort and convenience—complete with reliable, high-speed Wi-Fi.

Then comes the real treat: the food.

Curated selections of hot meals, light bites, and an array of beverages—from freshly brewed coffee to refreshing cold drinks—turn idle time into a delightful dining experience. During a recent visit, Operations Manager Aujean Santos introduced us to the lounge's Easter and Spring menu offerings. Each dish was thoughtfully prepared, leaving guests satisfied—and wishing they had room for just one more plate.

For those in need of a quick refresh, shower facilities are also available, adding another layer of ease before boarding.

At Plaza Premium Lounge, time is no longer something to pass—it becomes something to savor. In this quiet pocket of comfort within the airport, the journey begins long before the flight.

Waiting, after all, has never been this sweet.



FOOD MENU

