

# THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY

FOUNDED 1955



Beautéderm relaunches Reverie with brand ambassador Jennylyn Mercado **P6**

# ₱21.9-M uncertified steel seized in Pampanga ops



**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO** — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has conducted intensified enforcement operations in Pampanga, resulting to the confiscation of 186,329 units of uncertified steel products worth ₱21,902,030 million.

This crackdown supports President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive to ensure consumer safety and purge the market of substandard construction materials. The confiscated items, which included equal leg steel angle bars and deformed steel bars, were found without the required Philippine Standard (PS) and Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) markings. These certifications serve as essential proof that products have undergone and passed mandatory safety and quality checks. Beyond the missing safety marks, the items also failed to provide basic labeling information, such as the manufacturer's name and office address. These enforcement efforts were carried out with support from industry stakeholders, including reports from the private sector. In one operation, authorities seized ₱19.6 million worth of uncertified steel products from a supplier flagged by a retailer. A subsequent operation, triggered by an industry report, resulted in the confiscation of an additional ₱2.3 million in non-compliant products. Hardware stores found selling these uncertified goods were issued Notices of Violation, with **SEE PAGE 4 P21.9-M**

## BCDA, Esysoft to help boost PH energy transition

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) has formalized a partnership with Esysoft Technologies Asia to help accelerate the country's energy transition through cleaner, more reliable, and future-ready power systems that will strengthen energy security and support sustainable infrastructure development.

The collaboration will advance environmentally and socially responsible initiatives, while helping deliver quality infrastructure aligned with BCDA's smart

city agenda in New Clark City and other BCDA-managed properties.

BCDA President and Chief Executive Officer Joshua M. Bingcang and Esysoft Technologies Southeast Asia Chief Executive Officer Madhususan Sreedharan signed a memorandum of understanding establishing a framework for cooperation.

The partnership seeks to provide secure, cost-efficient, and environmentally responsible energy solutions to meet the

growing demands of New Clark City, which is being positioned as a next-generation investment destination for industries that require dependable and sustainable power.

"This kind of infrastructure is more than physical development. It is about building systems that improve the daily lives of the public we serve," Engr. Bingcang said. "This partnership aligns with the national government's direction of advancing sustainable, renewable, and **SEE PAGE 4 BCDA**



(L-R) Esysoft Executive Assistant to the CEO for Southeast Asia Selvi Aprilia, Esysoft Technologies Southeast Asia Chief Executive Officer Madhususan Sreedharan, BCDA President and CEO Engr. Joshua M. Bingcang, OIC SVP for Conversion and Development Engr. Mark P. Torres signed a memorandum of understanding establishing a framework for cooperation. (BCDA photo)

## Renovated Bacolor hospital to open this May

**BACOLOR, Pampanga**

— The newly renovated Ricardo Rodriguez Memorial Hospital is set to open this May, offering improved healthcare services to residents.

The development was announced by Gov Nanay Pineda during a recent medical mission in Bacolor, where she was joined by Mayor Eduardo Diman Datu.

The three-story facility now has a 75-bed capacity and is classified as a Level 1 hospital, equipped to provide

essential medical services. It also features diagnostic procedures such as X-ray, 2D Echo, ultrasound, and other laboratory services.

With the upgraded hospital, patients will no longer need to travel to City of San Fernando for medical

care, as services will now be accessible within the municipality.

Meanwhile, the provincial government has also allocated ₱15 million for the improvement of the road in front of the municipal hall.

During the medical mission, around 1,100 residents received free consultations, maintenance medicines, food packs, undergarments, and hygiene kits through the joint efforts of the provincial government and partner agencies.



Gov Nanay Pineda announced during a recent medical mission that the newly renovated Ricardo Rodriguez Memorial Hospital in Bacolor is set to open this May. She was joined by Mayor Eduardo Diman Datu and other officials during the event.

# Capitol to buy rice from local farmers' coops



Vice Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda said the Capitol will procure rice directly from Kapampangan farmers, as part of its support for the local agriculture sector. This will be carried out in accordance with Republic Act No. 11321, or the Sagip Saka Act, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture.

## CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

The Provincial Government of Pampanga will purchase rice directly from Kapampangan farmers who are members of 14 cooperatives, as part of its support for the local agriculture sector.

Vice Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda said the procurement will be carried

out in accordance with Republic Act No. 11321, or the Sagip Saka Act, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture.

The rice to be procured will be distributed under the food assistance program of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Pineda added that

should the supply from local cooperatives fall short, the provincial government may source additional rice from the National Food Authority (NFA).

The initiative aims to provide a stable market for local farmers while ensuring sufficient supply for government-led food assistance efforts.

## AG gov't honors Jose Abad Santos

**ANGELES CITY** — The Angeles City Government commemorated the life and heroism of former Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos through a wreath-laying ceremony held at the Museo ning Angeles in the Sto. Rosario Heritage District.

The ceremony was led by Mayor Carmelo "Jon" Lazatin II, who joined local officials, members of the judiciary, civic groups, and other guests in paying tribute to one of the country's most respected wartime heroes

and statesmen.

Among those present were Executive Judge Eda P. Dizon, Vice Mayor Amos B. Rivera, Former Angeles City Mayor and now CDC Chair Edgardo Pamintuan, Pampanga First District Representative Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr., Kuliati Foundation, Inc. Vice President Danon Dizon, City Tourism Officer Louie Lazatin, Chief Political Affairs Officer Reina Manuel, former city officials, and representatives from

of DeMolay.

Part of the program included the reading of the proclamation declaring May 7 as Jose Abad Santos Day, followed by a dramatic presentation titled "The Last Conversation: Pepito and Jose Abad Santos," by Angeles City Information Officer Jay Pelayo IV.

The commemoration serves as a reminder of the integrity, patriotism, and sacrifice exemplified by Abad Santos, whose legacy continues to inspire future generations of Filipinos.



The Angeles City Government commemorated the life and heroism of former Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos through a wreath-laying ceremony held at the Museo ning Angeles in the Sto. Rosario Heritage District, led by Mayor Carmelo "Jon" Lazatin II, Executive Judge Eda P. Dizon, Vice Mayor Amos B. Rivera, Former Angeles City Mayor and now CDC Chair Edgardo Pamintuan, among others

## Hann Foundation, Bamnan LGU sign MOA for 2 worthy projects

**CLARK FREEPORT** — Hann Foundation Inc. (HFI) and the Bamnan local government signed a memorandum of agreement to establish an emergency hospital in the Dapdap Resettlement area and build a school for Ayta learners in Sitio Gayaman Dos, Anupul.

Leading the signing were HFI Executive Director Ana Christi G. Galura, Hann Philippines Finance Director Sheila M. Rivera, and Bamnan Mayor Jose Mallari Salting Jr.

The partnership covers the hospital project and Project EskwelaHANN, aimed at improving access

to healthcare and education for resettled and indigenous communities.

The MOA signing happened during the May edition of KapiHann, the monthly media forum of Pampanga Press Club in partnership with Hann Resorts and held at Swissotel Clark.



Signing a memorandum of agreement to establish an emergency hospital in the Dapdap Resettlement area and build a school for Ayta learners in Sitio Gayaman Dos, Anupul are HFI Executive Director Ana Christi G. Galura, Hann Philippines Finance Director Sheila M. Rivera, and Bamnan Mayor Jose Mallari Salting Jr.

## Cong Pogi, staff distribute rice to Sapangbato JODA

**ANGELES CITY** — and the Municipality of Pampanga First District Congressman Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr. on May 6, 2026 led the distribution of five kilos of rice each to members of the Sapangbato JODA, marking another round of assistance for the local transport sector.

Cong Pogi and his staff are set to visit all tricycle and jeepney terminals across Angeles City, Mabalacat City,

Magalang to distribute rice sacks to a total of 17,074 members of the Tricycle Operators and Drivers Associations (TODA) and 2,555 members of the Jeepney Operators and Drivers Associations (JODA).

The lawmaker emphasized the vital role of transport workers in the continued growth and mobility of the city, noting that they remain essential

in ferrying workers and commuters daily.

The initiative continues a tradition started during Cong Pogi's tenure as Angeles City Mayor, where he regularly provided five kilos of rice to tricycle and jeepney drivers as a personal gesture of support to the transport sector.

Political Affairs Assistant I Michael Lising joined Lazatin during the distribution activities.



Congressman Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr. leads the distribution of 5 kilos of rice each to members of the Sapangbato JODA, marking another round of assistance for the local transport sector.

## DTI Zambales conducts price, supply monitoring in Subic

**ZAMBALES** — DTI - Zambales, through its Consumer Protection Division, conducted a price and supply monitoring activity in Subic on May 6 to ensure compliance with suggested retail prices (SRPs) and consumer protection regulations.

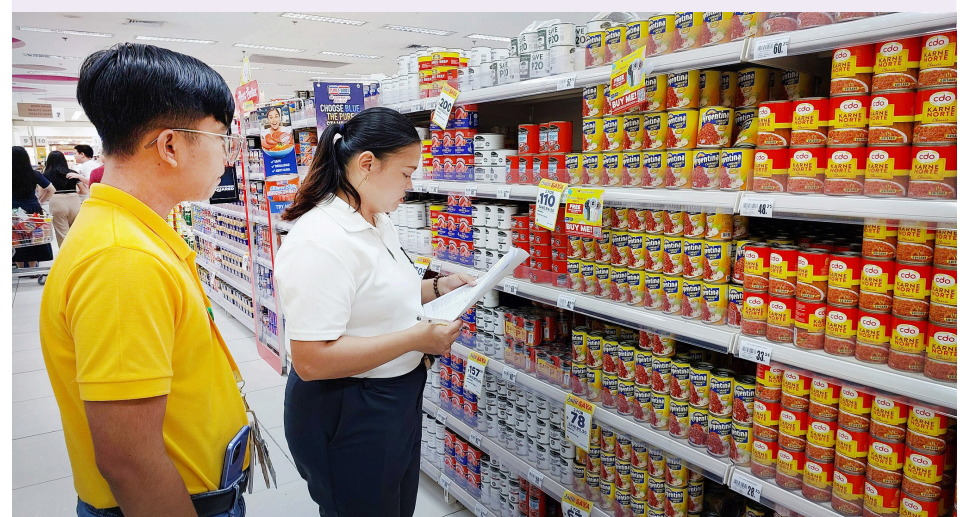
The inspection covered grocery stores and supermarkets,

where the team checked the prevailing prices of basic necessities, prime commodities, and school supplies, as well as the proper display of price tags for consumer guidance.

During the monitoring, store owners and operators reported that their current inventories are sufficient to last for at least one month,

indicating stable supply levels and preparedness ahead of the back-to-school season.

DTI Zambales said it will continue regular market monitoring, product availability validation, and timely reporting to ensure accurate market information and protect consumers from possible price violations.





## Broken Dikes, Empty Promises in Pampanga

**I**n Barangay Candating, Arayat, families faced another nightmare late January 2026. A section of the flood-control dike collapsed. It was the second major failure in just 18 months. Over 20 houses were damaged. Farmlands went underwater. Lives were upended again.

No, this was not bad luck. "Minalas lang" is not the right word when the dike collapsed twice already. It was the result of substandard construction, design flaws, and weak oversight. The same dike first buckled in August 2024. DPWH is promising fixes and investigations once more. But for residents cleaning up the mess, those promises ring hollow.

This pattern repeats across Pampanga. Delayed bypass roads. Flood projects that fail at the first heavy rain. Grand developments like New Clark City rise while nearby communities still fight basic survival against floods rooted in Pinatubo's legacy and our annual typhoons.

The human toll is heavy. Farmers lose entire crops. Small businesses shut down. Children miss school. Families live in fear every time rains intensify. In a province that powers agriculture, Clark's economy, and tourism, we deserve infrastructure that actually works.

What frustrates most is the cycle: projects awarded, corners cut, designs approved with obvious weaknesses, then repeated failures. Contractors face little real penalty. Local officials and engineers get scrutinized, yet accountability moves too slowly.

This corner is not against progress. New Clark City, expanded expressways, and ongoing DPWH projects show ambition. Ongoing DPWH efforts under Secretary Vince Dizon show potential. But shiny new projects mean nothing if the basics fail.

Shiny ribbon-cuttings mean nothing if basic protections collapse. A dike that fails twice in quick succession is not just engineering failure. It is a clear governance failure. Our taxes literally wash away with every breach.

We need higher standards now. Every flood-control and infrastructure project must have full transparency: designs, contractor track records, and independent third-party reviews should be published before groundbreaking. Real accountability is essential. Repeat offenders must be blacklisted and cases filed quickly. Maintenance must take priority over new photo-ops, with existing structures strengthened and properly maintained. Most importantly, local voices must be heard. Barangay officials and residents living along the river know the water flow better than anyone in Manila, and their input should be mandatory, not optional.

Pampanga sits in a flood-prone zone. Climate change will make things worse. We cannot keep rebuilding the same mistakes.

To our leaders in DPWH, provincial government, and Congress: Kapampangans are resilient, but our patience has limits. Deliver projects that last. Build with quality, not haste.

To fellow Kapampangans: Demand better. Share your flood stories. Support leaders who put competence first. Our province has the talent and spirit to lead the country, but only if our foundations are solid.

The broken dikes in Candating are more than a local tragedy. They are a clear warning. Let this be the last time we rebuild the same failure. Pampanga deserves flood defenses and leadership that stand firm when the rains come.



**L**ONDON KINGDOM — UNITED Elphaba, the green witch in the film *Wicked*, depicts the present day activists as targets of fake news and red-tagging.

The film is a manifestation how truth becomes distorted through propaganda under the present 'fake news' climate. I recently watched *Wicked* on board the plane enroute to London.

Elphaba's green skin is an unmistakable metaphor for visible racial, physical, political or ability-based differences.

Elphaba is a witch who was born with green skin and faced prejudice every day of her life. She is incredibly gifted, but no one acknowledges her talents because they are too focused on the color of her skin.

Elphaba feels inferior to her 'frenemy' Glinda because of how Glinda upholds patriarchal and racist beauty standards.

Elphaba, as the protagonist, is someone who has been "othered," a victim of prejudice and propaganda, who sees the pathetic reality of "the man behind the curtain" and courageously thwarts his plot to make himself more powerful.

"The best way to bring folks together, is to give them a really good enemy," the line uttered by Jeff Goldblum as the Wizard that

## Fake news and red-tagging of Wicked's green witch Elphaba

mirrors our current socio-political climate of fake news.

The Wizard is a false-charmer who hoodwinked a hopeless and desperate population of people. He has no powers, no intellect, no empathy, and his only skill is creating friction and getting people to turn against one another.

The Wizard's strategy of uniting society through a common enemy mirrors contemporary political tactics. The film's depiction of how truth becomes distorted through propaganda is an enlightening aspect of our 'fake news' climate.

Fake news refers to the general and widespread misinformation or disinformation by various media. Social media play a key role in influencing topics and information ranging from politics, health, belief, religion, current events, aid, lifestyle, elections, and others.

The manipulation of public perception and the exploitation of prejudices demonstrates how those in power can shape narratives to maintain their authority.

The wizard used fake news in spreading propaganda about animals (creatures with human-level intelligence who can talk, but are being eradicated) and misleading people into thinking that they are dangerous criminals – because he believes that by discriminating against animals, that the humans will be better off.

Elphaba acts as a fierce advocate for animal rights, fighting against the systemic oppression and silencing of "animals" in Oz. Her advocacy

stems from her empathy as an outcast, driving her to liberate caged animals and oppose the Wizard's propaganda.

The film delves into divisive spoon fed narratives and a constructed crisis targeting 'others different to ourselves' to deflect attention.

People in positions of power will exploit our prejudices and manipulate our perceptions of good and evil to achieve their purposes.

"Good" and "evil" are complex and nuanced concepts. What appears to be evil or good is influenced by people's motivations, perceptions, prejudices, relationships, self-interest, propaganda, power, and sense of the greater good.

What is "wicked" is in the eye of the beholder. Ultimately, the show implores us to question what we believe about others and recognize how easy it is to be influenced by propaganda and fear-mongering.

Due to her advocacy for the animal rights and fight against the wizard, Elphaba was red-tagged as the "wicked witch" whom the populace wanted dead.

Red tagging is the practice of labeling individuals or groups as communists, terrorists, or subversives, often falsely, to silence dissent and intimidate activists, journalists, and human rights activists.

Through social media posts, public press conferences, and the distribution of posters or flyers tagging individuals, this practice often leads to harassment, surveillance, threats, fabricated criminal

charges, physical violence and extrajudicial killings.

"Red-tagging" is a threat to people's life, liberty, and security, declared the Supreme Court in the case of *Deduro v. Maj. Gen. Vinoya* (G.R. No. 254753, July 4, 2023).

The Supreme Court stressed that being associated with communists makes a red-tagged person a target of vigilantes, paramilitary groups or even state agents. It also noted that red-tagging uses threats and intimidation to discourage "subversive activities."

SC Senior Associate Justice Marvic Leonen said red tagging is used by the military and paramilitary units to silence or cause untold human rights abuses on vocal dissenters.

Social media is flooded with the use of dehumanizing language or terms like "corned beef," to mock the deaths of activists and suspected rebels, particularly during the recent military operation in Barangay Salamanca, Toboso, Negros Occidental that left 19 people dead, including two students from the University of the Philippines.

*Wicked* succeeds as entertainment and a powerful lens through which to examine our social divisions and prejudices.

\*\*\* (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](mailto:info@sapalovelez.com), or call 0908-8665786.)

## PamCham launches P.E.T. Project



**ANGELES CITY** — Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc (PamCham) has partnered with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Human Resources Development Foundation, Inc. to launch the PCCI Education and Training (P.E.T.) Project aimed at preparing senior high school students for industry employment.

The partnership was formalized through a memorandum of agreement signed on May 5, 2026, at the BOF Corporate Center Training Room.

PamCham is among only 10 local chambers nationwide selected to pilot the initiative, which focuses on the Food and Beverage Services sector. The project seeks to bridge the gap between classroom learning and actual industry needs by immersing students in real workplace environments.

Under the P.E.T. framework, students will gain hands-on

training, practical skills, and professional discipline aligned with industry standards to improve their employability after graduation.

A separate agreement was also signed with partner school Angeles City National Trade School and participating enterprises including Chef Vince Culinary Group, Guidas', Savers Group of Companies, Crabs and Cracks, and Makimura Ramen Corporation.

PamCham said the initiative will allow businesses to help train future workers based on evolving industry demands while giving students direct exposure to professional work settings and potential employment opportunities.

Representing PCCI-HRDF during the signing was Chairman Alberto Fenix Jr., while PamCham was represented by Vice Chairperson Terry D. Carlos and Business Education and Development Committee Chair Vickee D. Ong.

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**EDITORIAL TEAM**

Founder: † **Armando P. Baluyut**  
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**Main Office:**  
Unit F, St. Catherine Townhouses,  
St. Catherine Street, Villa Angelina Subd.,  
Brgy. San Jose, 2009 Angeles City

**Email:** [thevoicenewsweekly@gmail.com](mailto:thevoicenewsweekly@gmail.com)  
[thevoice.mktg@gmail.com](mailto:thevoice.mktg@gmail.com)  
[lincoln.baluyut@gmail.com](mailto:lincoln.baluyut@gmail.com)

**Mobile Numbers:** (0919) 065 3608  
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**THEVOICENEWSWEEKLY**

# State workers turn over juvenile bird to DENR for proper care



**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO** — State workers from the local government unit of Limay (LGU), Bataan turned over a juvenile Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for proper care, monitoring, and rehabilitation.

Personnel from LGU Limay brought the raptor to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Pilar.

CENRO personnel assessed the bird, which is estimated to be around three months old and weighs about 1.1 kilograms, and found it in good physical condition.

The DENR then placed the Brahminy Kite under the care and monitoring of the Protected Area Management Office of Roosevelt Protected Landscape, where it will undergo observation and rehabilitation before its eventual release back into its natural habitat.

CENRO Pilar Head Marivic Santos said the turnover shows the important role of local communities and environmental authorities in protecting wildlife.

"The protection of wildlife is a shared responsibility. We recognize the prompt action of our partners in

the local government for turning over the Brahminy Kite to the DENR and ensuring that it receives proper care," Santos added.

DENR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo commended the LGU of Limay for its responsible action, noting that coordination between DENR and local government units strengthens biodiversity conservation.

"The successful turnover of this Brahminy Kite highlights the importance of strong collaboration between local government units and DENR in protecting and conserving our country's wildlife. We urge the public to remain vigilant and immediately report wildlife trade and other illegal wildlife activities to help strengthen biodiversity conservation efforts," Pablo said.

The Brahminy Kite is listed as a species of "Least Concern" under the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List, but it remains protected under Philippine wildlife laws.

The DENR urged the public to report wildlife sightings, rescue cases, or illegal wildlife activities to the nearest DENR office and to refrain from capturing, keeping, or trading wild animals.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
Third Judicial Region  
Branch 44

City of San Fernando, Pampanga  
rtc1sfp044@judiciary.gov.ph / 09084164373

IN RE: PETITION FOR CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE CERTIFICATE OF DEATH OF CRISOSTOMO P. BATAAC SP. PROC. CASE NO. 6431

ELEANOR M. BATAAC represented by her attorneys-in-fact CARLOTA C. BAUTISTA, JUAN PAOLO A. LAGMAN, and ATTY. RAYMOND FLUELLIN L. VIRAY,

Petitioner,

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA AND THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY ("PSA"),

Respondents.

x-----x

ORDER

This is a verified petition for correction of entry under Rule 108, Rules of Court filed by petitioner Eleanor M. Bataac, through her attorneys-in-fact, Carlota C. Bautista, Juan Paolo A. Lagman and Atty. Raymond Fluellin L. Viray. Petitioner prays the Court to (1) order the correction of the civil status entry in the Certificate of Death of Crisostomo Pangilinan Batac from "Single" to "Married"; and (2) direct the Local Civil Registrar of the City of San Fernando, Pampanga and the Philippine Statistics Authority to effect the corresponding corrections in their records.

Finding the aforesaid petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the Court hereby sets the hearing thereof on **June 9, 2026 at 8:30 in the morning at the Session Hall of this Court, 2nd Floor, RTC Building, City of San Fernando, Pampanga** when and where all persons who may have interest in the said petition may appear and to show cause, if any, why the same should not be granted.

Petitioner is ordered to serve within five (5) calendar days from receipt of this Order copies of the petition and its annexes on: (i) the **Office of the Solicitor General at 134 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City**; (ii) the **Local Civil Registrar of City of San Fernando, Pampanga**; and (iii) the **Civil Registrar General, Philippine Statistics Authority, Quezon City**, and to show proof of said service to this Court.

Let petitioner publish this Order for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Pampanga at her expense.

Furnish copies of this Order the petitioner, her counsel, Office of the Solicitor General, Makati City; Civil Registrar General, Philippine Statistics Authority, Quezon City, Local Civil Registrar of City of San Fernando, Pampanga; Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC, City of San Fernando, Pampanga; and petitioner's surviving heirs, namely: Ivan Xerxes M. Bataac, Charlene Bianca Batac Dela Cruz, Thomas Justin Torres Batac, Faithe Velasco Batac, Zariyah Isla Santiago (minor), represented by her mother, Roselle Cena Santiago, and Zoe Amari Lacson Batac, represented by her mother, Maricar Dizon Lacson.

SO ORDERED.

ISSUED IN CHAMBERS, this 30th day of March 2026, in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

(SGD)  
ROXANNE MARIE B. DIMAYUGA  
Presiding Judge

Person's Name	Method	Place/Date Served	Registry/Tracking No.
Any. Raymond F.L. Viray	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Service <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Courier		
Viray & Partners Counsel for the Petitioner Room 201, St. Anthony Drug II Bldg., B. Mendoza St, Brgy. Sto. Rosario (Poblacion), City of San Fernando, Pampanga mon_viray@yahoo.com	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Facsimile, Email, SMS		

Person's Name	Method	Place/Date Served	Registry/Tracking No.
Eleanor M. Batac represented by her attorneys-in-fact Carlota C. Bautista, Juan Paolo A. Lagman, and Atty. Raymond Fluellin L. Viray Petitioner Room 201-203, St. Anthony Drug II Bldg., B. Mendoza St, Brgy. Sto. Rosario (Poblacion), City of San Fernando, Pampanga	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Service <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Courier <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Facsimile, Email, SMS		
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The Civil Registrar General Philippine Statistics Authority 1101 East Avenue, Quezon City	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Service <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Courier <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Facsimile, Email, SMS		
The Local Civil Registrar City of San Fernando Pampanga 2000	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Service <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Courier <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Facsimile, Email, SMS		
Ivan Xerxes M. Batac Respondent Unit 606, The Bez Tower Residences, Blumentritt St., Brgy. Pedro Cruz, San Juan City, Metro Manila	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Service <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Courier <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Facsimile, Email, SMS		
Charlene Bianca Batac Dela Cruz Respondent Unit 606, The Bez Tower Residences, Blumentritt St., Brgy. Pedro Cruz, San Juan City, Metro Manila	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Service <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Courier <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Facsimile, Email, SMS		
Thomas Justin Torres Batac Respondent 1047 Sampaguita St., Villa Corazon, San Agustin, City of San Fernando, Pampanga	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Service <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Courier <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Facsimile, Email, SMS		
Christopher James Susana Batac Respondent 83E Maginoo St., Central Kalayaan, Quezon City, Metro Manila Faithe Velasco Batac Respondent 60 Managana St., Sto. Domingo, Mexico, Pampanga	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Service <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Courier <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Facsimile, Email, SMS		
Zariyah Isla Santiago (minor) through her mother Roselle Cena Santiago Respondent No. 18 Rizal St., Poblacion, Sto. Tomas Pampanga	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Service <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Courier <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Facsimile, Email, SMS		
Zoe Amari Lacson Batac (minor) through her mother Maricar Dizon Lacson Respondent Block 25, Lot 10, Gracia St., Solana Casa Real, Macabac Bacolor, Pampanga	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Service <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Courier <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Facsimile, Email, SMS		
Office of the Clerk of Court RTC, City of San Fernando 2000 Pampanga	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Service <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Courier <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Facsimile, Email, SMS		

₱21.9-M... FROM PAGE 1

administrative sanctions to follow.

The DTI's vigilance extended beyond construction materials through joint operations with partner agencies. Together with the National Bureau of Investigation - Special Action Unit (NBI-SAU), authorities seized around ₱1.1 million worth of uncertified LED lamps and electric fans.

The following day, a collaboration with the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) led to the confiscation of approximately ₱25 million in

counterfeit goods that failed to meet minimum labeling requirements.

The DTI Fair Trade Enforcement Bureau (DTI-FTEB) emphasized that these actions reflect the agency's sustained commitment to safeguarding consumers and upholding fair business practices nationwide. The agency stated that it will continue relentless, on-the-ground enforcement to remove hazardous products from the market and ensure a level playing field for compliant and responsible businesses.

BCDA... FROM PAGE 1

clean energy solutions."

Once implemented, the partnership is expected to deliver innovative energy solutions, including the development and deployment of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), which can enhance grid stability, strengthen energy security, optimize energy use, and support the wider integration of renewable energy sources.

"There is a big global push for gigawatt hours of energy and battery energy storage. We are aiming for a major battery energy storage solution in the Philippines," Sreedharan said.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s push for a more secure, resilient, and sustainable energy sector, in line with the administration's broader agenda of energy transition and infrastructure modernization.

Under the agreement, BCDA will support Esyasoft in preparing feasibility studies covering the technical and commercial viability of proposed energy transition investments. Both parties will also work closely through information exchange, consultations, and joint exploration of projects that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance sustainable infrastructure development.

The initiative supports

# Converge strengthens community footprint

Converge ICT Solutions Inc. is accelerating the nationwide expansion of its customer service footprint, with the opening of new business centers in Bohol and Palawan—further reinforcing its commitment to deepen engagement in local communities and improve customer access to digital services.

## Upgraded hub to serve over 100,000 in Bohol

In partnership with managed services provider J Fiber Internet Services,

Converge has opened its upgraded business center at Lite Port Center in Tagbilaran City, Bohol. The enhanced customer hub is expected to serve more than 100,000 residents in the city and nearby towns, alongside the province's growing business sector.

"The new, bigger, and better business center in Tagbilaran reflects Converge's continued momentum," said John Paul Aguilar, SVP and Officer-in-Charge of the Consumer

Business Group. "Guided by our founders' vision to leave no one behind, we are strengthening our local presence to better understand customer needs and ensure reliable connectivity reaches every home."

The launch was attended by J Fiber CEO Jonathan Uy, Tagbilaran City Mayor Jane Yap, and Bohol 1st District Rep. John Gesnel Yap.

"We want to connect the whole of Bohol with Converge because this province has so much beauty to show the world. We are going to wire the entire province, as reliable connectivity is essential to support and grow industries such as BPO and tourism. In turn, this can help open more opportunities for

Boholanos. And for us at J Fiber, we will strive to give the level of customer service that Boholanos deserve. This is just the start," said J Fiber CEO Jonathan Uy.

Expanding reach in northern Palawan

Converge has also strengthened its presence in Palawan with a newly opened business center in the municipality of Roxas, Palawan, located along Sandoval Avenue.

Through managed services provider Optimus Fiber Solutions Inc., the company is expanding its reach in northern Palawan, a region known for its tourism potential and home to approximately 70,000 residents.

Pedy B. Sabando, Municipal Mayor of Roxas, welcomed the initiative, citing

the importance of enhanced digital infrastructure in strengthening the municipality's economic and service capabilities.

## Strengthening customer access nationwide

Converge business centers serve as critical customer touchpoints, providing services such as bill payments, technical support, plan upgrades, and new service applications. These hubs also support prospective subscribers through consultations and onboarding.

The latest openings build on the company's aggressive nationwide rollout strategy, which saw at least 17 new business centers launched in 2025 alone—particularly in emerging and high-growth

areas where on-ground support is essential.

## Sustained industry leadership

Converge continues to lead the Philippine broadband market, retaining its position as the country's fastest and best internet provider for the second half of 2025, based on independent analysis by Ookla. The company ranked highest across key metrics, including speed, reliability, and video experience.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) also recognized Converge as the country's leading broadband provider, citing its superior average speeds, low latency, and consistent network performance as of December 2025.

Republic of the Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION  
Branch 117, Angeles City

E-mail Address: rtc1ang117@judiciary.gov.ph | Contact No: 0931-099-0645

IN RE : PETITION FOR  
CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE  
CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF  
JEMSIE BAGTAS YUSI,

R-ANG-25-04039-SP

Jemsie Bagtas Yusi, Edwin Sahagun Yusi as represented by his attorney-in-fact and co-petitioner Jemsie Bagtas Yusi, and Jackie Lou Manansala Bagtas,

Petitioner,

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR  
OF THE CITY OF ANGELES,  
PAMPANGA,

THE CIVIL REGISTRAR  
GENERAL,

ESTER S. YUSI, and

DESIREE T. LISING, and all persons  
in interest who may be affected  
thereby,

Respondents,

x-----x

## AMENDED ORDER

By authority of Rule 135, Section 5, paragraph (g) of the Rules of Court, the Order dated 09 January 2026 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Petitioner Jemsie Bagtas Yusi (Jemsie) was born on wedlock on 16 June 2007 to Jackie Lou Manansala Bagtas (Jackie Lou), and Edwin Sahagun Yusi (Edwin). However, Jemsie's Certificate of Live Birth (COLB) contains an erroneous entry: "July 02, 2006-San Fernando, Pampanga". It was indicated under Entry No. 18 thereof: "Date and Place of Marriage of Parents".

The respective Certificates of No Marriage of Jackie Lou and Edwin are submitted to the court. It appears that Edwin has been married to a certain Desiree T. Lising, private respondent in this case.

Thus, the present petition.

Finding the Petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the Court hereby sets the case for hearing on 01 July 2026 at two (2) o'clock in the afternoon. Other persons having or claiming any interest in this petition shall appear and show cause why, if any, the petition shall not be granted.

The petitioner, at his own expense, is hereby ordered to cause the publication of this Order once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in The Voice News Weekly, the last day of publication not to be later than fifteen (15) days before the scheduled hearing.

SO ORDERED.

Angeles City, 16 March 2026.

(SGD)  
BENIGNO C. ABILA  
Presiding Judge

CC

1. Jemsie Bagtas Yusi (Petitioner) – c/o counsel
2. Atty. Shain Ann C. Castillo-Balanay (Counsel for Petitioner) – Unit 5, 2nd Floor, CLI Building, Brgy. San Nicolas, San Fernando, Pampanga
3. Edwin Sahagun Yusi (Private Respondent - c/o Atty. Castillo-Balanay)
4. Jackie Lou Manansala Bagtas (Private Respondent – Atty. Castillo-Balanay)
5. Ester S. Yusi (Private Respondent) - 217 Tagumpay St., Sindalan, City of San Fernando Pampanga
6. Desiree T. Lising (Private Respondent)- 191 Tagumpay St., Sindalan, City of San Fernando Pampanga
7. OSG
8. OCP-AC
9. PSA
10. LCR-AC
11. OCC-RTC,AC
12. The Voice News Weekly

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY. April 26, May 3, 10, 2026



IN PHOTO (From left): Converge OIC and Head of Consumer Business Group JP Aguilar, J Fiber Internet Services Corp. CEO Jonathan Uy, Tagbilaran City Mayor Jane Yap, Bohol 1st District Rep. John Gesnel Yap and Converge AVP and Regional General Manager for Visayas and Mindanao Demetrio Montes

## City gov't, DA roll out fuel subsidy in Tarlac

**TARLAC CITY** — The City Government of Tarlac, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Field Office 3 and Universal Storefront Services Corporation (USSC), distributed fuel subsidies and intervention monitoring cards (ICMs) to farmers in the city.

Each farmer-beneficiary received P3,000 worth of fuel subsidy as part of efforts to help sustain and enhance their productivity and livelihood.

Tarlac City Mayor Susan Yap emphasized that the distribution seeks to ensure continuous agricultural production

while easing the burden on farmers amid rising fuel costs.

Acting City Agriculturist Ronald Allan Reyes explained that the ICMs will serve as a mechanism for disbursing funds directly to beneficiaries.

"Namimigay din po tayo ng intervention monitoring card para ipasok po dito iyong pondo nang sa ganon ma-withdraw na po ng ating mga indibidwal na magsasaka (We are also distributing intervention monitoring cards so that funds can be deposited here, allowing our individual farmers to withdraw them)," he said.

During the distribution,

Yap urged farmers to communicate their concerns to the City Agriculture Office to better align government programs with their actual needs.

"Para po maiakma natin na ang mga programa at mga bibilihin ng gobyerno, ay iyong tunay na kailangan ninyo (So we can align government programs and purchases with what you truly need)," she said.

To further strengthen support for the sector, Yap also shared that the city government is holding consultations with various cooperatives to enable direct purchasing from farmers, eliminating the

need for middlemen and improving their income opportunities.

Erwin Pascua, a farmer from Barangay Buenavista, thanked the DA and the city government for the assistance provided.

"Malaking tulong po ito sa amin bilang magsasaka lalo na ngayong panahon ng krisis (This is a big help for us farmers, especially during this time of crisis)," he stated.

The initiative underscores the government's continued effort to reinforce its support for farmers, aiming for more stable food production and improved livelihoods in the agricultural sector.



Farmers from Tarlac City receive Intervention Monitoring Cards from the City Government of Tarlac, Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 3, and Universal Storefront Services Corporation as part of efforts to make subsidy distribution more convenient. (Tarlac City Government)

# More than food: Central Luzon's flavors tell stories of culture, identity



Department of Tourism Regional Director Richard Daenos delivers his message during FoodTalks 2026 in Angeles City.



Dr. Jay Aquino talks about the palengke as a living laboratory for culinary heritage.



Stakeholders get a taste of various Central Luzon cuisines.

In Central Luzon, food is more than what is served on the table. It is a story of people, place, and opportunity.

This was the message at Food Talks 2026, where the Department of Tourism (DOT) Region III brought together stakeholders, experts, and young learners to explore how Filipino cuisine can drive tourism, strengthen cultural identity, and support inclusive growth.

For DOT Regional Director Richard Daenos, food carries meaning far beyond nourishment.

"Food, in its essence, transcends sustenance. It is at once physical nourishment, cultural expression, preserving identity and heritage, a social connector, and a driver of creativity and innovation," he said.

Daenos cited that every dish reflects the journey of communities from the land where ingredients are sourced, to the people who prepare and share them.

"Every dish tells a story of land and labor, of tradition and transformation, of people, and of place," he added.

**From cultural heritage to economic opportunity**

With the theme 'Connected Flavors, Shared Stories: Kain, Kwento, Kultura,' the forum underscored how gastronomy bridges culture and economic development by linking farmers, food producers, and tourism stakeholders.

Discussions put a spotlight on the importance of connecting agriculture and tourism through policy frameworks, enabling local food systems to support both food security and visitor experiences.

Experts also cited the growing role of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in shaping the region's culinary landscape, providing jobs while preserving traditional knowledge.

Participants emphasized that food is not only a cultural asset but also a competitive advantage. Research,

documentation, and media storytelling, can position local cuisines in wider markets, helping elevate Central Luzon as a gastronomy destination.

"In Central Luzon, our culinary heritage is deeply rooted in history, yet continuously evolving, shaped by the resilience and ingenuity of our communities," Daenos said.

**Inclusive tourism ensures shared benefits**

Beyond promotion, officials stressed that tourism development must translate into real opportunities for communities.

Angeles City Vice Mayor Amos Rivera highlighted that food tourism supports a wide network of livelihoods ranging from farmers and market vendors to transport workers and tour guides. He added that this makes inclusion essential in policy and implementation.

"We are talking here of the livelihood of local farmers, vendors in the palengke, drivers, tourist guides... it has to be an inclusive group," Rivera said.

He likewise pointed out that awareness and participation at the grassroots level remain critical, noting that local stakeholders must be actively involved in tourism initiatives to fully benefit from them.

At the same time, the vice mayor noted the importance of sustaining these efforts by engaging younger generations.

"At the end of the day, it is about accepting what we can offer to the world... if what we discuss today will not be passed on to the next generation, it will die a natural death," he added.

**Bayanihan sustains culture and future growth**

During the discussions, collaboration emerged as a central theme in advancing the region's culinary agenda.

Rivera said that collective action or bayanihan remains key to ensuring that food tourism continues to grow while preserving identity and benefiting communities.

"At the end of the day, the operative word is bayanihan. If we work together and include all stakeholders, anything is possible," he said.

Through initiatives like Food Talks, DOT Central Luzon continues to promote gastronomy not only as a tourism product but as a platform for cultural preservation, community empowerment, and sustainable development.

In every shared meal, participants noted, there is more than flavor—there is a story, a livelihood, and a future shaped by collective effort.

## Beautéderm relaunches Reverie with brand ambassador Jennylyn Mercado

Beautéderm Corporation CEO Rei Anicoche Tan has officially relaunched Reverie, the brand's home fragrance line, unveiling Ultimate Kapuso Star Jennylyn Mercado as its official Brand Ambassador.

Previously introduced as the face of Beautéderm's beauty line, Jennylyn now takes on a refreshed role as she leads the relaunch of Reverie—signaling a new direction for the premier brand's expanding lifestyle portfolio. Her appointment highlights Beautéderm's move to elevate Reverie as more than just a home scent, but a signature part of

everyday living.

Reverie is a home fragrance collection designed to keep indoor spaces feeling fresh, clean, and relaxing. Its home spray variant serves as a room and fabric mist that instantly refreshes any space, leaving a soft, lightly perfumed aroma reminiscent of a freshly prepared hotel room or a calming spa-like home environment.

With Jennylyn Mercado at the forefront, Beautéderm positions Reverie as a lifestyle essential that blends elegance, comfort, and well-being—bringing a familiar sense of luxury into everyday homes.

