

THE VOICE
NEWSWEEKLY

FOUNDED 1955



LILY & CO®
MICH VIRAY

Wide Two-Tone Band
(Yellow & White)
Brushed Finish



Watch out for Mich Viray
x Lily & Co. collab

P6

DENR-3 plants 1.6M trees for greener Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 3 planted and distributed 1.6 million tree seedlings across Central Luzon as part of the observance of Philippine Arbor Day.

Simultaneous tree-growing activities were held in various sites across the region with the participation of local government units, national agencies, private organizations, schools, people's organizations, and community volunteers.

DENR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo said the initiative aims to restore ecosystems, protect critical watersheds, enhance biodiversity, and strengthen the region's resilience to climate change.

"Every tree planted today is an investment in the future of Central Luzon," Pablo said, noting that trees help improve air quality, reduce flooding and soil erosion, and protect water sources.

The activity builds on the agency's forest restoration efforts under the Enhanced National Greening Program, which has planted more than 88.4 million seedlings and rehabilitated over 138,000 hectares of denuded and degraded lands in Central Luzon since 2011.

The DENR also encouraged the public to continue supporting greening initiatives beyond Arbor Day to help build healthier forests, protected watersheds, and more climate-resilient communities.



Mayor Jon on building collapse: No one will be exempt from liability

ANGELES CITY — Emphasizing the city government's commitment to accountability, transparency, and public service, Mayor Carmelo "Jon" Lazatin II assured the public that no one will be exempt from liability if violations are established in the ongoing investigation into the collapse of an under-construction building in Barangay Balibago.

Mayor Jon made the assurance during the second formal press briefing on the

incident, held one month after the collapse, together with City Administrator Atty. Noel Luzung, head of the Angeles City Fact-Finding and Investigation Task Force, and Atty. Darwin Reyes, special legal adviser to the city's fact-finding committee.

The mayor stressed that all actions and findings of the investigation will be guided by facts, evidence, and due process as the city government works to uncover the truth and secure justice for the victims and their

families.

The Angeles City Government once again extended its condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and to all those affected by the tragedy. Officials noted that from the first day of the incident, the local government immediately mobilized resources to secure the area, support search and rescue operations, and provide assistance to affected families.

According to the Task Force, technical evaluations, laboratory

testing, structural assessments, document reviews, and validation of evidence remain ongoing. The city is also coordinating with national government agencies conducting parallel investigations on occupational safety standards, labor compliance, and other related matters.

The Task Force is composed of experts from engineering, public works, law

SEE PAGE 4

MAYOR JON

Massive cleanup drive clears waterways

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Philippine Coast Guard, and the Office of Pampanga 4th District Representative Anna York Bondoc, continues its large-scale clean-up drive to support the rehabilitation of Manila Bay and its tributaries.

Under DOLE's TUPAD program, 180 workers were mobilized to remove waste from rivers, esteros, and coastal areas, while 220 river rangers continue to assist in monitoring and cleanup operations across the district.

The initiative builds on a similar campaign in 2024 that collected about 1,950 cubic meters of waste from eight Pampanga municipalities within 10 days.

DENR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo said the effort reflects the agency's commitment to

SEE PAGE 4
MASSIVE

Pampanga honors fallen student hero

ANGELES CITY — The Provincial Government of Pampanga has officially declared the late Chris Lorenz Tanglao Fabian a "Pride of Pampanga" in recognition of his courage, compassion, and selflessness during the tragic shooting incident at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City.

Through Resolution No. 10319, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, led by Vice Governor Delta Pineda, bestowed the honor on Fabian, who reportedly tried to protect his classmates and teachers during the June 22, 2026 attack.

Fabian's parents trace their roots to Barangay Lourdes in Minalin and Barangay Dau in Mabalacat City.

On Thursday, Pineda, together with Pampanga Mayors' League President and Apalit Mayor Jun Tetangco, Minalin Mayor Philip Naguit, and 4th District Board Member Kaye Naguit, personally visited Fabian's family in Tacloban City to convey the condolences of the Kapampangan people, present the resolution, and extend assistance from the provincial government.

The Pampanga delegation also paid a courtesy visit to Leyte Governor Carlos Petilla

SEE PAGE 4
PAMPANGA



Vice Gov. Dennis Pineda, together with PML President and Apalit Mayor Jun Tetangco, Minalin Mayor Philip Naguit, and 4th District Board Member Kaye Naguit, personally visited Fabian's family in Tacloban City to convey the condolences of the Kapampangan people.

Cong Pogi calls for simulation exercises in schools



Photos show personnel from the ACPO, ACDRRMO, and the Angeles City LGU Command Center conducting active shooter simulation exercises at a public school in Angeles City in 2022 and 2023, as initiated by then Mayor Pogi Lazatin.

ANGELES CITY — Pampanga First District Representative Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin Jr. has called on Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices (DRRMOs), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Department of Education (DepEd) to conduct active shooter simulation exercises in schools following the recent shooting incident in a public school in Tacloban City.

Cong Pogi said schools must be equipped with practical preparedness measures to help students and personnel respond effectively during emergency situations.

The congressman cited Angeles City’s implementation of active shooter and hostage crisis drills from 2022 to 2025 during his tenure as mayor. These exercises were conducted in elementary schools,

high schools, colleges, and universities alongside regular earthquake and fire drills.

He also urged local government units to allocate a portion of their Special Education Fund (SEF) for school security and called on school administrators in Pampanga’s First District to strengthen campus safety measures and address bullying concerns.

In addition, Lazatin encouraged parents and guardians to save emergency hotline numbers on their children’s mobile phones to ensure immediate access to assistance during emergencies.

Cong Pogi expressed sadness over the incident and offered prayers for the recovery of those injured, stressing the need for government agencies, schools, and communities to work together in protecting students.

Project SINAG promotes bayanihan, volunteerism in Angeles City

ANGELES CITY — The Department of the Interior and Local Government–Angeles City (DILG-AC) has launched Project SINAG, a community-based initiative aimed at strengthening volunteerism, civic engagement, and the spirit of bayanihan among residents.

As part of the program’s

kickoff activities, DILG-AC conducted a Community Launching and Bayanihan Clean-Up Drive in Barangay Pandan in partnership with the Environmental Management System (EMS), barangay officials, volunteers, residents, and other community stakeholders.

The event featured an orientation on the goals of Project SINAG, inspirational messages on volunteerism, the oath-taking of volunteers, and a clean-up drive that symbolized unity and environmental

SEE PAGE 4

PROJECT SINAG



As part of Project SINAG, the DILG-AC conducted a Community Launching and Bayanihan Clean-Up Drive in Barangay Pandan in partnership with the Environmental Management System (EMS), barangay officials, volunteers, residents, and other community stakeholders.

Capitol gives out aid for families in 2nd District

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

Various sectors from the municipalities of Floridablanca, Sasmuan, Porac, and Sta. Rita received assistance through separate payout activities held at the Lubao Gym and Sta. Rita Gym.

Under the program, each beneficiary received P3,000 in financial

assistance from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), along with 5 kilograms of rice and food packs distributed by the Provincial Government of Pampanga.

The distribution was led by Gov Nanay Pineda, together with 2nd District Board Members Fritzie David-Dizon and Sajid

Khan Eusoof, PSWDO Officer Fe Manarang, Sta. Rita Mayor Reynan Calo, and Vice Mayor Dagi Salalila.

Beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the continued support from the government, with many citing the assistance as a valuable help in meeting their daily needs.



Gov. Lilia Pineda leads the distribution of aid to various sectors from the towns of Floridablanca, Sasmuan, Porac, and Sta. Rita.

PLDT Home partners with Gcash

PLDT Home has partnered with GCash to make Fiber Prepaid reloads more accessible and rewarding for Filipino households. Through GCash GLoad, customers can conveniently reload their Fiber Prepaid subscriptions while enjoying exclusive rewards, discounts, and promotional offers, helping support their everyday needs for work, learning, entertainment, and livelihood.

“As digital lifestyles continue to evolve, PLDT Home makes fiber services simpler, accessible, and adaptable to the changing needs of Filipino families. Together with GCash, we aim to empower more Filipinos by making it easier to enjoy reliable internet with greater flexibility and convenience, while enabling more inclusive digital experiences for all,” said John Y. Palanca, PLDT Senior Vice President and Head of Consumer Business.

PLDT Home introduced Fiber Prepaid to address the growing demand for reliable home internet with flexible loading options designed for budget-conscious families,

students, remote workers, and small business owners. With unlimited fiber speeds and flexible loading options, the service is designed for budget-conscious families, students, remote workers, and small business owners who want greater control over their internet spending.

“Beyond reliable internet, we continue to enhance our customers’ overall digital experiences. Integrating PLDT Home Fiber Prepaid into GCash GLoad provides a faster, more secure, and rewarding way to reload while also making home internet as easy to manage as everyday digital payments,” said Chito M. Franco III, PLDT Vice President and Head of Consumer Sales.

Advancing Digital Inclusion Through Connectivity and Cashless Convenience

The partnership supports the country’s broader digital transformation by making reliable connectivity more accessible through familiar digital platforms. By combining PLDT Home’s nationwide fiber infrastructure with GCash’s ecosystem of millions of users, the

collaboration delivers a more seamless experience across connectivity, payments, and platform reliability. Beyond convenience, it also enables more Filipinos to adopt cashless transactions for essential services.

“Connectivity is essential for everyday life, and Filipinos expect digital services that are accessible and rewarding. Through GCash GLoad, PLDT Home Fiber Prepaid users can now reload their internet more conveniently while enjoying added perks and exclusive offers within the GCash app. Together with PLDT Home, we aim to make digital access easier for more Filipino households,” said Oscar “Ren-Ren” Enrico Reyes, President and CEO of G-Xchange, Inc. (GCash).

PLDT Home Fiber Prepaid offers unlimited fiber at P999, which comes with 30 days of free internet with speeds of up to 50 Mbps. Customers can also choose from flexible reload options ranging from one day to 365 days, with speeds reaching up to 300 Mbps. To learn more, visit PLDT Home’s Fiber Prepaid website.

PHA launches HEART Alliance

ANGELES CITY — The Philippine HEART Association (PHA) Central Luzon Chapter formally launched its HEART Alliance, a flagship initiative aimed at strengthening prevention and early response to cardiovascular diseases, during the induction of its new leadership.

At the center of the ceremony, Dr. Michelle Nieves took her oath as the 19th president and the fifth

female president of the PHA Central Luzon Chapter for 2026–2027. The induction of officers was led by PHA National President Dr. Aurora Gamponia.

The newly launched HEART Alliance—Health Education, Advocacy, Research, and Transformation Alliance—was introduced as a multi-sectoral program designed to promote cardiovascular health through collaboration

among cardiologists, pediatricians, OB-GYNs, family physicians, occupational medicine specialists, dentists, local government units, schools, barangays, and other community stakeholders.

The program will focus on youth empowerment, women’s cardiovascular health, workplace wellness,

SEE PAGE 4

PHA



PHA National President Dr. Aurora Gamponia and PHA Central Luzon Chapter president Dr. Michelle Nieves cite the importance of prevention and early response against cardiovascular diseases.



KUWENTONG PEYUPS

BY: ATTY. DENNIS GORECHO

CCP Queer plays to celebrate Pride Month

MANY gays still experience feelings of isolation, guilt, and shame due to the clash between their religious upbringing and their sexual orientation. Family rejection and cultural stigma are significant challenges.

Both the traditional Catholic Church and Islamic teachings explicitly condemn homosexual acts as sins. However, diverse theological interpretations, reform movements, and supportive communities exist within both traditions.

These groups actively advocate for the acceptance and inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) individuals in society.

Virgin Lab Fest (VLF) celebrates Pride Month by staging one-act plays linked with the LGBTQ+ community.

VLF is known as the Philippines' only festival dedicated to "untried, untested, and unstaged one-act plays" showcasing diverse voices that touch on complex human experiences and social issues, including those with LGBTQ+ themes.

Four out of the 15 plays celebrate Pride Month, either as the storyline or the characters portrayed: HARAM by Alab Usman, LUALHATI by Gab Mactal, TAKSYAPO! by

John Lapus, and POLAR COORDINATES by Ade Valenzona.

HARAM explores the complex intersections of faith and identity through three interconnected vignettes, focusing on queer Muslims struggling to navigate love and religion across borders and barriers. It delves into religious anxiety, the pain of being labeled haram (forbidden), and the ways some queer individuals continue to hold on to their faith.

LUALHATI is about a former nun turned philosophy professor Jacinta, who comes face to face with Lualhati, a nun from her time at the convent after 20 years when they were just novitiates. Their memories of faith and romance emerge on the last night of the wake held at the convent.

TAKSYAPO! is a Kapampangan expression used to release anger or frustration. Through humor, sharp wit, and shared confessions about homosexuality, love, loyalty, and disappointment, strangers discover an unexpected connection — proving that sometimes healing can begin with a single shout of "TAKSYAPO", within the walls of a rage booth.

POLAR COORDINATES is about a student struggling with academic performance,

family dynamics, and sexual identity. Both father and son turn out to be gays.

Opposition to gay practices is based on the religious view that it is an inordinately perverse passion that runs contrary to human nature.

Classical views, generally, consider sodomy and gay behavior to be unnatural; a disposition that defies practical reason. Consequently, religious groups committed to a belief that God created a natural order for both biological and non-biological life continue to be the most vehement opponents to homosexuality in all its forms.

In many Muslim-majority nations, including Iran and Saudi Arabia, homosexual acts are criminalized, with punishments ranging from imprisonment to the death penalty.

The view that homosexuality is incompatible with Islamic theology is associated with the story of Lot in the Koran (also in the Old Testament) which recounts the destruction of the tribe of Lot allegedly due to their engagement in homosexual acts as "evidence" for God's

SEE PAGE 4

KUWENTONG PEYUPS



THE GLOBAL BEAT

BY GERALD LACUARTA

The Political Future of Kiko Barzaga

MEOW. That "meow" isn't random animal sound — it is Kiko Barzaga's own feline branding as "Congressmeow," the playful yet sharp-edged persona he has weaponized to stand out in a crowded political arena.

In Philippine politics, where family names often serve as both shield and sword, Kiko Barzaga stands out as the Gen Z disruptor who turned a congressional seat into a social media battlefield. I first noticed him during the 2025 election campaign, where his stage behavior struck me as odd and I doubted at first if this candidate was serious or if he was a total prank.

Elected to represent Cavite's 4th district on the strength of his late father's towering legacy and his own youthful appeal, the 27-year-old quickly became known for cat-themed branding and viral posts that endeared him to millions online if metrics were to be mentioned. His demeanor is a volatile cocktail of charisma and combativeness. He is agile, charismatic, and occasionally ferocious: quick with a witty retort on TikTok or Facebook, fearless in calling out

alleged corruption among the powerful, yet prone to impulsive rants that crossed into disorderly territory. This mix has made him both a hero to disillusioned youth and a liability to the old guard.

His popularity is undeniable and digital-native. With hundreds of thousands of followers and millions of likes, Barzaga mastered the art of speaking directly to voters who scroll rather than attend rallies.

In the Philippines, traditional media still matters but social platforms decide narratives. This gave Barzaga the ability to humanize politics through memes, cat videos, and unfiltered commentary and provided him an edge over staid dynasts. Filipino voters, especially the young and online-savvy, reward authenticity, even when it borders on recklessness. They forgive (or embrace) controversy if it feels like rebellion against a system seen as corrupt and out of touch. Barzaga tapped into that anti-establishment sentiment perfectly.

Yet family clout remains his greatest asset and subtle crutch. Succeeding his father, the late Elpidio "Pidi" Barzaga Jr., in Dasmariñas, he inherited a well-oiled political machine backed by his mother, Mayor Jenny Austria-Barzaga.

In Cavite's patronage-driven landscape, surname recognition still trumps policy white papers. This dynastic safety net allowed him to experiment with bold moves that a political orphan could never survive. He opposed the House majority, voting against certain high-profile impeachments, and posting scathing accusations. Voters in the province have long shown loyalty to the Barzaga name; they view the family as providers of continuity amid national turbulence.

Now let me say it bluntly. Barzaga deserves credit for injecting energy and spirit of opposition into a House often accused of inertia and being a rubber stamp Congress. At a time where even staunch anti-Marcos voices — including veterans who opposed the dictatorships of the 1970s — have folded and seem to have cooperated with the current Marcos administration, he has become one of the few remaining bold voices unafraid to challenge the powerful Marcos-Romualdez dynasty even if by words only.

Nanahimik na ang lahat, kaunti na lang ang nag-iingay.

SEE PAGE 4

THE GLOBAL BEAT

'Pride is in your Fiber': Fostering visibility, inclusion thru technology

On a vibrant night in Poblacion, the spotlight shifted from dazzling performances to the compelling narratives behind them. This Pride Month, Converge transformed the iconic Halxyon Club into a dynamic space of dialogue and empowerment with "Pride is in Your Fiber", a live recording of The XLounge Podcast featuring RuPaul's Drag Race Philippines queens Arizona Brandy, Myx Chanel, and Hana Beshie.

Hosted by Aiyana Perlas, the episode delved deep into the journeys of these queens, uncovering their struggles, triumphs, and the communities that shaped their identities. Their discussions highlighted how digital platforms have long been essential spaces for LGBTQIA+ individuals in the Philippines to explore, express themselves, and form supportive networks even before drag gained mainstream popularity.

Following the live podcast recording, subscribers were treated to a full Drag Xperience, featuring electrifying performances headlined by Arizona Brandy, Myx Chanel, and Hana Beshie alongside the talented Kings and Queens of Halxyon. This immersive event revealed the many dimensions of drag; from high-energy dance numbers and live vocals to theatrical storytelling and transformative character portrayals. Far beyond mere entertainment, drag stands as a powerful art form and a dynamic vehicle for self-expression. It celebrates identity, creativity, and authenticity, while serving

as a platform for confidence and empowerment. These performances brought personal stories to life, inspiring pride, acceptance, and unity.

Throughout the evening, themes of resilience, creativity, and belonging resonated strongly. The queens shared how their digital footprints boosted their confidence, propelled their careers, and helped them navigate visibility in an ever-changing world.

The evening's stories powerfully underscored that true connection transcends technology. For many within the LGBTQIA+ community, discovering inclusive and supportive spaces can be transformative. Through The XLounge Podcast: Pride is in Your Fiber, Converge sought to create a platform where these voices are not only heard, but celebrated and amplified, reinforcing the belief that authentic connections inspire confidence, nurture

SEE PAGE 4
PRIDE



From the podcast stage to the drag runway, The XLounge Podcast showcases the communities, conversations, and connections that bring people together.

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY
FOUNDED 1955

ISSN 0115-6845

EDITORIAL TEAM

Founder: † **Armando P. Baluyut**

Editor-Publisher: **Lincoln M. Baluyut**

Business Manager: **Ruby Soccorro I. Baluyut**

Lifestyle and Online Editor: **Arlyn E. Lukban**

Chief Photographer: **Bert H. Basa**

Layout Artist: **Charmane C. Soriano**

Main Office:

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

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

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

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

THEVOICENEWSWEEKLY

MAYOR JON... FROM PAGE 1

enforcement, disaster risk reduction, legal services, and other technical fields to ensure that findings are based on scientific analysis, technical evaluation, and existing laws and regulations.

Meanwhile, the city government continues to provide legal guidance and assistance to families seeking to file cases related to the incident, while

maintaining coordination with nearby residents and businesses to address safety concerns and other needs.

Mayor Jon called on the public for continued trust, understanding, and prayers as the investigation proceeds, reiterating that the city government remains steadfast in its pursuit of truth, accountability, and justice.

PAMPANGA... FROM PAGE 1

during their trip.

Provincial officials said Fabian's actions demonstrated that true heroism is measured not

by age but by a willingness to sacrifice for others, making him an inspiration to Kapampangans and Filipinos alike.

MASSIVE... FROM PAGE 1

environmental protection and community participation, stressing the need for sustained collaboration among government agencies, local government units, and communities.

Supported by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, local governments,

volunteers, and community members, the ongoing drive has so far collected more than 1,180 kilograms of waste from Pampanga waterways, helping improve water quality, reduce flood risks, and promote a cleaner environment.

PROJECT SINAG... FROM PAGE 2

responsibility.

Project SINAG seeks to encourage more Angelesños to participate in community-building activities and become active partners of the government in promoting cleanliness, order, and development in their respective barangays.

Initial activities under the program were held along the Abacan River on

June 20, while additional community engagements are scheduled in Barangay Ninoy Aquino on June 27.

DILG-AC said initiatives such as Project SINAG demonstrate how meaningful change can be achieved through the collective efforts of the government and the community.

PHA.. FROM PAGE 2

community screening, and research initiatives to expand access to preventive heart care.

With the theme "Healthy Hearts, Empowered Communities," the initiative underscores efforts to intensify the fight against cardiovascular diseases in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities.

Dr. Gamponia also highlighted the national

priorities of the PHA, including the "One Cardiologist for Every City and Province" program, hands-only CPR training, and the Rheumatic Heart Disease PH Eradication Program.

She noted that more than half of the PHA's 2,500 members are based in Metro Manila, while an estimated one cardiologist serves every 44,000 Filipinos nationwide.

PRIDE... FROM PAGE 3

a sense of belonging, and unlock opportunities for growth and empowerment.

More than just a podcast recording, the event marked a milestone for The XLounge Podcast, offering exclusive, interactive experiences for Converge subscribers and transforming content consumption into a shared celebration of individuality and belonging.

As the Philippines' Fastest Fixed Network, recognized by Ookla®, Converge continues to invest in infrastructure and initiatives that do more than connect devices; they connect people. Beyond connectivity, Converge continues to champion platforms and experiences that bring communities together, amplify diverse voices, and create opportunities for people to engage with culture in meaningful ways.

Pride is in Your Fiber is more than a Pride Month special; it's a testament to

the transformative power of technology in fostering visibility, and inclusion.

"Connection is at its most meaningful when it empowers people to be seen, heard, and celebrated for who they are," said Orange Ramirez, VP and Brand & Marketing Head of Converge. "Through initiatives like The XLounge Podcast, we continue to create spaces where technology, storytelling, and community come together to foster understanding and celebrate individuality."

As these powerful stories reach wider audiences through the podcast and social media, one truth stands clear: connection is at its strongest when it brings people together.

Pride is in Your Fiber is now available as part of The XLounge Podcast, Converge's original content series featuring conversations on culture, community, and connection.

THE GLOBAL BEAT... FROM PAGE 3

Tila ang mga anti-Marcos ay naging mga Marcos loyalist na din.

Kiko's animal welfare advocacy and willingness to challenge powerful figures represent a refreshing break from scripted loyalty.

Barzaga filed bills, including one on divorce legalization, signaling openness to progressive reforms. But his weakness comes from the very demeanor that fueled his rise: repeated suspensions and eventual expulsion in June 2026 for disorderly behavior and social media violations exposed a lack of discipline. Brash posts accusing colleagues of bribery may have thrilled followers but delivered little legislative substance and invited the full

weight of institutional retaliation. His digital army loves the drama, yet governance demands discipline beyond viral moments. In Filipino politics, where optics and relationships matter as much as votes, burning bridges with the majority bloc proved costly. His approach often prioritized virality over governance, turning Congress into a content farm. The expulsion exposed the limits of a "meow-first" approach in a House that still values alliances over applause metrics.

Looking ahead, the political future of Kiko Barzaga hinges on whether his online army and local dynasty can override the stain of expulsion. Comelec has already ruled he remains eligible

to run in the upcoming special election for his old seat. Given Cavite voters' proven tolerance for colorful personalities and their attachment to familiar surnames, Barzaga is well-positioned for a strong comeback. Broader national trends favor young, social-media-fluent candidates who position themselves as outsiders fighting the system. His expulsion could ironically boost him as a martyr against "crocodiles" in Congress.

My bold prediction: Kiko Barzaga will not merely reclaim his congressional seat. He will use this setback as rocket fuel to emerge as one of the most formidable young political forces in the country by 2028.

His cat persona may evolve into a national brand of anti-corruption populism, attracting cross-regional support and positioning him for a Senate run or even higher stakes.

Filipino voters are known to punish the old and reward the bold (or at least the loud). Barzaga's blend of family clout, digital savvy, and unapologetic fire will prove more resilient than his critics imagine. The House may have silenced him temporarily, but Philippine democracy has a funny way of amplifying the meow that refuses to be ignored.

Siyam pa din ang buhay ng pusa.
Meow meow.

KUWENTONG PEYUPS... FROM PAGE 3

condemnation of homosexuality. LUALHATI depicts lesbianism in convents that explores the relationship between the Catholic Church and homosexuality which is complex and often contentious, involving various conflicting views.

According to Catholic doctrine, solely having same-sex attractions itself is not considered inherently sinful; it is the act of engaging in sexual activity with someone of the same sex that is regarded as a grave sin against chastity that is contrary to its moral teachings.

As all religious sisters take vows of chastity, orientation does not dictate a sister's standing, provided her vow of celibacy is upheld.

"Sa mga nagsasabing puro kabaklaan ang mga dula ng VLF... tama ka," says playwright and VLF co-founder Rody Vera. He stresses that VLF wants to give voice to marginalized sectors that are invisible in public discussion and discourse, particularly the LGBTQ crowd.

Established in 2005 by the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), VLF is known as the Philippines' only festival dedicated to "untried, untested, and unstaged one-

act plays" showcasing diverse voices that touch on complex human experiences and social issues.

This year's VLF carried the theme "Hubo't Hubad" with the aim of "stripping down all pretense of innocence while showcasing the bold Filipino voice and spirit."

The plays are grouped into four thematic sets labeled A, B, C, D (Tengang Kawali, Kapit Tuko, Balat Kalabaw, Pusong Mamon) with each set featuring three new plays plus set E (Dilang Matalim) which revisits standout plays from previous years.

VLF XXI will run from June 3 to 28, 2026 at the Tanghalang Ignacio Gimenez (CCP Black Box Theater).

This year's Pride March and Festival, dubbed #LoveLab4n!, will be held on June 27, 2026 in the University of the Philippines Diliman in Quezon City.

(Peyups is the moniker of the University of the Philippines. Atty. Dennis R. Gorecho heads the Seafarers' Division of the Sapalo Velez Bundang Bulilan Law Offices. For comments, e-mail info@sapalovelez.com, or call 0908-8665786.)

Republic of the Philippines
SUPREME COURT
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
City of San Fernando, Pampanga
(email address) rtcisfpoc@judiciary.gov.ph
(contact no.)+63906 855 5179

Office of the Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS,
Petitioner-Mortgagee.

E.J.F. No. 29-26
Real Estate Mortgage
under Act 3135 as
amended by Act 4118

- versus -
MARC RODDEN VILLAREAL
IGNACIO AND ELIZABETH
PUZON ANGELES,
Respondents-Mortgagors.

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 **July 15, 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 NNO.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 July 22, 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, Je 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, CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
- 4.) THE VOICE

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY. June 14, 21, 28, 2026

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE JUDGE

IN RE: PETITION FOR Notarial Application
APPOINTMENT AS NOTARY No. 26-69
PUBLIC FOR AND IN THE
CITY OF SAN PAMPANGA,
FERNANDO,

ATTY. MARY GRACE M.
MALLARI,
Petitioner.

x-----x

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that a summary hearing on the petition for notarial commission of the above-named petitioner shall be held on July 30, 2026 at the courtroom of Branch 45, Regional Trial Court, City of San Fernando, Pampanga at 11 o'clock in the morning. Any person who has any cause or reason to object to the grant of the petition may file a verified written opposition thereto, received by the undersigned before the date of the summary hearing.

City of San Fernando, Pampanga, June 23, 2026.

(SGD)
ROBERT ALEXANDER R. MALIG
Executive Judge

Copy furnished:
Atty. Mary Grace M. Mallari
DM Crissan Bldg., Mac Arthur HiWay,
Telabastagan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga
e-mail address: atty.gracemallari@gmail.com

THE VOICE NEWSWEEKLY. June 28, 2026

Governor Yap urges public: Support tree-planting efforts

TARLAC — Governor Christian Yap has called on the public to take part in environmental protection initiatives as the province joined the observance of Philippine Arbor Day on June 25.

In a message marking the occasion, Yap highlighted the vital

role of trees and natural resources in maintaining ecological balance and ensuring a safer and more sustainable future for the next generation.

The governor encouraged residents to participate in tree-planting and tree-care activities in their

communities, stressing the importance of collective action in preserving the environment.

Yap also expressed hope that the annual celebration would inspire greater environmental awareness and strengthen public commitment to protecting nature.



Gov. Christian Yap is encouraging residents to participate in tree-planting and tree-care activities in their communities, stressing the importance of collective action in preserving the environment.

Arboretum strengthens native tree conservation in Zambales

MASINLOC, Zambales — The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Masinloc Arboretum in Zambales strengthens efforts to preserve indigenous tree species and promote biodiversity conservation.

The 7,712-square-meter facility of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) showcases more than 300 seedlings of native trees, including almaciga, agocho, bitaog, palosapis, molave, dao, kalantas, narra, ipil, Mindoro pine, ilang-ilang, lapnisan, red nato, kalumpit, arangen, banaba, toog, tindalo, tuai, taluto, and white lauan.

DENR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo said the arboretum serves as more than a repository of native tree

species, describing it as a “living classroom” where people can learn, appreciate, and connect with nature.

He added that the facility helps deepen public understanding of the importance of biodiversity conservation and environmental protection.

As a demonstration site for environmental education, the arboretum allows students, researchers, visitors, and other stakeholders to learn about native tree species and their ecological value.

It also highlights the role of trees in climate change mitigation, watershed protection, and biodiversity conservation.

CENRO Masinloc Chief Donaver Guevarra underscored the facility’s role in advancing native tree conservation

efforts and encouraging community participation in environmental stewardship.

“The establishment of the CENRO Masinloc Arboretum reflects our commitment to conserving native tree species and strengthening environmental awareness among present and future generations. Through this initiative, we hope to inspire greater appreciation for our forests and encourage active participation in conservation efforts,” Guevarra said.

The arboretum supports the environmental priorities of the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., which include biodiversity conservation, reforestation, and sustainable natural resource management.



A native tree seedling is being planted at the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office Masinloc Arboretum in Zambales as part of efforts to conserve indigenous trees and promote biodiversity. (DENR Central Luzon)

Livelihood in Aurora gets boost with P8-M aid

BALER, Aurora — About 240 individuals and seven fisherfolk associations in Dilasag, Aurora are set to improve their livelihood following the distribution of more than ₱8 million worth of fisheries equipment from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

The initiative aligns with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s directive to boost productivity in the fisheries sector and ensure a stable food supply through sustained development programs for farmers and fisherfolk.

BFAR Regional Director Wilfredo Cruz said the intervention is not limited to immediate assistance but forms part of the agency’s long-term investment in the resilience and livelihood recovery of

fishing communities.

The package included gill nets, fiberglass-reinforced plastic boats, marine engines, spear guns, shallow payao, bottom set long lines, and tuna hand lines.

Additional interventions under the Rehabilitation Program, Enhanced Philippine Seaweeds Development Program, and Cage Culture Livelihood Project included five HDPE circular cages stocked with milkfish fingerlings and feed for the initial cropping cycle.

Cruz assured that BFAR would continue implementing programs to strengthen livelihood and promote the development of the fisheries sector in communities.

Meanwhile, Samahan ng Diniog Mandaragat

President Warlito Cacayan expressed gratitude for the assistance, saying it will help replace damaged fishing gear and ease financial burdens as fisherfolk rebuild their primary source of income.

“Malaking ginhawa po para sa amin ang pagkakaroon muli ng bangka at makina upang maipagpatuloy ang aming hanapbuhay. Maraming salamat po sa walang sawang suporta ng BFAR sa aming mga fisherfolk lalo na sa mga nawalan ng kabuhayan dahil sa bagyo,” he said.

Through these interventions, fisherfolk in Aurora are expected to strengthen their livelihoods and develop more resilient, sustainable income sources over the long term.



The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) provides over ₱8 million worth of fisheries equipment to 240 individuals and seven fisherfolk associations in Dilasag, Aurora to support livelihood and improve productivity in the fisheries sector. The initiative aligns with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s directive to enhance productivity in fisheries and ensure a stable food supply through sustained development programs for farmers and fisherfolk. (BFAR Region 3)

Subic investments eyed with US delegation visit

SUBIC — A delegation from the United States Embassy, led by Chargé d’Affaires a.i. Bridgette L. Walker, paid a courtesy visit to the Subic Bay Freeport Zone recently.

They were received by Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chairman and Administrator Eduardo

Jose L. Aliño, who welcomed the delegation and led discussions on the current developments within the Freeport.

An overview presentation highlighted Subic Bay’s present economic status, along with potential areas for collaboration and

investment opportunities for American companies looking to establish operations in the Philippines.

The visit underscored continued efforts to strengthen economic ties and promote Subic Bay as a viable investment hub for foreign businesses.



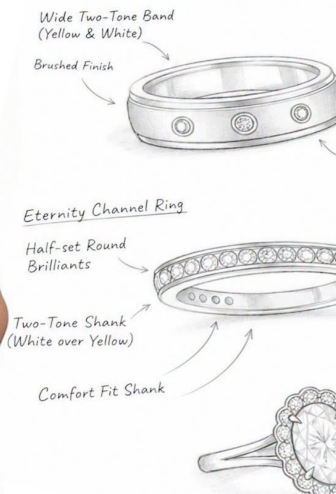
Chargé d’Affaires a.i. Bridgette L. Walker leads a delegation from the United States Embassy during a courtesy visit to the Subic Bay Freeport Zone recently. They were received by Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chairman and Administrator Eduardo Jose L. Aliño.

Watch out for Mich Viray x Lily & Co. collab



RING DESIGN COLLABORATION

LILY & CO®
MICH VIRAY

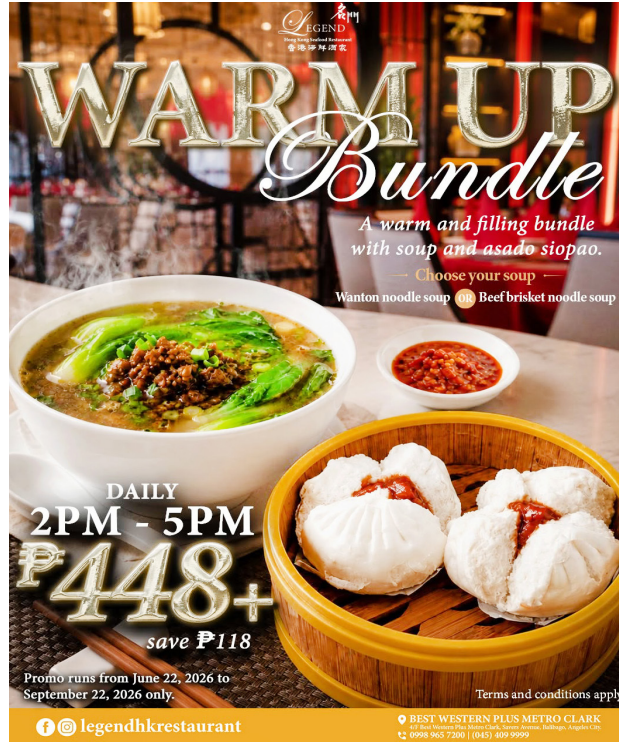


ANGELES CITY

— A new ring design inspired by Mich Viray's creative vision is set to be unveiled by Lily & Co. soon, translating the designer's distinct style and aesthetic into a finely crafted jewelry piece.

The upcoming collaboration highlights creativity, craftsmanship, and personal expression, bringing together design inspiration and artistry in a wearable form.

Try out Legend's Warm-Up Bundle



ANGELES CITY — Your favorite afternoon comfort combo at Legend Hong Kong Seafood Restaurant is here to warm up your afternoons – the special Noodle Soup & Siopao Bundle, available daily from 2 PM to 5 PM.

Dine with Legend and discover why it's called a #LegendaryExperience!

To reserve your table, contact hotlines 0998 965 7200 | (045) 409 9999

Legend Hong Kong Seafood Restaurant, open daily from 11 AM to 10 PM, is located at 4/F Best Western Plus Metro Clark Savers Mall, Balibago, Angeles City.

Myth, art and imagination

ANGELES CITY — Art has found a new home at Filinvest Mimosa Plus with the unveiling of Mebuyan's Cloud, a permanent public art installation by acclaimed Filipino contemporary artist Leeroy New.

Now serving as the newest centerpiece of The Creative Park, the landmark artwork reflects Filinvest Mimosa Plus' commitment to fostering spaces where culture, creativity, and community come together.

Inspired by Philippine mythology, Mebuyan's Cloud transforms a shared public space into an immersive experience, inviting visitors to engage with art beyond traditional gallery settings while encouraging

curiosity, conversation, and connection.

Joining the unveiling ceremony were Don Ubaldo, First Vice President and Head of Filinvest Townships; Atty. Noelle Mina D. Meneses, Vice President for Business Development and Business Enhancement Group of Clark Development Corporation; artist Leeroy New; and Francis Surtida, Project Development Manager of Filinvest Mimosa Plus.

The installation further strengthens Filinvest Mimosa Plus' vision of integrating art and culture into everyday life, offering visitors a new cultural landmark to experience in Clark.



The Mebuyan's Cloud, by contemporary artist Leeroy New, is now the newest centerpiece of The Creative Park at Filinvest Mimosa Plus.

Bottled in friendship, bound by family



ANGELES CITY — More than a perfume launch, it was a celebration of friendship, loyalty, and family.

BeautéDERM CEO Rei Anicoche Tan dedicated the brand's newest bespoke fragrances to long-time ambassadors, spouses Sunshine Garcia and Vice Governor Alex Castro, honoring a bond that has grown beyond business through the years.

A collection inspired by scent, but rooted in relationships that last.



Investing in people, building the future

ANGELES CITY — JDN Realty Group joined fellow investors and locators during the 2nd Quarter General Membership Meeting of the Clark Investors and Locators Association (CILA), represented by Assistant Vice President for Administration Maribel Ronquillo and Assistant Vice President for Finance Raquel Pangilinan.

The gathering served as a venue for business leaders to exchange ideas and explore strategies for adapting to the evolving demands of today's business landscape.

In his keynote address, Jesus Noriega III underscored the theme, "The Workforce Imperative: Building People Faster Than Change," highlighting the need to develop talent alongside rapid technological advancement. For JDN Realty Group, the discussion reinforced the importance of investing in people as a foundation for future growth. As industries continue to evolve, the company believes that empowering capable teams remains key to creating lasting value for businesses, communities, and the people they serve.

