

NordCham Philippines awards Converge ICT for significant growth

CONVERGE ICT Solutions Inc., the country's fastest-growing high-speed fixed broadband provider, has been recognized by the Nordic Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines at the 2021 Nordic Sustainability Awards for its significant growth while adhering to the UN Sustainability Goals.

On February 23, Converge was awarded the Growth Business Partner of the Year for 2021 given the absolute growth in revenue between the last two fiscal years of 2018 and 2019. Moreover, the company has also posted the largest percentage in absolute growth of employees in the Philippines during fiscal year 2019.

"Converge's growth is rooted in its desire to serve the high speed broadband needs of unserved
PAGE 6 PLEASE

Teenage pregnancy linked to peer pressure, social media

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – The Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM) Region 3 cited peer pressure and social media as among the factors of teenage pregnancy.

Based on studies on repeated adolescent pregnancy, the influence of social layers is among the factors as to why the pregnancy occurs.

"Repeated adolescent pregnancy means

more than one pregnancy of a young woman before reaching the age of 19. Our researches show that this happens because there have been instances that teens are engaging into relation-

ships without knowing the consequences," said Popcom-3 information officer Adreal Denver Monterona.

Teens are more likely to be influenced and
PAGE 6 PLEASE

Quarry collections top P1-B



QUARRYMEN DONATE. Two ambulances worth P3-M each are turned over by the Pprac Sand and Gravel Quarry Association to the provincial government. Receiving the donation are Gov. Dennis "Delta" Pineda, Kalam head Romeo Dungca and board members Jun Canlas and Rosve Henson. **PHOTO COURTESY OF JUN JASO/PAMPANGA PIO**

In 19 months of Delta admin

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO— Taxes and fees derived from Mount Pinatubo's sand and gravel have reached a record-high of P1.036 billion in the first 19 months of the administration of Gov. Dennis "Delta" Pineda.

PAGE 2 PLEASE

DTI urges CL youth to be entrepreneurs

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- The Department of Trade and Industry is urging the youth in Central Luzon to engage in businesses.

At the launch of the Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP), DTI OIC-regional director

Leonila Baluyut called on the youth to take advantage of using the innovations and technology of the present to pursue the entrepreneurial path.

"Digitalization accelerated during this pandemic and further changed
PAGE 6 PLEASE

NLEX partners with LGUs on urban, transport planning

NLEX Corporation is collaborating with local government units to manage traffic flow and plan for anticipated developments in their respective cities and municipalities.

The tollway company has undertaken several traffic management measures and commissioned studies to assess the adequacy of existing infrastructure and foresee demands on improvements that would assist both public and private sectors in their planning decisions.

"We are helping our

host communities in developing traffic engineering strategies to improve mobility and keep up with fast-paced economic activities in their areas. We want to ensure that traffic flow is seamless in and out of the expressway," said NLEX Corporation President and General Manager J. Luigi L. Bautista.

He also noted, "this is our way of strengthening our mission of being a strategic government partner towards development and progress, but
PAGE 6 PLEASE



MOTY PRESENTATION. Gov. Dennis G. Pineda receives framed Man of the Year issue of Punto from GM Atty. Gener C. Endona Wednesday at the governor's office. Present at the simple presentation are (L-R) BM Jun Canlas, Punto marketing manager Ning Cordero, PDRMO chief Angie Blanco, Punto editor Bong Lacson and BM Rosve Henson.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Malasakit Center launched in ONA

ANGELES CITY – The “Malasakit Center” was launched at the Rafael Lazatin Memorial Medical Center (RLMMC) on March 4, 2021 to provide more medical assistance to financially-challenged Angelenos.

Mayor Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin Jr. has commended the strong efforts of Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, in establishing the Malasakit Center in RLMMC, a one-stop shop where indigent patients

can avail of financial services from agencies such as PhilHealth, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Mayor Lazatin and

Sen. Go inaugurated the center with Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Debold Sinas; Chief Presidential Legal Council Atty. Salvador Panelo; Pampanga Vice Governor Lilia “Nanay” Pineda; First

District Rep. Carmelo ‘Jon’ Lazatin II; Second District Board Member Fritzie David-Dizon; Vice Mayor Vicky Vega-Cabiting and City officials.

“Maraming salamat po [Senator], dahil mas marami pang mahihirap na Angeleños ang magkakaroon ng karagandang tulong pagdating sa serbisyong pangkalusugan mula sa gobyerno, ngayong meron nang Malasakit Center dito sa Ospital Ning Angeles,” Lazatin said.

“I commend your support in pushing for the realization of the said project, in order to be of assistance to more Angeleños,” he added.

Lazatin also cited the P3 million cheque given to the Malasakit Center by Sen. Go, as well as his vitamins and grocery donations to the patients and medical frontliners in RLMMC. This amount, intended for financial assistance to indigent patients, is replenishable every month.

The Senator also vows to donate P10 million to support the hospital in its further programs.

In his speech, Mayor Lazatin shared that he was reminded of the program of his late father former Pampanga First District Representative and Angeles City Desks.”

“Noon pong Alkalde

pa ang aking Ama, the city implemented a similar program, ‘yun pong tinatawag na Mayor’s Desk. Ginawa po ito bilang extension ng Office of the mayor – para po yung mga mahihirap nating kababayan na andito sa ospital at kailangan na ng gamot o referral sa laboratory na wala dito sa ONA, ay hindi na kailangang pumunta pa sa Mayor’s Office sa City Hall,” Lazatin furthered.

The Malasakit Center is a presidential mandate initiated by the Office of the Special Assistant to the President, in cooperation with DOH, PhilHealth, PCSO, DSWD, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), and Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas, with the purpose of expediting processes in availing of service relevant to healthcare primarily for, but not limited to, financial assistance.

This is the 2nd Malasakit Center in the Pampanga province, and the 102nd in the country.

Also present during the launch of the Malasakit Center are RLMMC Head Dr. Froilan Canlas and staff, representatives from PCSO Lolita Gemo and Cynthia Maninang; DSWD III Asst. Regional Director for Operations Lalaine De Leon; PhilHealth Region III Vice President Edgardo Faustino; and PAGCOR.

–Angeles CIO



Mayor Carmelo ‘Pogi’ Lazatin Jr. and Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go on March 4, 2021, inaugurate the Malasakit Center in Rafael Lazatin Memorial Medical Center (RLMMC), with Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Atty. Salvador Panelo and First District Rep. Carmelo ‘Jon’ Lazatin II. **PHOTO COURTESY OF AC-CIO**

Quarry collections top P1-B

FROM PAGE 1

The collection of P1,036,607,994 covered the period from July 2019 to February 2021, excluding March 20 to May 17 last year when the strictest form of quarantine against Covid-19 grounded the home-grown quarry industry, according to records of the provincial quarry monitoring unit Kalam.

Quarry tariffs consisted of P150-sand tax, P250-administrative fee, P30-weighing scale fee, sand and gravel permit, motor vehicle and heavy equipment accreditation including fines and penalties. For transparency, the number of booklets

of quarry receipts are inventoried and recorded.

On a per month basis, the highest collection was made last February, at P72.8 million.

“The amount we collected proved that the monitoring and collecting system we put in place is efficient. Taxing according to actual volume hauled is right. This also showed that quarry operators and haulers are cooperating with our policies,” Governor Pineda said.

He thanked quarry associations that police their own ranks and the provincial treasurer’s office that collects the taxes and fees at the Capitol and not in checkpoints.

He also commended Kalam personnel headed by former Bacolor Mayor Romeo “Buddy” Dungca for properly regulating the multi-million industry.

The governor Pineda said the high collections bring benefits to the communities. The Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160) distributes the sand tax at a 40-30-30 percent sharing to barangays, towns

or cities and province, respectively.

On Monday, the Porac Sand and Gravel Quarry Operators Association Inc. donated two ambulances to the provincial government.

Worth P3 million each, the ambulances were given to support the provincial healthcare program, according to Antonio Ayson, the group’s president. --Pampanga PIO

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **BONIFACIO C. AYSON** who died intestate on September 14, 2014 in Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Waiver of Rights on his estate, more particularly described as a property located in Quezon City identified as Block 527 Surv 02 Lot 10-B of the Tatalon Estate, Quezon City under the National Housing Authority, before Notary Public Carlota Dela Cruz-Manalo as per Doc No. 51, Page No. 12, Book No. XXXIII, Series of 2021.

Punto! Central Luzon: March 1, 8 & 15, 2021

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **JUANITA ABAD AQUINO-ZACARIAS** who died intestate on January 17, 2011 in Angeles City executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Waiver of Rights on her estate, more particularly described as follows:

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 184486-R

A parcel of land (Lot 19, Blk. 50 of the subd. plan (LRC) Psd-202163, being a portion of Lot 29-B, (LRC) Psd-197421, LRC (GLRC) Rec. No. 11732) situated in the Bo. of Dau, Mun. of Mabalacat, Prov. of Pamp., Island of Luzon;

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 184487-R

A parcel of land (Lot 20, Blk. 50 of the subd. plan (LRC) Psd-202163, being a portion of Lot 29-B, (LRC) Psd-197421, LRC (GLRC) Rec. No. 11732) situated in the Bo. of Dau, Mun. of Mabalacat, Prov. of Pamp., Island of Luzon;

before Notary Public Reydon P. Canlas as per Doc No. 357, Page No. 68, Book No. 79, Series of 2021.

Punto! Central Luzon: March 1, 8 & 15, 2021

Republic of the Philippines OFFICE OF THE CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR Province of Pampanga Mabalacat City

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In Compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to OCRG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 Guidelines in the Implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2012 (IRR on. R.A. 10172) Notice is hereby served to the public that **ESMERALDA TULABUT DIONISIO** has filed with this Office, a petition for correction of Clerical Error of the Child’s Date of Birth from “**SEPTEMBER 08, 1963**” TO “**AUGUST 08, 1963**” in the Certificate of Live Birth of **ESMERALDA CANLAS TULABUT** at **Mabalacat, Pampanga** and whose parents are **Francisco Tulabut** and **Venancia Canlas**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his/her written opposition with this office not later than seven (7) days after the completion of the publication period.

VICTOR TERRY A. MEDINA
City Civil Registrar

FOR THE CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR
Glenda A. Jarin
Administrative Officer III

PUNTO! Central Luzon: March 1 & 8, 2021

Republic of the Philippines OFFICE OF THE CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR Province of Pampanga Mabalacat City

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In Compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to OCRG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 Guidelines in the Implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2012 (IRR on. R.A. 10172) Notice is hereby served to the public that **JULIETA DE GUZMAN DOBASHI** has filed with this Office, a petition for correction of Clerical Error of the Child’s Date of Birth from “**February 25, 1973**” TO “**February 21, 1973**” in the Certificate of Live Birth of **JULIETA LEONIDA DE GUZMAN** at **Mabalacat, Pampanga** and whose parents are **Federico De Guzman** and **Adelaida Leonida**

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his/her written opposition with this office not later than seven (7) days after the completion of the publication period.

VICTOR TERRY A. MEDINA
City Civil Registrar

FOR THE CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR
Glenda A. Jarin
Administrative Officer III

PUNTO! Central Luzon: February 22 & March 1, 2021

BHF PAWNSHOP TLC GRP AUCTION

Expiry Date: August 16 to November 15, 2020

Date of Auction: March 12, 2021

@exactly 1:00 pm

BHF PAWNSHOP TLC GRP MAGALANG BRANCH

Kapitan Pablo Luciano St. Poblacion Sta. Cruz
Magalang, Pampanga

BHF PAWNSHOP TLC GRP CONCEPCION BRANCH

L. Cortez St. San Nicolas, Concepcion Tarlac

BHF PAWNSHOP TLC GRP SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

Robinson Luisita Mall, San Miguel Tarlac City

BHF PAWNSHOP TLC GRP MAGIC STAR BRANCH

Upper Ground floor Magic Star Mall
Cut-Cut 1st Tarlac City

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **BERNABE G. TAYAG** and **JUANITA MANUEL TAYAG** who died intestate on January 15, 1993 and May 24, 2000 respectively in Porac, Pampanga and Angeles City, executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Partition on their estate, more particularly described as follows:

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 14638 Registry of Deeds of Pampanga

A parcel of land (Lot 394-A of the subdivision plan Psd-42679 - sheet 1, being a portion of Lot 394 of the cadastral survey of Porac, C.L.R.O. Cad. Record No. 372) situated in the Barrio of Salu, Municipality of Porac, Province of Pampanga;

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 14639 Registry of Deeds of Pampanga

A parcel of land (Lot 397-A-2 of the subdivision plan Psd-42679 - sheet 1, being a portion of Lot 397-A described on plan Psd-6420, G.L.R.O. Cad. Record No. 372) situated in the Barrio of Salu, Municipality of Porac, Province of Pampanga;

before Notary Public Frod G. Tuazon as per Doc No. 105, Page No. 05, Book No. VI, Series of 2021.

Punto! Central Luzon: March 1, 8 & 15, 2021



LEONG HUP (PHILIPPINES), INC.

**WE ARE
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**WE'RE
LOOKING FOR:**

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- Forklift Driver
- Store Keeper
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- fresh graduate encouraged to apply
- willing to learn
- Feedmill Laborers (20 vacant positions)
- no experience
- training provided

**INTERVIEW ON MARCH 8, 2021, 8 A.M
BRING VALID ID**

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KENNETH.HR@LHPI.PH OR DAVID.HR@LHPI.PH
SUBJECT: APPLICANT NAME, POSITION APPLYING FOR
CONTACT:

0906 365 8714 - KEN
0917 327 9991 - DAVID

Editorial

Women's lives upended, rights eroded amid Covid-19

THE COVID-19 pandemic has erased decades of progress towards gender equality. From high job losses to exploding burdens of unpaid care, from disrupted schooling to an escalating crisis of domestic violence and exploitation, women's lives have been upended and their rights eroded. Mothers — especially single mothers — have faced acute anxiety and adversity. The consequences will far outlast the pandemic.

But women have also been on the front lines of pandemic response. They are the essential workers keeping people alive and holding economies, communities and families together. They are among the leaders who have kept prevalence rates lower, and countries on track for recovery.

This year's International Women's Day highlights the transformative power of women's equal participation. We are seeing it ourselves at the United Nations, where I am proud that we have achieved gender parity in UN leadership posts for the first time in history.

The evidence is clear. When women lead in government, we see bigger investments in social protection and greater inroads against poverty. When women are in parliament, countries adopt more stringent climate change policies. When women are at the peace table, agreements are more enduring. And with women now serving in equal numbers at the top leadership posts at the United Nations, we are seeing even more concerted action to secure peace, sustainable development and human rights.

In a male-dominated world with a male-dominated culture, gender equality is essentially a question of power. Males are an essential part of the solution. I call on countries, companies and institutions to adopt special measures and quotas to advance women's equal participation and achieve rapid change. As we recover from the pandemic, support and stimulus packages must target women and girls specifically, including through investments in women-owned businesses and the care economy.

Pandemic recovery is our chance to leave behind generations of exclusion and inequalities. Whether running a country, a business or a popular movement, women are making contributions that are delivering for all and driving progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is time to build an equal future. This is a job for everyone — and for the benefit of everyone.

(UN Secretary-General António Guterres' message for International Women's Day, observed on 8 March)



Shepherd's Call

Bishop Pablo Virgilio S. David

Opinion

Wishing upon a star

I WONDER if the mother of James and John was also among the women who accompanied Jesus up to Calvary in Jerusalem. If she was, I imagine her later standing with Mama Mary at the foot of the cross, and looking at the crucified Jesus with the two criminals positioned on his right and on his left. She would have recalled what she wished for just a few days back, as narrated in today's Gospel, when she said to Jesus, "Promise me that these two sons of mine will be positioned, one at your right and one at your left in your kingdom." Here now is the king with thorns for his crown and the cross for his throne. She probably said to herself, "Thank God, he did not grant my wish."

Don't we, like her, also wish a lot of things for ourselves and for our loved ones, and perhaps even resent it when our wishes are not granted? Have you ever thanked God for not granting your wish because you realized later on that what you asked for would have broken your heart? There is a saying that goes, "Be careful what you wish for because you might just get it."

In St. Mark's version of this passage, it is the two boys themselves who make the wish. By the time Matthew was writing his Gospel, they were already consciously projecting an ideal or exemplary image of the apostles. Matthew must have been embarrassed by the thought that these two young apostles were so humanly ambitious, so he rewrote the story and put the request for positions of power in the mouth of the mother instead. But you realize, as you read on, that the mother is just being used as a mouthpiece. Later in the conversation, Jesus asks not the mother but the two disciples themselves. If it was the mother who made the request, he should have asked, "Can your sons drink the cup that I am going to drink?" Instead, he addressed it on James and John themselves, "Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?"

Jesus must have been aware of the proverbial "cup of suffering and death" that the Greek philosopher, Socrates, was made to drink. The great philosopher was accused of corrupting the minds of young men and sentenced to death by being made to drink a cup of hemlock. Jesus was alluding to the passion and death that he was about to face in Jerusalem when he asked if James and John were ready to drink the cup he was going to be made to drink. And they boldly replied, "Yes, we can!" Meaning, it was their own wish, after all.

There is a song that was composed in 1940 for Walt Disney's animated adaptation of Pinocchio entitled WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR. Unfortunately, most of us know only the first verse of the song which says,

"When you wish upon a star
Makes no difference who you are
Anything your heart desires
Will come to you."

It's where the typical American dream of being whoever and whatever you want to be comes from. Most people don't know that the

second verse of the song says,
"If your heart is in your dream
No request is too extreme
When you wish upon a star
As dreamers do"

The prophet Jeremiah was just a young boy when he started his prophetic career. Like James and John, he was starry-eyed, ambitious, and self-willed, especially when he recalled that he had been chosen for the job already from his mother's womb. Later when he started to suffer the consequences of his bold prophetic words, he would lament to God. He would say in Jer. 20:7 "You seduced me, Lord, and I let myself be seduced; you were too strong for me, and you prevailed. All day long I am an object of laughter; everyone mocks me. Whenever I speak, I must cry out, violence and outrage I proclaim; The word of the LORD has brought me reproach and derision all day long. I say I will not mention him, I will no longer speak in his name. But then it is as if fire is burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I cannot endure it."

I imagine the Lord answering Jeremiah's lament with a song, "I beg your pardon; I never promised you a rose garden." He would probably have said, "You wished for this, Jeremiah; have you forgotten your youthful dream?" And so, the song's second verse is important,

"If your heart is in your dream
No request is too extreme
When you wish upon a star
As dreamers do..."

True dreamers are willing to go through the most extreme trials and tests and not give up easily. They are wishing upon a star, and the star is Jesus. He tells the dreamers like James and John it's ok to aspire for greatness, but they had to understand that true greatness is not about lording it over. It is not about titles and privileges. And so, he says, "You want to lead? You have to be a servant. You want to be first? You have to be a slave. You want to work with the Son of God for the redemption of sinners? You have to be ready to join the son of Man who came to give his life as a ransom for the many."

And so, I repeat, BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.

(Homily for Wednesday of the 2nd Week of Lent, 3 March 2021, Mt 20:17-28)

TODAY IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY

Some native Filipinos and mestizos present a petition demanding expulsion of the friars

ON MARCH 1, 1888, some native Filipinos and mestizos marched in procession to the official residence of Jose Centeno and presented a petition demanding the immediate expulsion of the friars of the religious orders, and of the Archbishop, whom they declared unworthy to occupy the Primacy of the Islands.

Centeno, a mining engineer, was acting civil governor of Manila, and an anti-clerical,

was said to have emboldened the demonstration.

The petition addressed to the Governor-General, further demanded the secularisation of the benefices and the confiscation of the estates of the Augustinians and the Dominicans. The demand, said to have been written by Doroteo Cortes, a mestizo lawyer, also accused the friars of compassing the death of Father Burgos, by subornation of justice.

There were 810 signatures to the petition, but when the signatories were summoned and examined, most of them declared they did not know what they had signed, and denied that they wished the friars to be expelled.

The result of this appeal was that the principal persons who took part in it were banished, or sent to reside at undesirable places within the Archipelago.



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Business & Editorial office at Unit B Essel Commercial Center,
McArthur Highway, Telabastagan, City of San Fernando
Tel. No. (45) 625-0244 Cel. No. 0917-481-1416
puntoitnangluzon@yahoo.com or marketing@punto.com.ph
http://www.punto.com.ph



Napag-uusapan Lang

Felix M. Garcia

Abusu na, Abe

PILAN NENG aldo e patugut y Banung Keng kalalakad na at aplit manintun, Umpisa king abak anggagang gatpaanapun Apipag-aplayan antimong janitor,

At uling e rugu tinuklu mang Grade 6 Keng pamagaral na asna king kasakit, Ing ya kararagli akwa nang makakit Obrang e kailangan ing talas ning isip.

Makanyan man dakal ya balung pagobran, Ing obrang babai kabisadu na ngan; At uli ning atin yang panga-bading yan, Keng pamag-manicure biasa yamu naman.

Keng kalalakad na a'yalang direksyon Asaganaan ne'y Piyuk, a tau San Simon Kaybat pilan bulan na rugung luluyun Mayntun obra, puera mu sa' keng konstraksyon.

At uling ning deti mikaluguran la Biklat nang agad ning Banung ing pake na, At ngana pin "Piyuk, manintun kung obra, E mu ku asaupan milub kang Mayora?"

"Aba nung obra mu ing kekang payntunan, Ngeni murin agyu kung gawang paralan, Ba'kang milub at e mu problemaan man Ing paugtuan uling libri ka pamangan!"

"Ay kasanting pala, ilub mu na ku ne? At magkanu kaya ing sueldo rang ibie?" "Yan ing e ku balung sabyan masalese, Kasi nung manyad ka, tabalu mu abe!"

Sabi mu manintun kang apipagobran At asaupan da ka, libri pa pamangan; Dinyan da na ka pin ot manaya ka pang Sueldwan? Abusu na, abe ing makanyan!

Wapin naman, obra mu ing payntunan na, Dinyan da ne, at yan libri pamangan ya; Manyad ya pang sueldo? Yan, sisting makatwa! (Alang turak a mabisa keng antita. Pwera namu karing ken talagang alang Kapamilya at/o kamaganak mu man A malyari reting king bie asantungan, Ding mabisa agyang libri mu pamangan.

Lalu ngening ing bie asna king kasakit, E ta' kararagli mu namang makakit Apipagobran ken, bistaman dusuldit, E tamu patugut mayntun magkapilit.

Nu' ing kaulyan na nyan agyang libri mu Kumida, mapilit ta'nang kumet rugu, Kesa king mate kang danup, e pin tutu Ing e ka mabisa at kabud na tango?

Iting lerawan ning kakung kawatasan, Waman sisti mu'yti - e ta' atawaran, Ing yan malilyari ngening salukuyan, King bie ring aliwang alang pilisunan.

Pablasang masakit na talaga ngeni Ing bie, pasari ning mialiwa na kasi Ing kasangkanan a mangabayat dili, King yatung karinan, karin, keta't keti!



RIBBON-CUTTING. Owners John Howard Roque (left) and Reuven Azriel Alzaga (right) with CVG Consultancy Chef Vince Garcia. **PHOTOS BY JOANN MANABAT**

Combinado: First shared kitchen facility launched in AC

BY JOANN MANABAT

ANGELES CITY — The shared kitchen commissary concept, something new to the local food business community here, found concrete expression with the launch Saturday of Combinado, the first cloud kitchen in north of Luzon.

A cloud kitchen is a centralized food production facility where restaurants and small food businesses can lease a kitchen space to cook and prepare the food on their menu that is exclusive for take-out orders and food delivery services.

Designed to cater to the local food business community through the professional assistance of CVG Consultancy, Combinado uses professional-grade kitchen equipment with high-pressure burners, gas stove, and ovens, complete with knives, pots, and pans that are optimized for daily use. Combinado also offers its leasing service for dry and cold storage spaces, and dishwashing and cleaning utilities.

The simple ribbon-cutting and blessing ceremony was led by owners Reuven Azriel Alzaga and John Howard Roque together with CVG Consultancy Chef Vince Garcia.

According to Alzaga, Combinado can help expand existing food businesses or start a virtual brand at a minimal cost as it will provide opportunities for entrepreneurs to upscale and explore new markets, as well as try or create new food concepts.

"In reality we all know it's expensive to start a restaurant. Another reason is the current situation right now, we are all in a pandemic, everyone is affected especially the (food) businesses and restaurants. People are hesitant to go dine-in and restaurants now have to pivot into deliveries," said Alzaga.

With the rise of food deliveries and to-go orders, a shared kitchen space has been an alternative solution to help businesses continue their operations without the need to

lease an actual store.

Alzaga said Combinado has the advantage of a wider market reach through the use of third-party delivery applications such as Grab food, Mangan.ph, foodpanda, and others.

To initiate its cloud kitchen space, Combinado also premiered its own food delivery venture, Oh, Good Grub!

Oh, Good Grub! is Combinado's first cloud kitchen tenant which caters to on-demand food such as burgers, sausage buns, chicken wings, and others that are tailor-fit for delivery service.

Located at Diamond subdivision in Balibago, Combinado is open daily. For inquiries, email hello@combinadokitchens.com or call 0977.823.7392



COMBINADO. The first cloud kitchen in North of Luzon.



OH, GOOD GRUB! food sampling selections.

Converge awarded for significant growth...

FROM PAGE 1

and underserved communities and businesses in the Philippines," said Converge ICT Chief Strategy Officer Benjamin Azada who received the award. "Having reached the milestone of garnering 1M subscribers by the end of 2020, we are grateful that this

award acknowledges our continued growth as we aim to reach 55% of Philippine households by 2025."

During the panel discussion, Azada also shared how Converge continues to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth during the pandemic while adhering to the UN Sustain-

ability Goals which includes building the right infrastructure to boost operations. Converge recently doubled its fiber network to over 55,000 kilometers at end-2020 from the previous year.

"We see ourselves as one that has enabled the new normal. Connectivity is what's been able to keep the economy going

and it will position us for a very strong recovery in the coming months," shared Azada.

Converge's sustainable efforts to empower Filipinos as they strive to make that digital shift includes supporting e-learning initiatives by donating tablets and monitors to Aeta students, as well as provid-

ing internet access points to Holy Angel University and other local government units. Converge understands that bridging the digital divide will continue to enable economic growth in the country.

NordCham Philippines is the leading organization dedicated to serving the Nordic-Philippine business com-

munity. The 2021 Nordic Sustainability Awards aims to recognize prominent Nordic-affiliated companies who conduct their business guided by both the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Nordic values.

For more information, visit the Converge website at www.convergeict.com. **-Press release**

Teen pregnancy linked to peer pressure...

FROM PAGE 1

pressured by what they see on social media especially since the Covid-19 pandemic boosted their time in using gadgets.

Other crucial factors attributed to the prevalence of teenage pregnancy include lack of information about reproductive health and sexuality, ineffective or lack of parental guidance, poverty, and early engage-

ment in risky behaviors.

"Since the first pregnancy until subsequent pregnancies, we found out that it is an interplay of factors. Adolescent pregnancy is not just about the adolescents, it's also about their parents, their friends, their partners, and even the community they belong to," Monterona said.

Among the 20,974 recorded pregnant adolescents in Central Luzon, 311 or 1.48 percent live

births are from mothers in the young ages of 10-14.

In addition, Popcom said teenage pregnancy is a threat to the health not only of young mothers, but also of children.

"We know that pregnancy has ill effects on the overall wellness of the mothers. We know that when a woman is pregnant, there are risks that we have to guard. The risks become doubled in terms of health

concerns if the pregnant mother is an adolescent," Monterona explained.

Popcom said children born to very young mothers are at a higher risk of diseases and death.

Adolescent pregnancy is also a concern on the total development of the individual with implications on family, community, and socio-economic factors.

"The affected are not only the young mothers

but also the young fathers. They have to stop schooling to take care of their baby. Because they stopped schooling, employment opportunities become limited for them to foster something for their future," he said.

As adolescents, they are at the age when they should just be thinking of how to be productive citizens but because of being young parents, they are now thinking not just of themselves, but also

the families they built.

Monterona bared that young parents are still dependent on their parents, and that dependence was doubled with the presence of their baby.

As an effect to the economy, having teens who are unable to pursue their education would lower the employment rate and the labor force of the country. -- **Jag Lyra Costamero/PIA-3**

DTI urges CL youth to be entrepreneurs

FROM PAGE 1

the world of work and the way we interact. Young people are at the heart of this technological movement, being the most active online users. Taken into entrepreneurship, you are the most capable of using the internet of things to your advantage. Make the most out of it," she said.

Baluyut also assured the youth of DTI and its development partners' support in this endeavor.

"We, as part of the government, are here to support you. We are here as your enabler to your full potential. To make that happen, we will mentor and coach you to be the best ver-

sion of yourself as an entrepreneur. And one of the best ways to prepare yourself for this journey is to put your mind into it," she said.

DTI assistant secretary for regional operations Blesila Lantayona said that as the largest sector of the workforce, the youth are identified to play a role in catalyzing the growth and economic development of the country.

"The youth are very much involved during these trying times in combatting the pandemic and helping to build back better through their creativity and problem-solving skills. Indeed, the youth already possess entrepreneurial potentials and

we would like to ensure that this energy and entrepreneurial drive is harnessed by essential support," she said.

She also mentioned about the 7Ms framework (mindset, mastery, mentoring, money, machines, market access, and models) of business in upgrading the entrepreneurs' capacity to become globally-competitive and smarter entrepreneurs.

"This serves as a roadmap. This is a promise that you will be able to learn, to know, and to avail the services, not only of DTI, but also of the other government agencies along these 7Ms strategies for successful entrepreneurs.

The YEP, supported by the 7Ms, responds to the needs of our time and ultimately help Filipino entrepreneurs, particularly the youth move forward and prosper," she said.

Lantayona also assured the youth that though the road to entrepreneurship entails challenges, the government will try its best to ease the journey to unleash the youth's full potential.

"We want to see more young people going to business. But of course, we cannot legislate that. We cannot force you, but we just have to entice you and show you the way. You have to make the choice," she challenged. -- **Marie Joy S. Carbungco/PIA-3**

NLEX partners with LGUs on urban...

FROM PAGE 1

all requests or initiatives that may require use of right-of-way or changes in the expressways' current footprint should be approved by the Toll Regulatory Board."

Bautista said that among the LGUs that they are currently assisting are Caloocan City and Quezon City, where the Balintawak Cloverleaf is located, as well as Meycauayan City and Guiguinto in Bulacan.

Recently, NLEX opened the Quirino East Service Road and Camachile Ramp to provide alternate routes for motorists and to decongest the Balintawak Cloverleaf. It has also helped in the relocation of a police outpost in the area to address traffic concerns and improve the safety of motorists and pedestrians.

At the City of Meycauayan, the tollway company has implemented rerouting schemes to alleviate traffic at the in-

terchange and proposed the construction of alternate east-west overpasses which will be undertaken by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Vehicular traffic on both the east and west directions of the Camalig-Iba-Malhacan roads in Meycauayan has dramatically increased, owing to the vast number of manufacturing and industrial compounds which contribute to significant truck traffic.

A traffic impact study is also in progress for the municipality of Guiguinto to harmonize long-term urban development and transportation plans. High industrialization has been observed in the area hence proper urban planning is necessary to facilitate smooth traffic flow.

Previously, NLEX has partnered with the City of Angeles and City of San Fernando in Pampanga in implementing infrastructure improvements aimed at easing mount-

ing traffic and complementing the growth of trade and commerce.

The recommendations of the previous studies in 2015 and 2017 have been implemented by NLEX which resulted in improved traffic flow despite the heightened urbanization in the said cities.

Among the enhancements in San Fernando City were the expansion of the interchange bridge and the northbound exit, the construction of additional lanes toll lanes at southbound entry and exit, and installation of traffic signals.

NLEX has also augmented the toll plaza in Angeles City with two entry lanes and one exit lane, bringing the total toll lanes to 10. Traffic rerouting schemes and the ongoing construction of the New East-West Overpass are being implemented by the LGU and DPWH, respectively.

In another partnership with the government, seven LGU coun-

cils previously passed resolutions supporting cashless toll payments through the RFID system. The resolutions recognized the importance of the technology not only in addressing traffic congestion but also in preventing the spread of the coronavirus.

Last year, NLEX also signed traffic management agreements with the cities of Meycauayan, San Fernando, and Angeles. Regular traffic coordination meetings are also being carried out with the cities of Meycauayan, Valenzuela, and Caloocan.

Through the years, NLEX has always worked hand-in-hand with its stakeholders in pursuing infrastructure improvements that will boost efficient traffic management and enhance public safety and security.

NLEX Corporation is a subsidiary of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC).

-Press release

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT

THIRD JUDICIAL REGION

BRANCH 58

ANGELES CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE CORRECTION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE OF THE SPS. CARL ALLEN D. LAYUG AND REYCHELLE COSAS-LAYUG,

SPS. CARL ALLEN D. LAYUG AND REYCHELLE COSAS-LAYUG,

R-ANG-20-03648-SP

Petitioners,

-versus-

LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF ANGELES CITY AND THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL -- PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY, QUEZON CITY,

Respondents.

x-----x

ORDER

The Compliance dated 19 January 2021 of spouses-petitioner is noted. Ruffled to this Court on December 29, 2020 is this Petition for the correction of the Certificate of Marriage of the Sps. Carl Allen D. Layug and Reychelle Cosas-Layug filed by petitioners through counsel.

Spouses-petitioners allege, among others, that they were lawfully united in marriage on September 22, 2019 at the Jesus the Eternal Word Parish Church located at Riverside Subdivision, Angeles City, which marriage was solemnized by Rev. Fr. Aljim M. Tuazon.

In the Certificate of Marriage of petitioners, an erroneous entry was committed thereon in so far as the citizenship of the father of the groom, herein petitioner Carl Allen D. Layug, is concerned under Entry No. 9, "Citizenship" (of Father): what was erroneously placed thereon as the citizenship of Mr. Allan Fajardo Layug is "JAPANESE" instead of "FILIPINO", the latter citizenship or nationality being the true and correct citizenship or nationality of Mr. Allan Fajardo Layug.

Petitioners further allege that Mr. Allan Fajardo Layug is a Filipino citizen since birth and has remained a Filipino Citizen up to the present without ever changing his citizenship.

Finally, according to petitioners, the reason for the wrong entry was that Mr. Alberto Y. Manlapaz, the personnel of the church who prepared and typewrote the said wrong entry, failed to change the citizenship appearing in the pre-typed entry thereon which is "Japanese" (as the citizenship of the father of the groom who were married prior to the petitioners is Japanese) to "Filipino", which is the correct citizenship of Mr. Allan Fajardo Layug.

The petitioners pray that, after due notice and hearing, a decision be rendered ordering the Local Civil Registrar of Angeles City, Pampanga and the Civil Registrar General - Philippine Statistics Authority, Quezon City, to correct the Certificate of Marriage of herein petitioners in so far as the citizenship of the father of the groom (herein petitioner Carl Allen D. Layug) is concerned under Entry No. 9, "Citizenship" (of Father) from "JAPANESE" to "FILIPINO" to reflect the true and correct citizenship of Mr. Allan Fajardo Layug.

Finding the Petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the court hereby sets the case for hearing on **April 28, 2021 at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon**. Any person interested in this Petition is hereby ordered to appear on said date and time before this Court and to show cause, if any, why the Petition should not be granted. The next setting thereafter shall be on **May 12, 2021 at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon**.

The petitioner is likewise ordered to cause the publication of this Order once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Pampanga and Angeles City, **within seventy-two (72) hours from receipt of this Order**.

The Office of the Solicitor General is hereby directed to enter its appearance in this case for the State within **seventy-two (72) hours from receipt of this Order**.

Let copies of this Order be furnished to the spouses-petitioner and their counsel; the Office of the Solicitor General; the Local Civil Registrar of Angeles City; the Philippine Statistics Authority; and Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court, Angeles City.

SO ORDERED.

Angeles City, 02 February 2021.

RAMON CORAZON P. BLANCO
Assisting Judge

Copy Furnished:
Carl Allen D. Layug
Reychelle Cosas-Layug
Atty. Edgar Vicente D. Ocampo
Office of the Solicitor General
Local Civil Registrar of Angeles City
Philippine Statistics Authority
OCC-RTC
Publication

Punto! Central Luzon: March 1, 8 & 15, 2021



Tattoo artist Alvin Taruc inks hamsa tattoo design on a client's forearm.



FOR THE ART OF SELF LOVE AND HEALING. Arte Tattoo Baliti branch manager Justin Gonzales, owner Patty Tiu-Thomson, and in-house tattoo artist Alvin Chester Taruc. PHOTO BY RIC GONZALES

Arte Tattoo: Going beyond aesthetics for the art of self love and healing

BY JOANN MANABAT

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — Every tattoo and piercing goes beyond aesthetics from a journey that tells tales behind the markings, inks, studs, or rings.

"Tattoo is a form of healing," said Arte Tattoo owner and piercing specialist Patty Tiu-Thomson.

"I have been a tattoo enthusiast for a long time. I was one of Charles' loyal clients at first. I would refer to him from those in my network like my friends or those in the music industry until eventually we figured since I have been referring to him some clients, we can just partner and make it bigger and take it out from his home studio," she added.

Founded by Charles Arta and Kel Laquin at a small

house studio in 2012, Arte Tattoo now has three branches: Poblacion in Makati, Malingap in Quezon City, and Baliti here.

"The one in Malingap was already planned but then lockdown happened. So within three months time it was locked down, we didn't know if we would continue or not. So we've decided to push through and eventually we agreed to have a branch outside Manila so just in case lockdown happens again, we have already one that is here and operating," she said.

Arte Tattoo houses a total of 10 tattoo artists and two piercing specialists. They are known for their bespoke designs on fine lines and minimalism, Japanese oriental tattoos, realism and illustrative tattoos, traditional and neo-traditional, as well as hand poked manifestation tattoos.

ditional, as well as hand poked manifestation tattoos.

"Our artists draw their own designs. We conceptualize along with the client. If our clients find a design that they like online, they can show it to our tattoo artist and they can make something out of it but not completely copy what was shown," she said.

Defining self love through inks marked on the body, Arte Tattoo brings part of the healing process as they share some through their "Arte Stories" via social media.

"With everything that's going through right now, everyone has different ways of healing or coping so we use our tool which is tattooing to help cope with what they are going through," she shared.

"Tattoos are like windows to

your soul. You can be known just by looking at your tattoo. It's nice to know that you have one that is just yours, a design that is meant for you alone, something you won't see on other people," she furthered.

Known in Manila as one of the go-to places to get inked, Arte Tattoo ensures its standards on hygiene and sanitation as well as safety protocols against Covid-19 in all of its three branches.

"Now we have doubled our safety protocols. We have added PPEs, gloves, face shield, and face masks. We also have a contact tracing form. We have days when we accept walk-ins as well," she noted.

Arte Tattoo has its monthly "Arte Tattour" activity where tattoo artists from their Manila branches visit for a session for

Kapampangans who want to experience their skill and creativity.

Located at the 2nd floor of Quez building along McArthur highway Baliti here, Arte Tattoo is open every Wednesdays to Sundays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. while Mondays and Tuesdays are strictly for appointments only.

Arte Tattoo Valentine's Day promo is still ongoing. All self love tattoos from medium to large size are at 50 percent off while piercings are at buy one get one promo and an additional piercing if you bring a friend for a piercing/tattoo. Promo runs until March 14.

Visit Arte Tattoo on Facebook or @artetattoo.ph on Instagram for promos, other updates, and booking inquiries.

—Advertorial

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