

FOR STABLE ENERGY SUPPLY

Group pushes nuclear power plant activation



Alpas Pinas media tour at the PNPP site. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MORONG, Bataan – In view of the country’s low power reserves, a non-stock, non-profit organization leading the advocacy for nuclear energy as a clean energy source has underscored the urgency of exploring the activation of the Philippine Nuclear Power Plant (PNPP). **PAGE 9 PLEASE**



‘Layag-WPS’ to boost blue economy

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – To intensify support to fishermen and boost the blue economy, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources on April 16 launched the Livelihood Activities to Enhance Fisheries Yields and Economic Gains from the West Philippine Sea (Layag-WPS) project in Subic, Zambales on April 16.

“The DA-BFAR commits to the task of empowering Filipino fisherfolk and ensuring that this program is justly and equitably implemented,” noted BFAR director Demosthenes Escoto. “We believe that we can still improve the numbers, we can sustainably harness the full potential of WPS.”

Escoto said the project intends to modernize fishing to improve the lives of communities by unlocking the potential of the resource-rich fishing ground and stirring livelihood opportunities in areas adjacent to the WPS, including the Ilocos, Central Luzon, and Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan) regions.

He cited data saying some 300,000 Filipinos fish in WPS areas with around 201,895 metric tons of production in 2023.

PAGE 9 PLEASE



OMG, IT'S GIGI

Dubbed your new bestie, 55-foot-long multi-colored inflatable giraffe Gigi looks down from the roof of SM City Pampanga across Parking E. **SM-PR**



BM Mylyn Pineda-Cayabyab and her father businessman-philanthropist Rodolfo “Tatay Bong” Pineda go through process of transferring their voter registration at the city Comelec office. **PHOTO: BONG LACSON**

TO RUN FOR MAYOR?

BM Mylyn resigns from SP

Transfers voter registration to CSFP

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – Pampanga 2nd District board member Mylyn Pineda has resigned from the sangguniang panlalawigan.

In its regular session on April 15, the SP passed Resolution No. 8512 accepting Cayabyab’s resignation as member of the 11th Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Pampanga “effective on the close of office hours on April 15, 2024.”

The SP resolution did not mention any reason for or cause of the resignation.

Cayabyab is on her second consecutive

term as provincial board member representing the second district. Prior to her SP stint, she served as mayor of Lubao for three terms.

A day after her resignation, April 16, Cayabyab, along with her father businessman-philanthropist Rodolfo “Bong” Pineda

and her husband Archen, came personally to the Commission on Elections office here to transfer their voter registration from Lubao town to Barangay Dolores of this city.

Twenty-three of the 35 barangay chairman of San Fernando led by

PAGE 9 PLEASE

DTI, Google offer 500 scholarship slots in NE

CABANATUAN CITY -- The Department of Trade and Industry and Google Philippines are offering free technical courses with 500 slots allotted for Nueva Ecija residents.

The 2024 Google Career Certificate scholarship program aims to provide technical and digital skills training and equip the participants with professional certification, which may boost their career or business potential.

DTI provincial director Richard Simangan said qualified applicants under the program include owners and staff of micro, small and medium enterprises as well as women, out-of-school youth, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and unemployed or

underemployed individuals.

"They can study online for three to six months for free," he said.

The program offers in-demand courses including Data Analytics, IT Support, Project Management, User Experience Design, Digital Marketing and E-commerce, and Cybersecurity.

Eligible applicants must be 18 years old or above, Filipino residents, committed to completing the course within the specified timeframe, and preferably have a gadget and access to the internet.

Interested enrollees may coordinate with the Negosyo Centers in the province, or register at bit.ly/2024GCC-Interest-Form. **PIA-3**



RIGHT OF WAY. Vice Gov. Lilia Pineda and 2nd District Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo preside meeting on Alviera issues. **PHOTO: PATRICIA CABUNGCAL/ PAMPANGA PIO**



GMA, Capitol tackle Alviera water issues

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- The Provincial Government of Pampanga together with the local government of Porac, representatives and developers from Ayala Land Inc., and Alviera in Porac, convened to discuss the status of ongoing water draining facilities within the estate and its adherence to environmental regulations on April 16 at the Capitol here.

Alviera's water drainage infrastructure was among the issues raised during the

meeting. Authorities highlighted the pressing need for a permanent drain outfall to combat flooding hazards during heavy rainfall.

Although Alviera currently relies on detention ponds near the Porac River as a temporary defense against flooding and water erosion, the completion of a permanent drain outfall encountered setbacks, primarily attributed to right-of-way on affected lands.

This development prompted former president

now 2nd District Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice Gov. Lilia "Nanay" Pineda to intervene to expedite negotiations with the concerned landowner.

Arroyo highlighted the province's investor-friendly stance, advocating for a balanced approach prioritizing promotion alongside regulation. It can be recalled that she was one of the proponents who encouraged Ayala Land Inc. to invest in the province.

Pineda also outlined

plans to enact an ordinance establishing an oversight committee spearheaded by the Capitol to address issues concerning significant investors.

Ayala Land Inc. extended gratitude for the "proactive interventions" to expedite the drain outfall completion.

Alviera is the second-largest estate under Ayala Land Inc. which stands as a beacon of progress and sustainable growth in Central Luzon.

Pampanga PIO



Discussions on the Matatag curriculum. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

DepEd-3 to roll out training on 'Matatag' curriculum

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- The Department of Education (DepEd) will roll-out this month the training series for the phased implementation of the "Matatag" curriculum.

Matatag is an acronym for "Make the curriculum relevant to produce job-ready, Active and responsible citizens; Take steps to accelerate the delivery of basic education services and provision facilities; Take good care of learners by promoting learner well-being, inclusiveness learning, and positive learning environment; and, Give support for teachers to teach better."

In Central Luzon, the regional training of trainers (RTOT) of division trainers and school leaders will be conducted in two batches on April 15-19 and April

29-May 3.

DepEd-3 director May Eclar said RTOT aims to demonstrate knowledge and skills on unpacking/merging/clustering competencies per grade level and learning area, and also to "integrate 21st century skills, inclusion of principles and brain-based learning theories in teaching and learning processes; apply pedagogical approaches and assessment per learning area for effective lesson planning and simulate collaborative learning expertise; and exhibit positive/inclusive attitude towards the implementation of the Matatag curriculum."

"The RTOT will prepare a total of 507 participants consisting of curriculum and instruction division chiefs, senior education program specialists, education pro-

gram supervisors, public schools district supervisors, selected school heads, department heads, head teachers, and master teachers for the conduct of the division training of school trainers (DTOT)," she explained.

A total of 5,543 participants composed of school heads, master teachers, and/or head teachers are expected to attend the DTOT and consequently lead the school-based training to be attended by 28,312 teachers before the beginning of School Year (SY) 2024-2025 on July 29.

"We assure our teachers that we have reminded all the schools division office officials that the schedule of the school-based training must not be done within their 30-day vacation from June 1-30," Eclar empha-

sized.

The Matatag curriculum aims to reduce the number of competencies and to focus more on the development of foundational skills, literacy, numeracy, and socio-emotional skills of Kindergarten to Grade 3 learners, thus, decongesting the present K to 12 curriculums.

The recalibrated K to 10 curriculums, which will emphasize five important skills: language, reading and literacy, mathematics, makabansa, and good manners and right conduct.

It will be implemented in the following phases: SY 2024-2025 – Kindergarten, Grades 1, 4, and 7; SY 2025-2026 – Grades 2, 5, and 8; SY 2026-2027 – Grades 3, 6, and 9; and SY 2027-2028 – Grade 10.

PIA-3

Waste segregation set in 56 AC schools

ANGELES CITY – Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr. has put into motion the full implementation of waste segregation at source in 56 public elementary and high schools starting May 6.

Lazatin aims to instill the importance of waste segregation in reducing the waste being dumped in sanitary landfills to all public school students.

"Nais po natin na maturuan ang ating mga kabataan ang kahalagaan ng waste segregation at source dahil para rin naman ito sa kinabukasan nila," he said.

In preparation of the full implementation of waste segregation at source in all public schools, Lazatin instructed members of the general services office headed by Evangeline

Malonzo to distribute trash bins in the 56 public schools in the city.

The mayor also ordered the personnel of city environment and natural resources office, and the environmental management system to regularly check the compliance of all public schools in waste segregation.

Last week, teams from the CENRO and EMS already finished the information, education, and communication campaign to all public schools in the city to inform them the proper ways to segregate their waste.

The CENRO team reminded them to observe proper segregation in their schools, specifically on dry and wet wastes.

Angeles CIO



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(SINGIL NA IBINABALIK DIN NG NGCP SA MGA
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TOTAL **PhP 100.00**

Ang singil sa transmisyong ay

PhP 3.58

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Ang singil sa transmisyong ay presyo ng paghahatid at pagbabalanse ng mataas na boltahe ng kuryente mula sa mga generators papunta sa mga distribution utilities.



Napababa ng halos 82% ang transmission outages simula ng pangasiwaan ng NGCP ang transmission

- Base sa average February 2024 sample residential electric bills ng mga malalaking Distribution Utilities (DUs) sa Luzon, Visayas, at Mindanao.
- Ang singil sa transmisyong para sa January 2024 ay sinisingil ng mga DU ng February 2024.

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NGCP

'Walang namatay'

"I'D ALSO want to point out that this is the biggest shipment of shabu na nahuli natin, but, not one person died. Walang namatay. Walang nagputukan, walang nasaktan. Basta't in-operate natin nang dahan-dahan."

Thus, enthused President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. on April 16 as he personally inspected 1.8-ton shabu seized in Alitagtag, Batangas estimated to be worth P13.3 billion in street value.

This, as he hailed the operation that scored the country's biggest drug haul in a single operation, and exhorted law enforcement agencies to intensify the campaign against illegal drugs.

"Yan naman dapat ang approach, para sa akin, yan ang dapat na approach sa drug war, na ang pinakaimportante is matigil natin ang pag-ship ng mga drugs dito sa pagpasok sa Pilipinas," noted Marcos Jr.

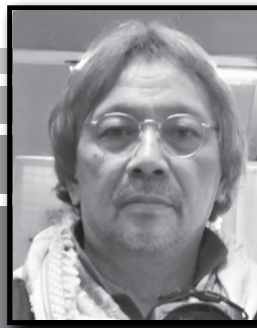
The president's declarations starkly contrast those of his predecessor in the Kill! Kill! Kill! campaign against illegal drugs he inflicted upon the nation during his bloody watch.

In an earlier statement, Marcos Jr. said his administration's campaign hews to a more preventive and rehabilitative approach.

While conceding that there is no single solution to the drug menace, the president said authorities need to work hard: "We have to operate, we have to gather intelligence, we have to coordinate with Interpol, we have to coordinate with intelligence and drug agencies of other countries around of ASEAN, of Asia, kung saan man nangagaling because this is an international crime."

"That's the situation that we are hoping to achieve. Pero the only way to get back is to continue to prosecute the drug war but well within the law, so that cases can be filed and the syndicates can be identified, the guilty parties can be arrested and eventually imprisoned, and that is the point of what we are doing. That's the only way to approach it. Pahirapan talaga yan," he said.

Addressing the drug syndicates, Marcos Jr. warned: "Bahala kayo sa ginagawa ninyo basta't tuloy-tuloy lang kami. Aabutan din namin kayo. Maliit lang ang Pilipinas."



acaesar.blogspot.com

Zona Libre

Bong Z. Lacson

Remembering our Bren

"E KO magmalun, mibangun ya ing Pampanga."

The exhortation of Governor Bren Z. Guiao for his people to end their collective grief, rise from despair, and believe in a renaissance Pampanga brought the first ray of hope in the wake of the Mount Pinatubo eruptions.

It was the faintest flicker of hope though, the Kapampangan trapped in the most desperate straits: damned in a wasteland of buried homes and broken dreams, doomed in a landscape of death and desolation.

Beyond PR savvy – of which Guiao was a guru – the slogan was founded on the governor's unwavering faith in the Kapampangan character: of grit and resiliency, that have served him well in rising from every adversity, be it socio-political-economic, as in the agrarian unrest, the Marcos dictatorship and the communist rebellion; or natural, as in the floods that perennially devastated the croplands and aqua farms of the province and damaged its infrastructure...

A faith well placed. A prophesy coming to pass. Pampanga indeed rising from the ashes of Pinatubo to use that overwrought cliché. As Bren Zablan Guiao promised. As my foreword in the book *Pinatubo: Triumph of the Kapampangan Spirit* (2008) put it.

Leave those credit grabbers to their delusions, but it was Bren Z. Guiao – then already out of the governorship but chair of Kabisig, an NGO under the Office of the President – and his nemesis, Gov. Lito Lapid, that worked hardest for the FVR megadike systems that ultimately saved Pampanga. How and why did I know? I was Lapid's senior consultant then, privy to practically even the lowest whispers in the corridors of power.

I covered Bren Z. Guiao long before he became governor, starting off in the post-Ninoy Aquino assassination rallies, going to the 1984 Batasan polls, onto EDSA 1.

It was during his watch at the Capitol that Pampanga saw frenzied infrastructure development concretized in the Paskuhan Village, the Pampanga Sports and Convention Center that hosted the 1990 Palarong Pambansa, the Ninoy Aquino By-Way and the Quezon Road.

The "Growth Center," he dubbed Pampanga, most appropriately so as the province ranked Number One in investments immediately prior to the Pinatubo eruptions, and "easily" – to use his favourite expression – rebounding to Number Five three years after.

Of all the things I wrote about Bren Z. Guiao, I find this Zona Libre column published in the May 21-27, 1995 issue of *The Voice* the best.

Sense of history

BREN Z. GUIAO lost the governorship of Pampanga. But he won the adulation of the whole nation.

His early concession of defeat is a total departure from the standard praxis of Philippine politics: File protest. Do not concede. Nobody loses. One only gets cheated.

From a politico, Bren Z. Guiao transfigured into *un hombre de estado, the ultimo caballero*.

We are reminded of a column we wrote here on Guiao's Legacy a month before the elections which a Guiao lieutenant termed as an "advance obituary" for the governor.

Our piece proved – modestly be damned – prophetic, thus: "The three-term administration of the Honorable Bren Z. Guiao, governor of Pampanga, will be long remembered, nay, forever enshrined in the heart of the Kapampangan, not so much for its grand edifice complex but for its strong political will to uphold the sanctity of the ballot in May 1995."

No, egocentric as we may seem, we have not yet the conceit to claim that the good governor heeded our word.

Bren Z. Guiao has a keen sense of history. Key player as he was in major epochs of contemporary Philippine politics: victor in the Constitutional Convention of 1971, victim of Martial Law and the 1984 Batasan polls, victor anew in the national epiphany of EDSA and its immediate aftermath. This was the factor most at work on the night of May 8.

Our column concluded: "A few years from now, people shall be misty eyed when they remember Bren Z. Guiao of having the courage, the supreme will to uphold the Kapampangan's sacred democratic right, whatever the price. Even at the cost of losing that which he cherished most."

No, we were not fully right. More than the governorship, Bren Z. Guiao cherishes his place in history.

Shame on us for forgetting his by-phrase oft quoted early in his term but lost somewhere in the exhilaration the governor's chair invariably brings: "Power is ephemeral. All this will pass. We just have to give our best to our people. And be the wiser for it." Or something to that effect.

Godspeed, Sir. And thank you, if only for the memories.

(Republished this 17 April, 2024 the 27th death anniversary of Gov. Bren Z. Guiao.)

COMMENTARY

EMPOWERING WINGS

Celebrating the contributions of female soldiers from the PAF Air Defense Command

IN THE steadfast skies of the Philippines, a remarkable force of women soar, weaving a tapestry of inspiration and resilience through their valorous deeds. Within the Air Defense Command, female soldiers stand as pillars of strength, contributing profoundly to the community they protect, much like the azure heavens they guard.

Despite the challenges of modern military service, these women showcase courage and excellence, excelling in various roles within the Air Defense Command.

The women serving in the military come from various backgrounds and fields of expertise. From pilots who fly fighter jets to air battle managers who coordinate air operations, from missileers who operate and maintain nuclear missiles to intel officers who gather and analyze intelligence, and from legal officers who provide legal advice to logistics officers who manage supplies and equipment, the range of roles these women take on is diverse and challenging. They play a critical part in the defense and development of the nation, and their exceptional expertise and unwavering

determination have been proven time and again in the face of adversity. Not only are these women competent, but they are also compassionate and ensure that their fellow service members receive the best possible care and support.

One of the most notable accomplishments of these female soldiers is their dedication to humanitarian missions through Civil-Military Operations activities. They are often deployed to areas affected by natural disasters, providing critical aid and support to communities in need. Whether it's airlifting supplies or providing medical assistance, these soldiers exemplify compassion and selflessness, embodying the spirit of *Bayanihan*. Moreover, these women actively engage with local communities by conducting outreach programs that aim to uplift and empower them. They impart valuable knowledge through educational campaigns and skills training, inspiring the next generation of leaders. Their efforts not only enhance community resilience but also foster a sense of unity and solidarity.

Above all, these women embody the core

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LLL Trimedia Coordinators, Inc.
Publisher

General Manager **Atty. Gener C. Endona**
Editor **Caesar "Bong" Lacson**
Marketing Manager **Joanna Niña V. Cordero**
Admin **Irma C. Tullao**

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Ad Lib
Rey Yumang

Opinion

Not your typical ghost story

PRIVATE SCHOOLS have been once again at the receiving end of a barrage of criticisms following the March Senate hearing which flagged alleged "ghost" or undocumented students as a possible "leakage" in the Senior High School Voucher Program (SHSVP) of the Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education Act (E-GASTPE).

Citing the 2016 and 2018 reports from the Commission on Audit (COA), Senate Committee on Basic Education head Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian revealed that more than 19,000 "ghost" or undocumented students were benefitting from the voucher program.

The Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC), a five-member committee that was created to be the trustee of the Funds for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE), now finds itself in uncharted waters, disputing unfounded accusations that it failed to preserve the integrity of the SHSVP, and the Education Service Contracting (ESC) for the junior high school.

For the record, it is the PEAC that reported these findings to the Department of Education (DepEd) based on the monitoring activities conducted annually by its regional program committees. Were it not for the diligence of the PEAC regional monitoring teams, this would have gone totally unnoticed.

During the height of the Covid-19 pandemic when it was very difficult to conduct on-campus monitoring of participating schools, the PEAC devised a way to continue the activity. It may be entirely different from what has been the practice in the past but the new set-up was able to evaluate the extent of compliance of individual schools with the program requirements.

The manual work is not for the faint-hearted. It includes checking the list of encoded beneficiaries generated from the PEAC's management information

system vis-à-vis the DepEd's SF1 (School Register) and SF2 (Learner's Daily Class Attendance). It also involves checking and verifying the data on the recipients' birth certificates, taking note of whether it was issued by the PSA, the NSO or the municipal civil registry. It also entails comparing and cross-referencing the name on the birth certificates versus the systems-generated list, checking the minutest of details including the correct full names of the recipients. For the individual folders, the monitors check the supporting documents submitted by the beneficiaries that include the parents' proof of income, the report card from the previous school, and the application form duly-signed by both the beneficiary and his or her parent. The objective of all these nitty-gritty steps is to ensure that the beneficiaries are all accounted for.

Admittedly, the system is far from perfect. However, the PEAC has not been remiss in its commitment to improve, enhance and tighten the system year after year. As an integral part of the annual monitoring activities, the PEAC has been consistent in discussing the findings to the participating schools so they remain compliant. At the same time, the PEAC has been providing recommendations to the DepEd so that together, they can continue to strengthen and safeguard the system.

A case in point is the marked improvement in

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Napag-uusapan Lang
Marvel V. Garcia

Pag amyenda at rebisyon sa Konstitusyon, dapat ba at napapanahon?

Ang konstitusyon ba'y dapat amyendahan? O rebisahin ang kanyang nilalaman? Lalo sa aspeto ng pangkabuhayan Upang umunlad daw itong sambayanan

1987, nang ito'y mabago Nang ang presidente'y si Cory Aquino At ang naging anyo noon ng gobyerno Ay ang tinawag na REVOLUSYUNARYO

Ito ay ninais din namang baguhin Nang si Fidel Ramos ang pangulo natin SENATORIAL SYSTEM nais pairalin Ngunit naunsiyami, plano niyang gawin

Dahil sa ilalim ng saligang batas 1987 di pwedeng i revise People's Initiative ay hindi raw sapat Dahil sa Republic Act 6735

Isang dahilan sa di pagtatagumpay Ni Ramos noon na ito' amyendahan Layunin daw nito'y palawigin lamang Termino ng halal na public official (s)

Maging sa panahon ni Erap Estrada At dating pangulo na si madam Gloria Binalak ding nila ang pag-amyenda Na binasura rin ng KORTE SUPREMA

Sa panahon naman ni pangulong Digong FEDERALISMO ang nais na isulong Subalit ito ay hindi rin natuloy Hanggang sa mabago ang administrasyon

Ngayon naman itong sa lower house mismo Ang may pagtatangka na ito'y mabago Nasimulan na rin ang pagpoproseso Sa RESOLUTION na nakahain dito

Under sa REVISION ang saligang batas Ang kabuuan ay babaguhin lahat Sa amendments naman pwedeng may mabawas sa nilalaman o mayrong madadagdag

Ngunit ang tanong ay dapat bang baguhin? O amyendahan ang konstitusyon natin At ang plano'y PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE pa rin Na sandata nilang dito'y gagamitin

Pinangaladakan pa na ang agenda Hinggil sa probisyong pang ekonomiya Subalit dito ay mayro'ng pagdududa Na masisingitan ng pampulitika

Konstitusyon natin ay maayos naman Bakit atat silang ito'y pakialaman? Anong misteryo ang nasa likod niyan? Upang baguhin ang mga nilalaman

Dahil ba sa mga pulitikong sakim? Na sa pwesto nila'y ayaw ng bumitiw Bakit hindi na lang pagtuunang pansin Maglingkod ayon sa kanilang tungkulin

May ibang bagay na lubhang mahalaga Tulad sa gawain nitong bansang Tsina Kapag sila'y hindi natin sinansala Manganganib itong ating soberanya



Youthspeak
By Samantha Lexcy Bucad Tongol
Grade 6, Angeles University Foundation Integrated School

Opinion

A tribute of love

AS WE stand on the brink of graduation, reflecting the journey that brought us here, we recognize the unwavering dedication of parents who have sacrificed sleepless nights just to support our dreams.

Parenthood goes beyond painting a rich tapestry of love, support that does not waver, faith, and dedication. LGBTQIA+ parents, OFW (Overseas Filipino Worker) parents, single parents, and even adoptive parents, who each went through their own battles and victories. Yet one truth will never change amidst diversity; the limitless strength of love that led us all the way to this "pivotal moment" before graduation.

In the hearts of LGBTQIA parents, there exists a love that beats the society's norms & standards. It is love that flourishes despite the diversity, prejudice, and judgments through devotion and unbreakable. Though difficulties continue to present challenges for them, their unwavering commitment holds the road of parenthood amid courage and resilience, with each achievement standing as a proof of the faith they have in this cause of creating a home filled with love and acceptance.

Every dawn is the world of single parenthood comes with a fresh set of challenges and victories. Single parents manage life's highs and lows alone through bravery and relentless determination, balancing responsibilities and issues through dignity and courage. They represent unwavering faith and resilience in the future of their children, an impact invaluable in times of continuously ongoing love and silently made sacrifices.

For OFW parents, love is far from being limited by distance. They opted to work long hours and have sleepless nights overseas in order to afford their families a better life and a brighter future. Being an OFW exemplifies the heartfelt sacrifices made to give the family a better tomorrow, having to endure being separated from your family, is

the epitome of being separated by borders and seas. It's about putting the needs of your family first above your personal desires, even if it means being oceans away from the ones you love most. Though, despite the distance, their love has always been a lantern in a world full of darkness.

Adoptive parents' love has no bounds; it goes beyond blood. Their decision to open their hearts and homes to the children in need. Family is never defined by blood, rather it is defined by unwavering faith and unwavering support.

This is a tribute of love and respect to all parents who have been guiding lights on our journey towards graduation. Being a mother or father irrespective of whether OFW, LGBTQIA+, single, or adoptive, is a symbol of courage, selflessness, and love that never dies. Your love has been a beacon of light, illuminating our path in order to reach this milestone. It is also a testament to every achievement, every tear shed, and every laughter, and every sleepless night. The honor and privilege of being called "mom" or "dad" is so much more than labels, it reflects the heart of parenthood in a such simple form. Your love has no bounds, and so, we honor and cherish you. Thank you for being a guiding light, and shaping us to what we are now.

And to all the students on the brink of graduating, it is your parents' love and sacrifices that have led you here. As you embark on your next phase of life, remember that there was unwavering support and faith that has shaped you into the outstanding individual you are today. You should carry the important lesson of love taught to you by your parents as we step into the future.



At Punla kickoff, representatives from women-led small enterprises with NLEX Corp. VP for communication and stakeholder management Donna F. Marcelo. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

NLEX kicks off Punla

To uplift lives of host communities

MANILA -- NLEX continues to support the growth of its host communities as it recently kicked off the 2024 Pag-unlad at Paglago ng Pamayanan (Punla), the company's capacity building program for women-led small businesses.

"Punla is one of our flagship community development initiatives aimed to equip organizations with the necessary knowledge and skills to help improve their enterprise," said NLEX Corp. VP for communication and stakeholder management Donna F. Marcelo.

NLEX partnered with Philippine Support Service Agencies (PhilSSA), a social development organization that focuses on community development, to train the 60 participants from pre-qualified 12 enterprises in a four-session training that will

last until May. The 12 enterprises from NLEX and SCTEX host communities are Barangay 171 Bagumbong Person with Disability Association, Inc.; Samahan ng mga Taong may Kapansanan sa Bataan; Asosasyon ng Magbabayong sa Atis Potrero; Samahan ng Kababaihang Mananahi ng Tibag, Inc.; Tabon San Jose Farmers Association, Inc.; Vizal Sto. Nino Rice and Livestock Farmers Association; Balanga Agrarian Reform Beneficiary MPC; Sining Kahoy Association of Bagac; Makabakle, Kadenang Kristal at Marimar Community; Concepcion Calamansi Growers & Rice Producers; CAT – Employees Dependents Producers Cooperative; and Makabagong Agrikultura ng Dinalupihan Marketing Cooperative.

To further empower the enterprises and propel

their growth, the top five businesses based on the set criteria will receive grants for the implementation of their enhancement plans and will undergo coaching and mentoring sessions with PhilSSA from June to August.

A reassessment will be conducted on the top five enterprises, leading to the selection of the grand enterprise at the end of the eight-month program. Additional grants will be provided to further facilitate business development.

"Isang malaking karanagan ang mapabilang sa programang Punla. Naging daan ito para maging mas matatag ang samahan sa aming kooperatiba. Nagbigay din ng lakas ng loob ito sa aming mga miyembro dahil nakita naming may bukas palad palang organisasyon na handang umalalay sa aming munt-

ing negosyo upang mas mapalawig ito," said CAT-Employees Dependents Producers Cooperative chairman Teresita A. Dizon.

Aside from Punla, NLEX also has other women-centric programs lined-up this year such as Basketboys Clinic for Girls and barangay emergency responders training as the company recognizes the vital role that empowered women play in driving socio-economic development.

In addition to women empowerment initiatives, NLEX also pledges its continuing commitment to conduct programs on community development, environmental conservation, road safety awareness, and youth education, all aims to make a positive impact and help uplift the quality of life of every Filipino.

NLEX CorpCom

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **JOSE SANTOS CUYUGAN** who died on October 13, 1989 in San Fernando, Pampanga and **FELICIDAD ARCEO SANTOS CUYUGAN** who died on March 18, 2002 in Quezon City; executed an Affidavit of Extra Judicial Settlement on his/her estate, and more particularly described as follows;

A. BPI Savings Account Number 0513-0212-32 amounting to P462,882.86-Consunji St., City of San Fernando, Pampanga Branch.

B. SHARES OF STOCKS with SAN FERNANDO ELECTRIC LIGHT & POWER COMPANY INC.

CERTIFICATE NO.	NO. OF SHARES
A337	10
141L	02
211L	04
456L	01
657L	03
P207L	04
P459L	05
P640L	03
P882L	09
PL224	08
PL419	05
693	25
1196	20
1681	100
1787	01
2224	76
2532	184

C. SHARES OF STOCKS with PAMPANGA SUGAR DEVELOPMENT (PASUDECO) INC.

CERTIFICATE NO.	NO. OF SHARES	PAR VALUE/PESOS
3352	96	10
3353	30	10
3354	24	10
3355	48	10
3356	39	10
3357	12	10
5054	49	10
6446	14	10
7280	78	10

Before Notary Public Gener C. Endona, as per Doc No. 327, Page No. 67, Book No. 64, Series of 2024.

Punto! Central Luzon: April 15, 22 & 29, 2024

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES SUPREME COURT REGIONAL TRIAL COURT THIRD JUDICIAL REGION

City of San Fernando, Pampanga

(email address) rtclsfpccc@judiciary.gov.ph (contact no.)+63906 855 5179

Office of the Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff

HOME DEVELOPMENT
MUTUAL FUND,
Petitioner-Mortgagee,

- versus -

E.J.F. NO. 74-24
Real State Mortgage under
Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118

MARY GLENDA TAJU BALAGAPO MARRIED
TO JOSELINO ANGELES BALAGAPO,
Respondents-Mortgagors.

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135/1508 filed by petitioner-mortgagee, **HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND**, with principal office at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, against respondents-mortgagors, **MARY GLENDA TAJU BALAGAPO MARRIED TO JOSELINO ANGELES BALAGAPO**, with postal address at No. 1078 Brgy. San Agustin, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of November 30, 2023 amounts to **PESOS: SEVEN HUNDRED FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTY FIVE and 56/100 (Php 704,365.56)**, excluding penalties, attorney's fees and expenses of foreclosure, the undersigned duly authorized deputy sheriff will sell at public auction on **MAY 22, 2024 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 property with all improvements, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 042-2012001264

" x x x A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 14, BLOCK 4 OF THE CONSOLIDATION-SUBDIVISION PLAN (LRC) PCS-10366, BEING A PORTION OF THE CONSOLIDATION OF LOTS 3583-D-2-C-6-B, LRC PSD-121527; 3583-D-2-C-4; 3583-D-2-C-7, LRC PSD-121527 AND 3605, SAN FERNANDO CADASTRE, LRC CAD. REC. NO. 145), SITUATED IN THE BARRIO OF SAN AGUSTIN, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, ISLAND OF LUZON. x x x CONTAINING AN AREA OF TWO HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN (227) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS. x x x "

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on May 29, 2024, without further notice. Prospective buyers and bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the property described above, and the encumbrance thereon, if any there be.

City of San Fernando, Pampanga, April 01, 2024.

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

Copy Furnished:

- 1.) HOME DEVT. MUTUAL FUND - THE PETRON MEGA PLAZA BUILDING, NO. 358 SEN. GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
- 2.) SPS. JOSELINO & MARY GLENDA BALAGAPO - NO. 1078, BRGY. SAN AGUSTIN, CSF(P) / LOT 14, BLK. 4, BRGY. SAN AGUSTIN, CSF(P)
- 3.) ENGR. DANILO P. CATOLOS - BLDG.1, SUBURBIA COMMERCIAL CENTER, MAIMPIS, 2000 CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
- 4.) ATTY. SIMEON P. MADRID - UNIT 2010, 20/F HERRERA TOWER, V.A. RUFINO COR. VALEO STREETS, MAKATI CITY
- 5.) PUNTO CENTRAL LUZON

Punto Central Luzon: April 8, 15 & 22, 2024



SUMMER PET FAIR AT SM CITY CLARK

A pawsitively fun event for pet lovers!



SM City Clark's Paw Park was the place to be for pet lovers during the Summer Pet Fair, a delightful event that brought together furry friends and their owners for a day of tail-wagging fun. The Summer Pet Fair featured a variety of activities that catered to both pets and their pawrents. From stylish pooches strutting their stuff in the mini pet fashion show to the energetic Shih Tzu Pack Walk that showcased the camaraderie among these adorable dogs, there was no shortage of entertainment for attendees. Pet owners and their furry companions also had the opportunity to participate in a range of exciting pet games that tested their skills and agility, keeping both pets and their humans thoroughly entertained throughout the event. Stay tuned for more exciting events at SM City Clark by following the social media page @smcityclark. #EverythingsHereAtSM. **SM-PR**

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Group pushes...

FROM PAGE 1

Alpas Pinas said it sees the activation of the PNPP as a strategic solution to bolstering the country's power reserves and ensuring a stable and reliable power supply.

"We believe that adding nuclear energy into our country's energy mix has the potential to help address our power challenges. Nuclear is the cleanest, cheapest, and most efficient means of producing electricity," said Gayle Certeza, convener of Alpas Pinas. "It can provide a long-term solution to increasing electricity rates, allowing Filipino families to save more. It will also help ensure more energy abundant, environmentally protected, and a bright future for every Filipino."

Built in the 1970s in response to the 1973 oil crisis, the PNPP remains a promising asset with an electrical capacity of 620 MW, which could significantly contribute to increasing the country's power reserves, she added, noting that despite never being commissioned due to various considerations, an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report in 2008 affirmed its feasibility for economic operation for 30 years.

Highlighting the structural integrity of the PNPP, Pangasinan 2nd District Rep. Mark O. Cojuangco, an advocate for nuclear energy and recipient of the American Nuclear Society Distinguished Public Ser-

vice Award, said "When revived, we believe it can outlast decades of operation while helping Filipinos enjoy cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable energy source."

Alpas Pinas said that while organizations are exploring new power facilities driven by liquefied natural gas (LNG) to reduce electricity costs, it is important to consider the potential drawbacks. "In fact, the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) warns that LNG can significantly increase energy prices."

It cited that since January 2021, the average monthly price of coal, at \$8.39 per million British thermal unit (MMBtu), is nearly three times lower than the average JKM (Japan/Korea Marker) LNG price of \$22.79/MMBtu. This price disparity translates to higher costs for consumers. IEEFA estimates that LNG costs of \$15/MMBtu could translate to a final generation price of nearly eight pesos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for Filipino consumers.

It added that LNG's environmental impact is a concern. It is composed mainly of methane, a greenhouse gas significantly more potent than carbon dioxide, trapping 80 times more heat in the short term and 30 times more in the long run.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is reported to be also considering plans to explore building a new

nuclear plant using small modular reactor (SMR) technology, while President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. expressed the need to re-evaluate the country's nuclear power strategy.

"I believe that it is time also to reexamine our strategy towards building nuclear power plants in the Philippines," President Marcos stated in his first State of the Nation Address.

In Congress, the Philippine National Nuclear Energy Safety Act, also known as the PhilATOM Bill, is now approved by the House of Representatives. This bill aims to create the Philippine Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (PhilATOM) and establish a legal framework for the safe utilization of nuclear power in the country. The passage of this bill would provide a crucial regulatory framework for the development and operation of nuclear power plants in the Philippines.

Alpas Pinas sees these developments as an opportunity to explore and learn more about nuclear energy, emphasizing its value as a long-term solution for the country's energy needs.

Press release



Rich catch of bangus. PHOTO: BFAR-3

BFAR aquaculture project yields 500 kg of bangus

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – Over 500 kilograms of bangus were harvested by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources at the Pampanga River Aquaculture Project in Barangay Sulipan, Apalit town.

BFAR regional director Wilfredo Cruz said the harvest served as the initial phase of the technology demonstration project on bangus culture in floating cages which signifies an important breakthrough in local aquaculture practices.

He explained that the project aims to expand and enhance available agri-fishery areas, boost production, make fisheries more bankable, and bolster the economic prospects of local fisherfolks.

The success of the project can contribute to the fish supply in neighboring regions as it demonstrates the untapped potential of the Pampanga River and similar water bodies for sustainable fish farming practices.

"Pampanga is known for its self-sufficiency in aquaculture production but this

project is not just about enhancing our fish production, it is a model of sustainable aquaculture that we hope will be replicated not only across Central Luzon but also in other regions. By showcasing the viability and profitability of bangus culture in floating cages, we aim to inspire others to adopt similar practices," he said.

Noting that the broader goal is to ensure environment protection, Cruz said:

"We see this as an opportunity to strengthen law enforcement in our waterways and to advocate for stricter pollution control measures. Ensuring the health of our rivers is paramount to sustaining the gains from such aquaculture projects."

Under this project, BFAR will collaborate with the municipal government and other national government agencies to equip fisherfolks with the necessary skills and knowledge to adopt modern technology and sustainable fishing techniques in enhancing productivity and promoting long-term resilience in the sector. PIA-3

'Layag-WPS'...

FROM PAGE 1

Under the Layag-WPS, select associations receive 62-footer fiberglass-reinforced plastic vessels; while around 150 female fisher-beneficiaries, mostly from Central Luzon and Ilocos, will receive livelihood support and post-harvest training.

Escoto added that Layag-WPS will further pad the country's blue economy and help drop post-harvest losses.

In a statement, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. expressed full support for the program as he thanked local fishers for their efforts to help achieve food security.

"Sa ating lokal na

mangingisda, ipinaaabot ko ang aking taos-pusong pasasalamat sa inyong pagsusumikap na i-angat hindi lamang ang inyong kabuhayan kundi pati na rin ang antas ng seguridad sa pagkain ng ating bansa. Bukod dito, kayo po ang nagsisilbing haligi sa pagtatag ng ating blue economy o ang likas-kayang paggamit ng mga yamang katubigan para sa pagpapalago ng ating ekonomiya at maging sa pangangalaga ng saribuhay at ekosistema ng ating mga karagatan," the secretary said.

Thankful for the livelihood benefits they received, fisherfolk leader Fausto Alpay enthused:

"Kami ay lubos na nagpapasalamat sa ating pamahalaan sa pangunguna ng DA-BFAR at lokal na pamahalaan ng Zambales sa kanilang suporta para sa gaya naming mangingisda. Malaking tulong ito para sa aming kabuhayan."

Also present during the launch were Western Command chief Vice Admiral Alberto Carlos, Philippine Coast Guard commandant CG Adm. Ronnie Gil Gavan, Zambales Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane, Jefferson Khonghun and 2nd District Rep. Doris E. Maniquiz, and Subic Mayor Jonathan John Khonghun. PUNTO News Team/PNA/Photo: BFAR

BM Mylyn...

FROM PAGE 1

Sindalan chairman Benjamin Angeles accompanied the Pinedas.

News of the Pinedas' transfer of voter registration immediately raised speculation of Cayabyab's

"impending candidacy" for the city's mayoralty post.

"This is it. And we will be up to it," said a barangay chairman who asked for anonymity "for the meanwhile, so as not to endanger ongoing proj-

ects being implemented by the present city administration" in his barangay.

Mayor Vilma Balle-Caluag is reportedly in the United States with her husband Melchor.

PUNTO News Team

Celebrating the contributions...

FROM PAGE 4

values of the Philippine Air Force: integrity, service, and excellence. Their unwavering commitment to duty and dedication to the Filipino people make them true heroes in every sense of

the word. As we celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of female soldiers from the Air Defense Command of the Philippine Air Force in connection with the celebration of Women's Month, let us honor their

bravery, resilience, and unwavering dedication to serving the nation and its people. May their stories inspire us all to reach greater heights and stand firm in the face of adversity.

HADC Project Tinta

Ad Lib...

FROM PAGE 5

the ESC IMS wherein built-in systems controls are now in place. For example, a school cannot encode a grantee who is already enrolled in another school because the system will automatically prevent it. Similarly, an accepting school cannot encode a transfer student if the same grantee has not been transferred-out by the releasing school. This control system did not happen overnight, but a product of continuous improvements based on the findings and recommendations of the PEAC monitoring teams.

I'm sure many ESC and SHSVP participating private schools have experienced a variety of problems with the

DepEd's Learner Information Systems (LIS). In fact, some of the initial "unaccounted" students are actually LIS-related issues and concerns. Since the LIS was initiated in 2011, the DepEd has resolved many problems concerning the students' LRN, correct name and date of birth. Hopefully after this SHSVP controversy, we can expect the DepEd and the PEAC to establish an interphase in their respective MIS so that the same built-in controls in the ESC can be implemented as well in the voucher management system of SHSVP.

I can only understand and sympathise how frustrated Sen. Gatchalian must have been after learning

about these irregularities. After all, he has been a staunch partner of the private schools. I am all for the necessary reforms in the SHSVP to prevent wastage of government funds. But to scrap the program entirely or decrease the subsidy just because three private schools in Region II have attempted to defraud the government is totally uncalled for. It is not only unfair and detrimental to the thousands of other private schools who work very hard to uphold the integrity of the programs, but a major backward step in maintaining the complementarity between the public and private academic institutions in the country.

Donggwang Clark Corporation company is looking for a competent, self-motivated candidate to fill the following position; (Address: CM Recto Highway, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga)

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