

CL economy stays upbeat

GRDP grows 6.1%

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- Central Luzon continues to showcase its economic resilience as the region's gross regional domestic product (GRDP) grew by 6.1% or P2.3 trillion in 2023.

Although lower than the 8.1% growth rate in 2022, National Economic and Development Authority-Region 3 director Nerrisa Esguerra said the latest data

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ESGUERRA

P41.6-M yearend bonus for city hall employees

ANGELES CITY — The “merry” in Christmas came a tad early for 1,260 city employees here with the release of a total of ₱41,605,136 on Nov. 14 for their yearend bonus and cash gift. **PAGE 15 PLEASE**



NLEX Corp. president and GM, J. Luigi L. Bautista, together with Pampanga 4th District Rep. Anna York Bondoc, San Simon Mayor Abundio Punsalan Jr., Pulilan Mayor Ma. Rosario Montejo and Vice Mayor Rolando Peralta, Apalit Vice Mayor Pedro Nucom and the sangguniang bayan, Pampanga provincial administrator Atty. Charlie Chua (representative of Gov. Dennis Pineda), and Atty. Nikki Coronel, chief of staff of Gov. Daniel Fernando inspect viaduct. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Candaba 3rd Viaduct fully opens next month

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- Key government officials from Bulacan and Pampanga together with NLEX Corp. officers led the inspection

of the NLEX Candaba 3rd Viaduct ahead of its target full opening. Now 97% complete, the five-kilometer-long viaduct built

between two existing bridges connects the towns of Pulilan, Bulacan, and Apalit, Pampanga. “This project would not be possible without

the support of both our public and private partners; thus, we deem it fit to give some of our valued stakeholders a glimpse of this vital infrastructure,”

NLEX Corp. president and GM J. Luigi L. Bautista enthused. As part of the company’s decongestion program, construction

of the 5-km long Candaba 3rd Viaduct began in the third quarter of 2023. Originally targeted to be completed in 22 months,

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CDC, AC partner for SCWELA

CLARK FREEPORT — The Clark Development Corp. has partnered with the Angeles City government for the Scholarship Collaboration for Workers Engaging in

Learning Advancement (SCWELA) program to promote employee growth and professional development. CDC president and CEO Atty. Agnes VST

Devanadera and Mayor Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin, Jr. formalized the initiative by signing a memorandum of agreement on Nov. 19 at the Clark Visitors Center.

“This will carry you through. Your career here [in CDC] may have started, but it will truly take off when you have the right qualifications,”

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AC school among PHL’s safest

ANGELES CITY – Earning a perfect five-star under the Star Rating for Schools (SR4S) program, the Tacondo Elementary School in Barangay Margot here has been officially recognized as one of the safest schools in the Philippines for its road safety initiatives.

A program adopted globally to assess and address risks children face in going to the school, SR4S evaluates road safety that includes road markings and signages, pedestrian lanes, and functional railings to protect students from accidents.

“With this recognition, we have improved from a 2.5-star rating to a 5-star rating, ensuring that our 1,181 learners are safe as they enter and exit our school,” exclaimed school principal Cherry Hipolito in a media interview. This, as she

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'Made in Clark Philippines' secures IPOP HL certification



CDC PCEO Atty. Agnes VST Devanadera (center) does C-for-Clark sign as she receives Made in Clark Philippines certificate of registration from IPOP HL deputy director general for operations Atty. Ann Claire Cabochan. Joining them are (L-R) IPOP HL Bureau of Trademarks Atty. Jesus Ros, Atty. Marmee Maglaya, and CDC assistant VP for business enhancement department Rodem Perez. **PHOTO: CDC**

TAGUIG CITY – The “Made in Clark Philippines” certification mark has secured official registration with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL), solidifying Clark Freeport’s brand identity in the global market.

Clark Development Corp. president and CEO Atty. Agnes VST Devanadera received the certificate of registration from IPOP HL deputy director general for operations Atty. Ann Claire Cabochan, on Nov. 15 at the McKinley Hill Town Center, Fort Bonifacio.

“And so, we were saying that when you are given the brand of Made in Clark Philippines, we have to

make sure that you are up to quality. Made in Clark Philippines stands for excellence, and by upholding this standard, we elevate not just Clark, but the entire Philippines,” Devanadera said.

Registered under IPOP HL’s 2023 Revised Trademark Regulations, the certification ensures the authenticity and quality of products manufactured within the Clark Freeport. The registration, effective as of Oct. 21, 2024, will be valid for 10 years until 2034.

This initiative comes at a time when Clark’s export performance has reached \$5.1 billion in 2023, a 9% growth from 2022, under-

scoring the potential for the mark to enhance the freeport’s positioning in international trade. The registration with IPOP HL bolsters the integrity of Clark-based products, with the freeport’s locators expecting the certification to boost consumer confidence and open up new international market opportunities.

CDC-recognized locators will be granted the Made in Clark Philippines certification mark for products manufactured within the zone. With 1,155 companies across various industries, including aviation, tourism, and manufacturing, CDC encourages its locators to

adopt the certification mark to highlight the quality of Clark-made goods.

It can be recalled that on Sept. 4, 2024, Devanadera formally submitted the application during the 1st Clark Business Interdependence Conference (BIC), handing it to Cabochan.

Certification marks, unlike regular trademarks, guarantee specific qualities such as geographic origin and manufacturing standards. According to the IPOP HL website, multiple businesses that meet the certifying body’s criteria can use certification marks, whereas standard trademarks are exclusive to a single company. **CDC-PR**



100 farmers complete SM Foundation’s KSK program

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – Some 100 farmers from the towns of Porac and Floridablanca in Pampanga have successfully completed SM Foundation, Inc.’s “Kabaliik sa Kabuhatan on Sustainable Agriculture” (KSK).

The graduation ceremony was held on Nov. 13 at SM City Clark’s Skyline.

Working alongside various partners including the Department of Agriculture, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Science and Technology, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of Tourism, and St. Isidore the Farmer School, the KSK program has empowered participants to become the next generation of entrepreneurs through training in sustainable urban gardening.

Also present at the graduation ceremony was SM Supermalls Senior Vice President Engr. Bien C. Mateo, who congratulated the graduates for their hard work.

Launched in 2007, KSK is a corporate social responsibility project of SM Foundation Inc. dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture.

The program aims to support the government’s food security agenda and provide alternative livelihood opportunities by equipping farmers with modern planting techniques to improve the quality and quantity of their produce. **SM-PR**

Mekeni’s ‘malasakit’ manifests in annual gift-giving

PORAC, PAMPANGA – The Filipino value of “malasakit” (deep compassion) inherited as a corporate value of Mekeni Food Corp. (MFC) made itself manifest anew in the company’s annual gift-giving tradition to communities in need.

On Nov. 8, MFC employees visited institutions of charity Munting Tahanan ng Nazareth and Duyan ni Maria in Mabalacat City, and the Bahay Pag-ibig and Children’s Home of Eucharistic Love and Kindness in the City of San Fernando.

MFC donated essential items, including food products, clothing, and toiletries, to the orphanages and care centers to help alleviate the challenges faced by their residents.

“As a company deeply rooted in Filipino values, we at Mekeni are committed to making a positive impact in the communities we serve,” shared Pruds Garcia, MFC president.

“Our annual gift-giving program is a testament to our belief in malasakit – compassion that goes beyond words,

reaching out to those who need it most. We are grateful to our employees, who bring heart and dedication to this mission. We hope to inspire hope and uplift lives, one gesture at a time,” he added.

The gift-giving activity is part of MFC’s corporate social responsibility initiatives aimed at uplifting lives, and fostering gratitude, compassion, and community support.

Mariou Uy, MFC AVP for HR and Exports, said that in addition to the donation of the management, employees also made financial and in-kind contributions, which played a key role in the program’s success.

“We are always humbled and grateful to be able to contribute to the lives of others, especially at this time of year when

the spirit of giving is more important than ever,” said Apple Garcia, HR chief. “At Mekeni, we believe that kindness and compassion are values that should be shared with everyone, and through this program, we aim to make a meaningful difference in the lives of these children and residents.”

“We hope this initiative not only provides immediate relief but also encourages other organizations and individuals to get involved in spreading kindness,” she added.

For over three decades, Mekeni has remained steadfast in its mission to uplift lives, supporting various causes and helping improve the quality of life for marginalized communities.

MFC-PR



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Sala Ning Pasku: JDN Realty lights up Kapampangan Christmas spirit

ANGELES CITY – The evening of Nov. 15 turned magical with JDN Realty Group unveiling Sala Ning Pasku, a celebration that brilliantly showcased the rich artistry and talent of the Kapampangan. The event marked the start of the Holiday season in the whole Nepe Center

with the illumination of the yearly Christmas display at the façade of Angeles Electric Corp. building.

A dazzling display of hexagonal parols, symbolizing JDN Realty Group's 60-year legacy as a cornerstone of local culture. Renowned sculptor and painter Nick T. Reyes con-

ceptualized these lanterns, which Pampanga's parol king, Roland S. Quiambao, brought to life.

Andy Alviz, the multi-awarded Kapampangan director, writer, composer, and founder of the musical group Arti Sta. Rita, led his group in taking the

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To the Point

Message, prayer for Mary Jane Veloso

"THE RIGHTEOUS cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:17-18

Message:

As we continue to follow the case of Mary Jane Veloso, who has been imprisoned in Indonesia for over a decade, we find ourselves at a crucial moment. The possibility of her transfer to a Philippine prison is now being considered, offering a glimmer of hope for her and her family. This development is a testament to the power of faith, perseverance, and the unwavering support of our community.

Mary Jane's journey has been one of immense hardship and resilience. Her story reminds us of the importance of compassion, justice, and the relentless pursuit of truth.

As we await further updates, let us continue to stand in solidarity with Mary Jane and her loved ones, offering our prayers and support.

May this potential transfer bring her closer to home, where she can receive the care and support she needs. Let us remain hopeful and united in our efforts to seek justice and mercy for Mary Jane Veloso.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, We come before You with hearts full of hope and compassion, lifting up Mary Jane Veloso in our prayers. Lord, You know the trials and tribulations she has faced, and we ask for Your divine intervention in her case.

As the possibility of her transfer to a Philippine prison is being considered, we pray for Your guidance and wisdom for all those involved in making this decision. May Your hand be upon Mary Jane, providing her with strength, comfort, and peace during this time of uncertainty.

We ask for Your protection over her and her family, and for the continued support of our community as we stand by her side. Lord, may Your justice and mercy prevail, and may Mary Jane find solace in Your loving embrace.

In Your most holy name, we pray. Amen.

Bishop Ruperto Cruz Santos, DD
Bishop of Antipolo and CBCP Bishop Promoter of Stella Maris-Philippines

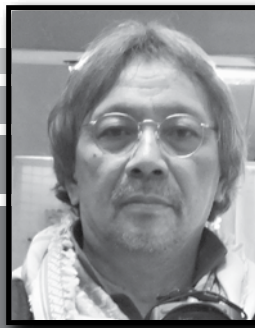


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Opinion



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Zona Libre

Bong Z. Lacson

Impunity index

CULTURE OF impunity. The phrase so oft applied in unsolved media killings, extra judicial executions, abductions and disappearances, that it assumed exclusivity for human rights violations.

Culturization though starts small, petty things, which often repeated, graduate to big things. Like the culture of the lie attributed to Goebbels: If a lie is repeated often enough, it becomes the truth.

Hence, if a wrong is done often enough, it becomes not necessarily right, but altogether tolerated, aye accepted as a no-wrong.

Thence – to my simple mind – rises the culture of impunity. Impunity, if I remember my seminary Latin right, rooted in im – without, and punitas – punishment.

So even as I continue to join my media comrades raise clenched fists every 23rd of the month to remember the Ampatuan Massacre of November 23, 2009, and shout for an end to the culture of impunity, I keep my own impunity index on the petty side of things un-right, if not illegal.

Like the passenger jeepney drivers dropping and picking up commuters in No Loading/No Unloading Zones right under the very noses of traffic enforcers.

Like the passenger jeepney drivers – again! – taking the outermost lanes and zooming through red lights right on plain sight of traffic enforcers.

Like the passenger jeepney drivers – again, again! – keeping their vehicles' headlights off in the dark of night. That's no simple driving with reckless imprudence, that's wanting – not waiting for – an accident to happen. So, where's the LTO?

Then there are the tricycles traversing stretches of the national highways in direct violation of the law, being confined only to crossing them.

There too are the whole families of three, four, five, once I saw even six, on board single motorcycles, where but tandem riding is decreed.

And helmetless motorcycle riders or those who wear them on their elbows not on their heads.

And what do you make of the padyak-sikels who lord it all over city streets – making terminals atop bridges, counterflowing traffic at will, do pick-and-drop passengers wherever?

They all flout the law with nothing more than their stupid grins to flaunt, but nobody dares apprehend them. Not even reprimand them. And these are but the "small folk" far below the ladder of power and influence in local society.

If, in their "lowness" they can get away with these small violations, so can the high and the mighty get away with bigger violations, murdering newsmen not exempted.

Ending the culture of impunity in this country is ever invoked at each unsolved high profile killing, abduction, disappearance.

Ending the culture of impunity in this country should be invoked at each unpunished illegality, no matter how seemingly trivial.

Ending the culture of impunity in this country demands the draconian exercise of political will. By all persons in authority. With full respect to the rights of the people, but of course.

Will. Will not. A whale of a difference in the nut.

(Reprinted from Zona Libre, June 21, 2012 with the 15th anniversary of the Ampatuan Massacre in mind)

Opinion



Shepherd's Call

Bishop Pablo Virgilio S. David

Mga aral ng kalikasan

NOONG NAG-PILGRIMAGE ang mga pari ng Kalookan, minsan nakita ko ang isa sa mga pari namin na "plantito" ring tulad ko. Nakatayo siya sa ilalim ng isang punongkahoy sa tapat ng hotel. Nakahawak siya sa gilid ng puno, nakadampi ang palad niya, nakayuko ang ulo, at nakapikit ang mata. Hindi niya ako napansin nang lumapit ako. Pumuwesto ako sa tapat niya at gumaya ako sa kanya. Mga ilang minuto rin bago niya naramdaman na nandoon ako at binuksan ang mga mata niya. Pagkakita niya sa akin, ngumiti siya at ang sabi nya, "Ramdam nyo rin ba ang energy na galing sa punongkahoy na ito, Bishop? Sabi ko, "Oo." "Parang siyang power charger ano? "

Sabi nila, si Gautama Siddharta ay nagtamo ng liwanag sa ilalim ng banyan tree, kaya tinawag itong Bodhi tree (tree of enlightenment) at siya, na naliwanagan ay tinawag na Buddha. Sa imahinasyon ko, inilalarawan ko si Hesus sa Gospel reading natin ngayon na nagdarasal sa ilalim ng mga punongkahoy, katulad noong naroon siya sa Garden of Olives noong Huwebes Santo nang gabi nang arestuhin siya. Dito sa pagbasa natin ngayon, fig tree naman. Sabi niya, "Matuto daw tayo sa fig tree." Hindi lang energy, kundi wisdom o karunungan ang pwedeng makuha sa punongkahoy. Kumbaga sa karanasan ni Gautama Siddharta, may maidudulot itong liwanag o pagmumulat. Sa mga ebanghelyo, ang dalas pumulot ni Hesus ng mga aral mula sa kalikasan: sa ibon, sa ligaw na bulaklak, sa butil ng trigo, sa mustasa, at maraming iba pa.

Dalawang aral ang ibig niyang matutunan natin ngayon mula sa kalikasan: una, na lahat ng bagay ay lilipas, kaya mahalagang nakaugat tayo sa walang hanggan. At pangalawa, na kung marunong tayong magmasid sa mga palatandaan sa kasalukuyan, kaya nating alamin ang hinaharap. Simulan natin sa pangalawa (palatandaan), at mula doon balikang ang una (pagkakaugat).

Madalas gamitin ni Hesus ang salitang tanda o palatandaan. Wala pang scientific weather fore-

casting noong panahon niya, pero noon pa man marunong nang magmasid ang tao. Sa Mateo 16:3 sabi niya nasasabi daw ng tao "Mukhang may paparating na bagyo; kulay-pula ang alapaap." Bakit ba kaya ninyong kilatisin ang anyo ng langit pero hindi ninyo makilatis ang mga palatandaan ng panahon?

Noong una, ang tawag sa mga propeta sa Israel ay manghuhula, dahil naaninag daw nila ang darating. Hindi naman kailangan ng bolang kristal para maaninag ang hinaharap. Kailangan lang maging mapagmasid at mapanuri para maintindihan ang mga pangyayari sa kasalukuyan batay sa nakaraan. Kalulunsad lang sa diocese of Kalookan ng isang makapal na libro na pinamagatang AGOS. Nasabi ko sa book launching namin noong nakaraang Biyernes na magandang larawan ang "agos" para sa pagsusumikap naming matuto ng mga aral sa kasaysayan, dahil ang buhay nga naman ay parang tubig ng ilog na patuloy na umaagos. "You don't step on the same river twice," sabi ng Griyegong pilosopo na si Heraclitus. Hindi lang ang mundo ang patuloy na nagbabago; tayo rin, araw-araw napapalitan ang mga cells sa katawan natin.

At kaya kasaysayan para sa atin ang history ay dahil, mas mahalaga kaysa salaysay ang



Opinion

The Public Space

Jun Sula

Enough

A politician's face grows, according to the British novelist and poet George Orwell, to fit his mask. Politicians from both the Senate and the House of Representatives know this by experience and example. They, too, wear mask, after all. Who doesn't? If only politicians' masks are like Pinocchio's nose that grows each time they lie.

The two recent hearings by both chambers amply showed this truism. While the latter appeared to have acquitted itself better than the former in terms of making the parliamentary rules in speech and conduct stick, the results were essentially the same.

At the end of two marathon hearings, the former president who basically owned up both the legal and illegal consequences of the infamous war on drugs, revealed more than enough about what's behind the mask.

There was gross cruelty, There was utter disregard for the soul of the Constitution: no one should be deprived of life, liberty and property without due process of law. There was no remorse. There was, in fact, an implied regret that he should have done more. Or killed more in the name of patriotism.

Lo and behold, there was even, at least, one solon who took pity on the "monster" because he was old and weak now. He forgot, in an age-related amnesia and feeling of empathy, that there were no less than 20,000 innocent people who lost their lives in the war on drug. He, too, must have his head or heart examined. As a lawmaker cum preacher, he is told by the sacred book he reads that the heart is most deceitful of all things.

Murder, the victims' survivors cry. The vice president has even come up with a succinct, scripted, description of how her father performed: an award-winning dramatic performance at that. Some have gone so far as to consider it epic the ex-president could probably make a comeback as president in 2028. And the House is planning another display of insanity, let alone lawlessness? Add insult to injury.

Philippine presidential politics has now morphed into the theatre of the absurd.

Now the House wants to give their ultimate basher another window of opportunity to either clear his earlier narrative of obfuscation and red-herring or confuse the public even more. Political analysts agree this House move will amount to giving a discredited president another platform to impress and rally his

troops, on one hand, or intimidate his opponents, including the present administration, on the other.

In the meantime, trolls are eagerly waiting in the wings for the next hearing, whether in the Senate or in the House to exploit social media to their, or their client's, advantage. They have been duly forewarned by an ally senator: the man of the hour is good at psywar. Better be sane than sorry. It also pays to hearken to another ancient voice that representative government can suffer from intellectual deficit.

Do something more serious to force the craftiest politician to take his mask off. Right now, the most prudent thing is file a case against the ex-president. He has been daring everyone, including the present government or whoever is brave enough, to bring him to court.

Why ever not? The tyrant's camp is so sure that their man's previous testimonies in the two hearings will not stand in court. The dare can be likened to a fabled turtle's plea to be thrown into the water because it's sure it will not drown.

The current tenant in the House by the Pasig River has obliged the hubris. He has directed the department of justice to start working in that direction. The directive sounds more like a desperation at political correctness or expediency.

Remember, he has earlier pledged not to allow the International Criminal Court to have jurisdiction over the alleged crime against humanity in the war on drugs. It appears the tenant will not budge even if the hearings, especially the House, has effectively exposed the historic crime and whose hand was in the cookie jar.

At this point, a big caveat is important. The president must empower the prosecution to do it in a way that will bury the ex-president's political fortunes and the like, not resurrect them. Let his allies, then and now, not entertain the idea that a bloodthirsty political Dracula will resurrect even with a bloodier craving for more victims of extrajudicial

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Napag-uusapan Lang

Marvel V. Garcia

Maraming Salamat Bundok Sierra Madre

1. Ang Sierra Madre ay isang anyong lupa na bulubunduking pinakamahaba Ito ay sa dakong timog ang simula at ang hangganan ay sa gawing hilaga tila isang kawal itong nakadapa na sa kalaban ay handang sumagupa

2. Ang haba ng bundok magkabilang dulo ay higit sa limang daang kilometro sa angking lawak na taglay-taglay nito naging pananggalang na natin sa bagyo kung hindi sa kanya ay daranas tayo ng kahindik-hindik na mga delubyo

3. Bagyong si PEPITO nagkalasog-lasog hindi pinaporma ng nasabing bundok biglang nanghina at bumagal ang kilos lumihis patungo ng ibang lupalop kung baga sa aso nabahag ang buntot tila nakatikim ng matinding dagok

4. Sana'y pagyamanin ng pamahalaan bulubundukin at mga kagubatan pagputol ng puno ay dapat iwasan at pagmimina sa mga kabundukan sapagkat ito ang nagiging dahilan pagguho ng lupa sa tuwing umuulan

5. Kung wala ang bundok ay hindi hihina nag-aalburutong hanging mapamuksa hindi maglulubay sa pananalasa ang alin mang bagyong tatama sa lupa bundok Sierra Madre tanggulan ng bansa na sa mga unos ay sumasagupa

6. Bundok Sierra Madre ay tila BAYANI na tagapagtanggol ng ina-aglahi hindi sumusuko di nagpapagapi sa bagyong sa bansa'y pumapasok lagi tuwina'y nakaabang at titindig muli upang ipaglalaman lahing KAYUMANGGI

7. Bundok SIERRA MADRE maraming salamat sa pakikibakang walang pagkatinag hindi palulupig at hindi aatras kahit ang kalaban ay ubod ng lakas Isa kang biyaya't SANDIGAN ng lahat handog ng langit sa bansang PILIPINAS



Opinion

Ad Lib

Rey Yumang

Miss Universe: the business of beauty

NO, THIS is not a piece on what went wrong and what Chelsea Manalo could have done differently to secure a place in the top five in the Filipinos' most loved beauty pageant. As it is, we have already been bombarded with a barrage of social media posts dissecting her performance during the prelims – from her lackluster swimsuit presentation, to her unflattering blue debutante gown, even down to her hairstyle. As expected, some even pointed out what they perceived as another rigged result from the predominantly Latina judges.

This is a personal take on how to enjoy the annual pageant without taking it too seriously as if our lives depended on it. Can we, for just one second, accept the outcome, appreciate our country's delegate for giving the best that she could do, look forward to the next edition and then move on to more pressing matters?

As a beauty pageant-crazy nation, we should also remind ourselves of the fact that the Miss Universe pageant is a business and not a humanitarian undertaking. Like any other commercial venture,

its primary objective is to make money. This is achieved through sponsorship deals, broadcasting rights, product endorsements, and ticket sales which are translated into millions of dollars in revenues. In short, we should view it for what it is – an entertainment brand with an agenda.

As a global entertainment phenomenon, the truth behind the Miss Universe façade is not so much about women empowerment but more about marketing, branding, and cold hard business. True, many contestants use the pageant as a

platform to speak about important issues like education, health care, bullying, discrimination, or environmental conservation. However, these messages take a backseat to the entertainment spectacle of the event itself.

Viewers around the globe are treated to carefully scripted moments and meticulously choreographed events to create an impression of depth – from the sashing to the press presentation, from the lavish display of national costumes to the swimsuit and long gown competition, from the tour

around the host country to the meet-and-greet with corporate sponsors, and from the speeches to the beauty routines. All these ultimately serve the pageant's brand, rather than launch and sustain meaningful changes that will benefit the underprivileged and marginalized.

To be fair, we have seen how the organization has crowned a growing list of diversified beauties over the years. The pageant can continue to parrot its inclusivity rhetoric but the focus remains on physical perfection – youthful faces, tall frames, whistle-bait figures, and oftentimes white or light-skinned ideal. This is one aspect I really find problematic, if not disturbing. As we continue to delight in the annual pageant, we send a very dangerous message to young girls around the world by unconsciously enforcing a narrow and very unrealistic standard of

beauty. As a result, women and even young girls are pressured to conform to these standards to feel validated. This notion that only one specific kind of woman deserves global recognition is harmful, and not in any way empowering.

I think it is high time that we take a stand and continue to reimagine and redefine beauty standards. We must look beyond Miss Universe or any pageant for that matter because real women empowerment is not about competing for a crown, and being judged and scrutinized by just a handful of people.

If we want to empower women and celebrate diversity, let us all dismantle harmful beauty standards and embrace a truly inclusive vision for all women across the globe – one that will never equate value with appearance and one that will never require a public

PAGE 11 PLEASE



NEW HOME FOR PAF. The Philippine Air Force Relocation and Functional Replication Project in New Clark City has started with the Nov. 19 groundbreaking rites led by Defense Undersecretary Salvador Melchor Mison Jr., Bases Conversion and Development Authority chairman Atty. Hilario Paredes and president-CEO Engr. Joshua Bingcang, and Clark Development Corp. president-CEO Atty. Agnes VST Devanadera. Covering a 65-hectare development to modernize military housing and infrastructure, the project is divided into Phase 1, for the construction of access roads, utilities, and essential infrastructure; and Phase 2, slated for 2026, for housing and community facilities. Also present in the groundbreaking event were Tarlac Gov. Susan Yap and Bamban, Tarlac Acting Mayor Leonardo Anunciacion. **CDC-PR**

SM Olongapo malls wrap up quake drills, coastal cleanup

BY MALOU DUNGOG



OLONGAPO CITY -- SM Olongapo Central and SM Olongapo Downtown wrapped up their 2024 community and safety initiatives with the final Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) and coastal cleanup event for the year. The two events, which took place on different days, highlighted the company's ongoing commitment to safety, emergency preparedness, and environmental responsibility.

SM conducted its final

NSED of 2024 last Nov. 14, at 2 p.m. The drill was part of the company's regular safety program designed to ensure that all employees are prepared for emergency situations. After the drill, teams participated in a debriefing session headed by the representatives from the city disaster risk reduction and management office and Bureau of Fire Protection to evaluate their responses and discuss improvements for future drills.

The following day, Nov. 15, the coastal cleanup was held at Parola, Barangay Kalaklan.

SM admin employees, along with their tenants, affiliates, agencies and local volunteers, such as DENR-CENRO, ESMO and Barangay Kalaklan representatives gathered early in the morning to help remove plastic waste, litter, and debris from the beach. As part of SM's commitment to sustainability, the quarterly coastal cleanups have become a meaningful tradition.

SM Supermalls is looking forward to continue hosting these initiatives in 2025.

Contributed photos



AC's new waste transfer facility to open Dec. 10

ANGELES CITY — Pursuant to its enhanced waste management program, the Lazatin administration is set to open the city's new transfer station on Dec. 10.

"With this new transfer station, we will be able to handle waste more efficiently, ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment for all Angelenos," declared Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin during the awarding ceremony of the third edition of the "Pogi Ya ing Barangay Ku" contest on Nov. 18 at Royce Hotel in the Clark Freeport.

The event, which celebrated the city's top barangays for their efforts in cleanliness, sustainability, and safety, was attended by Pampanga 1st District Rep. Carmelo "Jon" Lazatin II, Vice Mayor Vicky Vega-Cabigting, city councilors, and the contest evaluators, namely, Elyza Evilla from DENR-EMB Region III, Ladislao Puno III from DILG Angeles City, Lisa Juco from the Office of Civil Defense Region III, and Cecile Yumul, a sea-

soned broadcaster and environmental advocate.

In his speech, the mayor commended all 33 barangays for their significant improvements, particularly in environmental management, disaster preparedness, and community engagement highlighting various initiatives such as hydroponics, livelihood programs, and the Barangay One Town, One Product, all of which contributed to the success of this year's contest.

"I am truly amazed by the dedication and progress shown by our barangays," Lazatin said. "Your efforts have not only set a high standard for cleanliness but have also shown a strong commitment to community welfare."

The contest, officially known as "Gawad Parangal sa mga Pinakamalinis, Luntiang, Ligtas, at Kaayaayang Pamayanan," encourages sustainable practices among barangays to elevate standards in cleanliness, peace and order, and environmental stewardship.

As the awarding cere-

mony concluded, Barangay Malabnias was named the grand champion with a score of 93.7%, winning a cash prize of ₱1.5 million. Barangay Pampang secured second place with a score of 91%, earning ₱600,000, while Barangay Margot placed third with a score of 90.5%, receiving ₱300,000.

Mayor Lazatin also encouraged the barangay leaders to continue their support for the city's programs, particularly those focused on cleanliness, sustainability, and peace and order.

"Let us keep the momentum going. Together, we can build a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable Angeles City," he added.

Also present during the awarding ceremony were Lazatin chief adviser IC Calaguas, Executive Assistant IV Reina Manuel, and members of the Angeles City Economic Development Investment and Promotions Office headed by Irish Bonus-Llego. **Angeles CIO**



Nanay Partylist, tumulong para sa mga biktima ng Bagyong Kristine

MARAMING residente sa Brgy. Malaban, Biñan, Laguna ang hindi makalabas ng kanilang mga tahanan dahil sa mala-wakang pagbaha na dulot ng nakaraang Bagyong Kristine.

Kahit wala ng bagyo, patuloy na tumataas ang lebel ng tubig sa kanilang barangay dahil sa mabagal na paghupa ng baha.

May ilang lugar na umabot hanggang baywang o dibdib ang taas ng baha kaya karamihan sa mga residente apektado din ang

pangkabuhayan.

"Hindi sila nakakalabas, kaya tayo dinadala natin 'yung mga kailangan nila — yung mga basic na pangangailangan tulad ng vitamins, pagkain, at tubig kasi mahirap ang sitwasyon. Kahit may bangka na, kailangan pa din ng pera para makalabas," ayon kay Florabel Co-Yatco, unang nominee ng Nanay Partylist.

Para matugunan ang pangangailangan ng mga residente, pinangunahan ni Nanay Florabel, kasama ang mga volunteers ng Nanay



Partylist ang pamamahagi ng tulong sa higit 2,000 na residente sa Brgy. Malaban.

Kabilang sa mga ipinamahagi ng partylist ay mga pangunahing pangangailangan ng mga residente tulad ng tubig,

tinapay, gamot, vitamins, at mga damit.

Bukod sa Brgy. Malaban, una na ring namahagi ng gatas, lugaw, vitamins, at damit ang Nanay Partylist sa mahigit 2,000 na residente sa iba pang mga

barangay sa Laguna na apektado din ng pag-baha.

"Ang goal talaga ng mga nanay ay alagaan ang kalusugan, una sa lahat ay ang kalusugan ng nanay at ng pamilya. Importante kasi sina nanay; kapag may sakit sila, apektado ang buong pamilya. Pero kapag okay sina nanay, nagiging okay rin ang buong pamilya. Andito ang Nanay Partylist para alagaan sila, ang kanilang kalusugan, at matulungan silang magpatuloy sa trabaho," dagdag ni Yatco.

Bibilang ng dalawa hanggang tatlong buwan bago tuluyang mawala ang tubig sa kanilang lugar.

Layon ng Nanay Partylist na maging katuwang ng mga nanay sa buong bansa sa pangangalaga hindi lamang ng kanilang pamilya kundi pati ng kanilang sariling kalusugan at pisikal na pangangailangan dahil naniniwala ang Nanay Partylist na kapag malusog ang mga ina, magiging maayos ang buong tahanan, barangay, at buong sambayanan.

Abalos to champion economic measures to boost investment, improve quality of life

SENATORIAL aspirant Atty. Benhur Abalos Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos Jr., will champion economic reforms aimed at strengthening the business sector and improving the quality of life for Filipino families.

"Importante ang investment," Abalos said in a radio interview, adding that increased investment is essential for generating business opportunities and employment. "Kung marami ang investment, maraming negosyo at maraming trabaho ang malilikha."

Abalos, former Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, said he will champion legislative measures being pushed by the business sector to improve the country's investment climate. He would support the amendments to the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) Charter. As a lawyer and former DILG secretary, Abalos said he agreed with a proposal to transfer PPA-operated ports to a dedicated public sector entity to resolve issues of conflict of interest and enhance public safety and operational efficiency.



Being an archipelagic country, the Philippine's maritime laws should be strengthened, according to Abalos, as he throws his support behind the passage of International Maritime Trade Competitiveness Act, which would increase government oversight on international shipping lines imposing local charges which, he said, create undue financial strain on Filipino businesses.

To improve the country's airport, Abalos backed the business sector's proposal for the establishment of the Philippine Airports Authority should also be prioritized.

Aside from investment and job creation, Abalos will also focus on measures that will uplift the quality of life (kalidad ng buhay) for Filipinos by ensuring access to basic needs such as stable jobs, reliable electricity, food,

nutrition, and decent income.

"Importante ang quality of life," Abalos. "Lahat may karapatan sa tamang pagkain, sa magandang trabaho, kuryente, at lahat ng mga bagay na ito na kailangan para magkaroon ng kalidad na buhay."

Abalos sees this as achievable with the right governance and policies that prioritize the people's welfare alongside economic progress.

"Of course, magagawa natin sa tamang pamahalaan. With effective leadership, essential aspects like affordable electricity, lower taxes, and stronger support for agriculture can all contribute to improving lives," Abalos said.

For the agricultural sector, Abalos seeks to institutionalize crop insurance programs and agricultural loans, and expand incentives for farmers including a discount on real property tax. Additionally, Abalos proposed allowances for children of farmers attending state universities and colleges to support farm families and encourage Filipino farmers and their families to stay in agriculture.

Press release.

AFAB opens trade fair, Christmas lights

BY ERNIE ESCONDE

MARIVELES, BATAAN -- The Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB) opened their trade fair and Christmas lighting at the Freeport Area of Bataan here Saturday.

AFAB administrator and chief operating officer Hussein Pangandaman and AFAB deputy administrator for support services Malou Herrera led in the simple but colorful ceremonies at the FAB ground.

On sale are clothes, sports equipment, pillows, bedsheets, blankets, bags, shoes, among some others from both FAB enterprises and local sellers. The trade fair will be open until Dec. 16.

Also opened was the attractive Christmas display in front of the AFAB administration building.

Pangandaman said the trade fair is a tradition of FAB for the last 15 years that was temporarily stopped for two years due to the coronavirus pandemic. It was renewed when he assumed office two years ago.

"We tried to observe that tradition at para ma-showcase natin ang mga dapat i-offer ng mga locators sa mga local businessmen. Sabihin na lang natin ang pagkakaiba of course nagtransition tayo. There was a transition after

the pandemic. Slowly nagbukas ang mga negosyo na sa tingin ko this year mas dadami ang mga vendors na magparticipate. It is 96 on paper pero kung isasama ang mga local businesses, it will be over 100," Pangandaman said.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUPREME COURT
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

Office of the Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND,
Petitioner/Mortgagee.

E.J.F. No. 241-24
Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of
Real Estate Mortgage under
Act No. 3135, as amended by
Act No. 4118

- versus -

**ELLEIN P. TERASAWA
MARRIED TO MORIYUKI M.
TERASAWA,**
Respondents/Mortgagors,
x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135/1508 filed by **HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND**, Mortgagee, with principal office at **The Petron Megaplaza Building, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City** and with branch office at Suburbia Commercial Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, against **ELLEIN P. TERASAWA MARRIED TO MORIYUKI M. TERASAWA**, Mortgagors, both of legal age, with residence and postal address at 1) LOT 2C PHASE 4, Panipuan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of August 31, 2024 amounts to **TWO MILLION, ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY SIX PESOS & 21/100 (Php2,123,836.21)** excluding penalties, attorney's fees and expenses of foreclosure, the undersigned duly authorized deputy sheriff will sell at public auction on **December 19, 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. 682986 - R

x x x A Parcel of land (lot 5, Blk. 4 of the cons., and subd., plan Pcs-03-013552, being a portion of the consolidated lots 31-A, 31-B, 31-D, Psd-03-129884, LRC. Rec. No.) situated in the Bo. of Panipuan, Mun. of San Fernando, Province of Pampanga x x x containing an area of **TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX (276) Square Meters 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 **December 20, 2024**, without further notice.

City of San Fernando, Pampanga, **November 15, 2024.**

RONALDO K. NANA
Sheriff IV
RTC Br. 46, CSF(P)

CC:
1)HOME DEVT. MUTUAL FUND - The Petron Megaplaza Building, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
2)ELLEIN P. TERASAWA MARRIED TO MORIYUKI M. TERASAWA, LOT 2C PHASE 4, Panipuan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga,
Lot 5, Blk 4 Fortune Royale Subd., Panipuan/Calulut City of San Fernando, Pampanga
3)ENGR. DANILO CATALOS – Room 202 Bldg., I, Suburbia Commercial Center, McArthur Highway, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga
4)ATTY. MELENIO A. BADENAS, JR. Unit III-D 3rd Flr., Don Mar Bldg., Paseo Del Congreso Brgy. Catman, Malolos City
5)Punto Central Luzon

Punto! Central Luzon: November 18,25 & December 2, 2024

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK JAMES MANABAT.

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EMBRACE THE Bold & Gold Spirit of Christmas AT HANN RESORTS



Celebrations at Hann

A GIFT OF LUXURY: TIME

If you're looking to spend quality time with loved ones, Hann Resorts is a sanctuary for golden moments. Have a relaxing staycation with friends or family, host a Christmas party with your colleagues at any of the banquet rooms, or have an intimate dinner with your significant other at any restaurant.



Clark Freeport Zone

THE CHRISTMAS CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES

Choosing Clark as a destination guarantees zero traffic; the smooth, flowing freeway surrounded by lush greenery, with fresh, crisp air breezing through your windows. The low traffic volume and serene nature in Clark allows for more relaxation and time for those who matter. Worry less about being stuck on the road and focus more on soaking up the good times.

From Manila, simply take the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) and use the off-ramp to take the Angeles, Dau, or SCTEX exit. Soon enough, you'll find yourself driving through the streets of Clark and into Hann Resorts.

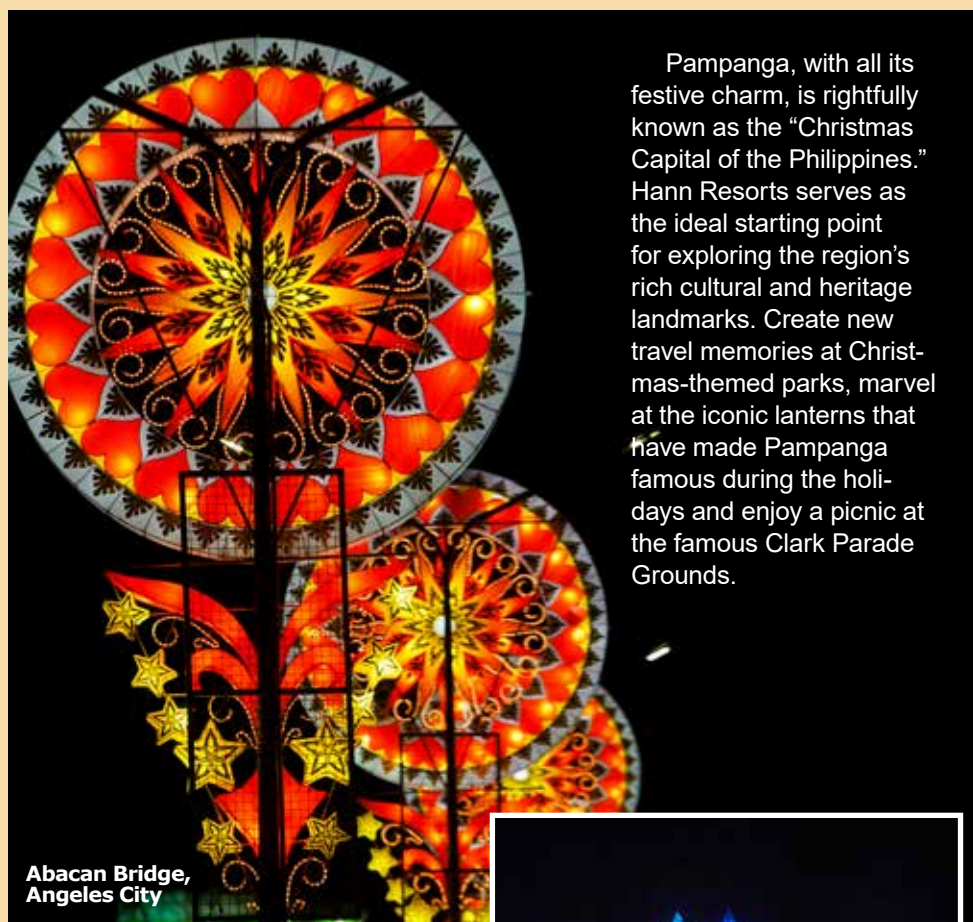


2024 was a year of inspired living at Hann Resorts. The invitation to Play Bold, Live Bold is a reminder to live your most authentic self, driven by passion and purpose.

Now, as the year comes to a close, it is time to pause and reflect on how far you've come, appreciating the people and the relationships that bring meaning to life.

Christmas is the best season to express gratitude through different love languages. Let us count the ways: quality time, acts of service, tangible gifts, words of affirmation, and physical touch. At Hann Resorts, feel free to share these however you feel is best! As the first fully integrated resort in Clark, it has everything you need under

one roof for your holiday celebration: the first and only 5-star hotel in Central Luzon, Clark Marriott; the Philippines leading lifestyle hotel, Swissotel Clark; Hann Casino providing world class gaming for adults, and 15 restaurants, cafes, and bars famous for being part of TripAdvisor's top picks for great eats.



Abacan Bridge, Angeles City

Pampanga, with all its festive charm, is rightfully known as the "Christmas Capital of the Philippines." Hann Resorts serves as the ideal starting point for exploring the region's rich cultural and heritage landmarks. Create new travel memories at Christmas-themed parks, marvel at the iconic lanterns that have made Pampanga famous during the holidays and enjoy a picnic at the famous Clark Parade Grounds.

Nonetheless, at Hann Resorts, you don't have to go far to feel the Christmas spirit - every corner is brimming with seasonal magic! In the grand lobby, a dazzling display of golden holiday decor and life-sized polar bears await. At Clark Marriott, relive the childlike wonder of an American-themed Christmas, and at Swissotel, step into a whimsical wonderland of European-inspired holiday cheer. These festive installations are the perfect backdrop to capture golden moments you are sure to treasure for years to come.



As a guest, you are also promised to be pampered with 5-star service anywhere you are on the premises, may it be in Swissotel or Clark Marriott, dining outlets, gaming area, or simply as you walk around. Hann Resorts offers an elevated experience through the gift of acts of service where you and your loved ones are sure to feel the best of the best as everyone deserves this holiday season.

GIFT OF LIFESTYLE: HANN RESORTS BRANDS

At Hann Resorts, you are provided with a selection of tangible gifts. Indulge in treats, sweets, holiday hampers filled with festive goodies, and exclusive room packages from Clark Marriott and Swissotel. For a more personal touch, gift certificates for restaurant outlets and spa treatments are also available. Hann Resorts' signature restaurants offer special

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve dinner packages, ensuring a worry-free, memorable celebration. Impress your loved ones with these luxurious offerings, or treat them to a shopping spree at 8th Avenue - Hann Resorts' newest retail strip featuring new and exciting food and non-food concepts for a new and rewarding lifestyle experience.



5-star service from anywhere within Hann Casino Resort

Festive offerings from noche buena feasts to takeaway treats.

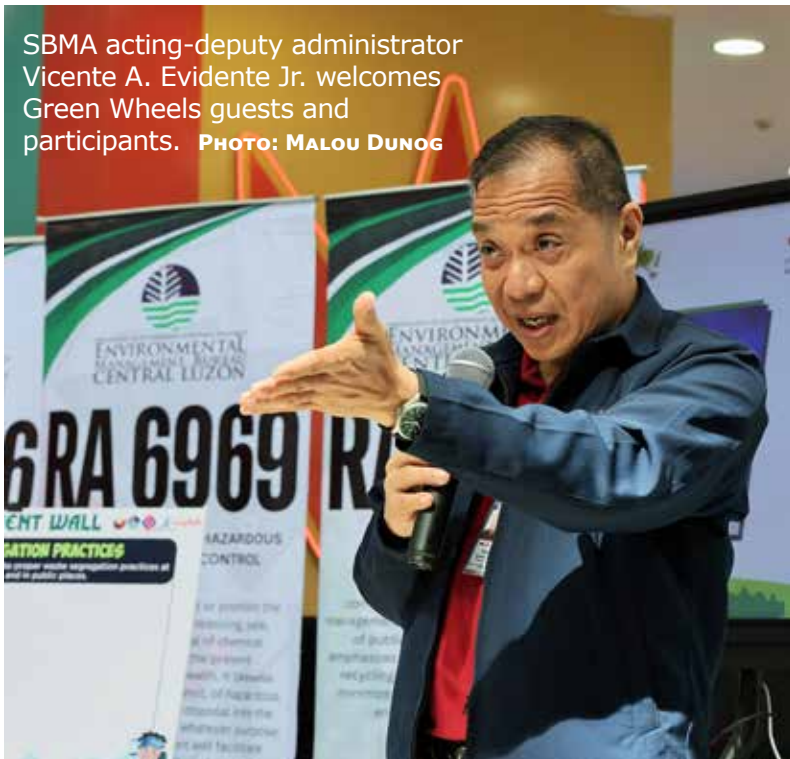


What is your love language? Through bold acts of love, you are sure to experience golden moments that would turn into a lifetime of cherished memories.

Don't forget to like Hann Resorts on Facebook through <https://www.facebook.com/hannresorts/> and follow @hannresorts_ on Instagram for your next Bold and Gold holiday retreat!



AID TO FARMERS. CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – A total of 622 farmers from the towns of Arayat and Sta. Ana adversely affected by the recent El Niño received financial assistance from President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. On the president's behalf, Vice Gov. Lilia "Nanay" Pineda led the distribution of P10,000 to each of the farmer-beneficiaries on Nov. 20. Aside from the presidential aid, Gov. Dennis "Delta" Pineda also allotted funds to subsidize the cost of irrigation of four irrigators associations (IA) in the two towns, namely, Barangay Camba Farmers IA with P150,000, Paroba Matamo Agriculture Cooperative with P600,000, Barangay Sepung Ilog Farmers IA with P300,000, and Saint Augustine and Saint Anne IAs with P580,000. Joining the vice governor in the distribution of assistance were board members Fritzie David Dizon, Sajid Eusoof, Benny Jocson, Cherry Manalo, Atty. Claire Lim, and JC Cruz; special assistant to the governor and PDRRM chief Angelina Blanco, and office of the provincial agriculturist OIC Jimmy Manliclic. **PAMPANGA PIO/PHOTOS: DANIEL OMBINA**



SBMA acting-deputy administrator Vicente A. Evidente Jr. welcomes Green Wheels guests and participants. **PHOTO: MALOU DUNOG**

Green Wheels caravan goes to Subic

BY MALOU DUNOG

SUBIC BAY FREE-PORT – The Green Wheels 2024: Environmental Compliance On-the-Go caravan, a project of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Central Luzon of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in partnership with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, opened at the Harbor Point Ayala Mall on Nov. 14.

The two-day event featured a One-Stop

Shop area, where clearances and permits of Subic Bay Freeport investors were processed, as well as the conduct of a briefing on the necessary requirements and new laws that were passed for environmental compliance.

Green Wheels also featured an information education and communication caravan that provided technical assistance with the application for EMB compliance, and information on the new

mandates of the bureau. SBMA acting-deputy administrator Vicente A. Evidente Jr. and EMB Clearance and Permitting Division chief Engr. Raldy R. Pagador graced the IEC Caravan on Nov. 15, with some 100 participants.

Evidente and Pagador joined Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Division (EMED) Engr. Nesty Mendiola and SBMA Ecology Center's Policy and Monitoring Division chief Rossell Abuyo

in the ribbon-cutting ceremony in formally opening the caravan.

The officials, as well as the participants, also signed the commitment wall as Advocates for Environmental Policies.

Environmental compliance certificate documents required were certificate of non-coverage; permit to operate air, wastewater discharge permit; pollution control officer accreditation; and hazardous waste generator registration certificate.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
Region III – Central Luzon



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the **EXPANSION OF STOTSENBERG LEISURE PARK AND HOTEL PROJECT** of STOTSENBERG LEISURE PARK AND HOTEL CORPORATION located at Gil Puyat Avenue Corner Andres Soriano St., Clark Special Economic Zone, Clark Field, Pampanga.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the Commercial Building Project. Please refer to the following details:

DATE	TIME	VENUE
November 21, 2024 <i>(Thursday)</i>	10:00 AM <i>(Registration starts at 09:30 AM)</i>	Barangay Basketball Court of Marcos Village, Mabalacat City, Pampanga

The Public Hearing is being conducted as part of the review of the EPRMP, which is being conducted by the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

The Project Information is provided below:

Project Name	Proposed Stotsenberg Leisure Park and Hotel Expansion Project	
Project Location	Gil Puyat Avenue Corner Andres Soriano Sr. Street, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga	
Project Type	Resorts and other tourism/leisure projects	
Project Area/ Capacity	49,251 square meters (total land area)	
Project Components	Component	Area/ Capacity
	Casino	24,884 sqm 4 level including basement
	4-Star Hotel	23,844 sqm 9 Floors 317 room keys
	5-Star Hotel	18,783 sqm 9 Floors including basement 248 room keys
	Gallery	2,853 sqm
	Amenity (Pool decks)	8,698 sqm
	Amenity (Spa & Gym, Pools)	3,007 sqm
	Indoor Parking	23,621 sqm
	Food and Beverages	24,838 sqm
	Back of House	24,838 sqm
	Roads & Sidewalks	13,590 sqm
	Landscape	2,144 sqm
	Roof deck	400 square meters (80 tons)
	Motorpool	25,607 sqm
Proponent	STOTSENBERG LEISURE PARK AND HOTEL CORPORATION	


All interested and concerned parties who want to participate in the Public Hearing are encouraged to confirm their attendance by sending an e-mail to recordsr3@emb.gov.ph. Parties may also send their position paper or comments to recordsr3@emb.gov.ph at least three days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written comments or position papers may be given opportunity to be heard during the Public Hearing.

The EIS is posted at the EMB Region 3 website (<https://r3.emb.gov.ph/>) and copies will be available at the Barangay Basketball Court of Marcos Village, Mabalacat City, Pampanga.


For further details, please call the Clearance and Permitting Division at (045) 963-3623 local 106 or 09077215572.



Punto Central Luzon: November 4 & 18, 2024



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
Region III – Central Luzon



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the Environmental Performance Report and Management Plan (EPRMP) of the proposed expansion of dairy product manufacturing plant project of **SFI MULTIMIX CORPORATION** located at Bldg. 527 C.M. Recto Highway, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed expansion of poultry farm project. Please refer to the following details:

DATE	TIME	VENUE
December 3, 2024	10:00 AM <i>(Registration Starts at 9:30 AM)</i>	Covered Court, Barangay Marcos Village, Mabalacat City, Pampanga

The Public Hearing is being conducted as part of the review of the EPRMP, which is being conducted by the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

The Project Information is provided below:

Project Name	Proposed expansion of dairy product manufacturing plant project
Project Location	Bldg. 527 C.M. Recto Highway, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga
Project Type	Dairy Product Manufacturing
Project Area/ Capacity	6000 Sqm / 800,000 Liters/Month
Project Rationale	Based on the EPRMP, <i>The Dairy Products Manufacturing Plant Expansion Project aligns with the national and regional economic development agenda, particularly in supporting the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the national level, the project contributes to the country's food security and agricultural modernization efforts by enhancing local dairy production capabilities, thereby reducing reliance on imported dairy products. This initiative promotes SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by ensuring a steady supply of nutritious dairy products, and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through the generation of employment and fostering economic growth</i>
Project Components	Additional Production Line
Proponent	SFI MULTIMIX CORPORATION

All interested and concerned parties who want to participate in the Public Hearing are encouraged to confirm their attendance by sending an e-mail to recordsr3@emb.gov.ph. Parties may also send their position paper or comments to recordsr3@emb.gov.ph at least three days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written comments or position papers may be given opportunity to be heard during the Public Hearing.

The EIA Study is posted at the EMB Region 3 website (<https://r3.emb.gov.ph/>) and copies will be available at the Barangay Hall of Barangay Marcos Village, Mabalacat City, Pampanga.

For further details, please contact the Clearance and Permitting Division at (045)-963-3623 local 114.

Punto Central Luzon: November 18 & 25, 2024

Page 1 of 1



EQUIPPING PAMPANGA'S ENTREPRENEURS

PLDT Enterprise inspires biz growth in its MSME Day

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – PLDT Enterprise, in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry and the United States Agency for International Development, recently held MSME Day Pampanga, gathering over 120 micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) from the region to inspire and empower business growth through digital transformation.

The event is part of PLDT Enterprise's ongoing commitment to support the MSME sector across the Philippines, with previous legs held in Iloilo City and Dipolog City. Co-presented by USAID, MSME Day Pampanga showcased the four pillars of successful business growth: Access to Technology, Access to Finance, Access to Market, and Access to Upskilling.

Entrepreneurs were given the opportunity to gain valuable insights from industry experts and network with peers, all while exploring the latest digital solutions provided by PLDT Enterprise to enhance business operations.

Platform for customer growth, success

Jay Lagdameo, PLDT Enterprise's vice president and head of Enterprise Revenue Group, emphasized the importance of supporting MSMEs as critical drivers of economic growth in the Philippines.

"Our commitment to empowering the MSME sector extends far beyond simply providing digital solutions," said Lagdameo.

"MSME Day was a true reflection of our dedication to this vital sector. We took proactive steps to connect with MSMEs across key cities in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, ensuring that we reach as many entrepreneurs as possible. But this is just the beginning. At PLDT Enterprise, we are constantly exploring new opportunities to strengthen and support MSMEs nationwide, helping them thrive in an increasingly digital world."

The event also highlighted inspiring success stories from local businesses, including Razon's by Glenn, L.A. Bakeshop, Macabebest, and Makimura Ramen Bar, who shared their journey of resilience and growth, illustrating the transformative impact of digital tools on their businesses.

Razon's by Glenn is a family restaurant known for its unique halo-halo, palabok, and Kapampangan food. Its president and CEO Mark Anthony "Glenn" Razon Carreon shared that pursuing the dream of entrepreneurship has been a transformative journey filled with both challenges and rewards. Starting from a small food business rooted in bringing their signature "tradition of delight" to their customers, Razon's by Glenn has grown into a beloved brand recognized for its unique Kapampangan delicacies. This growth reflects more than just financial success; it represents a commitment to community and a passion

for innovation, showing how entrepreneurship requires a bold vision, perseverance, and a willingness to face challenges head-on. The restaurant reiterated that the journey is all about continuously learning, adapting, and creating a meaningful impact.

Jonathan Yanga, founder and general manager of Macabebest, a popular comfort food establishment famous for its halo-halo and flavored champorado, also shared a heartfelt message with his fellow entrepreneurs, encouraging them to "trust the process, build meaningful partnerships, and stay open to learning new things."

Dr. Marc Joseph Lim, chief operating officer of L.A. Bakeshop, a staple in the Pampanga food industry known for its original cheesebread, recounted the bakeshop's journey from a small family-run bakery to a thriving enterprise. He also emphasized how digitalization and efficient connectivity have played a crucial role in expanding their reach beyond traditional boundaries.

The bakery's experience underscores the importance of connectivity in reaching a broader market and maintaining operational efficiency – a vision supported by PLDT Enterprise's broadband solutions.

Meanwhile, Vickee Navallo Dela Cruz-Ong, chief operating officer of Makimura Ramen Bar, founded on the principles

of humility, resilience, and community, showcased its growth from humble beginnings to a reputable local dining establishment.

These MSMEs' journey highlights the importance of sustainable growth, investing in people, and embracing technology to drive efficiency and customer satisfaction. Their unique stories reflect the empowering impact of digital tools on small businesses, enabling them to adapt, thrive, and serve their communities better.

Building sustainable impact for all

Beyond individual business stories, MSME Day Pampanga underscores PLDT Enterprise's commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

By facilitating digital transformation among MSMEs, PLDT Enterprise is not only strengthening the local economy but also contributing to broader goals such as Decent Work and

Economic Growth (SDG 8) and Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9).

Following the success of MSME Day Pampanga, PLDT Enterprise continues to reinforce its role as a key partner in the digital transformation of businesses nationwide, staying true to its mission of enabling MSMEs to thrive in a digitally driven economy.

For more information on PLDT Enterprise's initiatives to support MSMEs, visit pldtenterprise.com.

Press release

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)

Submit / E-mail resume to at donggwangdev21@gmail.com

Tel No. (045) 499-1166

Position: 1. Assistant Manager (Casino Marketing Department)

Required Qualifications and Experiences:

- Must know how to speak in English and Korean language; Must be 30-50 years old.
- At least five (5) years of experienced working in Marketing and Casino related works / company.
- Has knowledge, expertise and experienced in Casino Marketing management and has good communication skills.
- Salary Range: Php 50,000.00 to Php 60,000.00

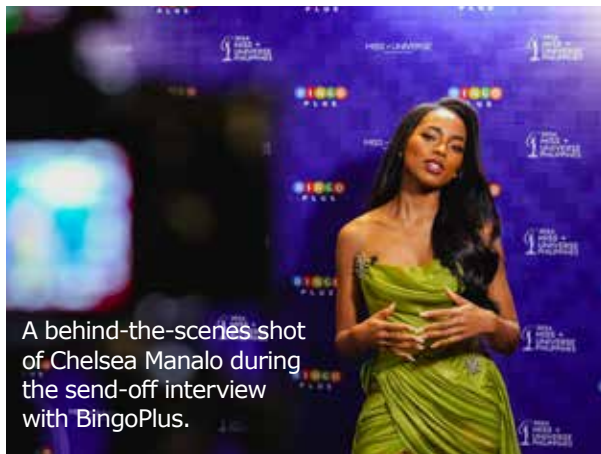
Shop and get a chance to win a **Brand New Car!**

1. Every purchase of P2,000 = 1 Raffle entry
2. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday purchase = **double entry**
3. Grand Raffle draw will be on **January 8, 2025, 3PM** at **Addessa Galleria, Urdaneta City.**
4. Deadline of submission of raffle stub is until **December 31, 2024.**

Prize Tax Registration Fee and Transfer of title is not included.

addessa.com

BingoPlus Stands as the Official Livestreaming Partner in the Philippines for the 73rd Miss Universe



A behind-the-scenes shot of Chelsea Manalo during the send-off interview with BingoPlus.



Miss Universe Philippines 2024 queens cheer for Chelsea Manalo during her preliminary performance at the BingoPlus watch party.



[L-R] Miss Universe queens Mary Rose Guiral, Elle Hollman, Kayla Carter, Tarah Valencia, and Miss BingoPlus Universe 2024 Maica Martinez enjoying BingoPlus' newest game offering, the Pinoy Drop Ball.

BINGOPLUS, your comprehensive entertainment platform in the country, is proudly supporting the upcoming 73rd Miss Universe in Mexico as the "Exclusive Livestreaming Partner in the Philippines for the Preliminaries and National Costume Competition."

Miss Universe is a renowned pageant organization that enjoys widespread popularity both in the Philippines and internationally. This year, Miss Universe Philippines 2024, Chelsea Manalo, has mentally and physically prepared herself to compete for the title and

bring honor to the country.

In an exclusive interview during her send-off, Manalo expressed her deep gratitude to BingoPlus, both as a supporter and a sponsor, as well as to the many people standing behind her.

"I would love to thank BingoPlus for the support that they have given me to compete for Miss Universe this time for the 73rd edition. Of course to my whole supportive team behind these lenses, thank you so much." Manalo said with heartfelt emotion. "I don't think there's anything more I would like to ask but the prayers and your loud cheers no matter where

you are in this country, in the Philippines or anywhere in this world—universe, rather."

While Chelsea is fully geared up for the Miss Universe crown, BingoPlus, along with all Filipinos, is supporting her both online and on the ground.

Recently, BingoPlus hosted a watch party for the preliminaries, attended by media, influencers, and former Miss Universe queens. Among the guests were Miss Universe Philippines 2023 Michelle Dee and Chelsea's MUPH batchmates, including Mary Rose Guiral, Elle Hollman, Miss Charm Philippines 2024

Kayla Carter, Miss Supranational Philippines 2025 Tarah Valencia, and Miss BingoPlus Universe 2024 Maica Martinez.

In a press conference after the watch party, Dee shared advice to Chelsea as she heads to the coronation night. "Honestly, when you're on that stage, especially after leaving the Philippines, a lot of the heavy lifting has already been done. So my best advice is to really have fun once you get to your destination. Make sure to create as many memories as you can because it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

At the same time, the excitement of watching the preliminaries was shared online through the exclusive livestream feed on the BingoPlus app and website.

BingoPlus, together with the Filipino people, is proudly rooting for our queen Chelsea Manalo. The brand remains fully committed to supporting the Philippine representative as she represents the country on the Miss Universe stage, embodying its promise to be "A Filipino Brand Powered to Support Your Dreams."

To enjoy more offerings, make sure to download the BingoPlus app in Google Play or App Store or visit its official website at www.bingoplus.com.



Miss Universe Philippines 2023 Michelle Dee, gracefully answered the questions thrown at her during the press conference at the BingoPlus watch party.

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P41.6-M yearend bonus...

FROM PAGE 1

Of the amount, ₱35,463,886 was allotted for the year-end bonus, equivalent to the 1-month basic salary of employees; and ₱6,141,250 for the cash gift of ₱5,000 for each employee.

Comprising the 1,260 employees are 915 perma-

nent, 329 casual, and 16 contractual.

"The city recognizes the relentless effort and hard work of the employees in the service for all Angelesños," Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr. noted.

Apart from these released bonuses, there is also an additional P21,000

bonus for the 1,260 employees set to be released in December 2024, via scheduled dates.

On the other hand, 3,484 contract-of-service employees who are qualified for the P3,000 year-end gratuity will receive theirs on Dec. 5.

Flordeliza Santos,

president of the Association of Government Employees for a New Dynamic Angeles City, said the administration of Mayor Lazatin continues to look out for the welfare of the employees.

"On behalf of the employees of the Angeles City Hall, we would like to thank Mayor Pogi Lazatin

for always ensuring the timely release of the year-end bonus. Isa po talaga ito sa mga inaabangan ng mga empleyado sapagkat malaking tulong po ito lalo na sa nalalapit na Pasko at Bagong Taon," Santos said.

"Ramdam po namin ang malasakit at pagmamahal ni Mayor Pogi

hindi lamang po sa siyudad kung di pati na rin sa mga empleyado. He always makes it a point that we, the employees, are well taken cared for and with that, we are even more motivated to work hard towards his vision of a better Angeles City," she added. **Angeles CIO**

AC school...

FROM PAGE 1

City Vice Mayor Vicky Vega-Cabigting cited the two-year collaboration between the city government with the Metro Pacific Tollways Corp., UNICEF Philippines, and civil society organization Imagine Law to calibrate council ordinance and secure funding for infrastructure improve-

ment, signages, and other road safety measures.

She said that in February 2023, the city government enacted the Road Safety Code (Ordinance No. 663, series of 2023) that established road safety measures and outlined penalties for violations in the city.

"King road safety, deng

egana-ganang requirements na kailangan banta maging safe la reng students tamu king dalan, atchu ne. Mahulaga ya ini uling it highlights itang masanting na relationship private and public, itang partnership da. At the same time, itang pinaka main goal na maging safe la reng anak tamu," Cab-

igting said in a media interview.

Imagine Law, Unicef's implementing partner, initiated the program with the local government units through training and discussions to help assess school environments based on international standards.

Punto News Team/Media reports

CDC, AC...

FROM PAGE 1

Devanadera exhorted scholars to maximize the opportunity opened to them through the program.

SCWELA aims to provide undergraduate CDC employees with opportunities to continue their education and enhance their professional growth. "I'm happy that we have been supported in this program. And I thank you that we have a partner [for this program]," Devanadera furthered.

Under the MOA, the City College of Angeles (CCA) will offer a Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship program tailored to CDC employees. According to the CDC Human Resources Division, 35 employees have already expressed their intent to enroll. Flexible class schedules will be implemented to ensure participants can balance

their academic pursuits with work responsibilities.

Lazatin shared words of encouragement, reflecting on his own educational journey. "It's never too late. I hope you can have the same ambition that I had — to pursue an MBA." h

CCA president Dr. Francisco Villanueva, Jr., emphasized the importance of continuous learning. "Nowadays, we have to keep upgrading because we live in a very dynamic world. Skills requirements are constantly changing."

Villanueva, along with CDC assistant vice president for Administration Atty. Bonifacio Tarenio, Jr. stood as witnesses to the MOA signing. Other key officials from CCA present were assistant vice president Dr. Carolina Sarmiento and Amor Barba, dean of the Institute of Business and Management. **CDC-PR**

Candaba 3rd Viaduct...

FROM PAGE 1

NLEX and its construction partner, Leighton Contractors (Asia) Limited, have worked tirelessly to improve the road's safety and serviceability, fast-tracking the construction four months ahead of schedule.

The Zone 1, or the Pulilan section, opened

to the public in August 2024, while the Zone 2 portion in Apalit became operational in October. Once fully completed, it will enable greater mobility for motorists and businesses, boosting socio-economic growth.

"Despite the numerous typhoons that challenged us during construction, we remain committed to deliv-

ering this project before the Christmas holiday rush," Bautista said. "At NLEX, we recognize the increasing traffic demand in the country, which is why we have lined up various enhancement and expansion projects like the Candaba 3rd Viaduct, to address these concerns and provide an improved

travel experience for our motorists."

Serving as a vital link between Metro Manila, Central, and Northern Luzon, this new bridge is expected to address the growing traffic demand in the north, contributing to tourism, trade, and commerce across regions.

NLEX CorpCom

CL economy...

FROM PAGE 1

show that the region has recovered from the severe impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, with all provinces and highly urbanized cities posting positive growth rates ranging from 4.6% to 7.5%.

"Angeles City and Olongapo City registered the fastest growth, both at 7.5%. Bulacan and Pampanga, which are nearest to the National Capital Region, maintained their position as the region's primary economic drivers, collectively accounting for approximately 50% of the region's total output in 2023," she said.

The services sector remains to be the primary driver of Central Luzon's economic growth, contributing about 47%, surpassing pre-pandemic levels since 2022.

"The services sector continues to demonstrate a robust performance. Therefore, it will be crucial to sustain its growth and ensure that services are linked and add value to the outputs of the industry and agriculture sectors," Esguerra said.

Among the initiatives to

sustain growth in the services sector is to increase access of micro, small, and medium enterprises to available digital technology so they can adopt e-commerce, make their operations more efficient, and expand their market.

NEDA said industries must also partner with the academe and other institutions to upskill the workforce through learning programs that will match existing and anticipated job opportunities in the region.

Meanwhile, the industry sector also contributed 42.3% to the region's GRDP.

"The region continues to be a favored investment destination in the country due to our strategic location, and we shall continue leveraging on this aspect," Esguerra said.

She added that the ban on Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations should be taken as an opportunity to redirect investments to more productive, job-generating, and income-generating sectors.

Another driver of the economy is the agriculture sector which contributed 10.8% to the GRDP.

While the region's growth in this sector has not surpassed pre-pandemic levels, it has posted a slight uptick from 2.1% in 2022 to 2.6% in 2023.

Esguerra said that although frequent weather and climate-related disasters and calamities have partly held back the region's agricultural outputs, the sector has a lot of potential that needs to be unleashed.

With this, she called on stakeholders to exert greater efforts to implement the strategies contained in the Central Luzon Regional Development Plan (CLRDP) to improve the agriculture sector's competitiveness.

These include using research and development, cutting-edge technology, upgraded post-production facilities, value-adding investments, and improved packaging and marketing.

"We need to modernize Central Luzon's agriculture sector... We need to draw in the younger generation of scientists, business managers, marketing professionals, investors, and entrepreneurs. A modern

agriculture sector that is seamlessly linked to industry and services sectors will be crucial in attaining food security, generating quality jobs, and increasing incomes," Esguerra stressed.

She also cited the crucial role of private sector-led economic growth in complementing the government efforts to achieve sustainable and lasting economic development.

"Let us strive to innovate to significantly lower the transaction costs borne by those doing business and availing of services in our localities without sacrificing the quality of regulation. Let us be mindful of things that investors, locators, and citizens will be looking for. Let us ramp up the provision of resilient public infrastructure, transport, water, energy, and significantly improve the efficiency of service delivery, including solid waste management. These can be more efficiently done in partnership with the private sector," she said.

Marie Joy S. Carbungco/PIA-3

The Public Space

FROM PAGE 5

killings.

The country has had enough. Or more than enough.

But, unfortunately, there are other masks. Virtue has a veil, French author Victor Hugo warned, vice has its mask.

Other politicians, like the present president, another former president and even some lawmakers, do not want the ICC

to have jurisdiction over crimes committed during the drug war. It's none of their business, they say, it's ours because we have and value such a thing as sovereignty. So be it?

The same Constitution that extols our sovereignty also commands the highest official of the land to do justice to everyone, rich or poor, drug suspect or not. A former president has

Shepherd's Call

FROM PAGE 4

pag-unawa sa saysay o kahulugan ng mga pangyayari. Ito lang ang pwedeng magpamulat sa atin sa direksyon na dapat tahakin patungo sa hinaharap. Di ba kasabihan din natin, "Ang 'di marunong lumingon sa pinanggalingan ay hindi makararating sa paroroonan?"

Bumalik tayo ngayon sa unang aral: lahat ng bagay ay lilipas. Ang mga punongkahoy na mababaw ang ugat ay madaling itaob ng bagyo. Mahalaga ang magkaroon ng mas malalim na pagkakaugat para maging matatag, at tulad ng kawayan, matutong yumuko at magpakumbaba sa pagdaan ng mga unos sa buhay na lilipas din naman. Hangga't nakaugat nang malalim, puwedeng tumayong muli at bumawi. Ganyan ang Diyos sa buhay natin.

Sabi ni Hesus, lilipas daw pati langit at lupa ngunit hindi ang kanyang salita. Kaya tayo bumabalik-balik sa simbahan: para hanapin ang mas

malalim na pagkakaugat, para maging mas matatag ang tayo natin sa pagharap natin sa mga kalamidad tulad ng mga unos, daluyong at bagyo. Hindi ba sa kuwento ng paglikha, salita lang ang binigkas ng Diyos at sunod-sunod nang nalikha ang lahat ng bagay sa daigdig? Ang salita ng Diyos ng Pag-ibig ang humubog sa atin sa kanyang hugis at wangis. Kaya mahalagang makinig sa kanyang salita sa pamamagitan ng panalangin para maliwanagan tayo tungkol sa kaugnayan ng ngayon sa kahapon at matanaw ang bukas.

So, ito pong dalawang aral ang baunin natin at huwag kalilimutan: lilipas ang lahat, iugat ang buhay sa walang hanggan. At ikalawa, matutong bumasa ng mga palatandaan, umunawa sa kaugnayan ng nakaraan sa kasalukuyan upang maaninag ang hinaharap.

(Ika-33 Linggo ng Karaniwang Panahon, 16 Nobyembre, 2024, Marko 13:24-32

Ad Lib

FROM PAGE 5

entertainment spectacle for affirmation. Let us invest in, and support other platforms that train, educate and empower women in a manner that is not based on external beauty or their "marketability."

Millions of women around the world, many of whom remain unrecognized, are doing extra ordinary work every day in fields

previously unwelcoming to them. From grassroots organizing to groundbreaking research, women continue to break glass ceilings without the need for a crown or a title. Let us celebrate them for their many wins and support them in their countless struggles through tangible ways; not just during that one "most beautiful day in the universe," but every single day of the year.



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