

3,784 ALS grads, internship beneficiaries get Capitol aid

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – No togas, no valedictory addresses, no graduation march but just as meaningful and jubilant was the ceremonial graduation and culminating activity held for 2,934 Alternative Learning System (ALS) graduates and 850 Government Internship Program (GIP) beneficiaries by the Provincial Government of Pampanga on Jan. 20 at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center. **PAGE 19 PLEASE**

Aeta octogenarian
graduates ALS

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – “Age should never be a barrier to learning.” Tested, tried, and proven true is that famous quote attributed to C.S. Lewis with Eduardo Saplala from Barangay Camias, Porac, Pampanga completing the Department of Education’s Alternative Learning System at the age of 81.

“Bago ako mawala, gusto kong makapag-aral. Malaking bagay ito para malaman ang aming mga karapatan bilang katutubo para hindi kami maloko,” said Saplala, the oldest of the 2,934 ALS graduates given recognition by the Pampanga Provincial Government at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center here on Jan. 20. Pampanga 2nd District board member Fritzie David-Dizon joins the octogenarian graduate, her townmate, in celebration. **Punto News Team/Photo: Daniel Ombina**

Gov Nanay hails graduates.
PHOTOS: PAMPANGA PIO

FIELD OF HEARTS
CLARK FREEPORT – Hearts bloom amid the green of the Parade Grounds with the “Love in Every Form” art installations conceptualized by architects Constante Arpillada Jr., Paula Pamintuan, and Daniel Tan which was launched on Jan. 16. While timed with the Month of Love, the project’s message goes beyond Valentine’s Day with each installation reflecting a stage of love—joyful, fleeting, painful, or healing, inviting visitors to interact, reflect, and create their own stories. **CDC-PR**

Arayat Action Agenda: Rising to
the challenge, riding the opportunity

BY BONG Z. LACSON

ARAYAT, PAMPANGA – All peace and quiet now at what Sen. Ping Lacson once dubbed the “face of failed flood control projects” in Barangay Candating after its once-demonized contractor made good – reportedly – with the requisite repair and rehabilitation promised.

A sense of relief too with

the resumption – after an eight-year hiatus – of the construction of the San Agustin Norte Bridge linking Arayat and the rest of Pampanga to Nueva Ecija. Coming as it is in the wake of Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon famously saying he felt like jumping off the unfinished structure when he came for inspection.

Dizon now earning the

townsfolk’s gratitude and praise, so expressed Mayor Jeffrey Luriz during the recent Talakayan forum with the Central Luzon Media Association-Pampanga Chapter.

There’s still some more though in Arayat’s infra wish menu needing DPWH catering, notably:

1. The immediate repair of the Barangay Cupang stretch of the Arnedo

Dike that developed large cracks in December last year posing imminent danger of collapse that will endanger Arayat, Sta. Ana, and Magalang towns from floods.

2. The completion and immediate operation of the P235-million 6.23-kilometer Sta Ana-Arayat Bypass Road, with groundbreaking in March 2021 led by then-

PAGE 17 PLEASE

Senior citizens' care upped with NCSC office at Capitol



NCSC chair Merceditas Gutierrez and Gov. Lilia "Nanay" Pineda sign usufruct agreement with Vice Gov. Dennis "Delta" Pineda and NCSC-3 director Emmanuel Daez as witnesses.

PHOTO: PAMPANGA PIO

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – The National Commission of Senior Citizens signed on Jan. 19 a usufruct agreement with the Provincial Government of Pampanga allowing the establishment of the NCSC Regional Office 3 within the Capitol Compound here.

“Napakalaking bagay nito para sa amin dahil ang mga senior citizens ay maaari nang pumunta anumang oras sa regional office, at ang kanilang mga problema ay mai-paparating sa Komisyon sa pamamagitan nito,” enthused NCSC chairperson Merceditas Gutierrez who signed the agreement with Gov. Lilia “Nanay” Pineda.

The NCSC regional office will be housed at the 201.4-square-meter Building No. 10 free of charge for a period of

three years as approved by Sangguniang Panlalawigan Resolution No. 9543.

Thanking the commission for setting its Central Luzon office at the Capitol grounds, Governor Pineda noted that bringing services closer to communities make it easier for senior citizens to access government assistance.

“Malaking bagay na malapit na lang ang pupuntahan nila. Malaking bagay din ang tulong na ito. Bago man lang sila mawala, maramdaman nila yung tulong ng gobyerno...mararamdam nila na minsan talagang nakabahagi sila sa pera ng gobyerno,” she said.

Gutierrez stressed the crucial importance of fully implementing RA 11982 (Expanded Centenarians Act), which provides cash

PAGE 19 PLEASE

Ebdane’s SOPA: Zambales that truly works for every Zambaleño

BY MALOU DUNGOG

IBA, ZAMBALES – “Today marks the unfolding of a new chapter, one that builds upon fifteen years of legacy with a simple yet bold vision: a Zambales, that truly works for every Zambaleño.”

Thus, Gov. Hermogenes E. Ebdane Jr., opened his State of the Province Address (SOPA) delivered at the Legislative Building here on Jan. 19.

“Today, Zambales stands tall-economically, socially, and culturally. Our province has regained and

sustained its First-Class Province status, fueled by strengthened fiscal discipline and revitalized revenue generation; hence, advances the quality of life and opportunities for every Zambaleño,” he said, going into specifics on health and social services, ongoing infrastructure projects, livelihood and tourism, and youth and sports development.

For health services, the provincial government continuously upgraded provincial and district hospitals investing in

PAGE 19 PLEASE



FILIPINO SHIPMATE MONUMENT RISES IN SUBIC

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT – Along scenic Waterfront Road here now rises the freeport’s newest landmark the Filipino Shipmate Monument – a testament to the enduring role of Filipino U.S. sailors and memorial to decades of life at sea, shared history, cooperation, and mutual respect between the Philippines and the United States of America. An initiative of the U.S. Sailors Alliance of the Philippines, the monument joining the historic memorials of Inang Laya, Children of the Sun Returning, and the Hellships Memorial was formally entrusted to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and the City of Olongapo, represented during the inauguration on Jan. 14 by SBMA chairman and administrator Engr. Eduardo Jose L. Aliño and Mayor Atty. Rolan Paulino Jr.

PUNTO NEWS TEAM/FUNTASTIC SUBIC BAY



CIAC acquires 5 new EVs

CLARK FREEPORT – A decisive step toward sustainable transport has been taken by the Clark International Airport Corp. with its integration of five electric vehicles into its official fleet in support of RA 11697 (Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act), the first government agency in this freeport to do so.

“CIAC’s acquisition of electric vehicles is our concrete contribution to the EVIDA law and the national drive toward cleaner and more sustainable mobility,” said CIAC president and CEO Jojit Alcazar, referencing to law which mandates the gradual adoption of electric vehicles in government fleets to strengthen the local EV industry, cut fossil fuel dependence, and help

decarbonize the transport sector.

Alcazar added that CIAC has already disposed of several decades-old, unserviceable vehicles and replaced them with EVs as part of its fleet modernization program.

The initiative complements Executive Order No. 62 (s. 2024), issued by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on June 20, 2024, which extended and expanded zero import duties on EVs and their components until 2028.

The order covers battery electric vehicles (BEVs), hybrid EVs (HEVs), plug-in hybrid EVs (PHEVs), as well as e-motorcycles, e-bicycles, and e-tricycles, making electric mobility more affordable and accessible

PAGE 19 PLEASE



CIAC PCEO Jojit Alcazar (second from right) and COO Brando Aguilar (right) witness the blessing of the agency’s new EVs vehicles. CIAC-CCO

ArenaPlus brings astig vibes uniting Sinulog and Dinagyang in one grand festival experience

GET YOUR FREE PASS ON
lyvefest.com

spectrum

LYVE
FEST

POWERED BY
TikTok LIVE

JANUARY 16+17+18

AXIS AT VIBO PLACE CEBU CITY

COOKIES . NO PETS ALLOWED . MIDNASTY . YEKI . ZOYA
IUSTRAW . MISTAH LEFTY . FELHONY . DJ LIT . JACOB ALMENDRAS
HANS CONGMON . JOM GONZALES . DJ YOUNG . KATSY LEE
NIX DAMN P . ORANGE JUICE ASIA . MIRANDA . SKY DOMINIQUE

MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED.

BONITA

HIKARI

Globe

HOSOKU

CASINO PLUS

ARENAPLUS SPORTSBOOK

KFC

SAMSUNG

ARENAPLUS is set to raise the country's festival season as it officially brings Lyvefest to the Philippines, hoisting the colors of two of the most celebrated and iconic cultural festivities, Sinulog and Dinagyang, in a single entertainment showcase designed for every Filipino.

Living up to its advocacies of providing the best inclusive entertainment, the brand is giving the people back-to-back events in Cebu and Iloilo all with free admission.

From January 16 to 18, there will be a three-day Sinulog celebration at Axis at Vibo Place along Escario Street in Cebu City that features good food and good music as a way of giving that astig experience for everyone joining the festivities. There will be an exciting lineup of stage performances, including DJs, live bands, and top creators that you surely won't want to miss.

Following the Sinulog festival, the party continues as Arenaplus hypes up the Dinagyang Festival on January 23 and 24 at the Iloilo Business Park by Megaworld. Festival goers can expect another round of quality entertainment filled with ecstatic performances, and notable appearances from featured artists, all cap-

turing the true spirit of the celebration.

There are also booth activities like the punch-o-meter, where you can test your strength, and a basketball shooting game, where you can swish buckets and win exclusive ArenaPlus merchandise such as sling bags, bucket hats, and t-shirts. You can also experience ArenaPlus' infinity mirror, where you can take highly immersive photos that you can share on your social media for that extra astig look.

Your presence in Cebu and Iloilo doesn't just amplify the country's cultural festival traditions, it brings us closer to everyone. The brand makes sure that quality entertainment goes beyond the hardcourt and that this year's Sinulog and Dinagyang festivals hit differently. ArenaPlus invites you to join and be part of a celebration that will surely go up the rafters. Tayo na at maki-Viva Pit Señor sa Cebu at maki-Hala Bira sa Iloilo!

Kita-kits mga ka-astig!

If you want to stay updated to the latest happenings in the sports community, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Threads, X (formerly Twitter), and Tiktok.

SCAN ME TO REGISTER

AND GET FREE RAFFLE COUPON!

kasal.com

The essential Filipino wedding guide.

AyalaMalls

MARQUEEMALL

CO-PRESENTED WITH

The Lakeshore

Nuan

Kasalan 2026

NATIONAL Wedding Tourism Expo

JAN. 31-FEB. 1

AYALA MALLS MARQUEE MALL

SUPPORTED BY:

Portfolio

M

MemorABBYlia

SENSITIVITY

MI

Peri Peri

CASA DE MERCEDES

VO

BRIDES BEST FRIEND

CASA ESMERALDA

THE GROWN GARDENS

Quest Plus

ROMAN EVENTS

RED & CO.

SHOT ROSAS

Laus Group

ROYCE

Media Partners:

Punto!

Central Luzon

BusinessMirror

FLAGSHIP

Where in Pampanga

EXPLORING PAMPANGA

XO

De Horence

Limell

ADM

STREET FLAVORS

AMVER

LAJOLLA

Best Western PLUS

LA

Mike's Open

CHRISNE

0918 906 8955

www.kasal.com

kasal.com

To the Point



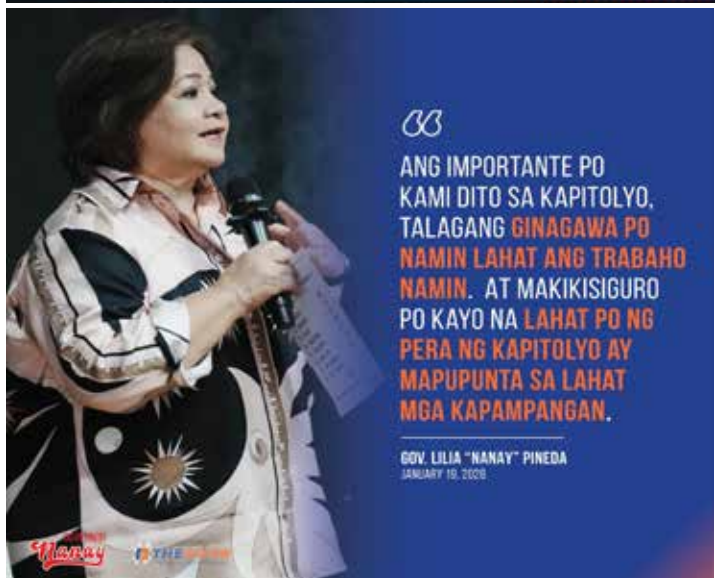
GRAPHIC PLUS

**Statement from FFCCCII:
"A Call to Action & Reforms to
Revive Philippine Tourism"**

This Philippine tourism decline is a direct blow to our national economic well-being. Tourism is our economy's low-hanging fruit. It is the most accessible engine for inclusive economic growth—a sector that directly creates jobs and sustains the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). To revive our economy from the grassroots up, we must first reform and revive tourism.

Victor Lim

President, Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of
Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCI)



Punto! Central Luzon

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

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



Opinion

Shepherd's Call

Pablo Virgilio Cardinal David

Ang Diyos na Bata: Pista ng Santo Niño

AKALA NG marami ang pista ng Santo Niño ay ipinagdiriwang din ng lahat ng Katoliko sa mundo kapag ikatlong Linggo ng Taon. Hindi po. Sa atin lang ito; pinayagan ng CBCP na maging parte ng kalendaryo ng Simbahang Katolika sa Pilipinas dahil sa malakas na popular devotion sa Santo Niño. Siyempre sa mga bansa na may maraming migranteng Pilipino, nakapasok na rin ito, pero hindi pa rin tulad sa atin na ipinagdiriwang na opisyal at pambansa.

Ibinabalik tayo ng pistang ito sa pinaka-pinagmulan ng ating pananampalataya bilang mga Kristiyanong Pilipino. Bago pa natin kasi nakilala si Hesus bilang guro, propeta, o Nazarenong ipinako sa krus, una natin siyang nakilala bilang isang bata. Ang kauna-unahang imahen ni Kristo na ipinakilala sa ating mga ninuno ay hindi ang Hesus na nangangaral o humahamon sa mga makapangyarihan, kundi ang Batang Hesus, ang Santo Niñong iniregalo ni Magellan sa reynang asawa ni Haring Humabon sa Cebu.

Hindi ito aksidente ng kasaysayan. May sinasabi ito tungkol sa kung paano nais ipakilala ng Diyos ang kanyang sarili sa ating mga Pilipino.

Narinig natin ang propetang Isaias sa ating unang pagbasa: “Ang bayang naglalakad sa dilim ay nakakita ng malaking liwanag... Sapagkat isinilang para sa atin ang isang bata, ibinigay sa atin ang isang anak.” Ano ang sinasabi ng orakulong ito? Darating daw sa atin ang Diyos na makapangyarihan hindi bilang mandirigma kundi sa anyo ng isang bata. Hindi daw siya mamumuno sa pamamagitan ng lakas at dahas kundi sa anyo ng kailiitin at kahinaan. Ang tinatawag niyang “Prinsipe ng Kapayapaan” ay isang sanggol.

Ganyan ang Diyos na sinasamba natin sa Santo Niño—isang Diyos na hindi nananakot, kundi nagpapakumbaba; isang Diyos na hindi nangingibabaw, kundi nagpapalambot ng puso. Hindi ba parang natutunaw ang puso ng isang matanda kapag nginitinan siya ng batang kalong ng isang nanay na nasa unahan niya?

Sa Ebanghelyo, nagtatalo daw ang mga alagad kung sino ba sa kanila ang pinakadakila. Isang tipikal na bagay na pinagkakaabalahan ng mga malalaking tao ang kadakilaan. Pero ang bigay na sagot ni Hesus ay hindi paliwanag. Sa halip kumuha siya ng isang bata, inilagay ito sa gitna nila, at sinabi: “Maliban kung kayo’y magbagong-loob at maging tulad ng mga bata, hindi kayo makapapasok sa kaharian ng langit.”

Ang tanong nila ay tungkol sa pagiging dakila.
Ang sagot ni Hesus ay pagbabago ng puso.

Ang pagiging alagad daw ay hindi tungkol sa pagpapakadalubhasa o pagdami ng kaalaman habang tumatanda, kundi ang unti-unting pagiging bata sa puso at diwa—batang marunong magtiwala, marunong magpakumbaba, marunong umasa sa Diyos.

Marami nang mga batikang propesor ang nagsabi na ang debosyon sa Santo Niño ay nagpapanatiling parang mga musmos sa Pilipinong mananampalataya. Pero baka ang problema ay humihinto sila sa unang tingin. Totoo namang ang pag-unlad sa pananampalataya ay dumadaan sa pagtatanong, sa pagiging mapanuri, sa paghahagilap ng sagot sa maraming tanong sa buhay. Pero hindi natatapos doon. Ang tunay na hinog na pananampalataya ay natututong bumalik sa kababaang-loob, hindi bilang kahinaan kundi bilang kalayaan.

Ito ang tinawag ni Santa Teresita na “little way”—o landas ng kaliitan o daan ng espiritwal na pagkabata. Hindi naman ito tungkol sa pagiging mangmang o isip-bata kundi sa pagiging mapagpakumbaba. Katulad ng batang marunong magtiwala kahit itapon pa siya sa hangin, dahil alam niyang sasaluhin siya. Humahalakhak pa habang nahuhulog sa kamay ng tatay niya.

Kaya siguro malalim ang ugat ng debosyon sa Santo Niño sa ating kulturang Pilipino. Tinatanggap natin ang mga bata bilang biyaya, hindi bilang pabigat. Hindi natin itinuturing na “isa na namang bibig na pakakainin,” kundi regalo ng Diyos—kahit may kaakibat na malaking sakripisyo.

Alam nyo ba na may mga siyudad sa mundo na may tradisyon ng paghalal ng batang mayor o alkalde kahit isang linggo lamang? Parang biro-biro pero nagsisilbing paalala na ang pamumuno ay hindi para sa sariling kapangyarihan kundi para sa kinabukasan ng mga bata.

Isa daw sa palatandaan na nagiging tunay na makatao ang isang lipunan ay kapag inuuna nito ang kapakanan ng mga bata at mahihina. Kaya sa mga ebanghelyo may mga okasyon na nagpahayag ng galit si Hesus kapag inaabuso o inaapi ang mga bata. At kaya rin malinaw: ang Simbahang nagtatatay sa mga bata ay walang kinabukasan.

Tuwang tuwa ako nang makatanggap ako noong nakaraang Pasko ng Kapampangan translation ng paborito kong librong *The Little Prince*. Maraming aral doon na pahaging sa mga matatanda na masyado nang naging abala sa maraming bagay tulad ng pagpapakayaman, pagpapasikat, pagpapadami ng ari-arian, pagmamadali, pero nakakalimot na sa mga bagay na totoong mahalaga. Sabi ng munting prinsiphe, “Ang tunay na mahalaga ay hindi nakikita ng mata.” Hindi ba’t iyan din ang itinuturo ng Santo Niño? Larawan ng isang Diyos na nagpakaliit-liit, pwede nating buhatin sa kamay, pero nananatiling dakila sa kaliitan lubhang kayang buhatin ang buong mundo sa isang kamay?

Sa ikalawang pagbasa, pinaalalahanan tayo ni San Pablo na tayo ay pinili, inampon, at pinagpala ng Diyos kay Kristo—hindi dahil tayo’y malakas o magaling, kundi dahil mahal niya tayo. Bago pa tayo maging mga achievers, anak na ang turing sa atin. Bago pa tayo matutong magsumikap na maging kapaki-pakinabang, minahal na niya tayo.

Sa Sinulog ng mga Cebuano Pit Señor! ang sigaw. Siguro pwede ring sumugaw ng Peace, Señor. Kapayapaan, Panginoon! Kapayapaan na hindi bunga ng pagyayabang, kundi ng pagpapakumbaba. Kapayapaang natatamo hindi sa pamamagitan ng palakasan, kundi sa malasakit sa mga dehado at maliliit—sa mga bata, sa mahihina, sa mga walang kalaban-laban.

Kung gusto natin ng kapayapaan para sa ating mga pamilya, para sa Simbahan, at sa ating bayan, kailangan matutunan nating muli ang landas ng kaliitan ni Santa Teresa, landas na natutunan niya sa Panginoon.

Ang Santo Niño ay hindi pagtakas sa ating mga pananagutan. Siya ay paanyaya ng Diyos para tayo ay magbalik-loob. Paanyayang bitawan ang kayabangan, iwaksi ang kalupitan, para makitang muli kung sino ba tayo talaga sa mata ng Diyos—mga anak niya: mapagkumbaba, marunong magtiwala, may malasakit, at may lakas ng loob na magmahal.

Ito ang dahilan kung bakit mahal natin ang Santo Niño. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit siya nananatili sa puso ng pananampalatayang Pilipino.

Ipinakita na sa atin ng Diyos ang daan—ang landas ng pagkabata.

(18 Enero 2026, Isaías 9:1–6; Efeso 1:3–18; Mateo 18:1–10)



Punto!

PANANAW NG MALAYANG PILIPINO!

**SCAN THE
QR CODE FOR
THE LATEST
NEWS &
FEATURES**



Opinion

The Public Space

Jun Sula

The end of cynicism

Scratch any cynic, said American social critic George Carlin, and you might find a disappointed idealist.

There has never been a time of more cynics or idealists- pick your preference- in the Philippines than when unspeakable corruption nearly erased the country's moral standing from within or from without last year.

Seriously moving forward, or so it seemed, to regain it as quickly as it lost its grip on it, President Bong Bong Marcos miserably failed in his promise to put to jail before Christmas every Dick, Tom and Harry—or some of them,—bravely and confidently—who has something to do with bringing the nation so low.

What went wrong?

Well, it's due process and democracy, stupid. One doesn't happen overnight while the other does. It's why the wrong doers of the century can't be found at home or are at large and present a different passport to galivant around mockingly. And are filthy rich, too.

In the meantime, the country is still mired in poverty while other nations – you don't have to travel a very far model—to embrace cynicism and idealism why they live so orderly, peacefully and progressively like it's magic.

Truth to tell, they look up to a different deity, live in a hostile environment, have fewer natural resources and make it to a better, more modern society. As we speak, the Philippines has discovered a new gas resource to back up its energy requirement. In an ecology of fakes news, it's like a new hope for a new year.

If anything, this better news fits the demanding agenda for the future of the Marcos administration that has fallen short of its good promise—remember 2025 and the flood control mess—and now the second Marcos administration may fare into 2026 and beyond. 2028 seems like it's an impossible finish line.

Are Filipinos children of a lesser god or revere a stupid one like a former president, who is now at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crime against humanity, once said at the height of his power?

It may be too soon for the cynics or disappointed idealist. Former Senator Ramon Revilla Jr. has just surrendered to police authorities on the basis of a warrant of arrest from the Sandiganbayan. He would rather prove his innocence before the court than wait for a political time to redeem his fortune. Once upon a time, he was seen as a presidential

timber. Now, he's more like a big tree cut down in the some distant forest.

Some political pundit views it as a temporary setback as a possible comeback is eyed on the restoration of the Duterte magic. On the heel of Revilla's arrest comes the return of the former public works secretary to face the music and sing an old song of denial.

There's more to look forward to along this route, Revilla's or Bonoan's. More senators, congressmen, public works officials and contractors may fall by the wayside as the new Ombudsman finds its mission to do its job more challenging and rewarding to give up on.

Like China, justice in this country will win in the long run. Forget about the West Philippine Sea in the meantime. China is busy enjoying its biggest trade surplus yet. It can't simply throw it away over the self-serving nine dash line and it's impossible dream to take over Taiwan in 2027. There are other more forceful arguments. For one, China is losing to India as the most populous hegemon. The United States brag it can do anything. And Taiwan isn't scared, for whatever reason. By the way, there are other Asian nations nearby racing to be the best in this century.

The search for a political glory by the young Marcos may ramp up the former's dictator son's actions to make his promise to jail corrupt officials this year and well before 2028. The Revilla surrender and the Bonoan show up must result in political coronation not crucifixion.

Two of the President's valuable assets, the Remulla brothers can go a long way to make the long arm of the law work against the enemy of the state. There's also General Nick Torre who comes in handy if push comes to shove. The other professional generals are justice driven as well defined by strict professionalism.

There's an impending impeachment plan against Marcos that is more like an idle thought. At this point, it's a joke. A second impeachment try against the vice president is more likely. A political compromise

PAGE 19 PLEASE



Opinion

Ad Lib

Rey Yumang

When denial is the real shock

THE LATEST findings of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2) confirming the steady decline in learner proficiency across grade levels should surprise no one who has ever taught in a Philippine classroom.

For years, teachers on the frontlines have been raising red flags. What is truly shocking is not the data itself but the reaction of some education officials, as if these results came out of thin air.

The numbers tell a troubling story. Only 30.52% of Grade 3 learners are proficient in basic literacy and numeracy. By Grade 6, the figure drops to 19.56%. In Grade 10, it plunges to 1.36%, and by Grade 12, a mere 0.4%. These are not just statistics. They represent millions of children who have been pushed through the system

without mastering the skills they need to survive academically and thrive in life.

Teachers have long warned that mass promotion and the weak enforcement of the "No Read, No Promotion" policy are destroying learning foundations. When students who cannot read or do basic math are advanced year after year, the gap only widens. EDCOM 2 itself reports that by age 15, Filipino learners suffer an average learning deficit of 5.5 years. This is not a mystery. It is the predictable outcome of policies that favor completion over comprehension.

The situation is made worse by overcrowded classrooms. In many public schools, one teacher handles 40 to 60 students, or even more. Under such conditions, meaningful remediation is nearly impossible. Add to this the lack of textbooks, aging school buildings, and limited access to learning tools, and it becomes clear why both teachers and learners are struggling to keep up.

Global assessments confirm what local educators already know. UNICEF and the World Bank report that 91% of Filipino children at late

primary age cannot read and understand a simple story. In PISA 2022, 76% of Filipino 15-year-olds failed to reach the minimum proficiency level in reading. These are not isolated shortcomings; they reflect a system that has neglected its most basic responsibilities.

Yet despite these realities, teachers remain overworked, underpaid, and often unheard. Their daily struggles - managing large classes, helping non-readers catch up, working with outdated materials, dealing with self-entitled parents, performing a list of other non-teaching related functions - rarely influence national policy. Instead, many decisions are made far from the classroom, producing reforms that look impressive on paper but feel disconnected from real school conditions.

What the system needs is not surprise, but sincerity. Reduce class sizes. Enforce

literacy and numeracy standards before promotion. End mass promotion. Improve school facilities. Provide adequate learning resources. Increase subsidies for private schools that help serve overcrowded communities. Above all, listen to teachers not just in token consultations, but in shaping actual policy.

The learning crisis did not happen overnight, and it will not be solved by press statements or new slogans. Real change begins with honest acknowledgment of what teachers have been saying all along: you cannot improve learning outcomes without improving the conditions in which teaching and learning take place.

For Filipino teachers who continue to show up despite limited support, the data is not a revelation but a painful validation. The real test now is whether those in power are finally ready to listen.



Napag-uusapan Lang

Marvel V. Garcia

Ang mayaman at mahirap kapag mayrong arrest warrant

Kapag mahirap ang tao at mayroong ARREST WARRANT napakadaling MATUNTUN at nahuhuli kaagad di katulad ng mayaman kayhirap ng MAHAGILAP kung hindi man nagtatago nakalabas na ng PINAS lalo kung NO BAIL ang kaso sila ay hindi papayag na MADAKIP at sa rehas na bakal ay maghihimas

2. Bakit nga ba PAKUKULONG mga taong mayayaman kung mayroong abogadong de KAMPANILYA nga naman at paano mahuhuli kung sila ay TUTURUAN ng kanilang LEGAL COUNSEL na sila'y mangibang bayan di ba OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE ang ganyang pamamaraan? na kung pakaiisipin ay dapat na MAKASUHAN

3. Ang ilan sa abogado basta sa ngalan ng PERA lahat yata ay gagawin MAIPAGTANGGOL lang nila mga taong MASALAPI upang sila'y di magdusa sa loob ng bilangguan kahit may PAGKAKASALA ITUTUWID ang baluktot mapawalan lang ng sala ang dapat sanang MANAGOT na kliyentang inihabla

4. Samantalang ang mahirap dahil sa yaman ay salat kusang loob na susuko sa alagad nitong batas wala ring VIP treatment na kanilang natatanggap at pusakal na kriminal ang mga nakakaharap di tulad sa mayayaman kahit kaso ay mabigat may mga SPECIAL TREATMENT sa kanila ang prison guard

5. Sa ilalim nitong BATAS kailangan ang akusado mayaman man o mahirap dapat harapin ang KASO lalo at may VALID WARRANT na nanggaling sa husgado kliyente ng legal counsel ay dapat na MAARESTO sa ating saligang batas ay KAWALAN NG RESPETO kung ang mga LUMALABAG mismong mga abogado

6. Sa RULE OF LAW kapagka ang akusado'y di mahanap at PINAYUHAN ng kanyang abogado na tumakas ay nagiging PUGANTE na at ang kaso'y bumibigat o ASCENDING in avoiding na maihain ang warrant di ba dapat abogado ang ipalit at ISALPAK sa kulungan lalo na kung ginagago na ang batas?

7. Ang tunay na KATARUNGAN kailanman di mananaig kung laging NABABALUKTOT mga bagay na matuwid kung ang PIRING ng hustisya ay hindi na nakatakip itong timbangan ng batas ay maaring TUMAGILID kapag ang nasa KATWIRAN at tinig ng maliliit ay di na pinakikinggan ito'y magiging JUST TIIS

NOTICE OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that **NONELIA SIOPONGCO NOMBRES** married to **ABRAHAM NOMBRES**, of legal age, Filipino citizen and residing at MC Arthur Highway, Mamatitang, Mabalacat City, Pampanga; and heirs of **LOURDES SIOPONGCO** who died on March 29, 2002 at Mamatitang, Mabalacat City, Pampanga; executed an Affidavit of Self Adjudication on his/her estate; That said deceased left an estate consisting of a parcel of land (Lot 44, of the subd. Plan (LRC) Psd-64095, being a portion of lot 25-B, described on plan (LRC) Psd-24305, LRC (GLRO) Cad. Ref. No. 132) situated in the Poblacion, Municipality of Mabalacat, Province of Pampanga; containing an area of Five Hundred Forty Three (543) Square Meters, More or Less; and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 71356-R of the Registry of Deeds for Province of Pampanga; before Notary Public Atty. Sancho M. Abas, Jr, as per Doc. No. 330, Page No. 61, Book No. CVII, Series of 2025.

Punto! Central Luzon: January 18, 25 & February 1, 2026

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **JULIETA GERONIMO MANGIO** who died on February 26, 2023 and **LUCITO SANTOS MANGIO** who died on November 9, 2015; executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Deed of Absolute Sale on his/her estate; and more particularly described a parcel of land (LOT 13-A. OF THE SUBD. PLAN, PSD-03-037173,BEING A PORTION OF LOT 13, BLK. 3. (LRC) PSD-109938, LRC REC. NO.), SITUATED IN THE BO OF STA. CRUZ, MUN. OF PORAC, PROV. OF PAMP. BOUNDED ON THE NW, ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 12. BLK 3,(LRC) PSD-109938, ON THE NE, ALONG LINE 2-3 BY RD LOT 1; ON THE SE ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 13-B; AND ON THE SW, ALONG LINE 4-1 BY LOT 14, BLK 3,(LRC) PSD-109938 BEG AT A PT. MARKED “I” ON PLAN, BEING S. 33 DEG 30'E., 107.00 M. FROM MBM NO. 9, PORAC CAD: THENCE N 28 DEG 05'E,14.19 M. TO; and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 042-2011012833 Registry of Deeds for San Fernando, Pampanga; before Notary Public Atty. Mycarol Bondoc, as per Doc. No. 8922, Page No. 94, Book No. 33, Series of 2025.

Punto! Central Luzon: January 11, 18 & 25, 2026

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **MARIA JACINTA D. DE GUZMAN** who died on May 16, 2021 in Martinez California USA; executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement and Waiver on his/her estate; and more particularly described as follows;

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. (25082-R)-3020

A parcel of land (lot 26, Block 9 of the subdivision plan Pad-46477, being a portion of lot 779-C described on plan Psd-32788, L.R.C. Cad. Record No. 124), situated in the Municipality of Angeles, Province of Pampang, Bounded on tha SW., along line 1-2 by lot 25, Block 9 of the subdivision plan; along line 2-3 by lot 779-B of plan Psd-32788 (Existing Road); along line 3-4 by Lot 27, Block 9 of the subdivision plan; and along line 4-1 by Lot 14, Block 9 of the subdivision. Beginning at a point marked “1” on plan, being S. 25 deg. 29' W., 1082.35 m. from B.M. 35, Angeles Cadastre; thence N. 11 deg. 44' W., 27.80 m. to point 2; thence N.78 deg. 19' E., 15.00 m. to point 3; thence S. 11 deg. 43' E., 27.60 m. to point 4; thence S. 77 deg. 32' W., 15.00 m to tha point of beginning; containing an area or FOUR HUNDRED FIFTEEN (415) SQUARE METERS,

BANCO DE ORO BANK ACCOUNTS- ATM NO. 5210 6903 1937 9759

CHINABANK BANK ACCOUNTS- ACCOUNT NO. 103-188881-8

before Notary Public Atty. Anthonie K. Langit as per Doc. No. 74, Page No. 23, Book No. LXII, Series of 2025.

Punto! Central Luzon: January 11, 18 & 25, 2026

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **JESUS FAIRBANKS** who died on March 12, 2022 and **CONCEPCION BALLESTEROS** who died on February 05, 2012; executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Deed of Donation on his/her estate; and more particularly described a parcel of land (Lot 18, Block 19 of the subdivision plan Bsd-10196, Sheet 4 being a portion of lot 740 of the cad, survey of Mabalacat, LRC Cad. Rec. No. 132), situated in the Barrio of Mamatitang, Municipality of Mabalacat, Province of Pampanga.... xxx containing an area of TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY (280) SQUARE METERS, more or less.. xxx and covered by **Transfer Certificate of Title No. 132891 -R (20568-M)**; before Notary Public Atty. Norma U. Tobias-Pagaduan, as per Doc. No. 1696, Page No. 93, Book No. XXVII, Series of 2025.

Punto! Central Luzon: January 4, 11 & 18, 2026

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **RICARDO P. BASCO** who died on March 29, 2003 at Angeles City and **TRINIDAD PINEDA** who died on April 7, 2021 at Angeles City; executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement on his/her estate; and more particularly described a parcel of land (Lot 14-B of the subdivision plan Psd-03-000695, Being a Portion of Lot 14, Block 17, Psd-3066, L.R.C REC. NO.) situated in the Barrio of Lourdes, City of Angeles., containing an area of One hundred twenty (120) Saquare meters, more or less ; and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 49432 Registry of Deeds for the Angeles City; before Notary Public Atty. Arvin M. Suller, as per Doc. No. 4372, Page No. 60, Book No. 127, Series of 2025.

Punto! Central Luzon: January 4, 11 & 18, 2026

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **MAYLENE MAGTOTO ANUNCIACION** who died on August 25, 2025 at Angeles City; executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement on his/ her estate; and that said deceased died intestate, without Any Will Testament and without leaving any debts whatsoever; That said deceased left the following Motor vehicles, to wit:

UNIT	ENGINE NO.	CHASIS NO.	PLATE NO.	CR NO.
2008 HONDA TMX155T	KB508E068020	KB508068002	QN9630	7743681-1
2004 HONDA TMX155RT	KB505046052204E	KB505046052204	QE3509	9037892-3
2003 HONDA TMX155RT	KB504032000560E	KB504032000560	QL2616	14035019-5
2003 HONDA NI	KB505033011815E	KB505033011815	QL2614	7255801-0
2003 HONDA NI	KB505034013077E	KB505034-013077	6455RV	14495763-2
2010 HONDA TMX1559	KB509E134848	KB509134844	6453RV	14495764-3
2008 HONDA TMX1559	KB509E000870	KB509000857	4287CY	11595762-3
2007 HONDA TMX1559	KB508E042254	KB508042253	9592CN	185143545
2025 HONDA	KB505047054654E	KB505047054654	QD2335	8143230-4
2025 RUSI MACHO TC 175	RF162FMKCS6071580	RFCPCLXJOSYO71580	C821NK	86714499
2010 HONDA TMX1559	KB509E122020	KB509122015	QV5003	14495854-2

before Notary Public Carlota Dela Cruz Manalo, as per Doc. No. 4, Page No. 2, Book No. 117, Series of 2025.

Punto! Central Luzon: January 4, 11 & 18, 2026



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
MACABEBE, PAMPANGA
Email: rtc1mbbocc@judiciary.gov. ph.
Contact No. 09206243436

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT AND EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

BDO UNIBANK, INC., as represented by LEINE A. DE CASTRO,
Mortgagee,

- versus -

EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE
CASE NO. 25-0462(M)

SPOUSES JAYSON PUNO REYES AND DALIA MENDOZA REYES,
Debtors-Mortgagors.

X ----- X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act. No. 3135, as amended filed by **BDO UNIBANK, INC.**, as represented by **LEINE A. DE CASTRO** with principal office at 33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas, No. 12 ADB Corporate Center Ortigas, No. 12 ADB Avenue, Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong City, against **SPOUSES JAYSON PUNO REYES AND DALIA MENDOZA REYES**, registered owners of Transfer Certificate of Title Nos. 042-2019019960 and 042-2019019961, with postal address/es at (1) No. 408 San Gabriel, Macabebe, Pampanga; and (2) Lot 15 Block 20 Road Lot 9 Dreamland Subdivision, Barangay Colgante, Apalit, Pampanga, and (3) Lot 16 Block 20 Road Lot 9 Dreamland Subdivision, Barangay Colgante, Apalit, Pampanga, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of November 17, 2025 amounts to **THREE MILLION SIX HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY ONE PESOS AND THIRTY TWO CENTAVOS (PhP3,605,291.32)**, Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest, penalties and other charges, the undersigned will sell at public auction on **February 16, 2026 at 10:00 in the morning, at the Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court, Macabebe, Pampanga**, to the highest bidder, for cash or manager's check and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all its improvements, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 042-2019019960

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 15, BLK. 20 OF THE CONSOLIDATION & SUBDIVISION PCS-03-017578, BEING A PORTION OF THE CONSOLIDATED LOTS 1 & 2, PCS-03-014772 L.R.C. REC. NO.), SITUATED IN THE BARRIO OF COLGANTE, MUN. OF APALIT, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA. BOUNDED ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY ROAD LOT 9; ON THE SW., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY LOT 14, BLK. 20, BOTH OF THE CONS. & SUBD. PLAN; ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 1213, APALIT CAD.; ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 4-1 BY LOT 16, BLK. 20 OF THE CONS. & SUBD. PLAN. BEGINNING AT A POINT MARKED “1” ON PLAN, BEING S. 41 DEG. 48’ E., 525.83 M. FROM M.B.M 2, APALIT CAD.; THENCE S. 47 DEG. 08’ W., 6.00 M. TO POINT 2; THENCE N. 42 DEG. 52’ W., 10.00 M. TO POINT 3; THENCE N. 47 DEG, 08’ E., 6.00 M. TO POINT 4; THENCE N. 42 DEG. 52’ W., 10.00 M. TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; CONTAINING AN AREA OF SIXTY (60) SQUARE METERS. ALL POINTS REFERRED TO ARE INDICATED ON THE PLAN AND ARE MARKED ON THE GROUNDS BY P.S. CYL. CONC. MONS. 15x40CMS. BEARINGS TRUE; DATE OF ORIGINAL SURVEY, FEB. 1919-MAR 1920 AND THAT OF THE CONSOLIDATION & SUBDIVISION SURVEY NOV. 15-30, 2010 AND WAS APPROVED ON FEBRUARY 18, 2010.

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 042-2019019961

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 16, BLK. 20 OF THE CONSOLIDATION & SUBDIVISION PCS-03-017578, BEING A PORTION OF THE CONSOLIDATED LOTS 1 & 2, PCS-03-014772 L.R.C. REC. NO.), SITUATED IN THE BARRIO OF COLGANTE, MUN. OF APALIT, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA. BOUNDED ON THE SW., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 15, BLK. 20 OF THE CONS. & SUBD. PLAN; ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY LOT 1213, APALIT CAD.; ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 17, BLK. 20; ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 4-1 BY ROAD LOT 9, BOTH OF THE CONS. & SUBD. PLAN. BEGINNING AT A POINT MARKED “1” ON PLAN, BEING S. 41 DEG. 48’ E., 525.83 M. FROM M.B.M 2, APALIT CAD.; THENCE N. 42 DEG. 52’ W., 10.00 M. TO POINT 2; THENCE N. 47 DEG. 08’E., 6.00 M. TO POINT 3; THENCE S. 47 DEG, 08’ W., 6.00 M. TO POINT OF BEGINNING; CONTAINING AN AREA OF SIXTY (60) SQUARE METERS. ALL POINTS REFERRED TO ARE INDICATED ON THE PLAN AND ARE MARKED ON THE GROUNDS BY P.S. CYL. CONC. MONS. 15X40CM. BEARINGS TRUE; DATE OF ORIGINAL SURVEY, FEB. 1919-MAR. 1920 AND THAT OF THE CONSOLIDATION & SUBDIVISION SURVEY NOV. 15-30, 2010 AND WAS APPROVED ON FEBRUARY 18, 2010.

Prospective buyers may investigate for themselves the above-described property and encumbrances thereon, if there be any.

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 February 23, 2026 at the said time and place without further notice.

Macabebe, Pampanga, January 5, 2026.

EMERSON S. LACAP
Sheriff IV

ATTY. DEXTER LEE C. GONZALES
Clerk of Court VI and Ex-Officio Sheriff

Copy furnished:
BDO UNIBANK INC., as represented by
LEINE A. DE CASTRO
Remedial Management Unit
33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas
No. 12 ADB Avenue, Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong City

Spouses Jayson Puno Reyes and Dalia Mendoza Reyes
No. 408 San Gabriel, Macabebe, Pampanga, and
Lot 15 to 16 Block 20 Road Lot 9 Dreamland Subdivision,
Barangay Colgante, Apalit, Pampanga

Punto! Central Luzon: January 11, 18 & 25, 2026

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **ROLAN M. RAMOS** who died on September 12, 2023 in Quezon City, Metro, Manila; executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Donation on his/her estate; and more particularly described a parcel of land located at Pulong Santol, Porac, Pampanga, consisting of **EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY-SIX (896) square meters**, more or less; and covered by **Transfer Certificate of Title No. 042-2012008535 Registry of Deeds for San Fernando, Pampanga**; before Notary Public Atty. Joseph M. Dimalanta, as per Doc. No. 2, Page No. 87, Book No. XI, Series of 2026.

Punto! Central Luzon: January 11, 18 & 25, 2026

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **NARCISO CURA OCAMPO** who died on August 18, 2024 at City of San Fernando, Pampanga; executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Sale on his/her estate; and more particularly described a parcel of land located in Barangay Planas, Municipality of porac, containing an area of **ONE THOUSAND (1000) SQUARE METERS**, more or less; and covered by **Transfer Certificate of Title No. 042-2023004692**; before Notary Public Atty. Kristine Keith N. Colle, as per Doc. No. 871, Page No. 76, Book No. V, Series of 2024

Punto! Central Luzon: January 11, 18 & 25, 2026

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Third Judicial Region
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT & EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF
Guagua, Pampanga
rtc1ggaocc@judiciary.gov.ph

GOVERNMENT SERVICE
INSURANCE SYSTEM,
Mortgagee,

- versus -

FREM Case No. G-25-2550

ROSEMARIE UMLAS married
to MONICO S. UMLAS,
Mortgagor,

X ----- X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

WHEREAS, upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118 filed by **GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS)**, mortgagee, with principal office at GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, against mortgagors, **ROSEMARIE UMLAS married to MON-ICO S. UMLAS**, with postal address at San Antonio, Sasmuan, Pampanga, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness mentioned which as of October 31, 2025, amounts to **FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN PESOS and 34/100 (P5,767,737.34)** Philippine currency excluding foreclosure expenses, attorney’s fees, and other charges up to the date of sale, the Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff of the Regional Trial Court, Guagua, Pampanga, thru **Sheriff SERAFIN D. SERRANO, JR.** will sell at public auction on **February 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** or soon thereafter at the entrance of the of the Municipal Trial Court of Lubao, Pampanga, to the highest bidder in cash and in Philippine currency the here-in-below described real property with all existing improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 521470-R

A parcel of land (Lot 5 of the cons.-subd plan (LRA) Pcs-32631, approved as a non-subd project, being a portion of cons. of lots 13 to 16 Blk. 6, Psd-035408-052748 (LRC) Rec. Bo. 13584), situated in the Bo. of Baruya, Mon. of Lubao, Prov. of Pamp. Is. of Luzon. Bounded on the NE., pts. 2 to 3 by Rd. Lot 3 (8.00 or wide) on the SE., pts. 3 to 4 by lot 17, Blk. 6, Psd-035408-052749; on the SW, pts. 4 to 1 by lot 5; and on the NW., pts 1 to 3 by lot 3. Both of the cons.-subd. plan. Containing an area of One Hundred Twenty (120) square meters, more or less.

The Notice of Extra-Judicial Sale will be published in a news-paper of general circulation in the Province of Pampanga and An-geles City once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and will be posted in three (3) conspicuous public places prior to the date of sale for the information of the public in general and of the interested parties in particular.
Prospective bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the above-described property and the en-cumbrances existing thereon if any there be.

All scaled 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 February 19, 2026 also at 10:00 a.m. and at the same place mentioned above without further notice.

Guagua, Pampanga, January 5, 2026.

SERAFIN D. SERRANO, JR.
Sheriff IV

Publication:

Copy furnished:

Government Service Insurance System
GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center,
Roxas Buolevard, Pasay City

Rosemarie Umlas married to
Monico S. Umlas
San Antonio, Sasmuan, Pampanga

Punto! Central Luzon: January 11, 18 & 25, 2026

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 54 MACABEBE, PAMPANGA
rtc2mbb054@judiciary.gov.ph/09159692171

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE CORRECTION
OF ENTRIES IN THE MARRIAGE
CONTRACT OF MARIETA GADDI TOLENTINO
BEFORE THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY
OF MACABEBE, PAMPANGA UNDER
REGISTRY NUMBER 92-178,

MARIETA GADDI TOLENTINO,
Petitioner,

SPEC.PRO.NO.25-1072(M)

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF THE
MACABEBE, PAMPANGA, THE NATIONAL
STATISTICIAN AND CIVIL REGISTRAR
GENERAL OF THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS
AUTHORITY (PSA), THE OFFICE OF THE
SOLICITOR GENERAL, RUBEN TOLENTINO,
ROMMEL GADDI TOLENTINO,
ROSELLE GADDI TOLENTINO,
RUBY ANN GADDI TOLENTINO,
RIO GADDI TOLENTINO, RYAN GADDI TOLENTINO,
AND ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE OR CLAIM
ANY INTERST IN THIS CASE,
Respondents.

X ----- X

ORDER

This is a verified Petition, dated 4 November 2025, filed by petitioner,through the Public Attorney’s Office, represented by Atty. Tristan D. Lampa,praying that after notice and hearing, an Order be issued directing the public respondents to make the necessary corrections in the Marriage Contract under Registry Number 92-178 of the petitioner by changing/correcting all the names of Marcela Gaddi to Marieta Gaddi.

Pursuant to Section 4 of Rule 108 of the Rules of Court, let this petition be set for hearing on **25 March 2026 at 8:30 in the morning** before this Court located at the Hall of Justice,Macabebe, Pampanga.

All persons interested in the petition may appear at the aforesaid date of hearing and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Pampanga once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks at the expense of the petitioner.

Furnish the Office of the Solicitor General, the Civil Registrar General, Philippine Statistics Authority, the Local Civil Registrar of Macabebe, Pampanga, Public Prosecutor Marie Josephine Angeli P. Pelayo-Robledo, the petitioner and her counsel a copy of this Order and the Petition.

SO ORDERED.

Macabebe, Pampanga, 4 December 2025.

KATHERINE M. LEGARDA-PAJARON
Presiding Judge

Copy furnished:

Office of the Solicitor General
134 Amorsolo Street,
1229 Legaspi Village, Makati City
Efile.osg.gov.ph(x)

Prosecutor Marie Josephine Angeli P. Pelayo-Robledo
Hall of Justice, Capitol Compound
City of San Fernando
2000 Pampanga
dojpros.rtcmacabebebr54.gmail.com(x)

The Local Civil Registrar of
Macabebe, Pampanga,
Office of the Local Civil Registrar (y)

National Statistician and
Civil Registrar General of the Philippines
23rd Floor Office of the National
Statistician, PSA Headquarters,
PSA Complex, East Avenue,Diliman,
Quezon City(y)

Atty.Gerald Lance T. Ibe
Public Attorneys Office
Unit 101 Bldg
Gonzales Avenue, Corner
Lourdes Street, Purok 2
San Juan, 2016 Apalit,

Marieta Gaddi Tolentino
c/o Public Attorneys Office
Unit 101 Bldg
Gonzales Avenue,Corner
Lourdes Street, Purok 2
San Juan, 2016 Apalit,
Pampanga(y)

Ruben Tolentino
307 Centro 2, Saplad David,
2018 Macabebe, Pampanga (y)

Rommel Gaddi Tolentino
307 Centro 2,Saplad David,
2018 Macabebe, Pampanga (y)

Roselle Gaddi Tolentino
307 Centro 2, Saplad David,
2018 Macabebe, Pampanga (y)

Ruby Ann Gaddi Tolentino
307 Centro 2, Saplad David,
2018 Macabebe, Pampanga (y)

Rio Gaddi Tolentino
307 Centro 2, Saplad David,
2018 Macabebe, Pampanga (y)

Ryan Gaddi Tolentino
307 Centro 2, Saplad David,
2018 Macabebe, Pampanga (y)

mladj

Note:

In compliance with OCA Circular No. 265-2024, the parties/government agencies/counsels are furnished through:

(x)-email
(y)-registered mail

Punto! Central Luzon: January 11, 18 & 25, 2026

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **CHRISTIAN ANDREAS ALEXANDER**, German National, who died on December 27, 2025 at The Medical City Clark, and who at the time of death was residing at Hensonville Court Subdivision, Ines Street, Brgy. Malabanias, Angeles City, Pampanga; has been Extrajudicially Settled by his only compulsory heirs, **AMOR S. ALEXANDER (surviving spouse)** and **MAUREEN THERESA S. ALEXANDER** (daughter), under a Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement executed by the heirs; executed by the heirs and notarized by Atty. Charisa L. Belista in Quezon City on January 14, 2026 as per Doc. No. 337, Page No. 69, Book No. II, Series of 2026.

Punto! Central Luzon: January 18, 25 & February 1, 2026

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **GERARDO VELASCO MALLARI** who died on March 29, 2025 in Bamban, Tarlac, Philippines; executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Waiver on his estate; and more particularly described as follows;

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 2025000090

Lot No. 32, Block No. 72, Gss-03-000012, Amd. 1, beginning at a point marked “1” of Lot No. 32, Block 72, Gss-03-000012, Amd. 1 being S. 67 19’W., 6,139.64 m. from BLLM No. 1, Bamban Cadastre, cor. “1”, Containing an area of Two Hundred Twelve (212) Square Meters;

CONDOMINIUM CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 002-2024010097

Residential Unit 7G- located at the Seventh Floor Residential Level, with the total floor area of 33.60 Square Meters, more or less of the Peninsula Garden Midtown Homes-Narra Tower.

And two motor vehicles wherein said Decedent is likewise the owner of ½ undivided share thereof which motor vehicle is more particularly described as follows;

MAKES/SERIES : FORD/EVEREST 2.2 L TR
TYPE : WAGON
MV FILE NO. : 1301-00001367712
ENGINE NO. : P4AT2666730
CHASSIS NO. : MNCAXXMAWAJU52438
PLATE NO. : NDK8848

MAKES/SERIES : HONDA
TYPE : MOTORCYCLE
MV FILE NO. : 0387-00000012752
ENGINE NO. : KB509E407053
PLATE NO. : 8326SW

before Notary Public Atty. Cyril Victor N. Bermudo, as per Doc. No. 59, Page No. 68, Book No. CXXIX, Series of 2026.

Punto! Central Luzon: January 18, 25 & February 1, 2026

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **JESUS NARCISO** who died on August 14, 1999, and **JOSELINA CAUDAL NARCISO** who died on August 14, 2019, both in Angeles City, Pampanga; executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Waiver of Rights on his/her estate; and more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 1 of the conso-subd. Plan, Pcs-015434, being a portion of consolidated Lots 110-HH-2 and 110-HH-7 Psd-03-156633 L.R.C. Cad. Rec. No. 124), situated in the Bo. of Bical Municipality of Mabalacat, Prov. of Pamp.,; Containing an area of One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Four (1,654) Square Meters; and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 153368; before Notary Public Atty. Cyril Victor N. Bermudo, as per Doc. No. 4073, Page No. 101, Book No. CXXVII, Series of 2025.

Punto! Central Luzon: January 18, 25 & February 1, 2026

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **ROMERICO S. GARCIA** who died on October 02, 2024 at Mabalacat City, Pampanga; executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Deed of Absolute Sale on his estate; and more particularly described as a parcel of land located at the Sapang Biabas, Mabalacat City, Pampanga, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 1438320, with an area of One Thousand Square Meters (1,000sqm) of the Registry of Deeds of Angeles City; before Notary Public Atty. Bryan Matthew C. Nepomuceno, as per Doc. No. 272, Page No. 52, Book No. LVIII, Series of 2025.

Punto! Central Luzon: January 18, 25 & February 1, 2026

NOTICE OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that **NICODEMUS DEM DEM B. SOLANO** of legal age, married, Filipino citizen, and a resident of 8 Jose Rizal St. Pillar Village, San Fernando, Pampanga; and heirs of **ELY DANTE B. SOLANO**, who died on August 19, 2022 in Brgy. Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga and **BEATRIZ B. SOLANA**, who died on November 3, 2023; executed an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication on his/her estate; and more particularly described as follows;

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 243469-R

“A parcel of land (Lot 1, of the consolidation and subd. plan, Pcs-03-001253, being a portion of the consolidated lots 4-A, 4-B & 4-C, PSD-03-013067, LRC Rec No.) situated in the Municipality of Bacolor, Province of Pampanga. Bounded on the SW, along Lin 1-2 by Lot 3, on the NW, along line 2-3 by Lot 6, both of Block 15; on the NE, along line 3-4 by lot 2; on the SE, along line 4-1 by Lot 4,is registered in accordance with the provisions of the Property Registration Decree in the name ELY DANTE B. SOLANO, of legal age, containing an area of ONE HUNDRED FORTY SQUARE METERS (140) square meters, more or less.”

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO.243472-R

“A parcel of land (Lot 4, of the consolidation and subd. plan,Pcs-03-001253, being a portion of the consolidated lots 4-A, 4-B & 4-C,PSD-03-013067, LRC Rec No.) situated in the Municipality of Bacolor, Province of Pampanga. Bounded on the SW, along Line 1-2 by Lot 1, along line 3-4 by lot 2, along line 4-5 by Lot 3 Block 15; on the NE, along line 5-6 by Road Lot 16; on the SE, along line 6-1 by Lot 2, Block 15, is registered in accordance with the provisions of the Property Registration Decree in the name ELY DANTE B.SOLANO, of legal age, married to BEATRIZ B. SOLANO, and resident of J.P ST, Pillar Village, San Fernando, Pampanga,containing an area of ONE HUNDRED TWELVE SQUARE METERS (112) square meters, more or less.”

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO.404862

“A parcel of land (Lot 3605 of the Cadastral Survey of Gerona) situated in the Municipality of Gerona, Province of Tarlac. Bounded on the N, by Lots No. 3606 and 3610; on the SE, by Lot No. 3602; on the Sw, by Lot No. 3602 and Tarlac River, is registered in accordance with the provisions of the Property Registration Decree in the name of ELY DANTE B. SOLANO and BEATRIZ B. SOLANO,of legal age, Filipinos, and residents of Solano Compound, Don Manuel Solano St. Pob 2, Gerona, Tarlac, Philippines, containing an area of FOURTY NINE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT (49,828) square meters, more or less.”

before Notary Public Atty. Ma. Consolada V. Ben, as per Doc. No. 219, Page No. 45, Book No. 1, Series of 2025.

Punto! Central Luzon: January 11, 18 & 25, 2026

PUNTO! CENTRAL LUZON • JANUARY 18-24, 2026 • SUNDAY - SATURDAY

7

AC POLICE GETS 80 NEWLY GRADUATED OFFICERS
ANGELES CITY – Eighty newly graduated police officers have been inducted into the ranks of the Angeles City Police Office, highlighting the city’s commitment to responsive, community-centered policing fostering foster public trust, and promoting a safe and orderly city environment. Led by city police director Col. Joselito E. Villarosa Jr., the new police officers, along with the command group, station and unit commanders, section chiefs and other personnel paid a courtesy call on Mayor Carmelo “Jon” Lazatin II as an opportunity to further enhance coordination and partnership between the police force and the city government in maintaining peace, order, and progress in the city. **ANGELES CIO**



COMPANY: DONGGWANG CLARK CORPORATION
ADDRESS: ODE County Building, C.M. Recto Highway, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga
NATURE OF BUSINESS: Developer
POSITION: ADMIN Manager (Villa Project)

JOB DESCRIPTION:
1. Responsible for supporting the Site department in overseeing all aspects of the project’s designs including planning, site supervision.
2. Coordinates with sub-contractors, ensuring projects are completed on time, within budget and to require quality standards.
3. Assisting in managing project financials, risk management and project’s development.

QUALIFICATIONS:
1. Speak, read and write fluently in at least two languages (Korean and English Language).
2. Confident and has a capacity to make logical decisions.
3. Ability to work under pressure in fast-paced environment.

PLACE OF DEPLOYMENT: SunValley Projects (Jose Abad Santos Avenue, CFZ, Pamp.)
SALARY RANGE: Php 70,000.00 to Php 80,000.00
NAME OF FOREIGN NATIONAL: YU, YONGHO (South Korean)
ODE County Bldg. C.M. Recto Highway,
Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga
Intended period of employment: one (1) year

Application may be sent to: canlas.jhoanne@gmail.com (Jhoanne C. Torres – ADMIN Supervisor, Business Operations Department) Tel. No. 045-499-1166

Donggwang Clark Corporation hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for ADMIN Manager (Villa Project). The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)– Region III located at Matalino cor. Mahusay St., DMGC, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. (If there are any objections or inquiries, please contact the concerned DOLE Regional Office)

Any Filipino jobseeker is competent, able and willing to perform the services for which the foreign national is intended to be hired for, may file an objection at DOLE – Region III located at Matalino cor. Mahusay St., DMGC, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga after this publication. Please inform DOLE– Region III, if you have any information on criminal offenses committed by the foreign national.



DELTA INAUGURATES NEW SCHOOL BUILDING
MEXICO, Pampanga -- “This is one way of giving our students the attention they deserve. I also appeal to the teachers to guide our youth carefully and help them walk the right path. Our dream, along with Nanay’s, is to see future leaders shaped by the schools built through the provincial government’s projects.” Thus, declared Vice Gov. Dennis “Delta” Pineda during the inauguration of a new school building at the Pandacaqui Resettlement Elementary School here on Jan. 20. Started in March last year during Delta’s second term as governor the P11-million two-storey school building comprises six classrooms complete with restrooms. Barangay Pandacaqui chairman Romeo Timbol and school principal Dr. Evangelina Camiling thank the Pampanga Provincial Government for addressing their immediate needs and continuing support to the development of the school. **PUNTO NEWS TEAM/PHOTOS: JASMINE JASO-VGO**



SCHOOL-BASED FEEDING PROGRAMS
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- The House Committee on Poverty Alleviation, chaired Pampanga 2nd District Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, meets to discuss legislation on school-based feeding programs with the Department of Education at the Capitol here on Jan. 20. With Gov. Lilia “Nanay” Pineda, and Vice Gov. Dennis “Delta” Pineda, attending the meeting are Rep. Sarah Jane Elago (Gabriela Partylist), Rep. Paolo Henry Marcoleta (Sagip Partylist), Rep. Rolando Macasaet (SSS GSIS PENSYONADO Partylist), Rep. JC Abalos (4Ps Partylist), Quezon City 3rd District Rep. Franz Pumaren, and Pampanga 1st District Rep. Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin, Jr. who himself has filed a legislative measure on the subject: House Bill No. 4173 on Aug. 28, 2025, which seeks to include undernourished public secondary school students in the coverage of the Department of Education’s school-based feeding programs under RA 11037 (Masustansiyang Pagkain Para Sa Batang Pilipino Act). **PUNTO NEWS TEAM/TEAM LAZATIN MEDIA**



NOTICE OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **SPOUSES CONRADO R. ADAM JR.** who died on May 19, 2024 in 195-8 Corazon St., Nepo Subd., Cutcut, Angeles City and **ERLINDA D. ADAM** who died on June 25, 2021 at 195-8 Corazon St., Nepo Subd., Cutcut, Angeles City; executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Waiver of Rights on his/her estate; and more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 15, Blk. 4 of the cons. subd., Plan, Pcs-03-018276, being a portion of cons. Lots 128-B-2-A and 128-B-2-B, both og (LRC) Psd-95164, Lrc Rec. No. 372) situated in the Brgy. of Sta. Cruz, Mun. of Porac, Prov. of Pampanga; Containing an area of Seventy-Eight (78) Square Meters; and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 045-2016013049; before Notary Public Atty. Erika Ana Andrea C. Jimenez, as per Doc. No. 578, Page No. 71, Book No. XXVI, Series of 2025.

Punto! Central Luzon: January 18, 25 & February 1, 2026

Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT
Third Judicial Region
Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija
Mtc2sro00@judiciary.gov.ph
-oOo-

YOLANDA T. LEE,
Plaintiff,

-versus-

CIVIL CASE NO. 12-23-2137
For: FORCIBLE ENTRY

EDITHA QUINTO, AGUSTINA DE
LEON, SERGIO "JOJO"
ESTARES, JOEL SAYSON, JOSE
JUN "MANALANG", JR.,
ALFREDO A. ENRIQUEZ, JR.,
SPS. ROGELIO CABRAL AND
GLORIA CABRAL, JOHN DOES
AND JANE DOES, including any
and all persons claiming rights
and interests under them and/or
acting in their behalf or under their
command,

Defendants.

DECISION

The case is a duly verified complaint for Forcible Entry filed by the plaintiff, Yolanda T. Lee. She is seeking to recover the possession of parcels of land located at Barangay Mapalad, Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija alleged to have unlawfully occupied by the defendants sometime in the first week of December 2022.

Finding the complaint falling under the Rule on Summary Procedures, summons was issued against all the defendants. However, as per Process Server's Return of Service dated February 8, 2024 copy of the Summons together with the complaint were not served to the given addresses of the defendants despite several attempts as evidence by the Certification dated February 8, 2024 issued by Gregorio Liwanag, Barangay Secretary of Barangay Mapalad, Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija stating there was "no point of reference" concerning the names of the defendants.

Page 1 of 9

Thus, an Ex-parte Motion with Leave of Court to Serve Summons by Publication was filed by the plaintiff's counsel seeking the publication of the summons and complaint for the service of the same to the defendants pursuant to Sections 16 and 19 of Rule 14 of the Revised Rules of Court. The motion was granted by the Court on May 8, 2024.

In compliance with the Order of the Court dated May 8, 2024, the counsel for the plaintiff submitted the Publisher's Affidavit of Joanna Nina V. Cordero of PUNTO a newspaper with general circulation dated October 2, 2024 stating that the summons together with complaint were published in their newspaper. Likewise submitted were Punto newspaper clippings dated September 9 – 14, 2024, September 16 – 21, 2024 and September 23 – 28, 2024 where the summons and complaint were published.

Moreover, the Court also sent copy of the Summons and Complainant to the last known addresses of all the defendants in observance of due process and in compliance with Section 22 of the Rules of Court.

However, despite sending copy of the summons to the last known addresses of all the defendants and the lapsed of the sixty (60) day period from the last day of publication, none of the defendants filed their answer or any responsive pleading to the complaint.

Upon motion of the plaintiff, the Motion to Declare Defendants in default was granted on February 6, 2025, and the case was set for hearing on March 6, 2025.

During the hearing on March 6, 2025, the Court deemed it prudent to submit the case for decision based on the facts alleged in the complaint and judicial affidavits on records. Further, upon motion of counsel for the plaintiff, the Court admitted the judicial affidavit of the plaintiff's reserved witness Teodoro A. Urmatan.

EVIDENCE OF THE PLAINTIFF

In the judicial affidavit of the plaintiff, witness Yolanda T. Lee stated that she is the owner of the parcels of land located at Barangay Mapalad, Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija and the subject matter of this case, as follows:

1. TCT No. 041-2019001537 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Nueva with an area of Thirty-one Thousand one hundred seven (31,170) square meters;

Page 2 of 9

2. TCT No. 041-2019001538 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Nueva with an area of Thirty-one Thousand one hundred seven (31,170) square meters;

3. TCT No. 041-2019001539 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Nueva with an area of Thirty-one Thousand one hundred sixty-nine seven (31,169) square meters;

4. TCT No. 041-2019001540 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Nueva with an area of Thirty-one Thousand one hundred sixty-nine seven (31,169) square meters;

5. TCT No. 041-2019001541 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Nueva with an area of Thirty-one Thousand one hundred sixty-nine seven (31,169) square meters; and

6. TCT No. 041-2019001542 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Nueva with an area of Thirty-one Thousand one hundred sixty-nine seven (31,169) square meters.¹

These parcels of land are declared for taxation purposes in the name of the plaintiff under Tax Declarations Nos. 17-23025-04754, 17-23025-04755, 17-23025-04756, 17-23025-04757, 17-23025-04758, 17-23025-04759². But on account of disparity of plaintiff's residence and the location of the parcels of land, plaintiff designated one Jhoerycar Lachica sometime in 2014 as her caretaker on the properties until Lachica disappearance in the last quarter of 2022, he was replaced by Teodoro A. Urmatan as the designated caretaker of the parcels of land by the plaintiff.

Moreover, after the disappearance of Lachica or sometime on the first week of December 2022, the plaintiff was informed by Urmatan that the defendants through force, intimidation, strategy and stealth occupied the subject landholdings without the knowledge and consent of the plaintiff. In her judicial affidavit, the plaintiff specifically states that the following are the actual possessions³ of the defendants as follow:

Name/s	Title No.	Lot No.
Editha Quinto	TCT No. 041-201900-11537	Lot 2131-A
Agustin De Leon	TCT No. 041-201900-11537	Lot 2131-A

¹ Exhibits A to F, inclusive;

² Exhibits G to L, inclusive;

³ Exhibits N, Relocation Survey

Page 3 of 9

Sergio "Jojo" Estares	TCT No. 041-201900-11537	Lot 2131-A
Joel Sayson	TCT No. 041-201900-11537	Lot 2131-A
Jose "Jun" Manalang, Jr.	TCT No. 041-201900-11539	Lot 2131-C
	TCT No. 041-201900-11540	Lot 2131-D
	TCT No. 041-201900-11540	Lot 2131-E
	TCT No. 041-201900-11542	Lot 2131-F
Alfredo A. Enriquez, Jr.	TCT No. 041-201900-11537	Lot 2131-A
	TCT No. 041-201900-11538	Lot 2131-B
	TCT No. 041-201900-11539	Lot 2131-C
Sps. Rogelio Cabral and Gloria Cabral	TCT No. 041-201900-11537	Lot 2131-A
	TCT No. 041-201900-11538	Lot 2131-B
	TCT No. 041-201900-11539	Lot 2131-C

Further, the plaintiff stated that the defendants unlawfully constructed fence and introduced improvements on the premises without the corresponding permits from the Office of the Municipal Engineer of the Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija as evidence by Certification⁴ issued by the said office.

The plaintiff also sent Notices to Vacate⁵ to the herein defendants through registered mail for them to vacate and surrender peacefully the possession and use of the premises. However, despite such written demands and their intentional refusal to receive the Notice to Vacate, the defendants refused and continuously refused to vacate the premises they are respectively occupying.

On account of continuous and unjustified refusal of the defendants to vacate and surrender the premises, the plaintiff was constrained to

⁴ Exhibits O to Q, inclusive.

⁵ Exhibits R to EE, inclusive

Page 4 of 9

secure the services of counsel for the filing of this case with agreed amount of Php100,000.00 and Php10,000.00 per court appearances.

To corroborate the plaintiff's testimony, the plaintiff also submitted the judicial affidavit of Teodoro A. Urmatan.

In his judicial affidavit, Teodoro Urmatan stated that he knew the plaintiff as he was designated by Yolanda Lee as the caretaker of her properties as below described:

1. TCT No. 041-2019001537 - (31,170) square meters;
2. TCT No. 041-2019001538 - (31,170) square meters;
3. TCT No. 041-2019001539 - (31,169) square meters;
4. TCT No. 041-2019001540 - (31,169) square meters;
5. TCT No. 041-2019001541 - (31,169) square meters; and
6. TCT No. 041-2019001542 - (31,169) square meters.

Witness, Urmatan also stated in this affidavit that he knew all the defendants in this case because they were the unlawful possessors of the parcels of land above-mentioned. He alleged that sometime on the first week of December 2022, the defendants, namely: Editha Quinto, Agustina De Leon, Sergio "Jojo" Estares, Joel Sayson, Jose "Jun" Manalang, Jr., Alfredo A. Enriquez, Jr. and Spouses Rogelio and Gloria Cabral and other unknown individuals aggressively entered and took possession of the parcels of land through force and intimidation without the knowledge and consent of the plaintiff.

After the defendants unlawful entered the parcels of land and took possession of it, he immediately informed Yolanda Lee of the unlawful entry of the defendants.

When he tried to exercise his duty and responsibility as the caretaker of the properties, some of the defendants showed aggressions and threatened him and uttered words "Huwaq ka nang bumalik sa lupa (at sirabi ng ilan na) huwaq akong makialam dahil "wala akong laban sa kanila."" He was also prevented from cleaning and using the parcels of land for whatever purposes. Although Urmatan fearing for his safety, he continues to exercise his duty and responsibility as the caretaker of the plaintiff by trying to talk to some of the defendants when they were destroying the markings and when they were constructing structures thereon without the knowledge and prior consent from the plaintiff.

RULING

Page 5 of 9

Summons is a procedural tool. It is a writ by which the defendant is notified that an action was brought against him or her.⁶ As an implement of due process, proper service of summons to a party is essential to render a judgment valid.⁷ Violation of due process is a jurisdictional defect. Hence, proper service of summons is imperative.⁸

The purpose of service of summons to the defendant is to acquire jurisdiction over the person of the defendant/respondent, if there is no proper service of summons the court will not acquire jurisdiction over the person of the defendant/respondent.

The proper service of summons is important because it serves to acquire jurisdiction over the person of the defendant or respondent, or to notify said person of the action filed against them and to afford an opportunity to be heard on the claims made against them.⁹ Logically, in order to effect the proper service of summons it is crucial to furnish the correct address of the defendant or respondent in a complaint. The foregoing is in consonance with the doctrine of due process. A violation of this due process would be a jurisdictional defect.¹⁰ Thus, absent the proper service of summons, the trial court does not acquire jurisdiction and renders null and void all subsequent proceedings and issuances in relation to the case.¹¹

In this case, despite efforts exerted by the Process Server, the summons was not served personally to the defendants, and upon motion of the plaintiff, the summons and the complaint was published in a newspaper for three (3) consecutive weeks. But after the lapsed of sixty (60) days, no answer or any responsive pleading was filed by the defendants.

This case of Forcible Entry.

What determines the nature of the action, as well as which court has jurisdiction over the case, are the allegations in the complaint. In ejectment cases, the complaint should embody such statement of facts as to bring the party clearly within the class of cases for which Section 1 of Rule 70 provides a summary remedy, and must show enough on its face to give the court jurisdiction without resort to parol evidence. Such remedy is either forcible entry or unlawful detainer. In forcible entry, the plaintiff is deprived of physical possession of his land or building by

⁶ Sabado v. Sabado, G.R. No. 214270, 12 May 2021.

⁷ Heirs of Mangulat v. Court of Appeals, 584 Phil. 403, 411 (2008).

⁸ People's General Insurance Corp. v. Guansing, 843 Phil. 197, 205 (2018).

⁹ Herrera, O., Remedial Law Vol. 1, 2000 Ed., p. 665, citing Ablaza v. CIR, 211 Phil. 425, 431 (1983); Paramount Insurance Corporation v. Judge Japzon, 286 Phil. 1048, 1055 (1992); Toyota Cubao, Inc. v. CA, 346 Phil. 181, 186 (1997).

¹⁰ De Pedro v. Romasan Development Corp., 748 Phil. 706, 726 (2014).

¹¹ Herrera, O., Remedial Law Vol. 1, 2000 Edition, p. 665, citing Toyota Cubao, Inc. v. CA, 346 Phil. 181, 187 (1997), which cited Keister v. Judge Navarro, 167 Phil. 567, 572 (1977).

Page 6 of 9

means of force, intimidation, threat, strategy or stealth. In illegal detainer, the defendant unlawfully withholds possession after the expiration or termination of his right thereto under any contract, express or implied.

Rule 70 of the Rules of Court governs actions for ejectment. Section 1 of this Rule provides:

SECTION 1. Who may institute proceedings, and when.

— Subject to the provisions of the next succeeding section, a person deprived of the possession of any land or building by force, intimidation, threat, strategy, or stealth, or a lessor, vendor, vendee, or other person against whom the possession of any land or building is unlawfully withheld after the expiration or termination of the right to hold possession, by virtue of any contract, express or implied, or the legal representatives or assigns of any such lessor, vendor, vendee, or other person, may, at any time within one (1) year after such unlawful deprivation or withholding of possession, bring an action in the proper Municipal Trial Court against the person or persons unlawfully withholding or depriving of possession, or any person or persons claiming under them, for the restitution of such possession, together with damages and costs.

As per judicial affidavit of the plaintiff, she was in prior physical possession of the parcels of land enumerated above, as if fact, she designated Jhoerycar Lachica to be the caretaker of the subject matter of litigation as early as 2014, until he disappeared in the last quarter of 2022 and was immediately replaced by Teodoro Urmatan.

When Urmatan took the responsibility as the caretaker, despite the aggressions and threats of the defendants, he tried to talk to the defendants when they unlawfully entered the parcels of land and started to introducing structures thereto without the knowledge and consent of the plaintiff sometime in the first week of December 2022.

To reiterate, the three elements that must be alleged and proved for a forcible entry suit to prosper are the following:

- (a) plaintiff had prior physical possession of the property before the defendant encroached on the property;
- (b) plaintiff was deprived of possession either by force, intimidation, threat, strategy or stealth by defendant; and
- (c) that the action was filed within one (1) year from the time the plaintiff learned of his deprivation of the physical possession of the property, except that when the entry is through stealth, the one (1)-year

Page 7 of 9

period is counted from the time the plaintiff-owner or legal possessor learned of the deprivation of the physical possession of the property

In this case, the plaintiff was able to establish by preponderance of evidence the three (3) elements to prove a forcible entry suit.

Apparently, plaintiff secured the services of Jhoerycar Lachica as caretaker of the parcels of land, until his disappearance in 2022, and he was immediately replaced by Teodoro A. Urmatan. Thus, prior physical possession was established, until the defendants entered and took possession of the parcels of land sometime in the first week of December 2022.

WHEREFORE, judgment is hereby rendered in favor of the plaintiff and against the defendants as follows:

1. directing Editha Quinto, Agustina De Leon, Sergio "Jojo" Estares, Joel Sayson, Jose "Jun" Manalang, Jr., Alfredo A. Enriquez, Jr. and Spouses Rogelio Cabral and Gloria Cabral and all persons deriving right from them, to vacate, and peacefully surrender the following parcels of land to the plaintiff;

- a. TCT No. 041-2019001537 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Nueva with an area of Thirty-one Thousand one hundred seven (31,170) square meters;
- b. TCT No. 041-2019001538 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Nueva with an area of Thirty-one Thousand one hundred seven (31,170) square meters;
- c. TCT No. 041-2019001539 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Nueva with an area of Thirty-one Thousand one hundred sixty-nine seven (31,169) square meters;
- d. TCT No. 041-2019001540 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Nueva with an area of Thirty-one Thousand one hundred sixty-nine seven (31,169) square meters;
- e. TCT No. 041-2019001541 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Nueva with an area of Thirty-one Thousand one hundred sixty-nine seven (31,169) square meters; and

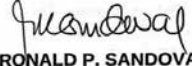
- f. TCT No. 041-2019001542 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Nueva with an area of Thirty-one Thousand one hundred sixty-nine seven (31,169) square meters.

2. Ordering defendants, Editha Quinto, Agustina De Leon, Sergio Jojo Estares, Joel Sayson, Jose "Jun" Manalang, Jr., Alfredo A. Enriquez, Jr. and Spouses Rogelio/Gloria Cabral to pay reasonable monthly rentals in the amount of Php2,000.00 each starting from December 2022;

Page 8 of 9

3. Ordering the defendants to pay the plaintiff jointly and severally attorney's fees in the amount of Php100,000.00.

SO ORDERED.
April 4, 2025.


RONALD P. SANDOVAL
Presiding Judge

RPS/WCM



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

MINUTES OF THE 20th REGULAR SESSION OF THE 5th SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MABALACAT CITY, PAMPANGA UNDER R.A. 10164 FOR THE TERM JUNE 30, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2028 HELD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2025 MABALACAT CITY HALL ANNEX, CLARKFIELD, MABALACAT CITY, PAMPANGA

PRESENT:

Hon. Marcos T. Castro Jr.	- Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer
Hon. Ignacio Miguel M. Morales II	- Member
Hon. Timothy Paul A. Llanos Dee	- Member
Hon. Victor Rene V. Ong	- Member
Hon. Eroll Jake C. Soliven	- Member
Hon. Benjamin D. Jocson	- Member
Hon. Marjorie Grace M. Sambo	- Member
Hon. Noelito B. Castro	- Member
Hon. Patricia Anne Acorda	- Member
Hon. Elizabeth R. Pineda	- Member
Hon. Rey T. Pineda	- Member
Hon. Ruvielane S. Margarito	- Member

ABSENT:

Hon. Stephen R. Aurelio	- Member
Hon. Paul Andre P. Tiongco	- Member

CITY ORDINANCE NO. 15
Series of 2025

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AN ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION INCLUDING SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS (SOGIESC), AGE, ETHNICITY, SOCIAL STATUS and RELIGION

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution under Section 2, Article II provides that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities shall be given the highest priority;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a state party to several international agreements such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention

HON. MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.

HON. GERALD GUTTRIE P. AQUINO

HON. NOELITO B. CASTRO

HON. PATRICIA ANNE ACORDA

HON. ELIZABETH R. PINEDA

HON. REY PINEDA

HON. RUVIELANE S. MARGARITO

HON. IGNACIO MIGUEL M. MORALES II
HON. TIMOTHY PAUL A. LLANOS DEE
HON. VICTOR RENE V. ONG
HON. EROLL JAKE C. SOLIVEN
HON. BENJAMIN D. JOCSO
HON. MARJORIE M. SAMBO



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Convention Against Torture (CAT), International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which instruments aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination and abuse;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2007, a group of human rights experts launched the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (hereinafter the "Yogyakarta Principles"). The principles are intended as a coherent and comprehensive identification of the obligation of States to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of all persons regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity;

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2011, the UN Human Rights Council (UN-HRC) adopted Resolution 17/19 (Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity), which paved the way for the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to issue the first UN report on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity (HRSOGI). In the report, evidence of the discrimination faced by people because of their sexual orientation or gender identity was presented, including inequities in employment, access to health treatment, care and support (TCS), and education, as well as criminalization, physical violence and murder (OHCHR, 2011). The High Commissioner Navi Pillay challenged UN member states to help write a new chapter in UN history by ending the discrimination faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 11313 otherwise known as the Safe Spaces Act of 2019 or the "Bawal Bastos Law" states that it is the Policy of the State to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights;

WHEREAS, by virtue of City Ordinance No. 56 series of 2022 otherwise known as the Safe Spaces Ordinance of Mabalacat City it has become the policy of the City Government to guarantee the quality of men and women so they may enjoy full benefits of development free and safe from all forms of gender-based harassment not only in private but also in public spaces and online spaces;



HON. MARCELITO B. CASTRO

HON. GERARDO GUTIERREZ P. AQUINO

HON. ICHACIO MORALES

HON. TIMOTHY PAUL A. LLANOS DEE

HON. VICTOR RENE V. ONG

HON. ENRIQUE J. SOLIVEN

HON. BENJAMIN D. JACSON

HON. MARJORIE M. SAMBO

HON. PATRICIA ANNE ACORDA

HON. ELIZABETH R. PINEIDA

HON. JUVENAL S. MARGARITO



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

a) **Accommodation** – as mentioned herein, includes a house, apartment, condominium, townhouse, flat, motel, boarding house, hotel, and dormitory, which are open to the general public. It shall also include the grant of license, clearance, certification or any other document issued by governmental authorities or other private or juridical entities;

b) **Education** – refers to all types and levels of education, and includes access to education, the standard and quality of education, and the conditions under which it is given;

c) **Employment** – the existence of an employer-employee relationship, which is determined by the four-fold test 1) selection and engagement of the employee; 2) payment of wages; 3) power to dismiss; and 4) power to control. This definition shall apply to regular, probational, contractual, seasonal, and project-based workers. In legitimate contracting or sub-contracting arrangements, the contractor/subcontractor shall be deemed the employer of the contractual employee.

d) **Discrimination** – Any act or conduct, which withholds, excludes, restricts, curtails, demeans human dignity, or otherwise impairs the recognition, enjoyment and exercise of human rights and basic freedoms in the economic, labor, social, cultural, educational, or any other field of public life based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, color, descent, national or ethnic origin, religious affiliation or beliefs.

e) **Gender Equality**- Gender equality signifies that all individuals, regardless of their gender, should have equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. It's not about making men and women identical but ensuring that neither sex faces disadvantages or limitations due to their gender in accessing resources, opportunities, or decision-making power. This includes equal access to education, healthcare, economic participation, and political representation.

f) **Gender Expression**- Refers to the outward manifestations of the cultural traits that enable a person to identify as male or female according to patterns that,



HON. MARCELITO B. CASTRO

HON. GERARDO GUTIERREZ P. AQUINO

HON. ICHACIO MORALES

HON. TIMOTHY PAUL A. LLANOS DEE

HON. VICTOR RENE V. ONG

HON. ENRIQUE J. SOLIVEN

HON. BENJAMIN D. JACSON

HON. MARJORIE M. SAMBO

HON. PATRICIA ANNE ACORDA

HON. ELIZABETH R. PINEIDA

HON. JUVENAL S. MARGARITO



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

WHEREAS, Mabalacat City, pursuant to City Ordinance No. 36 series of 2023 otherwise known as the Population and Development (POPDEV) Code of Mabalacat City, is hereby committed to recognizes and guarantees the human rights of all persons including their right to choose and make decisions for themselves in accordance with their beliefs. That the city shall ensure the increase of the share of each Mabalacat City in the fruits of economic progress, meet and optimize the social and economic challenges and opportunities related to the evolving population situation in the city.

WHEREAS, Mabalacat City, pursuant to City Ordinance No. 55 series of 2024 otherwise known as the Revised Gender and Development (GAD) Code of Mabalacat City 2024, is hereby committed to pursue inclusive, empowering, just and sustainable development embodying the principles of Gender and Development. As such, all of its developmental and protective efforts are geared towards **women empowerment and gender equality** as its twin goals including those of the marginalized sectors;

NOW THEREFORE, be it **ORDAINED** by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Mabalacat, in session duly assembled that:

SECTION 1. TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known as the Anti-Discrimination Ordinance on the Basis of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression including Sexual Characteristics (SOGIESC), Age, Ethnicity, Social Status and Religion in Mabalacat City, Pampanga.

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is hereby declared as policy of the City of Mabalacat, Pampanga to promote inclusiveness, diversity, equality and fairness and effectively eliminate all forms of discrimination that violate the rights of all including but not limited to People with Diverse SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion, Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens, and other marginalized groups and to afford equal protection as enshrined in the Philippine Constitution.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS – unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms or phrases shall mean, construe and apply as follows:



HON. MARCELITO B. CASTRO

HON. GERARDO GUTIERREZ P. AQUINO

HON. ICHACIO MORALES

HON. TIMOTHY PAUL A. LLANOS DEE

HON. VICTOR RENE V. ONG

HON. ENRIQUE J. SOLIVEN

HON. BENJAMIN D. JACSON

HON. MARJORIE M. SAMBO

HON. PATRICIA ANNE ACORDA

HON. ELIZABETH R. PINEIDA

HON. JUVENAL S. MARGARITO



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

at a particular moment in history, a given society defines as gender appropriate.

g) **Gender Identity** - Refers to the personal sense of identity as characterized, among others, by manner of clothing, inclinations, and behavior in relation to masculine or feminine conversations. A person may have a male or female identity with the psychological characteristics of the opposite sex.

h) **Goods and Services** – as applied herein includes but shall not be limited to private or public establishments, institutions, individuals and groups of individuals supplying physical goods, services, and assistance such as food, tourism, health, wellness, financial, construction, financial, transportation, public utility, and disaster relief.

i) **Marginalized Groups** - are population/groups that experience systemic disadvantages and are excluded from full participation in society, often due to factors like ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, or disability. These groups face barriers in accessing resources, opportunities, and decision-making processes, leading to social, economic, and political disadvantages.

j) **People with Diverse Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression including Sexual Characteristics (SOGIESC)** – Umbrella term for all people whose sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and/or sex characteristics place them outside culturally mainstream categories. These includes persons who identify as LGBTQI+, an acronym which stands for the following:

a. **Lesbian** - A woman whose enduring romantic, emotional and/or physical attraction is to woman.

b. **Gay** - Man whose enduring romantic, emotional and/or physical attraction is to man; also, woman who are attracted to other woman.

c. **Bisexual** - A person who has the capacity for romantic, emotional and/or physical attraction to people of more than one gender.



HON. MARCELITO B. CASTRO

HON. GERARDO GUTIERREZ P. AQUINO

HON. ICHACIO MORALES

HON. TIMOTHY PAUL A. LLANOS DEE

HON. VICTOR RENE V. ONG

HON. ENRIQUE J. SOLIVEN

HON. BENJAMIN D. JACSON

HON. MARJORIE M. SAMBO

HON. PATRICIA ANNE ACORDA

HON. ELIZABETH R. PINEIDA

HON. JUVENAL S. MARGARITO



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

- d. **Transgender** - Terms used by people whose gender identity differs
- e. from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth. Trans, transgender and non-binary are "umbrella terms" representing a variety of words that describe an internal sense of gender that differs from the sex assigned at birth and the gender attributed to the individual by society, whether that individual identifies as a man, a woman, simply "trans" or "transgender," with another gender or with no gender.
- f. **Queer** - Traditionally a negative term, queer has been reclaimed by some people and is considered inclusive of a wide range of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions. It may be used as an umbrella term for people with diverse SOGIESC, or as an alternative to the phrase "people with diverse SOGIESC" or the acronym LGBT. Queer is used by many people who feel they do not conform to a given society's economic, social and political norms based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.
- g. **Intersex** - Intersex is a person with sex characteristics that don't fit typical definitions of male and female bodies. Intersex is an umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural bodily variations. Some of these variations may be apparent before or at birth, while others are not apparent until after puberty or later, or may not be physically apparent at all.
- h. **Plus (+) sign** - All other "spectrum" of human sexuality and gender;
- k) **Person with Disabilities** - is an individual who has a physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment that, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.
- l) **Public Ridicule** - an act of making fun or contemptuous imitating or making mockery of persons whether in writing, in words, or in action on the basis of

HON. MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.

HON. GERARDO GUTRIE P. AQUINO

6



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

SECTION 5. PROHIBITED ACTS/ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION. Discrimination is committed when a person treats another less favorably on the basis of actual or perceived SOGIESC, Age, Ethnicity, Social Status and Religion, on the same or similar circumstances in employment, education, delivery of services, and in other areas, to wit:

1. **Discrimination in Employment** - It shall be unlawful for any employer to discriminate against any person or group of persons on the basis of actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status and religion in public or private employment by:
 - a. Denying or limiting rights to trainings, recruitment, promotion, remuneration and other terms and conditions of employment except for Good Faith Occupational Qualifications;
 - b. Denying or limiting opportunities to favorable terms and conditions of employment which afford employee advancement, in all areas of public services, including all levels of government service and employment in Mabalacat City;
 - c. Excluding membership in labor unions or similar organizations;
 - d. Subjecting any employee to workplace harassment or any threat of physical, mental and verbal violence, intimidation or other threatening disruptive behavior committed by the employer, or by another employee;
 - e. Dismissing the employee or subjecting the employee to any other detriment on the basis of actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status and religion.
2. **Discrimination in Education** - It shall be unlawful for an educational institution, both public and private, along with the institution's officers and employees, to discriminate against a person on the basis of actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status and religion thereof by:

HON. MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.

HON. GERARDO GUTRIE P. AQUINO

8



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and expression including sexual characteristics (SOGIESC), age, ethnicity, social situation, and religion;

- m) **Vilification** - The utterance of slanderous and abusive statements done in any activity in public which incites hatred towards, serious contempt for, or severe ridicule towards any person(s) on the basis of actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social situation, and religion;
- n) **Senior Citizens** - aged sixty (60) years or above;
- o) **Sex/Sexual Characteristics** - each person's physical features relating to sex, including chromosomes, gonads, sex hormones, genitals and secondary physical features emerging from puberty;
- p) **Sexual Orientation**- Refers to the direction of emotional sexual attraction or conduct. This can be towards people of the same sex (homosexual orientation), towards people of both sexes (bisexual orientation) or towards people of the opposite sex (heterosexual orientation).
- q) **Social Status** - refers to an individual's rank or position within a group or society, often associated with prestige, respect, and influence. It can be ascribed (inherited) or achieved, and it influences how a person is treated and how they interact with others.
- r) **Harassment** - Any physical, mental, or verbal abuse on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, color, descent, national or ethnic origin, religious affiliation or beliefs.

SECTION 4. COVERAGE. This Ordinance shall cover any person, natural or juridical, who commits any of the acts herein prohibited and enumerated shall be held liable and penalized accordingly, provided that in the case of juridical persons, such as but not limited to corporations, associations, partnerships, educational, and vocational institutions, whether public or private, the employer, the manager and head of office shall also be held criminally accountable and responsible.

HON. MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.

HON. GERARDO GUTRIE P. AQUINO

7



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

- a. Unduly delaying, refusing, or failing to accept a person's application or admission as a student, without prejudice to the right of educational institutions to determine the academic qualifications of their students;
 - b. Providing onerous or unjust terms and conditions for admission of a person as a student;
 - c. Denying or limiting the student's access to any benefit provided by the educational authority;
 - d. Expelling or subjecting student to any penalty or any other detriment on the basis of actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion;
 - e. Refusing admission, denying acceptance, expelling or dismissing a student from academic, socio-civic organizational and associations on the basis of actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion;
 - f. Subjecting any student to harassment, bullying, or any threat of physical, mental and verbal violence, intimidation or other threatening disruptive behaviors committed by teachers, professors, trainers, administrators or by other students.
3. **Discrimination in the delivery of Goods and Services** - It shall be unlawful for a person, natural or juridical, whether as principal or agent, to discriminate against a person on the grounds of actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion by:
- a. Refusing to provide goods or services and/or imposing onerous terms and conditions to a person on the ground of one's actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion as a prerequisite for providing such goods or services where the said terms and conditions are not imposed on another person under the similar circumstances;

HON. MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.

HON. GERARDO GUTRIE P. AQUINO

9



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

- b. Denying a person's access to health services and facilities, health insurance, and other related benefits as provided under the laws;
4. Discrimination in Accommodation – It is unlawful for a person, natural or juridical, whether as principal or agent, to refuse or limit access to any benefit associated to accommodation, on the grounds of actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion; by:
- a. Refusing or failing to allow any person to avail of services or accommodation in an apartment, condominium, townhouse, flat, hotel, inn, dormitory and any other places of dwelling being rented out or offered to the public or for a fee;
- b. Denying an application for a license, clearance, certification or any other document issued by governmental authorities or other private or juridical entities, on the basis of actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion.
5. Verbal, Non-Verbal Ridicule and Vilification – Any person, natural or juridical, is hereby prohibited from vilifying or ridiculing any person on the basis of actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion which could result in the loss of self-esteem of the latter through any of the following:
- a. Making fun or contemptuous imitating or making a mockery whether in writing, in words or in action;
- b. Uttering of slanderous and abusive statements;
- c. Executing any activity in public which incites hatred towards, serious contempt for, or severe ridicule of a person;
- d. Doing any other analogous act(s) of ridicule in any time and place which could intimidate or result in loss of self-esteem of the person.
6. Harassment, unjust detention and involuntary confinement – It shall be

HON. MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.

HON. GERARDO GUTIERREZ P. AQUINO

10



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

protected, the following plans and programs shall be adopted in employment, in education, in the delivery of goods and services, accommodation, and other areas to wit:

1. Affirmative Acts in Employment

- a. Wage and Benefits for all including but not limited to People with Diverse SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion – Every employer in Mabalacat City shall comply with the minimum wage as mandated by the Regional Wage Board or as stipulated by pertinent legislation passed by Congress and shall grant benefits afforded under existing laws, such as maternity/paternity leave credits, sick and vacation leaves, retirement, and benefits provided under the Magna Carta of Women (R.A. No. 9710) and the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act (R.A. No. 9262), among others;
- b. Conduct of Annual Gender Sensitivity Training including the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, Sexual Characteristics (SOGIESC) orientation – All private offices, commercial/industrial establishments located in Mabalacat City shall encourage an annual gender sensitivity training or orientation for all employees, including a module on the elimination of all forms of discrimination on the basis of SOGIESC;
- c. Dissemination to Employees and Posting of this Ordinance and the Safe Spaces Ordinance of Mabalacat City – A copy of this ordinance together with the Safe Spaces Ordinance of Mabalacat City (City Ordinance No. 56 series of 2022) shall be provided to all employees upon engagement by the Hiring Officer or by the Human Resources Officer of any public or private entity where the employment is sought. A copy of this ordinance and the Safe Spaces Ordinance shall be posted in two conspicuous places in the office where the business is located;
- d. Facilities and Support System to all including but not limited to People with Diverse SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion – All

HON. MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.

HON. GERARDO GUTIERREZ P. AQUINO

12



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

unlawful to commit harassment, unjust detention and involuntary confinement because of one's actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion.

7. Disallowance from entry and refusal to serve – It shall be unlawful to refuse entry and/or disallow a person or group of persons from entering any establishment such as restaurants, bars, stores, movie houses, shopping malls, spa, health and wellness centers, and other business which are open to the general public; and/or to refuse to attend to, or serve any orders for food, drinks and other goods or services, consumable or non-consumable; or to subject one to discrimination or harassment in buses, taxis, ships, airplanes, on the basis of actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion.
8. Promotion of Discrimination Against Persons of Diverse SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion – It shall be unlawful to organize groups and activities which promote and incite discrimination against persons based on actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion.
9. Any Other Analogous Act – Any act of discrimination or harassment based on actual or perceived SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion which demeans the dignity and self-respect of a person or impairs, mars, reduces or nullifies the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of a person's human and legal rights and basic freedoms in the civil, political, labor, economic, social, cultural, educational spheres and other spheres.
10. Publishing or disclosing to others any information intended to "out" or reveal the sex or SOGIESC of persons without their consent, whether or not done in good faith, when such has not been made known by the person concerned.

SECTION 6. AFFIRMATIVE ACTS. To ensure that the rights of all including but not limited to People with Diverse SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion are

HON. MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.

HON. GERARDO GUTIERREZ P. AQUINO

11



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

government agencies, private offices, and commercial/industrial establishments are encouraged to designate toilet rooms and lavatories labelled as GENDER-NEUTRAL COMFORT ROOM (CR) one year after the effectivity of this ordinance.

e. Affirmative Acts in Education

- a. Equal Access to Education Opportunities – The Mabalacat City Government shall ensure equal access to opportunities to all including but not limited to People with Diverse SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion in various trainings and scholarships;
- b. Availability of Anti-Discrimination Materials – All schools, colleges, universities and other educational and training institutions, whether public or private, located in Mabalacat City, shall develop and make available resource materials on gender rights and empowerment, including laws and ordinances pertinent to the elimination of any form of discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived People with Diverse SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion in their libraries and/or knowledge management centers;
- c. Elimination of Gender Stereotyping – All schools, colleges, universities and other educational and training institutions, whether public or private, located in Mabalacat City, shall promote the elimination of sex-role and gender stereotyping including the gender role modeling for students in academics and extra-curricular activities.

f. Affirmative Acts in the Delivery of Goods, Services and Accommodation

- a. Delivery of Goods and Services to Eligible Individuals – Establishments supplying physical goods and services shall ensure that goods and services are delivered to eligible individuals in a non-discriminatory manner in accordance with the standards provided under applicable laws;

HON. MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.

HON. GERARDO GUTIERREZ P. AQUINO

13



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

- b. Health Services and Capacity Building of Population and Health Care Service Providers for all including but not limited to People with Diverse SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion – In order to ensure that health care services shall be provided in a non-discriminatory manner, the Mabalacat City Government, through the City Health Office (CHO) and the City Population, Gender and Development Office (City POPGAD Office) shall:
- Extend quality health care services and information on reproductive health without regard to one's marital status, age, religious affiliations, SOGIESC, personal circumstances and nature of work;
 - Monitor and ensure that provisions for gender-sensitive, gender-responsive and accessible health services for all including but not limited to People with Diverse SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion are available in all health, population and development facilities in the City and Barangays;
 - Develop modules for gender-sensitive and gender-responsive health care services and reproductive health information including those used for STDs, HIV, and AIDS; and such shall be integrated in seminars, orientations and other capacity building activities;
 - Encourage the establishment of a People with Diverse SOGIESC (otherwise known as LGBTQI+ Desk) in every health, population and development facilities in the City to handle concerns pertaining to the proper administration of medical and population-related services to a person with specific needs, according to one's self-identified sexual orientation, gender identity and expression including sexual characteristics (SOGIESC), in order to provide a comprehensive, responsive and accessible services;
 - Build capacities of barangay health workers, barangay population, gender and development workers, schools and other

HON. MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.

HON. GERARDO GUTRIE P. AQUINO

14



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

and religion are mainstreamed in the policies, enabling mechanisms, people, programs and services of Mabalacat City.

SECTION 8.1. COMPOSITION OF THE MABALACAT CITY EQUALITY, ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMITTEE (EADSI-COM). The EADSI-COM shall be composed of the following:

Chairperson : City Mayor
Co-Chairperson : City Legal Officer
Vice Chairperson : City Population, Gender and Development Officer

Members:
City Administrator
Local Government Operations Officer (DILG)
City Human Resource and Development Office
City Health Officer
City Employment Services Officer
City Social Welfare and Development Officer
City ECCD Officer
City Persons with Disability Affairs Officer
OSCA Head
Business Permits and Licensing Unit Head
Mabalacat City PNP Chief
Schools Division Superintendent of Mabalacat City
President, Mabalacat City College
President, Mabalacat City Pride Coalition
1 Civil Society Organization / Non-Government Organization

SECTION 8.2. OVERSIGHT FUNCTION OF THE MABALACAT CITY EADSI-COM. The Mabalacat City EADSI-COM shall have the following oversight functions:

- Ensures and/or assess the implementation of the provisions of this Ordinance;
- Recommend plans, policies, programs and services for Persons with Diverse SOGIESC, Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and other Marginalized

HON. MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.

HON. GERARDO GUTRIE P. AQUINO

16



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

- community-based health personnel in delivering gender-sensitive and gender-responsive health services in the community in coordination with the barangay and non-government organizations (NGOs);
- Conduct of the GAD and RPRH in the Workplace Seminar for all public and private establishments in the city;
 - Oversee the implementation of reproductive health programs for all Mabalacat City-based establishments;
 - Initiate dedicated measures for all workers including but not limited to People with Diverse SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion to access, without discrimination, Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) check-ups and treatments, including but not limited to, life-saving Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) management, prevention, cure and support services;
 - Initiate a sensitization and training drive for all government health care facilities about the needs of all including but not limited to People with Diverse SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion vis-à-vis general health and medical emergencies.

SECTION 7. INCORPORATION OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION INCLUDING SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS (SOGIESC) CONCERNS WITH FUNCTIONS OF EXISTING PNP VAWC DESK IN MABALACAT CITY, PAMPANGA. The Mabalacat City PNP is strongly encouraged to handle specific concerns relating to SOGIESC through the existing PNP VAWC DESK in Mabalacat City in close coordination with the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) and with technical assistance from the City Population, Gender and Development Office (City POPGAD Office).

SECTION 8. THE MABALACAT CITY EQUALITY, ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMITTEE (EADSI-COM). The Mabalacat City EADSI-COM is hereby created as a committee under the Mabalacat City GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) that will serve as the consultative assembly of Mabalacat City tasked to ensure that the rights of People regardless of SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status,

HON. MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.

HON. GERARDO GUTRIE P. AQUINO

15



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

- groups that are rights-based and gender-fair that is responsive to their needs;
- Recommends coordinative linkages with other agencies and institutions in relation to the concerns of SOGIESC, Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and other Marginalized groups;
 - Facilitate and assist the victims of stigma and discrimination to ensure that they have legal representation, counseling and psychological assistance;
 - Maintain discrimination documentation, case monitoring system and set-up database to easily access various cases and experiences of stigma and discrimination;
 - Recommend to the Sangguniang Panlungsod policies on anti-discrimination; and
 - Monitor or review all policies embodied in resolutions, ordinances, codes and other policy documents to determine if they are free from discriminatory statements and provisions against SOGIESC, Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and other Marginalized groups and undertake recommendations for their amendments.

SECTION 9. MABALACAT CITY PRIDE COALITION – In order to provide venues for the conduct of activities and programs for the empowerment and development of People with Diverse SOGIESC, the formation or establishment of the Mabalacat City Pride Coalition at the barangay level shall be undertaken. The City Government, through the City POPGAD Office, shall assist in their organization and accreditation. The Mabalacat City Pride Coalition in the Barangays shall be federated at the city-level with their president becoming the mandatory member of the Mabalacat City GFPS and EADSI-COM.

SECTION 10. WHERE AND HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT. All including but not limited to People with Diverse SOGIESC, age, ethnicity, social status, and religion whose rights against discrimination, as defined under this Ordinance, has been violated, may file a complaint to the Lupong Chairperson of the Barangay in whose jurisdiction the acts of discrimination took place.

HON. MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.

HON. GERARDO GUTRIE P. AQUINO

17



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

Whereupon, the complaint shall undergo the process of mediation, conciliation or arbitration as provided under the provisions of Katarungang Pambarangay as enshrined under Chapter 7, Title One, Book III of Republic Act No. 7160, known as the Local Government Code of the Philippines, which shall govern the procedures on the initiation and filing of the formal complaints before the courts for the violation of this ordinance.

SECTION 11. TRANSMITTAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ON PERSONS WITH DIFFERENT SOGIESC. The Mabalacat City EADSI-COM shall submit to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR)- Region III a copy of the monthly/ quarterly/ semestral report on the human rights violations, concerns, or issues based on SOGIESC, disability, age, ethnicity, religious and other social inclusion issues received by the committee, except when the nature of such human right violation, concern, or issue requires immediate action, in which case, the same must be immediately referred to the CHR- Region III.

SECTION 12. COMMEMORATION OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, INTERSEX, ASEXUAL (LGBTQIA) EVENTS. In support of the LGBTQIA community, the City Government of Mabalacat shall commemorate the annual celebration of the following:

- International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) on May 17;
- Pride Month Celebration every month of June;
- World Aids Day on December 1; and
- Human Rights Day on December 10.

SECTION 13. PENALTIES. Any person held liable under this Ordinance shall be penalized with imprisonment for a period of not less than sixty (60) days but not more than one (1) year and/or a fine not less than One Thousand Pesos (P 1,000.00) but not to exceed Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00), or both at the discretion of the Court, without prejudice to any applicable criminal, civil, or administrative action that may be instituted under the provisions of existing laws.

HON. MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.

HON. GERALD GUTTRIE P. AQUINO

18



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pampanga
MABALACAT CITY

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Tel. No.: (045) 626 5990 local 104
Email: spmabalacatcity@gmail.com

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

SECTION 14. INDEPENDENT ACTION FOR DAMAGES. Nothing in this Ordinance shall preclude the victim of discrimination based on actual or perceived SOGIESC, Age, Ethnicity, Social Status and Religion from instituting a separate and independent action for damages and other affirmative relief.

SECTION 15. APPROPRIATION. For the effective implementation of this Ordinance, the City Government of Mabalacat shall source out fund from the annual Gender and Development (GAD) Fund appropriated to finance GAD programs, projects and activities.

SECTION 16. INFORMATION CAMPAIGN. Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Ordinance, the City Public Information Office together with the City Population, Gender and Development Office shall conduct an information campaign to apprise the public of the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 17. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. Should any part or provision of this Ordinance be held unconstitutional or invalid by a competent Court, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 18. REPEALING CLAUSE. All ordinances, local issuances or rules inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 19. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Pampanga.

ENACTED: This 13th day of November 2025 on motion of Hon. Marjorie Grace M. Sambo duly seconded by Hons. Morales, Soliven and Jocson.

X-X
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS ORDINANCE IS DULY ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG ON NOVEMBER 06, 2025.

ATTESTED BY: MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.
Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

Aileen S. Peña
SP Secretary

HON. GERALD GUTTRIE P. AQUINO

19

City Ord. No.15
Series of 2025
Cont...

APPROVED:

MARCOS T. CASTRO JR.
Presiding Officer

TIMOTHY PAUL A. LLANOS DEE
Member

EROLL JAKE C. SOLIVEN
Member

MARJORIE GRACE M. SAMBO
Member

PATRICIA ANNE ACORDA
Member

REY T. PINEDA
Member

IGNACIO MIGUEL M. MORALES II
Member

VICTOR RENE V. ONG
Member

BENJAMIN D. JOCCSON
Member

NOELITO B. CASTRO
Member

ELIZABETH R. PINEDA
Member

RUVELANE S. MARGARITO
Member

APPROVED:

GERALD GUTTRIE P. AQUINO
City Mayor

Date: DEC. 4, 2025

From MNK to the Universe: Pampanga crowns Allyson Hetland as Miss Universe PH 2026 bet



BY GERALD GLOTON

PAMPANGA has officially revealed its queen for the Miss Universe Philippines 2026 stage, and she is no stranger to crowns and milestones.

Fresh from her Mutya ning Kapampangan 2025 victory, Allyson Hetland was unveiled as the province's new representative, ready to carry Kapampangan pride to the national spotlight.

The unveiling marked a show of unity and strong local support, with the Provincial Government of Pampanga led by Governor Lilia “Nanay” Pineda and Vice Governor Dennis “Delta” Pineda standing firmly behind Hetland’s journey. The Local Government Unit of Angeles City likewise expressed its full backing,

reinforcing the collaborative spirit that has long defined Pampanga’s pageantry scene.

Also present during the event were Reina Manuel, Executive Assistant IV to Congressman Pogi Lazatin, Provincial Tourism Officer Michael Castañeda, OIC Angeles City Tourism Officer Louie Lazatin, members of the press, pageant vloggers, as well as Hetland’s family and friends, all gathered to witness the passing of the torch to the province’s newest bet.

For Hetland, the moment felt perfectly timed.

“Perfect timing because I just graduated and passed the nursing board exam. After the MNK journey, it’s all aligning now,” she shared.

PAGE 19 PLEASE

Career Opportunity in CRK Cables Manufacturing Inc.

Position title Maintenance and Tuning Specialist Job Description: - Supervise maintenance, calibration, and fine-tuning of cable production machineries and testing equipment (Over 60 machines) - Diagnose complex mechanical issues and implement preventive maintenance systems based on production schedule to optimize uptime and longevity of the machines - Develop and implement training programs for Filipino technicians on equipment specific knowledges. Qualification: - Worked in power and smart cable industry for 20+ years. - 20+ years of experience in maintenance and tuning for power cable manufacturing related equipment. - Experience in setting up new manufacturing facility from ground zero. - Experience in training staff to monitor machines to optimize the maintenance schedule. Place of Deployment: - Warehouse 2A, B & C Berthaphil IV Compound Civil Aviation Complex Calrk Freeport Zone, 2023, Clark Pampanga Philippines Applications may be sent to: Kevin Clark Nacpil Email address: info@jmtglobal.com.ph	
Company/ Employer	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position
Company Name: CRK Cables Manufacturing Inc. Complete Address: Warehouse 2A, B & C Berthaphil IV Compound Civil Aviation Complex Calrk Freeport Zone, 2023, Clark Pampanga Philippines Nature of business: Manufacturing, Production, Subcontracting, Export, Import, Purchase, Sale and Distribution of Customized power Cable intended for Foreign Market.	<i>Name: Fangjun, Fan</i> <i>Address: Berthaphil III – UNIT 2546C Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga</i> <i>Nationality: Chinese</i> Intended period of employment: Two (2) years
CRK Cables Manufacturing Inc. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national Fan Fangjun is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for Maintenance and Tuning Specialist. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment – Region III located at Matalino cor. Mahusay St., DMGC, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. If there are any objections or inquiries, please contact the concerned DOLE Regional Office.	
Any Filipino jobseeker who is competent, able and willing to perform the services for which the foreign national is intended to be hired for, may file an objection at Department of Labor and Employment – Region III located at Matalino cor. Mahusay St., DMGC, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga after this publication Please inform Department of Labor and Employment – Region III, if you have any information on criminal offenses committed by the foreign national.	

Arayat Action Agenda...

FROM PAGE 1

3rd District Rep. Aurelio “Dong” Gonzales, Jr. and reported to have been 70% complete in March 2024.

3. The completion of the 5.09-kilometer Arayat-Magalang Bypass Road, reported in March 2024 by then-DPWH Secretary Manuel Bonoan himself with a completion rate of 80% for the works under the P96.5-million allocation in the 2023 General Appropriations Act for the Arayat Segment.

A component of the so-called Pampanga Megalopolis Masterplan, the Arayat-Magalang Bypass Road will serve not only as an additional and alternate route between the two towns but a boost to tourism by providing quicker access to the Mt. Arayat National Park (MANP) which, naturally, is among those at the summit of Mayor Luriz’s Arayat Action Agenda.

Park protection

Far from being “the showcase of a balanced ecosystem and biodiversity, conservation in Central Luzon” it was envisioned at its “return” in 2004 to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from the Department of Tourism, the MANP has through

the years eroded into dilapidation, impacted by forest fires and landslides, kaingin and deforestation, informal settlements, lack of maintenance of facilities, among others.

Since assuming the mayorship, Luriz has incessantly called on the DENR for greater protection of the MANP, notably through the designation and deployment of more forest rangers – the LGU has organized its own Bantay Kalikasan for this purpose, and expanded participation of the municipal government in the conservation, preservation, and promotion of the national park consistent to its being a protected area.

Security and public health

As with the town’s natural resources, so with its human resources that Luriz endeavors to protect, promote, uplift to a quality of life at once secure and stable.

Securing the safety of the community foremost, more so in a place for a long time known as a no man’s land. The 2024-2025 focus crime index dropping by 66.67%, to wit: Murder: 9-1; Homicide: 0-0; Physical Injury: 2-0; Rape:

11-3; Robbery: 3-0; Theft 1-4; Motorcycle Theft: 1-1; Carnapping: 0-0.

Public health expansion is most notable in the town’s Super Health Center now operating recently procured essential medical equipment such as X-ray, ECG, and blood chemistry laboratory rendering free services to the residents; and 33 ambulances 24/7. Set to start operating on Jan. 20 is the LGU’s Animal Bite Treatment Center.

Preparations are ongoing for the expansion of the Pampanga district hospital Dr. Emigdio C. Cruz Memorial Hospital in Barangay Laquios from its current 25-bed capacity and installation of modern medical equipment under the directive of Gov. Lilia “Nanay” Pineda herself.

For this, Mayor Luriz expressed the town’s gratitude to the governor and to Vice Gov. Dennis “Delta” Pineda “sa walang sawang suporta at patuloy na pagtugon sa pangangailangan ng bayan ng Arayat,” citing also the recent completion of a building at the Arayat National High School with a complement of school desks.

Waste management

Aside from the provision

of medical services, public health also demands proper waste management. At the mayor’s initiative a new materials recovery facility was constructed in Barangay Tabuan with a compliment of 65 waste segregators to ensure proper garbage sorting. The Department of Science and Technology has been tapped by the LGU to provide training in the three Rs of waste management as well as in composting for fertilizer.

To address the bane of plastic pollution, the LGU initiated the “Plastic Palit Bigas” program, an exchange of a kilo of rice for every kilo of plastic waste.

Food security, social amelioration

The town primarily agricultural, food security is a major concern of the LGU.

In partnership with the Department of Agriculture Sustained, the LGU support to the farmers comes in measured phases covering cultivation: from the distribution of high-quality, certified inbred rice seeds under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Seed Program, to the allocation of fertilizers,

and irrigation assistance to ensure bountiful harvest. Complementing this is the construction of farm-to-market roads that in 2025 cost some P150 million.

As with the DA for the farmers, so with the Department of Labor and Employment for workers and the Department of Social Welfare and Development for emergency assistance Mayor Luriz engaged for the benefit of his constituents, notably Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) and Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS).

Recognition

So much accomplishments reported here – so much more unpublished – at such short period of barely seven months since assuming the Arayat mayoralty on July 1, 2025 has made neophyte Mayor Jeffrey Luriz one whiz kid not only in politics but more so in local governance. Proof positive of this are the major awards of recognition he and the LGU under him have been bestowed with: The Balangay Seal of Excellence, the highest recognition conferred

by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency to LGUs that have successfully implemented the Barangay Drug Clearing Program.

The 1st Place winner of the 2025 PEACE Makers (Provincial Excellence Awards for LGU Champions on Effective Implementation of Peace and Order and Public Safety Programs) in Pampanga.

The SubayBAYANI Awards of the Department of the Interior and Local Government to LGUs that excel in transparent, accountable, and participatory governance, especially in monitoring local infrastructure projects, promoting community involvement and innovation for better public service.

The 25th Gawad KALASAG (Kalamidad at Sakuna Labanan, Sariling Galing ang Kaligtasan), for excellence in disaster risk reduction and management.

In the locality long ago, a catchphrase instantly sounded and was as quickly forgotten because of its emptiness, today it resonates in its fullness -- Arangkada, Arayat! And to the catalyst that has made, and still making it happen, the Arayateños cheer: **Luid, Luriz!**



Israel Illuminated 2

Culinary Excellence, Gastronomic Journey

BY GERALD G. GLOTON

Deli Alhambra's farm-to-table dinner

ISRAELI GASTRONOMY feels like a crossroads on a plate, where ancient traditions and modern creativity meet. Each dish carries the memory of many cultures and the warmth of shared tables.

A farm-to-table dinner workshop was set for us at Deli Alhambra, where we prepared our own food paired with za'atar wine. For an upscale dining experience, we were served exquisite dishes at Pop and

Pope, with an opportunity to converse with Ethiopian-Israeli activist and influencer Ashager Araro. In Jerusalem, we joined a Machane Yehuda and Chanukiot tour in Nahlaot.

Just as our tourism officer Ching Pangilinan wisely taught us, if you want to experience true local food pride, you go straight to the marketplace. And that is exactly what we did in Jerusalem.

Nothing, however, beats Kibbutz cuisine. All delegates agreed that Kibbutz Alumim served the best goulash and schnitzel of the trip. We tasted mulled wine from Cana, the place where Jesus performed His first miracle, where he turned water into wine at the wedding.



Kibbutz lunch



Arack, the Israeli's "alak"

From the first sip of arack, their very own version of our "alak," we knew we were not just tasting food. We were tasting Israel itself, bold, spirited, and unforgettable.



Knafeh and Meshdawi savored bread

Since it was Hanukkah, donuts were everywhere. The sufganiyot, filled with jelly or custard, were indulgent, delicious, and unapologetically greasy.



In Nazareth, we enjoyed falafel and shawarma, sampled knafeh at Mokhtar's Sweets, and savored bread delicacies from Meshhdawi.

"We really learn comprehensively in the field of grafting, irrigation, and plant care, so when I go back to the Philippines, I get to further establish our family farm business," said John Paul Miranda, from Isabela Province.

Innovation continued at HTI Hermon Technology and Innovation Center in the Golan Heights with Dr. Taisir Marai. In Tel Aviv, we were introduced to the Start-Up Nation through a walking tour led by Gilad Carni, CEO and founder of the UAE-Israel Innovation Office. If there is Silicon Valley,



Yad Vashem



Nova Festival Memorial Site

We also witnessed recent tragedy as we visited the Gaza Envelope and the Nova Festival Memorial Site, a solemn reminder of the Oct. 7, 2023 attack. We met Police Sgt. Remo Salman Al-Hozayel, a Bedouin police officer whose bravery saved numerous festival-goers.



Police Sgt. Remo Salman Al-Hozayel



Esther Marcus

We also met with witness Esther Marcus who hails from England, bravely narrated her experience at their Milking Parlor where terrorists shot some of their Thai workers.

At Kibbutz Kfar Aza, Avidor Schwartzman-Flash walked us through a survivor's account, showing ransacked homes of tragically murdered residents, including the memorial of Filipina victim Angelyn Peralta, a caregiver who refused to leave her patient.

We also had a heart-to-heart conversation with Noralin Agojo, a Filipina survivor who was held captive by Hamas for 53 days. She speaks of her survival as a miracle, one without assurance, yet one that continues to give her strength to live and confront trauma.

Another global challenge today is digital warfare. Israel is not immune. Here4Good blogger Ella Kenan provided us with an extensive discussion on combating misinformation and navigating truth in the digital age.

Shabbat, Stillness, and Gratitude

Before heading home, we were invited to a traditional Shabbat dinner hosted by a local chef. Phones were put away. Candles were lit. Time slowed. It was pure immersion in tradition and community. We left Israel with hearts full and souls deeply enriched.

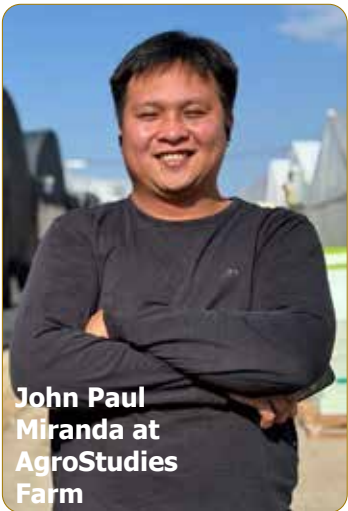
My endless thanks to fellow Southeast Asian delegates and our AJC family: Olga Tripp, Sharon Nizza, Shira Loewenberg, Roni Lippman, our ever-trusty tour guide Daniel Cedar, and documenter Ariel Fields.

Here is a single, emotional, and inspiring closing paragraph written in your voice and suited for a global lifestyle or cultural exchange piece:

As I leave Israel, I do so carrying more than photographs and memories. I carry the faces of people who opened their homes, shared their stories, and trusted us with their truths. This cultural exchange taught me that beyond borders, beliefs, and histories, humanity is stitched together by light, resilience, and the courage to hope.



The Dome of the Rock



John Paul Miranda at AgroStudies Farm

A Technologically Equipped State

In Ashkelon, we explored Israel's agri-tech ecosystem at AgroStudies Farm, where international students train in agriculture under MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation. "We really learn comprehensively in the field of grafting, irrigation, and plant care, so when I go back to the Philippines, I get to further establish our family farm business," said John Paul Miranda, from Isabela Province.

Innovation continued at HTI Hermon Technology and Innovation Center in the Golan Heights with Dr. Taisir Marai. In Tel Aviv, we were introduced to the Start-Up Nation through a walking tour led by Gilad Carni, CEO and founder of the UAE-Israel Innovation Office.

If there is Silicon Valley, Israel proudly has Silicon Wadi.



Author exploring the Holy City

Israel revealed itself not only through its ancient stones and modern innovations, but through the strength of its people who choose dialogue over division and remembrance over forgetting. I return home transformed, reminded that cultural exchange is not just about understanding another country, but about discovering our shared responsibility to protect truth, honor life, and keep the light burning for generations to come.

AJC Project Interchange believes that there is no substitute for first-hand experience when it comes to understanding Israel. Since 1982, the program has brought influential global opinion leaders and policymakers from over 120 countries and all 50 U.S. states to experience Israeli society firsthand. Through direct engagement with leading Israeli figures, senior Arab-Israeli and Palestinian leaders, and experts across fields such as human rights, economic development, entrepreneurship, and peace-building, participants gain meaningful insight into Israel's diversity, democracy, and complexity, enriched by historic, cultural, strategic, and religious site visits.

3,784 ALS grads...

FROM PAGE 1
Each graduate received P2,000 in financial aid and food packs as part of the province's efforts to support learners and young workers transitioning to higher education, employment, or public service.
Sharing in the achievers' triumphant day were Gov. Lilia "Nanay" Pineda and Vice Gov. Dennis "Delta"

Pineda, with members of the sangguniang panlalawigan and representatives from the Department of Education., Department of Labor and Employment, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and ALS.
"Hindi na kayo kailan man mamaliitin ng iba, dahil nakapag-aral na kayo," declared Gov Nanay of the

impact of their educational achievement.
She said the Capitol support helps ease financial burdens and allows graduates to focus on improving their lives and opportunities for their families.
DOLE officials said the aid supports broader employment and education initiatives, especially for ALS completers

pursuing further studies or decent work. Many GIP beneficiaries have also been absorbed by government offices and partner institutions, including the Provincial Government of Pampanga, after serving as Guro sa Nayon teachers for ALS learners and as encoders for provincial medical missions. **Pampanga PIO/ Photos: Daniel Ombina**

The Public Space

FROM PAGE 5
appears to be inviting for one side or the other to simply ignore. The details are almost palpable. The atmospherics, especially the nation's need to unite against the rapacious gangs of public works looters, demand a sense of patriotism, not simply political partisanship to prevail.

One year is a long time in politics. So is nation-building. In a sense, they're a race against time. A simple observation of motorists behaviorand traffic problems in the city and far down the countryside is a give-away of how much we have fallen behind other nations.
The massive corruption issue cuts the cake unfairly

and brutally.
Dr. Jose Rizal, in his "The Philippines A Century Hence" gave a realistic timeline of how his beloved people can recover from the vestiges of colonization and prove themselves the world can toast for their values. At one time, the people lived up to the national hero's vision: it threw away a dictator and became a

model for other races wanting democracy and freedom. The dictator's son came back, of course, and with a vengeance. But the greatest moral corruption in this society has called for a new political glory of moral dimension for which the young Marcos must pursue, attain and inspire.
That's the non-negotiable path of 2026.

CIAC acquires...

FROM PAGE 2
nationwide.
The Palace directive, which took effect in July 2024, targets a 10% EV share in government fleets and supports broader

national goals of deploying millions of EVs by 2028.
Alcazar emphasized that CIAC's transition to electric vehicles reflects a global shift toward green technologies and climate-

resilient development.
"We have integrated EVs into our corporate operations to promote innovation in clean, sustainable, and energy-efficient solutions while reducing greenhouse

gas emissions," he said.
He added the move also strengthens the country's energy security by lowering dependence on imported fuel for the transport sector. **CIAC-CCO**

Ebdane's SOPA...

FROM PAGE 2
medical equipment, and in partnership with health-related agencies such PhilHealth, have expanded enrollment, improved claims process, and reduced out-of-pocket expenses for Zambalenos.
In terms of social development, the province developed programs for child welfare, crisis intervention, family support and senior citizen care. Through "Hatid Serbisyo", we brought social services directly to the doorsteps of our people, Ebdane said.
For livelihood and tourism, Ebdane said, the province is continuously developing various programs and projects to support the livelihood of our fisherfolks and farmers

in the province.
"We established economic engines such as the Zambales Mango Industry Council to assist our mango growers, and the Zambales Maritime Development Council to assist the fishery sector," he added.
"As the backbone of Zambales, we continue to support our farmers through the provision of equipment, seeds, and fertilizer, while enabling our fisherfolk with fishing boats and gears, fish landing sites, and the institutionalization of their associations into cooperatives," Ebdane said.
In terms of infrastructure projects, the provincial government embarked on the

construction of a new Capitol Building, Capitol Multi-Purpose Building, Zambales Sports Complex Track and Football Stadium and President Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Hospital Annex.
Ebdane reiterated its commitment to youth and sports development through the expanded "Handog Edukasyon" program where thousands of students received education assistance and financial support."
"In sports, we are conquering new heights, our athletes now bring pride to our province from CLRAA to Palarong Pambansa to SEA Games," he said.
"As we prepare our bid for the 2027 Palarong Pambansa, we are

confident that Zambales is ready - we will have the facilities, the discipline, and the heart to host this prestigious event," Ebdane averred.
To prove that Zambales is ready to host international and national events, he cited the success of the recently concluded 33rd Asia-Pacific Regional Scouts Jamboree held at Camp Kainomayan in Botolan, welcoming around 25,000 scouts and leaders from several countries.
"But the years ahead will even be more challenging. We must be ready to face climate risks, infrastructure gaps, health system pressures, and the realities of poverty in vulnerable communities," Ebdane concluded.

OFW Hospital...

FROM PAGE 20
services, the OFW Hospital is also strengthening healthcare access beyond its main facility through the establishment of clinics under the Sigla Wellness Center initiative.
In preparation for the hospital's expanded services and the planned establishment of a cancer care center and dialysis services, the OFW Hospital has also intensified its blood donation drive in partnership with the Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital and the Philippine Blood Network.
"Sa nakalipas na dalawang taon, nakaipon tayo ng mahigit 400 bags ng dugo at nakatulung ito sa humigit-kumulang 60 hanggang 70 pasyente na nangangailangan ng blood transfusion," Maglaya said.
Among the hospital's short-term plans is the

strengthening of its role as a medical facility for OFWs, particularly in conducting health assessments to ensure migrant workers are physically and mentally fit before deployment abroad.
The OFW Hospital is also coordinating with other DOH hospitals nationwide to strengthen OFW wards and expand access to healthcare services for migrant workers, while wellness clinics are being planned in partnership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, including in airport lounges.
Maglaya stressed that the OFW Hospital remains open to serve OFWs and their families, and assured that emergency cases even for non-OFWs are not refused in compliance with the Universal Healthcare Law.

From MNK...

FROM PAGE 17
Her rise has been steady and hard earned. Crowned Mutya ning Angeles in 2024, she went on to clinch the Mutya ning Kapampangan title in 2025. Now, she steps onto a bigger stage as Pampanga's official representative to Miss Universe Philippines 2026, carrying not just a sash, but a story of discipline, growth, and purpose.
Provincial pageant director Michael "Cacai"

Muñoz summed up the collective hope surrounding Hetland's campaign. "We are all one in supporting a candidate truly worthy of the crown. Let's all manifest that Miss Universe Philippines is coming from Pampanga."
As Allyson Hetland begins her national pageant journey, Pampanga rallies behind her with one voice, one vision, and one shared dream: to see the universe shine on a Kapampangan queen.

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of LLOYD IAN C. LINGAD who died on August 30, 2025 at Angeles University Foundation Medical Center Angeles City; executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement on his estate; and more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 6, Block 15, of the subdivision plan (LRC) Psd-97252, being a portion of Lot 4, described on plan (LRC) (GLRO) Cad. Rec. No. 124), situated in the Barrio of Balibago, City of Angeles; Containing an area of Four Hundred Fifty (450) Square Meters; and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 045-2017007154; before Notary Public Atty. Allan M. Del Rosario, as per Doc. No. 307, Page No. 63, Book No. XX, Series of 2026.

Punto! Central Luzon: January 18, 25 & February 1, 2026

DigiPlus...

FROM PAGE 20
digital literacy, and build skills aligned with today's evolving workforce.
"The aim of our PLUS Centers is to bridge the digital divide and skills gaps in technology education and livelihood by delivering capacity-building and infrastructure investments in communities," shares DigiPlus Foundation Executive Director Angela Camins-Wieneke. "From empowering persons with disabilities in Cebu with training in computer skills and commercial arts to helping solo parents in General Santos gain NC II Certifications through technical training in dressmaking, our goal is community-specific impact. We are grateful for the opportunity to extend this mission and deliver the same impact to Masbate through Liceo de San Jacinto."
Emphasizing the facility's role in elevating island-wide learning standards, academic leaders and school officials, who expressed gratitude, noted that the upgrade will significantly enhance teaching methods and student engagement.
"Education must evolve with the times," said Dr. Francisco P. Altarejos, Chairman of LSJF and Mayor of the Municipality of San Jacinto, Ticao Island. "These new computers allow our institution to deliver quality, future-ready learning, expanding access, enhancing instructions, and equipping our students with skills essential in an increasingly digital economy."
Beyond the LSJF community, the PLUS Center for Technology is also expected to support other schools in nearby municipalities, community-based programs, and livelihood workshops, extending its benefits across the island.
Local government leaders across the island's

four municipalities likewise highlighted the PLUS Center for Technology's importance to inclusive growth.
"Access to technology is no longer a privilege; it is a necessity for inclusive growth," shared Mayor Marco M. Cam of Municipality of Batuan. He continued, "By bringing modern learning tools to our students, we are strengthening our community's capacity to compete, innovate, and thrive in a rapidly digitalizing world. This initiative ensures that no learner in the whole island of Ticao is left behind."
For students, the PLUS Center for Technology represents more than the new equipment but it symbolizes opportunity.
"This is not just a donation of hardware, it is an investment in our dreams," said Zoren Almodiel, 3rd Year B.S. Education student of LSJF. "These computers turn 'sana all' into real opportunity. In a time when digital literacy is as essential as reading and writing, this upgrade empowers us to actively participate in the digital age and prepare for a technology-driven future, regardless of where we come from."
More than an infrastructure upgrade, the PLUS Center for Technology reflects a long-term investment in Ticao Island's future - strengthening education, supporting community development, and building resilience.
This milestone underscores DigiPlus Foundation's continuing commitment to multiplying the good in underserved communities nationwide. Through its FutureSmart program as well as its health and community resilience initiatives, the Foundation remains focused on creating sustainable impact, one much-needed community at a time.

Senior citizens'...

FROM PAGE 2
incentives to senior citizens who reach milestone ages.
"Ang mga umabot sa edad na 80, 85, 90, at 95 ay makatatanggap ng P10,000, habang ang mga nasa 100 taong gulang ay tumatanggap ng P100,000 mula sa Komisyon. Bukod pa ito sa maaaring ibigay ng lokal na pamahalaan," she said.
In Pampanga, the one-time cash assistance of P100,000, along with a certificate of recognition, has been awarded to near centenarians 95 years and above for some years now.
For his part, NCSC-3 director Emmanuel Daez said the partnership strengthens the commission's capacity to serve senior citizens not only in Pampanga, but across the entire region. "This partnership ensures that government services truly

reach those who have spent a lifetime building our communities. This day reminds us that when national and local governments work hand in hand, our seniors feel valued and cared for."
Citing the need of proper registration to fast-track the release benefits, Daez urged families of older people, Office for Senior Citizens Affairs officers, and volunteers to assist senior citizens who may have difficulty registering online at <https://www.ncsc.gov.ph/>.
NCSC initiatives such as improved access to benefits, strengthened coordination with LGUs, and the establishment of senior citizen centers aim to ensure that elderly Filipinos feel valued, protected, and supported in their later years.
Punto News Team/ PIA-3, Pampanga PIO

DigiPlus Foundation brings first PLUS Center for Technology to Masbate's Ticao Island



Foundation representatives and school leaders experience the new Smart Classroom equipment during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



On January 14, 2025, DigiPlus Foundation and Liceo de San Jacinto formalized their partnership in bridging access to technology-driven education. In photos: (left-right) Ms. Angela Camins-Wieneke, Executive Director, DigiPlus Foundation; Dr. Francisco P. Altarejos, Chairman of Liceo de San Jacinto Foundation and current Municipality Mayor of San Jacinto, Ticao Island, Masbate; and Neil Don Orillaneda, Program Manager for Education and Livelihood, DigiPlus Foundation.

Often overlooked on the national map, Ticao Island in Masbate is among the most remote island communities in the Bicol Region and one of the first areas to feel the impact of incoming typhoons in the Philippines. Beyond the

mainland lies a resilient yet underserved island now taking a significant step forward in education and digital inclusion. Responding to the persistent gaps in access to technology and digital learning for its students,

DigiPlus Foundation, formerly known as BingoPlus Foundation and a well-recognized organization for its award-winning technology education program, officially established its fourth FutureSmart: PLUS Center

to Liceo de San Jacinto Foundation (LSJF). LSJF is the only educational institution on the island offering programs up to the tertiary level and serves nearly 90% of the island's student population, supporting around 400

junior and senior students, and 2,200 college students, making it a cornerstone of educational opportunity on Ticao Island. Dubbed as "PLUS Center for Technology", DigiPlus Foundation upgraded the school's

former computer laboratory into a modern, fully equipped digital facility that meets current industry and digital learning standards, enough for educators and learners to gain hands-on experience, strengthen

PAGE 19 PLEASE



Pamilya Pineda rolls out 6-month feeding program in CSF

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — A six-month feeding program to help undernourished students in public schools was rolled out in several barangays here on Jan. 21. Funded by businessman-philanthropist Rodolfo "Tatay Bong" Pineda, the program is aimed at helping children get proper nutrition, become healthier, and perform better in school. Under the program, the children will receive free meals at least twice a week, regardless of their class schedules. Students attending morning classes will be fed before going home, while those in the afternoon session will receive their meals before

classes begin. The feeding program will run for six months. The children's progress will be closely monitored, with school officials regularly checking their weight and overall health. Some 10,000 pre-school and elementary students are expected to benefit from the program. The initiative is part of a bigger project of the Pineda family, which is also supporting similar feeding programs in other towns across Pampanga. Former board member and mayor Mylyn Pineda-Cayabyab led the rollout in barangays Sta. Lucia, San Pedro, San Jose, San Juan, Del Pilar, and

Sto. Niño here, together with businesswoman Tin Chua, personally engaging in casual and cordial exchanges with the school staff and the school children who were served hot steamed rice with chicken adobo as viand, prepared by a local kitchen. Chewable gummy vitamins were also given to help boost the children's daily nutrient intake. School administrators helped coordinate the activity and identified the student-beneficiaries based on actual nutritional assessments. The focus is on children who are underweight or need added nutritional support. **Punto News Team/PR**

OFW Hospital upgraded to DOH Level 2

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- The Overseas Filipino Workers Hospital has been accredited as a Level 2 hospital by the Department of Health, marking a milestone in the government's continuing efforts to enhance healthcare services for migrant workers and their families. The Level 2 License to Operate, issued by the DOH Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau, allows the OFW Hospital to increase its authorized bed capacity to 72 from 50 under its previous Level 1 classification, and to operate one Type 2 ambulance. OFW Hospital OIC-medical center chief Patrick Louie Maglaya said that with the upgrade, the hospital can now provide more comprehensive and specialized medical services including an intensive care unit, neonatal intensive care unit, operating and delivery rooms, pharmacy services, radiology, computed tomography (CT) scan, heart station, and lung station. He explained that the facility

initially operated as a Level 1 infirmary, similar to DOH district hospitals, which primarily focused on providing basic and primary healthcare services. "Ang Level 1 ay kadalasang walang ICU at limitado ang serbisyo, ngunit malaking tulong pa rin ito sa primary healthcare. Ngayon ay iniakyat na sa Level 2 ang OFW Hospital kung saan mayroon na tayong ICU at special care units para matugunan ang mas komplikadong mga kaso," Maglaya said. He added that the long-term vision for the OFW Hospital is to reach Level 3 status by 2027, in line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac. "Ang Level 3 ay may research at training kung saan ang mga doktor ay nagasasanay na sa ating mga ospital para makapagpa-graduate ng mga lisensyadong doktor sa kanilang mga specialty," Maglaya said. As part of its expanded

PAGE 19 PLEASE

