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# 'ATTACK ON PRESS FREEDOM'

## DepEd 6 chief slammed over libel raps vs. RMN anchors

BY VINCENT P. GRECIA

**THE four radio anchors of DYRI RMN Iloilo are not alone in their fight versus Department of Education (DepEd) 6 regional director Ramir Uytico, after all.**

Aside from a throng of their listeners and supporters, several city officials, led by no less than Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, sided with the RMN anchormen Novie Guazo, Regan Arlos, Israel Vincent "Don" Dolido, and Henry Lumawag in their commentaries against Uytico which prompted the latter to file libel cases against the broadcasters.

In a press statement, Treñas noted that he stands

strongly behind the RMN commentators in their fight against the DepEd regional director.

"In my four decades of public service, my actions and decisions have been criticized by members of the media and made subject of commentaries in several programs. I have never filed any criminal case of libel against any member of legitimate media since I understand that is their job.

ATTACK / page 2



Combo photo shows the four DYRI RMN Iloilo broadcasters Henry Lumawag, Novie Guazo, Regan Arlos and Don Dolido who are respondents of a libel case filed by Department of Education (DepEd) regional director Ramir Uytico (center). (Photo from DYRI RMN Facebook Page)

## NUJP-Iloilo Statement on DepEd-6 RD Ramir Uytico's libel cases vs 4 RMN-Iloilo anchormen

The National Union of Journalist of the Philippines (NUJP)-Iloilo Chapter condemns the apparent harassment and direct attack against four broadcasters of radio station DYRI RMN-Iloilo through the libel cases filed by Department of Education (DepEd)-6 regional director Ramil Uytico.

Uytico filed four separate libel complaints against Israel Vincent "Don" Dolido, Henry Lumawag, Novie Guazo, and Regan Arlos before the City Prosecutor's Office on Feb. 7, 2024.

He claimed that the broadcasters committed libel under the Revised Penal Code and the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012.

Among others, Uytico accused the media practitioners of ruining his person, demeaned his honor, and tarnishing his reputation with insulting invectives.

The libel case against the four stemmed from their commentaries on their respective radio programs on Uytico.

The subject of commentaries, including Uytico's performance as agency head, are legitimate issues of public significance and therefore subject to reportage and opinion.

We maintain that the right to free expression and press freedom is paramount especially when it involves public officials and the exercise of their functions.

The media has a vital role to play in conveying information to the public and in holding those in power accountable.

We believe that this case is another proof how public officials use libel as a weapon to harass, intimidate and silence journalists.

As a government official, Uytico has a responsibility to be open to criticism and to confront the problems and questions that arise.

By suing journalists for doing their jobs, Uytico isn't just silencing the media, he is denying the public the right to know.

## Construction of Jalaur mega dam in Iloilo still on track

The construction of the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project Stage II (JRMP II) in the town of Calinog in Iloilo is on track as the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has

reported that the overall physical accomplishment of the project is already at 74.07 percent.

As of January, all three dams, namely the Alibunan River Catch Dam,

JalaurAfterbay Dam, and the 109-meter high Jalaur High Dam have been substantially completed.

The agency said that the works are now focused on the irrigation component

including the 80-kilometer high line canal and 80 kilometers main and lateral canals.

"With all components nearing completion, the project is expected to fully operate by 2025,"

it added, noting that the completion of the project under the administration of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. will boost the government's goal of attaining food security and raising agricultural production in the country.

Once operational, the JRMP II, which is one of the 194 priority infrastructure projects under the 'Build Better More' (BBM) program of the government, will increase Iloilo's rice production to 338,874 metric tons per year, equivalent to

## PBGen. Wanky assumes post as new PRO 6 chief

Police Brigadier General Jack L. Wanky has assumed his post as the acting Regional Director of Police Regional Office (PRO) 6.

He succeeded PBGen Sidney N. Villaflor in a turnover ceremony presided

by no less than Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Police General Benjamin Acorda, Jr. on February 19, 2024 at the PRO 6 headquarters, Camp Martin Delgado, Iloilo City.

Villaflor was assigned to

an elevated position at the PNP Directorate for Human Resource Development Division (DHRDD) in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Wanky, who hails from Benguet province's Buguias town, was part of the PNP Academy Class of 1992, and also served as its executive officer.

He was also the former head of the PNP Aviation Security Group.

Wanky has served PRO 6 in the late 90s and was

PBGEN. / page 2



CONSTRUCTION / page 2

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## Prov'l Bantay Dagat nabs illegal fishers in Concepcion

JOINT elements of the Iloilo Provincial BantayDagat Task Force led by Team Leader PSSG Roderick Asturias and supervised by PMAJ Joven Arevalo and Concepcion Municipal Police Station Chief PMAJ Samuel Vipinosa apprehended fishermen engaging in dynamite fishing on the municipal waters of Concepcion in the vicinity of Brgy. Taloto-an, Bukot Island, Concepcion, Iloilo at around 4:30 in the afternoon of February 20, 2024.

Those apprehended were Romel Barrios, Brgy. Tabugon, Carles, Iloilo, the boat pilot and his crew Romel Rifi of Brgy. Tinigban, Carles, Iloilo, Romel Ereño, also of Tinigban, Carles, Iloilo, and Rolando Inocencio also of Brgy. Taqabugon, Carles,

Iloilo who were on board F/B R-Jun.

Now under the custody of the Iloilo Provincial BantayDagat task force after inspection are one (2) unit 4DR5 diesel engine (Mitsubishi), one (1) shafting, one (1) unit propeller, one (1) unit rudder, one (1) unit air compressor, three (3) rolls compressor hose of 40 fathoms each, six (6) piece improvised clippers, three (30) pieces diving goggles, three (3) pieces scope net, one (1) unit fish finder (Garmin brand). These are now under the custody of the Iloilo Provincial BantayDagat Task Force

Twenty (20) kilos of assorted fish with an estimated price of Three Thousand Pesos (PhP 3,000.00) were confiscated and samples of these will

be brought to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) for scientific examination.

The apprehended will be charged for violation of Section 92 of Republic Act 8550 otherwise known as "An Act Providing for the Development of, Management and Conservation of the Fisheries

and Aquatic Resources, Integrating All Laws Pertinent Thereto, And For Other Purposes" as amended by Republic Act 10654 or "An Act to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Amending Republic Act 8550, Otherwise Known as "The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1988."

## Iloilo City gears up for Paraw Regatta

THE Paraw Regatta will once again flag off from the shores of Iloilo City and Guimaras this year, bringing more economic opportunities for the city as it pays homage to the region's seafaring history.

Dr. Roberto Samosa, chairman of the Paraw Sailing Event, said the festival will officially open on Feb. 25 at Villa beach in the city's Arevalo district.

For the festival's 41st edition, Samosa said they are expecting more participants from Boracay and nearby towns to join the Paraw Main Race on March 2.

He also said they are in talks with Iloilo Festivals Foundation Inc. (IFFI) to increase the cash prizes to up to P120,000.

Engr. Fulbert Woo, co-chair of the event, said that the Paraw Regatta, like the Dinagyang and other festivals in the city, would benefit not just the micro, small, medium enterprises (MSMEs), but big businesses as well, which would further boost the city's economy.

"I think all festivals in Iloilo will be beneficial for us, not only the MSMEs, but the big industries. If we look at it, small establishments get their resources from big businesses, so there is really support from the private sector. Through these activities we can create a network of investments and

an economic drive for the city and province of Iloilo," Woo said.

John Lex Bayombong, chairman of the Paraw Regatta Festival, on the other hand, revealed that other activities slated during the weeklong celebration include the PintaLayag that will start on Feb. 26 at JBLFMU-Arevalo Campus; Pinta Regatta Contest on Feb. 27 at Festive Walk Mall Garden Atrium; Paraw Regatta Job Fair (TBA) and Miniature Paraw on Feb. 28; Slalom Race and Paraw Food Fest (Day 1) on Feb. 29; Paraw H.I.I.T, Paraw Duathlon, Beach Sports, Sinambasa Regatta (Hall of the Justice to Freedom Grandstand) and Paraw Foodfest (Day 2) on March 2.

There will also be PintaTawo, ParawLechon Contest; Beach Sports at Villa Beach; Paraw Beach Bodies, Lighted Paraw and Fireworks, Paraw Food Fest (Day 3), Paraw Photo Contest and Awarding Ceremony on March 3.

The Paraw Regatta Festival, which started in 1973, is considered Asia's largest and oldest sailing event, serving as a way to preserve the historical value of the "paraw" sailboats, which were the main mode of sea transportation during pre-colonial trade. (PIA Iloilo)

## CONSTRUCTION ... (from page 1)

a 71.54 percent spike from the current production of 197,545 metric tons.

This will be attained through year-round delivery of irrigation water to a total of 31,840 hectares of farmlands in 23 municipalities and directly benefiting around 25,000 farmers.

The JRMP II is also expected to generate 6.6 megawatts of hydroelectric power; 86 million liters per day of bulk water supply for the province and city of Iloilo; create eco-cultural tourism opportunities; and will mitigate flooding in Calinog and other nearby towns once completed.

NIA stressed that the JRMP II is projected to expand the production areas of sugarcane and other crops, and usher inclusive rural development through the realization of its eco-cultural tourism, flood mitigation and inland fishery components. (PIA Iloilo)



The Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) conducted site inspection of the Jalaur River Multi-Purpose Project Stage II on February 20, 2024. They visited the ongoing rehabilitation of the existing NIS, construction of the High Line Canal and the ongoing activities in the Jalaur High Dam and Afterbay Dam. (NIA Region 6)

## ATTACK ... (from page 1)

The members of the RMN team have criticized me in many of my actions. That is their job. I always take it in stride," Treñas said.

City Councilor Ely Estante, a seasoned radio broadcaster before becoming a politician, also rallied behind his former colleagues.

He dared his fellow public servants like Uytico to resign if they do not want to be criticized by the media.

"As government officials we should be always ready for any action nga gina himo naton kag kon wala ka sang sala ti indi ka man matalupangdan pero kon may mga sala ka kag lain ang gina-obra mo, so, talupangdon ka kay kumo isaka ka public official," Estante said.

"Ginatadlong ka kag gina paintindi ka sang imo obligasyon... ina nga bagay

dapat i-absorb mo ina kay siling ko, if you don't want criticisms from the media, you should better resign... amo na sadto ginahambal ko nga kon indi ka gusto sang kritisismo, puli ka to kag mag tanom kamote kay wala gid may magsaway sa imo," he added.

Iloilo City Vice Mayor Jeffrey Ganzon, on the other hand, said that it is the duty of journalists to call out government officials who are negligent in their functions and responsibilities or engage in wrongdoings.

"The media is the conscience of our society essential for our democracy to thrive. Press Freedom is the one and only hope of ordinary people to have an equal stake in public discourse to defend them from abuse of people in power," he added.

DYRIRMN Iloilo station manager Ronel Sorbito

labeled the libel suit against his anchormen as a "direct attack on the freedom of the press."

In a statement, Sorbito said Uytico should not be onion-skinned when faced with media criticism.

"It is his responsibility to face the issues and questions at hand, as it is the right of the public to know his explanation," said Sorbito.

"The media plays a crucial role in informing the public and holding those in power accountable. By taking legal action against journalists for doing their job, Dr. Uytico is not only silencing the voices of the media but also hindering the public's right to access information," Sorbito stressed.

RMN Iloilo's anchormen criticized Uytico for his failure to answer the issues involving

the suicide of a senior high school student in Jaro, Iloilo City; the issuance of a memorandum requiring schools to place tarpaulins bearing his image; his slow response to the conflict between the students and teachers and the school principal in Laua-an, Antique, among others.

In filing the libel cases, Uytico claimed that the RMN Iloilo anchormen tarnished his reputation through their unethical and baseless commentaries.

Last week, the Iloilo City Prosecutor's Office conducted separate preliminary investigations on the libel cases against Guazo, Arlos, Dolido and Lumawag.

Sorbito and the other anchors, reporters and personnel showed up at the preliminary investigation as a show of support to their embattled colleagues.

## TESDA to open CAMANAVA HVAC training hub

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is again set to elevate training for skilled professionals in the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) sector after it has signed an agreement with a leading electrical appliance manufacturer.

TESDA - National Capital Region (NCR) has established a partnership

with Concepcion Midea Inc. Philippines (CMIP) to meet the increasing demand for workers in the HVAC sector.

TESDA Director General, Secretary Suharto T. Mangudadatu lauds the said agreement which was signed by TESDA-NCR and the CMIP last January 22 at the TESDA-Navotas Vocational Training and

TESDA / page 3

## PBGEN. ... (from page 1)

the former city director of Bacolod City Police Office from February to October 2017.

PBGenWanky thanks the PRO6 personnel and the people of Region 6 for welcoming him.

"My vision of the PRO6 is a police regional office that provides fast, efficient,

and quality services to the people of Western Visayas. I want us to become a model PRO across the country. Towards this end, I am excited to embark on this journey with you. I am confident that together we can make a meaningful difference," Wanky stressed.



# Ilonggo PWDs get wheelchairs, assistive devices

THE Iloilo Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recently distributed 40 wheelchairs, four-wheeled walkers, three pairs of crutches, and an adult walker to PWDs from 20 towns.

The beneficiaries came from the towns of Oton, Miag-ao, Tubungan, San Miguel, New Lucena, Leon, Alimodian, Santa Barbara, Maasin, Mina, Calinog, Badiangan, San Enrique, Dingle, Passi City, Dumangas, Banate, Dueñas, Ajuy, and Estancia.

According to PSWDO chief Sarah Barayuga, the recipients have been evaluated by trained assessors and these

devices were customized based on their sizes and needs.

“It’s not one-size-fits-all. The recipients have been assessed as to the types of wheelchairs suited for them. This way, we could make sure that the devices could be used by the PWDs,” Barayuga shared.

To recall, it was last year when the provincial government signed a memorandum of agreement with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for an additional 800 wheelchairs and 834 assistive devices for the province of Iloilo. It is the second biggest provision of the LDS Church next to La Union.



PWD beneficiaries in Iloilo attend the turn-over ceremony of mobility devices that were customized according to their needs. (Capitol photo)

Meanwhile, Provincial Administrator Raul Baniyas thanked the LDS Church for donating mobility devices to the provincial

government since 2018. The provincial administrator said that ensuring the welfare of PWDs is part of the

provincial government’s social justice agenda. Baniyas also conveyed that Gov. Arthur Defensor Jr. is also looking into the

establishment of physical rehabilitation centers in district hospitals to cater to the needs of PWDs. (PIA Iloilo)



**HOUSING UNITS.** National Housing Authority (NHA) PHP517.8 million housing units for Typhoon Yolanda affected families in Barangay Lacayon in Bugasong town in an undated photo. Eby Archangel Butiong, head of the Antique Provincial Housing Affairs and Resettlement Office, said Tuesday (Feb. 20, 2024) the units are to be raffled off among identified recipients this month. (Photo courtesy of Eby Archangel Butiong)

## Antique gov’t to award 1.7K housing units to Yolanda-hit families

**SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique** – The provincial government is eyeing to award this month 1,787 housing units built by the National Housing Authority (NHA) in Barangay Lacayon in Bugasong town for families affected by Typhoon Yolanda.

In a stakeholders meeting called by Antique Governor Rhodora Cadio last January, the contractor of the PHP517.8 million

housing project, Eddmari Construction and Trading, committed to energizing a mini-dam near the housing site to serve as water source within three months, Eby Archangel Butiong, head of the Antique Provincial Housing Affairs and Resettlement Office (PHARO), said in an interview Tuesday.

The contractor completed the project in 2019, but the lack of water

supply caused a delay in the awarding of units to the beneficiaries.

“The housing units, however, were not awarded to the beneficiaries because there was a problem with the source of potable water,” Butiong said.

During the meeting, Bugasong Mayor John Lloyd Pacete said he plans to raffle off the

units within the month to determine the units of each beneficiary, and they could apply for electrical connection with the Antique Electric Cooperative.

“The governor is really looking forward to the housing units getting occupied by the beneficiaries,” Butiong said. (PNA)

## TESDA ... (from page 2)

Assessment (NAVOTAAS) Institute in Navotas City. “TESDA is dedicated to providing accessible and quality skills training for all Filipinos. With the help of Concepcion Midea Inc. we can offer more high-quality technical education for HVAC repair and installation with the integration of Internet of Things (IOT) technology,” Secretary Mangudadatu said.

Through this partnership, CMIP will provide the latest equipment and technology to be used by trainees of RAC Servicing (DomRAC) NC II, and Commercial Air Conditioning Installation and Servicing Training

NC III.

These will be housed in the TESDA-Midea Training Hub that will be located within the premises of the TESDA-NAVOTAAS Institute, the training center of TESDA in the CAMANAVA (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela) area.

Secretary Mangudadatu thanked CMIP, Inc. and recognized the importance of their support in the development of a qualified and competitive HVAC workforce.

“I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Concepcion Midea Inc. for their partnership and commitment to advancing skills development in the Philippines. Together, I am confident that we can empower more individuals and build successful careers in the HVAC industry,” the TESDA Chief said.

Further, Secretary Mangudadatu said that TESDA has been steadfast in providing relevant, accessible, high-quality, and efficient technical education and skills training programs to support the middle-level manpower development goals and priorities set in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028

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## 69-MW solar power farm to rise in Silay City

**SILAY CITY** – Citicore Renewable Energy Corp. (CREC) is expanding its solar capacity with the construction of its second solar power farm in Silay City, Negros Occidental.

On Tuesday, CREC president and chief executive officer Oliver Tan, with chairman Edgar Saavedra, were joined by Mayor Joedith Gallego in the groundbreaking rites for the 69-megawatt (MW) solar power plant in Barangay E. Lopez.

“With the completion of Citicore Solar Negros Occidental 2, we will not only be able to augment the power generation needs of Negros Occidental and the Visayas grid but also contribute to the growth of the province,” Tan said.

He added that the 69-MW solar, which has a project cost of PHP3 billion, is expected to start commercial operation within the year as part of the company’s deliverables for the Green Energy Auction Program 2 of the Department of Energy (DOE).

He said the plant’s installed capacity can supply power to some 70,000 households.

The first solar farm of CREC in Silay City, located in Barangay Rizal, was commissioned in 2016



**SOLAR POWER FARM.** Mayor Joedith Gallego (center) joins Citicore Renewable Energy Corp. president and chief executive officer Oliver Tan (5th from left) and chairman Edgar Saavedra (3rd from left) during the groundbreaking rites for the 69-megawatt solar power plant in Barangay E. Lopez in Silay City, Negros Occidental on Tuesday (Feb. 20, 2024). Joining them were (from left) village chief Joel Arce, Vice Mayor Tom Ledesma, Third District Board Member Manuel Frederick Ko, and CREC director Manuel Louie Ferrer. (PNA photo by Nanette L. Guadalquivir)

with a 25-MW installed capacity.

“This is Phase 2, an expansion of our Phase 1. We constructed it in 2015. After eight, nine years, we’re expanding,” Tan said.

He added that CREC supports Negros Occidental in its steps towards renewable energy transition, adding that the province can further develop with the entry of more renewable energy (RE) projects.

“We thank Citicore for investing in Silay City through these solar farms,” Gallego said.

CREC chairman Edgar Saavedra underscored the urgency to build more RE capacities as part of their commitment to help the national government achieve its vision for clean energy.

“With more projects in the pipeline, CREC is committed to working with the DOE and the local governments as we transition

to more renewable energy sources for the Visayas and for our country,” he said.

In a statement, CREC said it has set a goal to contribute approximately one gigawatt of ready-to-build solar energy capacity per year for the next five years.

“This is in line with the DOE’s Philippine Energy Plan, which targets to achieve a 35 percent RE share in the power generation mix by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040,” it added. (PNA)

## St. Joseph School’s legacy endures

**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL** Iloilo has long been recognized as one of the leaders in high-quality basic education, fostering minds and steadfastly developing futures. Not only does the institution’s recent declaration of closure signal the end of an era, but it also serves as a sobering reminder of the difficulties private schools in the Philippines face. Although this story is unique in its specifics, it represents a larger message of perseverance, dedication, and the unwavering pursuit of academic greatness in the face of hardship.

Right at the center of the metropolis, St. Joseph School, was started in 1972 as a modest preschool by Maria Lourdes Josefina-Ilagan Garcia and her husband Roberto de Leon Garcia, Jr., who were motivated by a passion for teaching and learning rather than by profit. Together with a small team, Mrs. Garcia—who held the dual roles of principal and owner—established the groundwork for the future establishment of an esteemed educational institution. Their transition from kinder school to providing elementary and high school education entirely is evidence of their commitment to establishing a holistic learning environment and putting the development of well-rounded people ahead of profit.

The history of St. Joseph School is intricately linked to the legacy of the Garcia family, which is one of selflessness, a passion for learning, and the conviction that aspirations should be nurtured. The Garcias’ dedication to operating the school as a family business has forever changed the neighborhood with the principles of integrity, respect, and constant development at its heart. Numerous students have been motivated to realize their full potential by emphasizing love, commitment, and the quest for greatness in their educational methods.

But St. Joseph School’s shutdown is a symptom of a bigger problem facing private education in the country. Due to the pandemic’s exacerbation of already-existing financial

difficulties, some institutions have suffered irreversible losses and a sharp decline in enrollment. This event is not unique; instead, it is part of a concerning trend in which hundreds of private schools have permanently closed.

A quarter of a million kids have switched from private to public schools recently, highlighting the economic strain on families and the attraction of free education. But there is a price for this change. Overcrowded public schools find it challenging to maintain quality, and the situation is made more difficult by the departure of skilled instructors who want to be paid more. The circumstance emphasizes how important private schools like St. Joseph have been in providing high-quality education, as they frequently outperform public schools on standardized examinations.

The closing of St. Joseph School and other similar educational establishments raises significant concerns concerning the future of education in the country. Historically, private schools have complemented the public system; their disappearance would reduce educational diversity and jeopardize the caliber of graduates who enter the workforce. Although the government’s efforts to subsidize private education through vouchers and other means are praiseworthy, there is still an urgent need for more comprehensive support due to the obstacles associated with learning poverty.

Private schools, which provide a different route for kids to break free from the cycle of educational disadvantage, have proven essential in tackling learning poverty. It is evident from the accomplishments of establishments such as the University of the Philippines and the Philippine Science High School System that high-quality education can be achieved with sufficient money and administration. But, given the scope of the education crisis, a multipronged strategy is needed, one that acknowledges private schools as vital players in the country’s educational environment.

## Comelec-Bacolod sets 2-month satellite voter registration

**BACOLOD CITY** – The Commission on Elections (Comelec) in this city has scheduled a two-month satellite voter registration in various barangays and schools from February to April ahead of the May 2025 mid-term elections.

During the first off-site registration held at the

covered court of Barangay Pahanocoy on Feb. 17, some 554 applicants were accommodated by the Comelec, data on Monday showed.

The next schedule will be on Feb. 24 in Banago Elementary School covered court; March 1 – Mandalagan barangay hall; March 2 –

Barangay Alijis gymnasium; March 9 – Punta Taytay barangay hall; March 15 – Barangay Bata gymnasium, Purok Marapara; March 16 – Barangay Mansilingan gymnasium; March 22 – Barangay Felisa gymnasium; March 23 – Taculing Gonzaga gymnasium; April 6 – Barangay Villamonte

gymnasium; April 13 – J. R. Torres Elementary School covered court; and April 20 – Barangay Tangub gymnasium.

In its advisory, the Comelec-Bacolod City said residents of these barangays can file their application for registration, transfer, reactivation, and correction of entry during these exclusive satellite registration schedules.

“No registration shall be conducted at the Office of the Election Officer during the stated schedules,” it added.

The voter registration period for the 2025 national and local elections began on Feb. 12 and will run until Sept. 30 this year.

In an earlier statement, Comelec spokesperson John Rex Laudiangco said the transfer of voter registration venue outside of the Comelec offices and closer

COMELEC / page 5



**SATELLITE REGISTRATION.** The Commission on Elections in Bacolod City holds the first satellite registration for the May 2025 mid-term polls at the covered court of Barangay Pahanocoy on Feb. 17, 2024. Some 554 applicants were accommodated by the Comelec during the voter list-up. (Photo courtesy of Comelec-Bacolod City)

## CPSH ... (from page 3)

O. Luching Jr., Chief of Hospital II, Roxas Memorial Provincial Hospital; Dr. Mark Anthony Basquez, OIC Chief of Hospital, Sen. Gerardo Roxas Memorial District Hospital; SR Remedios T. Tidor, Hospital Administrator, St. Anthony College Roxas Inc. Hospital; Dr. Jean A. Gloria, Chief of Hospital, Tapaz District

Hospital; Dr. Abundio Balgos, President, and Dr. Omar John Mejia, CEO, The Health Centrum Inc., and other medical staff and personnel.

To bridge the gap between the military and civilians, the 3ID is opening its facilities to the public, aiming to foster camaraderie and forge stronger ties with the

community. Additionally, by hosting such activities, the military hopes to showcase Camp Peralta as a prime tourist destination in Capiz, highlighting its rich natural resources and impressive facilities.

In January, the Jamindan Town LGU identified Camp Peralta as a potential tourist destination for inclusion in

the Maragtas Familiarization Tour (MFT). The MFT, designed to showcase various tourist sites in the municipality, seeks to bolster partnerships between 3ID and local sectors to enhance cultural heritage and promote tourism development in the province.

MGen Marion R Sison,

the Commander of 3ID, invites the public to explore the amazing Camp Peralta and utilize its facilities. This initiative aims to create a welcoming environment for constituents and stakeholders to interact with the military.

“The Camp Peralta warmly embraces activities that promote peace and the

public’s welfare. I urge everyone to visit the 3ID camp and experience its wonders firsthand. Not only will you be captivated by its natural splendor, but you’ll also gain a deeper understanding of your Army’s presence in Western and Central Visayas,” MGen Sison said.



# Cadiz City scholarship program to expand with own college institution

**BACOLOD CITY** – The City of Cadiz in northern Negros Occidental will establish its own tertiary educational institution to keep up its advocacy of providing scholarships.

Every year for more than two decades now, the local government allocates PHP32 million for the Cadiz City Education Assistance Program (CCEAP).

The CCEAP funds the education of some 5,000 students enrolled in private and state colleges and universities each year.

“Our CCEAP allocation per year is more than enough to run a city/community college. We are now in the stage of finalizing the plan,” Mayor Salvador Escalante Jr. said in a statement on Tuesday.

Considered for course offerings by the planned

institution are information technology and tourism.

While other educational scholarship programs only accept academically excellent students or poor but deserving ones, the CCEAP is open to everyone.

“It is not biased against those who are only average students. As long as the city government can afford it, we will not be choosy,” Escalante said.

A brainchild of the mayor himself, the CCEAP is inspired by the life stories of Filipino-Chinese tycoons who were average students during their college days.

“They eventually excelled in business. Who knows? Some Cadiz students may be mediocre now, but could also be the best in their chosen endeavors in the future,” Escalante said. (PNA)



**COLLEGE SCHOLARS.** Mayor Salvador Escalante Jr. (center) joins applicants of the Cadiz City Education Assistance Program on Saturday (Feb. 17, 2024). Escalante said after providing scholarships for more than 20 years, the local government is ready to establish a community college. (Photo courtesy of Cadiz City Mayor's Office)



**DISTRIBUTION.** Antique Vice Governor Edgar Denosta and Governor Rhodora Cadio (first and second from left) lead the distribution of PHP10,000 each for the 92 families whose houses were destroyed by typhoon Egay in a ceremony at the Binarayan gymnasium in San Jose de Buenavista on Feb. 17, 2024. Eby Archangel Butiong, head of the Antique Provincial Housing and Resettlement Office, said in an interview on Monday (Feb. 19, 2024) that a total of 292 families belonging to the first and second batches received a total of PHP2.92 million under the Emergency Housing Assistance Program of the National Housing Authority. (Photo courtesy of Eby Archangel Butiong)

## Antique provincial gov't releases over P2.9-M aid to 'Egay' victims

**SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique** – A total of 292 families in Antique availed a total of PHP2.92 million in cash aid for the reconstruction of their houses under the Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) of the National Housing Authority (NHA).

The second batch of 92 families received a total of PHP920,000 or PHP10,000

each during the distribution ceremony at the Binarayan gymnasium in San Jose de Buenavista on Feb. 17, 2024, Provincial Housing Affairs and Resettlement Office (PHARO) head Eby Archangel Butiong said in an interview on Monday.

“The 92 families belonging to the second batch are from the towns of Barbaza, San Remigio, Culasi and Hamtic,” he said.

The first batch, with 200 families, received PHP2 million in December last year.

He said the family beneficiaries were grateful for the assistance because they found it hard to raise the needed amount for the reconstruction of their homes and recovery.

“As Gov. Rhodora Cadio has said during the distribution of the assistance, the government is there to help the families needing help,” Butiong said.

Vice Governor Edgar Denosta, NHA officials and the representative of Sen. Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, who helped follow up on the assistance, joined the distribution. (PNA)

## Himamaylan City develops housing project for gov't employees

**BACOLOD CITY** – The City of Himamaylan in Negros Occidental has proposed a collaboration with National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC) to finance the ongoing development of housing units for government employees in Barangay 3 Poblacion.

Mayor Rogelio Raymund Tongson Jr. said in a statement on Monday that he has met with NHMFC president Renato Tobias to discuss partnership opportunities for the implementation of the Himamaylan Socialized Housing Project.

“I’m looking forward

to a positive development for our proposal. This collaboration will definitely help pay back our untiring government employees for ensuring that we deliver quality service to Himamaylanons,” he said.

The project, which involves the construction of 500 duplex-type housing units, has been inspected by representatives of the NHMFC on Feb. 8.

On the same site will also rise the city government’s housing project under the Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino Housing (4PH) Program in partnership

with the Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development (DHSUD).

Last month, Tongson said the first phase of the project would amount to about PHP5.5 billion, with 3,000 condominium-type housing units to be initially constructed.

“The groundbreaking is expected within the year,” Tongson said.

Last October, Tongson signed a memorandum of understanding with DHSUD Secretary Jose Rizalino Acuzar to express the city government’s intention to implement the 4PH program. (PNA)



**SHELTER PROJECT.** The construction of the initial duplex-type units under the socialized housing project for government employees in Barangay 3 of Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental. The city government is proposing a collaboration with National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. to finance the ongoing development. (Photo from Mayor Raymund I. Tongson's Facebook page)

### COMELEC ... (from page 4)

to the Filipino people provides accessibility, convenience, and comfort with an end goal of ensuring massive voter participation.

Qualified to register are Filipinos at least 18 years of age on election day on May 12, 2025, a resident of the Philippines for at least one year, and in the place wherein he/she proposes to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the 2025 midterm polls, and not otherwise disqualified by law. (PNA)





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## Food security amid El Niño

*Editorial*

The country is expected to sizzle in the coming weeks with temperatures rising to as high as 40 degrees Celsius in Metro Manila and Northern Luzon due to the impact of the El Niño phenomenon.

El Niño is now exhaling its hissing heat – as high as 40 degrees Celsius in Metro Manila and northern Luzon – with weather authorities saying high temperatures would prevail despite the northeast monsoon.

El Niño task force spokesman Joey Villarama said as early as last month “we were already experiencing a strong and mature El Niño (and) there is no quantitative measure of what a strong and mature El Niño is, but let’s say it should be cold now, but it’s already quite warm.”

It is a source of comfort the government is on a tight watch over food prices, water, and power supply as it anticipates the El Niño to affect more provinces by the end of this month.

Villarama has told a news forum 41 provinces are currently affected by the weather phenomenon and 10 more may be added to the list before March.

In Western Visayas and Zamboanga Peninsula alone, the government has monitored P151 million in losses in rice and corn.

Of the 41 provinces, 17 are currently experiencing dry conditions, 10 under dry spell, and 14 are experiencing drought.

This is where the government’s fiscal measures will come in.

It is also comforting the Department of Health is monitoring water-borne and vector-driven diseases like cholera, typhoid fever, dengue, and chikungunya – but none thus far has been recorded.

Officials have reported significant damage to rice and corn crops in Regions 6 (Western Visayas) and 9 (Zamboanga Peninsula), totaling around P151 million but underlined that some 4,000 farmers in these regions have received assistance.

Beneficiaries got “qualitative support” like heat-tolerant seeds for farmers, social protection for domestic animals and ongoing efforts to repair irrigation canals.

The Task Force has its focus on monitoring

food security, water supply, power supply, health concerns and potential price increases as part of directives from President Marcos, since the extreme heat could spawn health concerns, especially waterborne diseases due to inadequate supply of clean water supply.

We are one with officials who stress the importance of monitoring vulnerable populations, like children and senior citizens, for heat-related illnesses like heat stroke and skin problems.

We are also reading the bulletin board of PAGASA which says 41 of the country’s 82 provinces may experience drought conditions when the impact of the El Niño phenomenon reaches its peak in April or May.

State seismologists said the strong and mature El Niño would continue through this month but most global climate models see the phenomenon persisting into the March-May season. (manilastandard)

## Political marketing

“I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy” - John Adams

This week, El Salvador’s popular and controversial president, Nayib Bukele, was re-elected by a landslide majority. A stunning 82.66 percent of or 2.7 million of the 3.2 million voters in the said country cast their vote in his favor. His opponents, Manuel Flores and Joel Sanchez, only got 6.25 percent and 5.44 percent, respectively.

Bukele’s victory comes as no surprise to many; he is widely popular among his countrymen. His aggressive crackdown on El Salvador’s gangs endeared him to many who had long suffered from the pernicious effects of these vicious elements of society. His critics, however, have been harping about his alleged “authoritarian” tendencies. During the elections, his political rivals pointed out how he skirted their country’s one term rule embedded in their constitution, increased the powers of his office, steamrolled through his opposition and all critics in general and cut corners in his zeal to eradicate El Salvador’s long problem on crime.

Despite all the accusations thrown against him, how did Bukele achieve his massive victory? Apparently, while his political adversaries focused

on political ideologies, Bukele focused on effectively using political marketing. Political marketing, as a method, employs various tools of marketing and communication to deliver a finely crafted message to the electorate. Political science and ideology deal with ideas while political marketing deals with methods.

In Bukele’s case, it started with market research. Market research showed that a vast majority of the people in El Salvador wanted to get rid of the criminal gangs and recover their communities at all costs. The research showed that people were willing to give up some of their freedoms if it meant being able to walk safely in the streets again. The people wanted something different from their old politicians. With that, Bukele crafted his brand as the cool authoritarian and political disruptor who would clear the streets with heavy handed methods but done with panache. Bukele’s skills in social media management, then enabled him to implement a strategy of deft message delivery, careful opinion monitoring and engineering, and constant infusion of positive reinforcement. In the end, he was able to mesmerize a vast majority of his people with his fresh take on populism. These methods of product branding, narrative crafting and message delivery are staples of any marketing campaign.

## OBLIQUE OBSERVATIONS

By ATTY. GILBERT LAUENCO, J.D.

Bukele’s political methodology is now being called by many as ‘Bukelism’. Several pundits have expressed their alarm over Bukele’s methods and how it is now being adopted in many other countries. Whether you agree with Bukele’s tactics or not, it cannot be denied that they are effective. For those who want to oppose or emulate him, a careful study of this new iteration of political populism is imperative.

This semester, the Ateneo de Manila School of Management has launched a new and experimental class in political marketing. It is hoped that a proper study on this increasingly used political method can equip the new generation of political strategists with the proper tools to analyze and dissect the emerging trends in political campaigns. Perhaps the traditional centers of political study would do well to take political marketing more seriously now. The study of these matters may be abhorrent to many but it is increasingly necessary.

This is my oblique observation.



## QC vendor business school: in support of 'nanopreneurs'

Last Feb. 8, Quezon City Mayor Ma. Josefina "Joy" Belmonte launched the country's first Vendor Business School (VBS), which aims to help market vendors become responsible entrepreneurs.

The program was launched by the local government in partnership with the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Resilient Cities Project, an international research group that aims to strengthen and improve the state of food flow or food systems in major cities around the world to achieve food security.

I view with optimism this project of the Quezon City government for its seriousness, not only in providing livelihood to its QCitizens but also in instilling in them a social responsibility for climate change. The lucky first batch to join the VBS includes 49 public vendors, 60 hawker vendors, and 60 temporary vendors. They will undergo training for six months on entrepreneurship, food safety, market technology, adaptation to climate change, and proper calorie content for their food products.

This effort of the Quezon City government is an answer to the call of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to support nano businesses. Remember that on the 42nd Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the President pushed for recognition and support for nano businesses that remain "unrecognized but are impacting on the everyday lives of the people." The President also called them "solopreneurs" because they work alone and are not backed by any full-time employees.

It is significant to point out that Quezon City and the City of Nairobi in Kenya are the only cities in the world that have vendor business schools. As a business sector representative in the Quezon City Development Council, I am proud of this moment that the local government is pioneering an entrepreneurial project that can be emulated by local government units (LGUs) here and abroad.

But why focus on nano business? The Quezon City government has its hands full of packages for small businesses. For one, it has the Quezon City Small Business Development and Promotion Office (QC-SBDPO), which offers mentorship to micro and small enterprises and enables market linkage and product development. Among other programs, it has the Pangkabuhayang QC, which provides livelihood training and capital assistance for startup businesses.

Vendors and hawkers belong to the nano business. They are also part of the underground economy, meaning their business activities are unrecorded and not taxed by the government. In Quezon City, as in other cities in Metro Manila, vendors and hawkers exemplify the people's will for survival. Their day-to-day survival to eke out a living by peddling vegetables and various commodities on the streets is an acknowledgment of their determination. Seeing them run away from clearing operations of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and local authorities makes my heart sink every time. How can anyone be so heartless as to confiscate their goods, leaving them empty-handed and without food for that day?

While the number of participants in the vendor business school is minuscule compared to the thousands of vendors and hawkers in Quezon City, it is nevertheless significant, considering that the Quezon City government has its focus on this sector, which comprises a large part of its constituents. The subjects during the six-month course are extensive enough to serve as foundations for a strong business culture that is integrated with climate change adaptation.

I give a thumbs-up on the incorporation of the topic of climate change since few vendors are aware of such issues. One needs to visit a wet market to understand this since most vendors do not follow ordinances on the use of plastic and waste segregation. Climate change adaptation and its concomitant awareness require an

## FRESH VIEWPOINTS: A NEW PERSPECTIVE

By Brian James Lu

understanding of the effects of global warming. It is only through seminars that one can understand this issue, and there are only a handful of vendors who have the privilege to participate in climate change seminars.

Putting up a business requires patience and an understanding of the dynamics of the market. I'm sure that the assistance of the Quezon City government will not stop after the six-month seminar. There have been a lot of nano businesses that have prospered and become categorized as belonging to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The entrepreneurial spirit of the marginalized sector remains. With the help of the local government units and concerned agencies, thousands of families are keeping themselves economically afloat to provide food on the table and other important needs of the family, such as education for their children.

President Marcos was right, though, when he made his impassioned appeal for governments to support nano businesses. A cornerstone of the President's socioeconomic agenda is the creation of more jobs. Providing a favorable opportunity for those who belong to the nano business already creates jobs and livelihoods for thousands of Filipinos, especially the marginalized. And in doing so, thousands of families will be able to recover economically. Remember that Filipinos are still recovering from the onslaught of Covid-19, and all opportunities are important.

The Quezon City government has effectively shown that local government units can provide a window of opportunity for nano businesses to improve their business acumen and hopefully lead to success. We hope this inspires more LGUs to respond to the President's challenge and uplift the nation's entrepreneurial spirit.

## Soft skills in the digital age

Last week, I marked my 35th year in Meralco—a career milestone that, looking back, allows me to appreciate the decades of evolution that have changed and defined the way we do communications.

While new technologies have disrupted many aspects of communications, the core principles and skills that drive impact and results remain necessary and relevant today as they were nearly four decades ago. Among these are core soft skills—the importance of which cannot be overemphasized—in today's rapidly evolving digital landscape.

I recently chanced upon a study published by the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) titled "Toward Measuring Soft Skills for Youth Development: A Scoping Study," which showed that many Filipino workers today lack the soft skills such as collaboration and adaptability needed to address the challenges brought about by artificial intelligence and new technologies.

The study revealed that this competency gap in soft skills stems from the kind of training and skills development received by Filipinos that were mostly geared towards the pre-digital era.

While the study acknowledged that soft skills are taught in schools, it also emphasized the need to better prepare students for the demands of their future workplaces given the increasing importance companies are placing on management, collaboration, and leadership skills.

"Addressing this gap requires a concerted effort from educational institutions, policymakers, and industry leaders to redefine skills development frameworks and prioritize the cultivation of these essential competencies," the PIDS study emphasized.

As a veteran communications professional, I find the findings of the study concerning given that these attributes are crucial not just in the professional setting but even outside of the workplace.

While technical prowess is undeniably important in navigating and succeeding in the ever-evolving digital realm, the ability to collaborate seamlessly, communicate effectively, and adapt swiftly are equally indispensable.

While professionals today are equipped with a myriad of tools, technical knowledge is only one aspect of the job and it should be acknowledged that today's young professionals face different evolving challenges that require new approaches as well.

Investing in the education, training, and collaboration of young Filipinos—both in school and in the workforce—is necessary to address our country's workforce competency gap in terms of soft skills, support human capital development, and futureproof the Filipino workforce.

This is of course not to say that technical training and skills development should take a backset. Rather, developing soft skills among Filipino workers should be viewed as an equally

## ESPRESSO MORNINGS

By JOE ZALDARRIAGA

significant investment in business development and in national progress as well. Deficiencies in this aspect do not only hamper the productivity of workers but also negatively impact Filipino competitiveness on the international stage.

For example, the ability to collaborate seamlessly across age groups and professions can lead to more productivity and result in further innovation especially in today's highly interconnected world. The ability to communicate effectively on the other hand helps businesses connect and engage with their audience and customers better leading to improved brand reputation. In addition, effective leadership and management skills can drive team successes in the workplace which translate to business efficiencies as well.

In the digital age, holistic success hinges not only on technical proficiency but also on the effective cultivation of soft skills. By providing equal importance to the development of both and addressing gaps and deficiencies, our Filipino workers can be in a better position to excel and succeed in the global marketplace.

Let us continue to cultivate soft skills among young Filipino students and professionals by fostering a culture that empowers them so they can thrive and succeed in the digital age.



**EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF INTESTATE ESTATE with WAIVER OF RIGHTS AND DONATION**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **ELNORA VILLA LORIEGA** namely: 1) TCT No. T-48512, Lot No. 32, under Tax Declaration Number 15-03-002-02299 / Property Index No. 10-149, located at Lucky Homes Subdivision, Brgy. Balabago, Jaro, Iloilo City with an area of 240 sq.m.; 2) TCT No. T-83363, Lot No. 18 Block 15, under Tax Declaration Number 15-03-002-03634 / Property Index Number 13-087, located at Alta Tierra Village, Brgy. Balabago, Jaro, Iloilo City with an area of 240 sq.m.; 3) Improvement standing on TCT No. T-83363, Lot 18 Block 15, Floor Area 122.28 sq.m.; 4) TCT No. T-158836, Lot No. 17 Block 15, Tax Declaration Number 15-03-002-03636 / Property Index Number 13-088, located at Alta Tierra Village, Brgy. Balabago, Jaro, Iloilo City with an area of 240 sq.m.; 5) Improvement standing on TCT No. T-158836, Lot No. 17 Block 15, Floor Area 34.80 sq.m.; 6) TCT No. T-119517, Lot No. 3 Block 38, Tax Declaration Number 20-03-022-10218 / Property Index Number 29-006, located at Land Heights Iloilo Development Corporation, Brgy. Balabago, Jaro, Iloilo City with an area of 121 sq.m.; 7) TCT No. T-102220, Lot No. 2 Block 38, under Tax Declaration Number 20-03-002-10219 / Property Index Number 29-007, located at Land Heights Iloilo Development Corporation, Brgy. Balabago, Jaro, Iloilo City with an area of 113 sq.m.; 8) TCT No. T-135231, Lot No. 2220-A-2, under Tax Declaration Number 20-03-002-10764 / Property Index Number 29-302, located at Brgy. Balabago, Jaro, Iloilo City with an area of 1,077 sq.m.; 9) TCT No. T-109172, Lot No. 7 Block 8, under Tax Declaration Number 15-04-036-00125 / Property Index Number 01-091, located at Ledesco Subdivision, Brgy. Tabuc Suba, La Paz, Iloilo City with an area of 623 sq.m. are adjudicated to heirs **Celso V. Loriega, Jr., Celso V. Loriega III, Helen Joy L. Rivera, Kristine Mae L. Ruiz, Sean Carlo Rey V. Loriega, and Felix Leo V. Loriega** and waive their respective hereditary shares in favor of their co-heir **Celso V. Loriega Jr.** pertaining to TCT No. T-109172; That, **Helen Joy L. Ruiz, Sean Carlo Rey V. Loriega, and Felix Leo V. Loriega** waive their respective hereditary shares in favor of their co-heirs, and that, **Celso V. Loriega Jr.** donate his one-half share as co-owner of the following properties in favor of their co-heirs: **Kristine Mae L. Ruiz** – Lot No. 32 covered by TCT No. T-48512 and **Celso V. Loriega III** – Lot No. 3 Block 38 covered by TCT No. T-119517 and Lot No. 2 Block 38 covered by TCT No. T-102220. Entered under the notarial registry of **Atty. Lynie C. Suganob** per Doc. No. 417, Page No. 85, Book No. 1, Series of 2024.

NE/February 19, 26 &amp; March 4, 2024

# Ayala Land sets P100-B capex in 2024 as property outlook remains rosy

MANILA – Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) has set PHP100 billion in capital expenditure (capex) this year as its outlook in the property sector remains rosy, especially in the high-end market.

In a press briefing Tuesday, ALI chief finance officer Augusto Bengzon said 34 percent of this year's capex would be spent on residential projects, 24 percent for estate development, 19 percent for land acquisition, 10 percent for malls, 8 percent for offices, and 5 percent hotels and

resorts.

This year's capex is 16 percent higher than ALI's actual spending in 2023 at PHP86.2 billion, which exceeded the allotted capex for that year at PHP85 billion.

ALI will also launch a PHP115 billion property development in 2024, PHP100 billion of which are residential projects and PHP15 billion are new commercial and industrial projects.

Bengzon said that of the PHP100-billion residential

launches this 2024, 80 percent are in the premium segment and 20 percent are core.

"I think we're launching more and more every year. I think it's just that this mix of launches favoring the premium is more reflective of market opportunities," ALI president and chief executive officer Anna Ma. Margarita Dy said.

"It's really reflective of how different segments of the market that have been affected by the pandemic and the increase in interest rates," Dy added.

She added that the middle-income segment, which is heavily reliant on mortgage in acquiring housing units, is also more vulnerable to inflation and higher interest rates.

"It's usually the middle market that I guess is more vulnerable to these changes and the premium segment is a little bit more resilient. That changes the behavior. And we're just making sure that we are addressing the market that we feel is the most robust," Dy said.

ALI remains ready to change the mix once the company sees that the middle-income segment has bounced back, Dy said.

"So we're hoping, in our internal plans, maybe in three years time, we will be seeing our core come back. And if it's sooner than that, we will be ready," she added.

Most of these residential projects are horizontal development at 52 percent and the 48 percent are vertical residential projects.

In terms of locations, 44 percent of ALI's residential launches will be in Metro Manila, 38 percent in South Luzon, 7 percent in Central Luzon, and 11 percent in Visayas and Mindanao. (PNA)



PROPERTY MARKET. Ayala Land, Inc. president and chief executive office Anna Ma. Margarita (left) and chief finance officer Augusto Bengzon answer questions from the press in a briefing in Makati City on Tuesday (Feb. 20, 2024). The company will be spending PHP100 billion for property development this year. (PNA photo by Kris M. Crismundo)



Republic of the Philippines  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Western Visayas Region Field Office VI  
2<sup>nd</sup> Flr., Gaisano Capital ICC-Mall, Diversion Road, Sen. Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Avenue  
Brgy. San Rafael, Mandurriao, Iloilo City

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that **COMMUNITIES NEGROS, INC. (Developer)**, has filed with this office a request for the change of the project name of **MANORS BACOLOD – CAPRI BUILDING** located at **BURI ROAD, BRGY. MANDALAGAN, BACOLOD CITY** to **OLVERA RESIDENCES - CAPRI**.

Any person with valid objection to the change of name of the project may file his objection in writing with the **Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Gaisano Capital ICC – Mall, Diversion Road, Sen. Benigno S. Aquino Jr., Brgy. San Rafael, Mandurriao, Iloilo City**, telephone number **(033) 321-6177** not later than two (2) weeks from the date of the last publication.

Iloilo City, Philippines, February 15, 2024.

**(SGD.) EnP. EVA MARIA P. MARFIL**  
Regional Director

NE/February 19 &amp; 26, 2024



Republic of the Philippines  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Western Visayas Region Field Office VI  
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Brgy. San Rafael, Mandurriao, Iloilo City

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that **COMMUNITIES NEGROS, INC. (Developer)**, has filed with this office a request for the change of the project name of **MANORS BACOLOD – IBIZA BUILDING** located at **BURI ROAD, BRGY. MANDALAGAN, BACOLOD CITY** to **OLVERA RESIDENCES - IBIZA**.

Any person with valid objection to the change of name of the project may file his objection in writing with the **Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Gaisano Capital ICC – Mall, Diversion Road, Sen. Benigno S. Aquino Jr., Brgy. San Rafael, Mandurriao, Iloilo City**, telephone number **(033) 321-6177** not later than two (2) weeks from the date of the last publication.

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**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

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Brgy. San Rafael, Mandurriao, Iloilo City

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that **COMMUNITIES NEGROS, INC. (Developer)**, has filed with this office a request for the change of the project name of **MANORS BACOLOD – MAJORCA BUILDING** located at **BURI ROAD, BRGY. MANDALAGAN, BACOLOD CITY** to **OLVERA RESIDENCES - MAJORCA**.

Any person with valid objection to the change of name of the project may file his objection in writing with the **Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Gaisano Capital ICC – Mall, Diversion Road, Sen. Benigno S. Aquino Jr., Brgy. San Rafael, Mandurriao, Iloilo City**, telephone number **(033) 321-6177** not later than two (2) weeks from the date of the last publication.

Iloilo City, Philippines, February 15, 2024.

**(SGD.) EnP. EVA MARIA P. MARFIL**  
Regional Director

NE/February 19 &amp; 26, 2024



**DEED OF ADJUDICATION AND SALE OF REAL PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **NICOLAS SUDARIO** known **Lot No. 919** of the Cadastral Survey of Sta. Barbara, with all buildings and improvements, except those herein expressly noted as belonging to other persons, covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-25852** with an area of **SIX THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE (6,485) SQUARE METERS, more or less** are adjudicated to heirs **BALTARAZA SUELO SUDARIO (widow), JUANITO S. SUDARIO, ALEX S. SUDARIO, IRENE S. SOMCIO, MARTIN S. SUDARIO, SARAH JANE S. TIDWELL, ELENA S. DIENDO, MARIANO S. SUDARIO AND NICOLAS S. SUDARIO, JR.** That, the heirs sell, cede, transfer and convey by way of **absolute sale Lot No. 771 covered by TCT No. T-36896** unto their co-heir **IRENE S. SOMCIO**. That, the heirs sell, cede, transfer and convey by way of **absolute sale Lot No. 919 covered by TCT No. T-25852** unto **IRENE S. SOMCIO AND SARA JANE S. TIDWELL**. Entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Salvador J. Baylen** per Doc. No. 389, Page No. 79, Book No. 01, Series of 2008.

NE/February 19, 26 & March 4, 2024

**DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL ADJUDICATION WITH ABSOLUTE SALE OF A PORTION OF LAND**

Notice is hereby given that estate of the late **SALVADOR CELO** known as a parcel of land **Lot 4419-B-2-U-5**, Psd-06-010165, being a portion of Lot 4419-B-2-U, (LRC) Psd-381-70 situated in Poblacion, Calinog, Iloilo covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-120120** with an area of **SEVEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE (7,253) square meters, more or less** is adjudicated to heirs **SALVADOR CHRISTIAN VOLTAIRE L. CELO and MA. JAZMINE CYNTHIA L. CELO**. That, the heirs agreed to **SELL, TRANSFER AND CONVEY** by way of **Absolute Sale** a portion of the said land with improvements constructed therein with an area of **ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THIRTY ONE (1,131) square meters, more or less** in favor of **MA. LUZ C. TAMPIS**. Entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Robert F. Catolico II** per Doc. No. 427, Page No. 87, Book No. 6, Series of 2022.

NE/February 19, 26 & March 4, 2024

**AFFIDAVIT OF SELF ADJUDICATION**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **SALVACION P. BAYLON** known as a **Savings Deposit** with **Metrobank Iloilo** under **Savings Account No. 240-3-240-31723-1** is adjudicated to heir **REGIE S. BAYLON**, as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Joe Abad S. Lazaro, Jr.** per Doc No. 211, Page No. 44, Book No. LXV, Series of 2024.

NE/February 19, 26 & March 4, 2024

**DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL ADJUDICATION AND ABSOLUTE SALE**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **CEZAR DE LA CRUZ** known as a parcel of land **Lot 1, Pcs-063034-001899**, being a cons.-subd. of Lots 167-D-1-B & 167-D-1-C, Psd-06-020798, situated in Poblacion, Oton, Iloilo covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-143,956** with an area of **THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY THREE (373) SQUARE METERS, more or less** is adjudicated to heirs **TERESITA T. DE LA CRUZ, ALVIN CEZAR T. DE LA CRUZ, SAMMIE T. DE LA CRUZ, JULIE ANN T. DE LA CRUZ, ALBERT T. DE LA CRUZ, ARIEL T. DE LA CRUZ AND LEO T. DE LA CRUZ**. That, the heirs **SELL, CEDE, CONVEY and TRANSFER** by way of **Absolute Sale** the above-said property unto **SHERY MAE S. TAPAN**, as registered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Carl Rupert Crisme Muela** per Doc. No. 127, Page No. 27, Book No. I, Series of 2023.

NE/Feb. 26, March 4 & 11, 2024

**DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **PORFIRIO G. GABASA, JR.** known as the following parcels of land: 1) **Block 44, Lot 10 PLAN NO. PCS-06-004833**, situated in Brgy. Pandac, Pavia, Iloilo covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 090-2014006063** with an area of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THREE (153) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS**; 2) **Block 44, Lot 12 PLAN NO. PCS-06-004833**, situated in Brgy. Pandac, Pavia, Iloilo covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 090-2014006065** with an area of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THREE (153) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS** are adjudicated to heirs **MA. CONSOLACION E. GABASA, JOSEPH JIRO E. GABASA, JOHN KRIS E. GABASA, JAMES KARL E. GABASA, AND JEREMY RYAN E. GABASA**. That, the heirs hereby **CEDE, WAIVE and TRANSFER** all their rights, shares and participation over the said property in favor of **JEREMY RYAN E. GABASA**, as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Mark C. Jurilla** per Doc. No. 35, Page No. 8, Book No. IV, Series of 2024.

NE/Feb. 26, March 4 & 11, 2024

**DEED OF ADJUDICATION**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **Spouses MARTIN SUELO and ASUNCION SUACASA** known as a parcel of land **Lot No. 883** of the Cadastral Survey of Sta. Barbara, with all buildings and improvements, except those herein expressly noted as belonging to other persons, situated in Sta. Barbara, Iloilo covered by **ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 12764** with an area of **FIVE HUNDRED TEN (510) SQUARE METERS, more or less** is adjudicated to sole heir **BALTARAZA SUELO SUDARIO**, as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Salvador J. Baylen** per Doc. No. 329, Page No. 67, Book No. 01, Series of 2008.

NE/February 19, 26 & March 4, 2024

**DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH ABSOLUTE SALE**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **VICTORIA CARBON-CASUMLONG** known as a parcel of land **Lot 4410-G-1**, Psd-06-010072, being a portion of Lot 4410-G, Psd-06-006664, situated in Poblacion, Calinog, Iloilo covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-209812** with an area **NINE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE (929) square meters, more or less** is adjudicated to heirs **Jose C. Casumlong, Pacciano C. Casumlong, Maria Juvy C. Casumlong, Salve C. Casumlong, Marivic C. Casumlong, Maria Ludy Lee C. Jocson and Johnel C. Casumlong**. That, the heirs agreed to **SELL, CEDE, TRANSFER and CONVEY** by way of **Absolute Sale** unto **MA. LUZ CARABUENA TAMPIS** the above-described parcel of land as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Ruben M. Maca** per Doc. No. 385, Page No. 28, Book No. LXI, Series of 2022.

NE/February 19, 26 & March 4, 2024

**DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **NELIA C. ANIAGO** consisting of the following: **One (1) unit Motor vehicle** described as follows, 1) **Make: Mitsubishi Mirage G4 GLS1, Engine No. 3A92UKA3477, Chassis No. PAEA13RXMLA012800, Body Color: Majestic Red, Plate No. FAF 9352**; 2) **Bank deposits** with the following banks: **Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Iloilo Ayala Technohub Branch P2,000,000.00 Time Deposits** excluding accumulated interest and **Development Bank of the Philippines, Jaro Branch P87,000.00 Savings Deposit** under **S/A No. 0756-114374** as of **February 13, 2024** excluding accumulated interests; and 3) **Household furniture and appliances** located at her former residence at Road 2, Don Julio Subdivision, Brgy. Aganan, Pavia are adjudicated to heirs **ZITA C. ANIAGO and CORAZON C. ANIAGO-PINEDA**, as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Igmedio S. Prado, Jr.** per Doc. No. 401, Page No. 82, Book No. II Series of 2024.

NE/February 19, 26 & March 4, 2024

**DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL ADJUDICATION AND WAIVER OF RIGHTS OF A PORTION OF LAND**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **ROGELIA GAYAPA** known as **Lot 1544**, Pls-1074, Case No. 4, Guimbal, Iloilo, situated in Poblacion, Guimbal, Iloilo covered by **Original Certificate of Title No. F-39247** with an area of **TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY THREE (2,743) SQUARE METERS, more or less** is adjudicated to heirs **REY G. GAYAPA, JERRY G. DEALA AND CHERRY AMOR GAYAPA DEALA**. That, the heirs **waive, renounce, relinquish, cede, quitclaim and transfer** all their rights, interests, participation and ownership over a portion of the above-described parcel of land known as **Lot 1544-A-3, Psd-06-068067** with an area of **THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE (379) SQUARE METERS** in favor of **ANTIPAS G. CALASARA, JR.**, as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Ma. Fe Gamosa-Hojilla** per Doc. No. 230, Page No. 47, Book No. XIV Series of 2021.

NE/Feb. 26, March 4 & 11, 2024

**DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY WITH ABSOLUTE SALE**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **spouses ALFREDO GEDALANGA and FRANCISCA GARLITOS** known as a parcel of land **Lot No. 904** situated at Oracon Sur, Nueva Valencia, Guimaras covered by **KATIBAYAN NG ORIHINAL NA TITULO BLG. F-7473** with an area of **ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FORTY-ONE (1,941) sq.m.** is adjudicated to heirs **CONCHITA G. GEDACA, JHONNY JOSELITO G. GEDALANGA, MA. ELENA G. FUENTES, AND ALFREDO G. GEDALANGA, JR.** That, the heirs/adjudicatees hereby **SELL, CONVEY and TRANSFER** by way of **ABSOLUTE SALE** unto **ANGEL GREACE M. ALIMANE** the above-said property, as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Joe Ann G. Galleto** per Doc. No. 230, Page No. 48, Book No. I, Series of 2023.

NE/Feb. 26, March 4 & 11, 2024

**DEED OF ADJUDICATION AND WAIVER OF RIGHTS**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **Spouses JOSE ROBLES AND ESTRELLA LARIOS** known as a parcel of land **Lot No. 3546** of the Cadastral Survey of Sta. Barbara, with the improvements thereon, located at Delgado St., Sta. Barbara, Iloilo covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-3,437** with an area of **Two Hundred and Sixty Four (264) square meters, more or less** is adjudicated to heirs **Jessie L. Robles, Rebecca L. Robles-Cocoy, Irma L. Robles-Osal, Nicolas L. Robles, Jose Fernando L. Robles and Marissa L. Robles-Solivas**. That, the heirs agreed to **WAIVE, RELINQUISH, CEDE and TRANSFER** their rights and interests over the above-said property in favor of their co-heir **Marissa L. Robles-Solivas**, as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Jessie G. Sullano** per Doc. No. 208, Page No. 43, Book No. XVI, Series of 2006.

NE/February 12, 19 & 26, 2024

**NOTICE OF DEED OF ADJUDICATION**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of **NOLI VICENTE PACIENTE** consisting of a parcel of land known as **Lot 3280** under **Original Certificate of Title No. 2022000410** located at Brgy. Poblacion Ilaya, Sara, Iloilo together with a corn business of which he is co-owner of one-half (1/2) thereof known as **"Corn Farmers Partner"** has been the subject of a **Deed of Adjudication** dated **October 19, 2022** by his heirs **Maria Victoria Ofamen Paciente, Paul Warren Lapidante and Emz Elria Noliyn Ofamen Paciente** under Doc. No. 228; Page No. 47; Book No. 2; Series of 2022 of the notarial register of notary public **Chris Za Bea E. Enate**.

NE/Feb. 26, March 4 & 11, 2024

**DEED OF ADJUDICATION AND WAIVER OF RIGHTS**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **Spouses BEATRIZ GELLE GERRERA AND CERIACO GELASAN GERRERA** known as **Lot No. 464, Pls-1074, Case No. 3, Guimbal, Iloilo** with an area of **SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTEEN (6,616) SQUARE METERS** is adjudicated to heirs **ANGELITA G. GERRERA AND MARGARITA G. GERRERA**. That, the heirs **Waive, Renounce, Quitclaim, Relinquish, and Transfer** all their rights, interests, participation and ownership over the above-described property in favor of **ZYDRIC ESTRADA TENIBRO**, as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Carl Rupert Crisme Muela** per Doc. No. 341, Page No. 70, Book No. I, Series of 2023.

NE/Feb. 26, March 4 & 11, 2024

**DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE**

Notice is hereby given that **ZENAIDA C. PANIZALES and WILLIE C. PANIZALES** lawful and legal owners of a parcel of land known as **Lot 8832, Cad. 148, Passi Cadastre**, identical to **Lot 31, Gss-06-000044**, together with the improvements thereon, situated in Brgy. Sarapan, Passi City covered by **ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. H-627** with an area of **SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY SIX (6,846) SQUARE METERS, more or less** hereby **SELL, TRANSFER and CONVEY** by way of **Absolute Sale** unto **SPOUSES NORBERTO JIMENEA AND SONIA JIMENEA** the above-described parcel of land, as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Paul Andre R. Margarico** per Doc. No. 26, Page No. 9, Book No. XI, Series of 2019.

NE/Feb. 26, March 4 & 11, 2024

**DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE & WAIVER OF RIGHTS**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **BENIGNO LORILLA** known as **one-half/conjugal share** in **Lot No. 448-B Psd-06-082040**, being a portion of Lot 448, Cad. 25, Iloilo Cad. situated in Brgy. Bolong, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 2299/9** is adjudicated to heirs **EVELINA HISOLE LORILLA, BENIGNO JONATHAN H. LORILLA, MA. MAE H. LORILLA, AND MARIA SOCORRO MILDRED LORILLA-SUÑER**. That, the heirs hereby **waive, convey, transfer and assign** all their rights and interests in the herein parcel of land in favor of **EVELINA HISOLE LORILLA** who was also authorized to be their attorney-in-fact. Entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Irene Estella T. Harder** per Doc. No. 110, Page No. 23, Book No. IV, Series of 2017 and **Atty. Anna Jade L. Granada**.

NE/Feb. 26, March 4 & 11, 2024

**AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **NELIA A. TABERNA** known as a bank deposit at **BDONB Pototan Branch** under **Savings Account No. 040990136671** is adjudicated to heir **PEPITO D. TABERNA**, as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. George H. Gregori** per Doc. No. 300, Page No. 61, Book No. XXVIII, Series of 2023.

NE/Feb. 26, March 4 & 11, 2024



# Iloilo City mayor: Expedite reclamation projects

**ILOILO CITY** – Mayor Jerry Treñas wanted the proposed reclamation projects in Iloilo City fast-tracked amid the massive development here.

“With reclamation, you can have a well-planned development. More economic activities, more employment opportunities, and it will

mean the city becomes more attractive,” he said in an interview on Monday.

He said the city needs reclamation because

its area is only 7,834 hectares.

Treñas said the proponent Cebu Landmasters Inc. is interested in reclaiming a

portion of the Iloilo Strait, near Fort San Pedro, with an area of 300 hectares initially for commercial-residential in the City Proper district.

The reclamation at the City Proper will start with an initial 100 hectares. It will create an island 20 meters away from the existing informal settlers.

“Hopefully, that will happen during our time. That will mean more job opportunities for Ilonggos,” he added.

Treñas said under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Law, everything has to pass the PPP Center, which will look into the completeness of their documents. Once completed, the proponent will have an original proponent status.

“It’s a little more tedious, but the law is already approved so we have to comply with the law,” he said.

In addition to City Proper, there is also an area available for reclamation in La Paz district for industrial use.

Neighboring cities of Cebu and Bacolod have their respective reclamation, with areas even bigger than Iloilo City.

The mayor pushed for the hastening of the project after his official trip from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates for the World Governments Summit on Feb. 12 to 14.

He shared how the city has become one of the most sustainable cities. In 2017, a local real estate developer proposed a PHP45 billion project to reclaim 365 hectares of land from the Iloilo Strait.

The Marikudo Real Estate Development Corporation (MREDC) proposed to build two man-made islands, but it did not push through. (PNA)



**RECLAMATION.** Mayor Jerry Treñas wants the proposed reclamation projects in Iloilo City fast-tracked amid the massive development here. In a media interview on Monday (Feb. 19, 2024), he said reclamation means more economic activities and more employment opportunities. (PNA photo by PGLena)

## ISUFST crafts ‘Futures Thinking’ research agenda on agri-fisheries

THE THIRD phase of the ISUFST ‘Capacity Building on University Research Futures Thinking and Foresight’ began this Wednesday, February 21, at the Park Inn Hotel in Mandurriao, Iloilo City. This event, which runs February 21-23, 2024, is one of the most significant steps forward for the Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) in becoming a leading and empowering research university in Southeast Asia.

Former CHed commissioner Ruperto Sangalang reminded the 60 researcher-participants that “we are not just building capacity but shaping visionaries at ISUFST,” adding that this kind of collaboration aims to furnish stakeholders with the foresight to craft pioneering research in agri-fisheries, ushering in a new era of strategic innovation. He added, “We anticipate research proposals from this workshop that break the mold, driving ‘radical change,’ and securing competitive funding for a sustainable and visionary future in agri-fisheries and beyond.”

For his part, ISUFST President Dr. Nordy Siason, Jr. welcomed the participants and experts with continued support for the university’s vision. “As the only fisheries university in

ISUFST / page 11

### GV & A PAWNSHOP, INC.

JM Basa St., Iloilo City

#### NOTICE

The public is informed that on **MARCH 2, 2024** an Auction Sale will be held at 9:00 AM for all unredeemed Jewels & Articles the condition of which have expired.

THE MANAGEMENT

PAHIBALO

Ginapahibalo ang tanan nga sa **MARSO 2, 2024** pagahiwaton ang baligyaanay sang mga alahas kag pagkabutang nga wala magawad nga sa diin ang mga plasos nga ginkasugtan natapos na.

ANG TAGDUMALAHAN

## Nat’l Museum to restore Iloilo City’s 15th-century Fort San Pedro

**ILOILO CITY** – The National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) will restore Fort San Pedro or the Fort Nuestra Señora del Rosario, an important cultural property built here in the 15th century.

Mayor Jerry Treñas on Tuesday said he recently talked with NMP Director General Jeremy Barns via Zoom for the preparations on the preliminary works to determine the pre-restoration.

“They will determine if the old foundation is still there because the old plan still exists. They will start working from the old foundation,” Treñas said in an interview.

He said the Spaniards defended Iloilo by building the fortress because it was a very significant city during that time.

NMP Western Visayas, in a statement, said it has allotted PHP4 million for the pre-restoration project.

The preparation works will start with an archaeological excavation



**FORT SAN PEDRO.** The current state of the Fort San Pedro. The National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) will restore Fort San Pedro or Fort Nuestra Señora del Rosario, an important cultural property built in the 15th century in Iloilo City. (Photo courtesy of Davy Jones Canaway-Tayco Estrellanes/Iloilo City Government)

of up to 1.50 meters deep to locate the remains of the fort’s foundation.

It will also determine the missing parts or added portions but not necessarily structures that will serve as the basis for the restoration plan.

NMP Visayas director

Ma. Cecilia Tirol, together with Iloilo City government architects, inspected the site early this month.

NMP Archaeology Division, led by archaeologist Dr. Mary Jane Louise Bolunia, also started the review of the 1820 blueprint of the fort, comparing it to photographs taken in the 1930s up to the early 1940s and after World War II.

“These photos were overlaid with the recent photos of the fort to aid the technical experts in determining the extent of the site that will be covered by the project,” the statement said.

Fort San Pedro is a typical Spanish-built fortress, which is quadrilateral in shape and

measures approximately 60 meters to 60 meters in building footprint. The walls are made from cut coral stones quarried from Guimaras, and are approximately 12 feet high and 30 feet thick.

“According to historical accounts, fortresses like the Fort San Pedro were constructed by the Spanish to protect the towns from the threats of Moro pirates. During the 20th century, the structure started deteriorating and was destroyed during World War II,” the NMP said.

The area is now used as a park, with remains of the original masonry walls, although still visible, already overshadowed by developments, it added. (PNA)



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Republic of the Philippines  
Local Civil Registry Office  
Province: Guimaras  
Municipality of Jordan

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

In Compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **MARILOU B. TOMINES** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from "**ELENA**" to "**MARILOU**" in the Birth Certificate of **ELENA B. TOMINES** who was born on **September 6, 1966** at **Jordan, Guimaras, Philippines** whose parents are **Rogelio R. Tomines** and **Esperanza Bangha-on**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office.

(SGD.) JESUSA M. MILLONDAGA  
Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/Feb. 19, 2024 & Feb. 26, 2024

Republic of the Philippines  
Local Civil Registry Office  
Province of: Iloilo  
City/Municipality: Pototan

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

In compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to OCRG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 Guidelines in the Implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2012 (IRR on R.A. No. 10172). Notice is hereby served to the public that **CONSEJO MAE L. HIJASTRO** has filed with this office a petition for correction of entry in **CHILD'S SEX** from FEMALE to **MALE** in the Certificate of Live Birth of **JOBREEL P. ABOTOTO** who was born on **AUGUST 26, 2012** at **Pototan, Iloilo** and whose parents are **JENEL J. ABOTOTO** and **JO ANN L. PORRAS**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office.

(SGD.) MARY ANN S. JARDELEZA  
OIC/Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/Feb. 19, 2024 & Feb. 26, 2024

Republic of the Philippines  
Local Civil Registry Office  
Province of: Iloilo  
City/Municipality: Pototan

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

In compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to OCRG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 Guidelines in the Implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2012 (IRR on R.A. No. 10172). Notice is hereby served to the public that **LIA ROSE FENIS REMEGIO** has filed with this office a petition for correction of entry in **CHILD'S SEX** from MALE to **FEMALE**, and **R.A. NO. 9048** Petition for **CHANGE OF FIRST NAME** from ROSALIA to **LIA ROSE** in the Certificate of Live Birth of **ROSALIA FENIS REMEGIO** who was born on **July 12, 1991** at **Pototan, Iloilo** and whose parents are **ROSALITO D. REMEGIO** and **LILIA F. FENIS**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office.

(SGD.) MARY ANN S. JARDELEZA  
OIC/Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/Feb. 19, 2024 & Feb. 26, 2024

Republic of the Philippines  
Local Civil Registry Office  
Province of: Iloilo  
City/Municipality: Pototan

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

In compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to OCRG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 Guidelines in the Implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2012 (IRR on R.A. No. 10172). Notice is hereby served to the public that **ALENJOY A. BUAQUIÑA** has filed with this office a petition for correction of entry in **CHILD'S SEX** from FEMALE to **MALE** in the Certificate of Live Birth of **ALENJOY ANATA BUAQUIÑA** who was born on **SEPTEMBER 29, 1996** at **Pototan, Iloilo** and whose parents are **JOEL SUAREZ BUAQUIÑA** and **AILEN GRANDE ANATA**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office.

(SGD.) MARY ANN S. JARDELEZA  
OIC/Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/Feb. 19, 2024 & Feb. 26, 2024

Republic of the Philippines  
Local Civil Registry Office  
Province of Iloilo  
Municipality of Janiuay

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

In compliance with Section 5 of Republic Act Number 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **ARACELI ARSENAL CAUMBAN** has filed with this Office a petition for Change of First Name from **MARIA ARACELI** to **ARACELI** in the birth certificate of **MARIA ARACELI HERNAEZ ARSENAL** who was born on **March 29, 1964** at **Janiuay, Iloilo** and whose parents are **Vicente Arsenal** and **Lydia Hernaez**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his/her written opposition with this office.

(SGD.) ANA LISA M. CORNELIO  
OIC-Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/Feb. 19, 2024 & Feb. 26, 2024

Republic of the Philippines  
Local Civil Registry Office  
Province: Iloilo  
Municipality: Anilao

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

In compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to OCRG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1. Guidelines in the implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2012 (IRR on R.A. 10172), Notice is hereby served to the Public that **RETCHIE A. CERNAL** has filed with this Office a Petition for Correction of entry in the **SEX** from "**FEMALE**" to "**MALE**" in the Certificate of Live Birth of **RETCHIE APURADA CERNAL** who was born on **February 2, 1983** at **Anilao, Iloilo** and whose parents are **Roberto Santillan Cernal** and **Ruth Casumpang Apurada**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office.

(SGD.) MELITON E. BUYCO II  
Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/Feb. 26, 2024 & March 4, 2024

Republic of the Philippines  
Local Civil Registry Office  
Province: Iloilo  
Municipality: Anilao

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the Public that **ELIANITA B. LADEMORA** has filed with this Office a Petition for Change of First Name from "**CRISPINE**" to "**CRISPIN JR.**" in the Certificate of Live Birth of **CRISPINE LADEMORA** who was born on **19 February 1947** at **La Paz, Iloilo City** and whose parents are **Crispin Lademora** and **Felicisima Adrias**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office.

(SGD.) MELITON E. BUYCO II  
Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/Feb. 19, 2024 & Feb. 26, 2024

Republic of the Philippines  
Local Civil Registry Office  
Province of Iloilo  
Municipality of Leganes

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

In Compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **RYAN G. ESPIGA** has filed with this Office, a petition for Change of First Name from "**RENE**" to "**RYAN**" in the Certificate of Live Birth of **RENE GUMILOR ESPIGA** who was born on **January 9, 1981** at **Leganes, Iloilo** and whose parents are **REY ESPIGA** and **EDNA GUMILOR**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his/her written opposition with this Office.

(SGD.) JAY-R G. MATUTINA  
Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/Feb. 26, 2024 & March 4, 2024

**AGENCIA G.B., INC.**

C.K. Building Mapa St., Iloilo City

**NOTICE**

This is to inform the public that on **MARCH 1, 2024**, an **AUCTION SALE** will be held at 9:00 A.M. for all unredeemed jewelries and articles the conditions of which have expired.

**THE MANAGEMENT**

**PAHIBALO**

Ginapahibalo ang tanan nga sa **MARSO 1, 2024**, pagahiwaton ang baligya-anay mga alas 9:00 sa aga para sa tanan nga mga alahas kag pagkabutang nga wala magawad nga sa diin ang mga plasos nga ginkasugtan natapos na.

**ANG TAGDUMALAHAN**

day event brings together esteemed resource speakers, mentors, and experts such as Mr. Emmanuel R. de Guia, Mr. Joel E. Abelinde, Mr. Godof Villapando, Mr. Sonny Pagador, Ms. Venice Hulleza, and Maria Rovilla Luhan, among others.

"Futures Thinking," described by the Asian Development Bank, is a method that includes approaches to identify emerging issues and scenarios to formulate a vision of the desired future. This approach has been crucial in helping ISUFST analyze post-COVID outcomes and plan for a sustainable future in aquaculture and fisheries.

**ISUFST . . . (from page 10)**

the country, you have my full support to improve our research infrastructure." He further said that this 'Futures Thinking and Foresighting' initiative is one big push for the university's mission to spearhead advancing and disseminating agriculture and fisheries science for sustainable community development and nation-building.

Sen. Pia Cayetano's support was also acknowledged by Dr. Siason and Dr. Sangalang, emphasizing her role in enabling the project through funding and her commitment to developing Futures Thinking knowledge and skills at the university.

The event kicked off with the Opening Ceremonies, where Comm. Sangalang spoke on behalf of the Futures Thinking team, followed by a recap of Phase 2 by University Research Futures Thinking and Foresight Course Director Ma. Christine

Reyes. Most of the day's session showcased the outputs of the various research groups from Phase 2.

In her talk, "Enhancing the Research Through The Value of SDGs," Director Reyes emphasized the importance of integrating Sustainable Development Goals into research. Ms. Reyes, Founder and Director of 'Futures Thinking' resource provider Aptissimi Development Innovations Inc. (ADII), later led the backcasting workshop, applying future thinking to develop research proposals.

The event's Day 2 and Day 3 will focus on detailing research proposals and presenting group outputs, with the final day concluding with a closing program and awarding ceremony.

Aside from Comm. Sangalang and Director Reyes, the three-





Department of Transportation  
**MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY**  
Regional Office VI  
MROVI Building, De La Rama Street  
Iloilo City, Philippines 5000



RE: Application for Renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Revised - Implementing Rules and Regulations

**ANNIELYN L. CASIMERO** Case No. **MRO VI 18-034**  
Applicant. Renewal

**ORDER**

This refers to the application for Renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to wit:

**ROUTE/S TO BE SERVED:**

BORACAY ISLAND, MALAY, AKLAN TO NEARBY ISLETS SURROUNDING BORACAY ISLAND W/IN 3 NAUTICAL MILES AND VICE VERSA (DAYTIME NAVIGATION ONLY)

OWNED BY APPLICANT	HULL	TYPE OF SERVICE	PASSAGE RATE
MBca "BOSS G"	WOOD	Guest/ Tourist	PER CONTRACT BASIS
BORA G EXPRESS	WOOD	Guest/ Tourist	PER CONTRACT BASIS

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this ORDER in a newspaper of local circulation.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously caused the posting of this Orders in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal and ticketing offices.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 06 March 2024 at 2:00 P.M. at the Maritime Regional Office VI Building, De La Rama St., Iloilo City, which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), after which, the application is deemed submitted for resolution /decision, upon acceptance of such FOE and declaration that the case is submitted for decision.

WITNESS, the MARINA Administrator, Hon. Sonia B. Malaluan, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR:

(SGD.) **JEFFREY A. BANGSA**  
Regional Director

Copy furnished:  
Applicant Manocmanoc, Malay, Aklan  
Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St. Legaspi Vill., Makati Metro Manila  
Phil.6<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District, Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City  
File

# PNP chief orders sustained illegal drug campaign in Western Visayas

**ILOILO CITY** – Philippine National Police Chief Gen. Benjamin Acorda Jr. has ordered a sustained campaign against illegal drugs in Western Visayas under the leadership of newly installed Police Regional Office 6 (PRO6) acting regional director Brig. Gen. Jack Wanky.

Acorda presided over the turnover of command from Brig. Gen. Sidney Villaflor to Wanky at Camp Martin Delgado here on Monday.

Villaflor was promoted to two-star general to head the Directorate for Human Resource and Doctrine Development at the national headquarters effective Feb. 14.

"There will be no let-up in our campaign against illegal drugs," Acorda said in an interview after the ceremony on Monday night.

Villaflor reported 1,630 operations during his stint, resulting in the apprehension of 2,137 suspects and confiscation of 57,470.0245 grams of shabu and 269.768 grams of marijuana valued at PHP390 million.

Wanky expressed gratitude for his return to Western Visayas, where



**TURNOVER.** Philippine National Police Chief Gen. Benjamin Acorda Jr. (center) turns over the command of the Police Regional Office 6 to acting regional director Brig. Gen. Jack Wanky (right) from Brig. Gen. Sidney Villaflor (left) at Camp Martin Delgado in Iloilo City on Monday (Feb. 19, 2024). Acorda said in a media interview that he wants a sustained drive against illegal drugs in Western Visayas. (PNA photo by PGLena)

he honed the early years of his PNP career and started a family.

"I know that I may be filling a big shoe given the numerous accomplishments he (Villaflor) has done in his stint. I know the task that lies ahead will be no easy feat for me, but with you, the men and women of PRO6, the different stakeholders and especially the people

in Western Visayas, with your utmost support and cooperation, I firmly believe that we can continue the momentum that my predecessor has started, or perhaps even surpass his accomplishments," he said.

Wanky said he will be working on the continuity of existing programs and his leadership will anchor on the core values of

the PNP in ensuring the accomplishment of the five-focus agenda of Acorda.

The five-focus agenda includes aggressive and honest law enforcement operations, information and communications technology development, integrity enhancement, increased community engagement, and personnel morale and welfare. (PNA)



Department of Transportation  
**MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY**  
Regional Office VI  
MROVI Building, De La Rama Street  
Iloilo City, Philippines 5000



RE: Application for Renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Revised - Implementing Rules and Regulations

**JOVEN M. SERASPI** Case No. **MRO VI 18-136**  
Applicant. Renewal

**ORDER**

This refers to the application for Renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to wit:

**ROUTE/S TO BE SERVED:**

STATION 1 AND STATION 3, CUBAY NORTE BORACAY ISLAND, MALAY, AKLAN TO CATICLAN, MALAY, AKLAN AND VICE VERSA WITHIN 3 NAUTICAL MILES RADIUS (DAYTIME NAVIGATION ONLY)

OWNED BY APPLICANT	HULL	TYPE OF SERVICE	PASSAGE RATE
MBca "JOVEN TOURS 3"	WOOD	Guests/ Tourists	PER CONTRACT BASIS

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this ORDER in a newspaper of local circulation.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously caused the posting of this Orders in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal and ticketing offices.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on **04 March 2024 at 2:00 P.M.** at the Maritime Regional Office VI Building, De La Rama St., Iloilo City, which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), after which, the application is deemed submitted for resolution /decision, upon acceptance of such FOE and declaration that the case is submitted for decision.

WITNESS, the MARINA Administrator, Hon. Sonia B. Malaluan, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR:

(SGD.) **JEFFREY A. BANGSA**  
Regional Director

Copy furnished:  
Applicant Caticlan, Malay, Aklan  
Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St. Legaspi Vill., Makati Metro Manila  
Phil.6<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District, Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City  
File



Department of Transportation  
**MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY**  
Regional Office VI  
MROVI Building, De La Rama Street  
Iloilo City Philippines 5000



**LENIE I. PERONILLA** CASE NO. **MRO VI 24-006**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Applicant requested for Approval of Sale and Transfer of Ownership of the vessel named **MBca "KAMBAL"** owned by **ROTCHIE G. DIVIDINA (VENDOR)** to **LENIE I. PERONILLA (VENDEE)**.

This application will be heard by this Authority on **06 March 2024, 10:00 AM** at Maritime Regional Office VI Bldg., De La Rama St., Iloilo City, at which herein applicant shall present its/his/her/their evidence. Before the start of the actual hearing, a pre-hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Rule 7 of the Interim Rules of Practice and Procedure.

At least seven (7) days prior to the date of Hearing, applicant shall publish this notice of hearing once in one daily newspaper of local circulation in the region and served by registered mail or personal delivery copies of the application and of this notice of hearing to all affected parties as appearing in the attached list.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written oppositions on or before the date of hearing, furnish a copy of the same to the applicant and appear at the hearing, with such evidence as maybe proper in the premises. Failure on the part of any person to file his opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of his right to be heard and this Authority will proceed to hear and decide the application on its merits.

WITNESS, the MARINA Administrator, **Hon. Sonia B. Malaluan**, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR:

(SGD.) **JEFFREY A. BANGSA**  
Regional Director

nia/mma  
Vendor: Rotchie G. Dividina  
Address: Brgy. Bancal, Carles, Iloilo  
Vendee: Lenie I. Peronilla  
Address: Brgy. Bancal, Carles, Iloilo  
Office of the Solicitor General 134 Amorsolo St., Makati  
FS, Manila  
File



Department of Transportation  
**MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY**  
Regional Office VI  
MROVI Building, De La Rama Street  
Iloilo City Philippines 5000



**AGOSTO P. VILLANUEVA** CASE NO. **MRO VI 24-005**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Applicant requested for Approval of Sale and Transfer of Ownership of the vessel named **LCM "BORACAY EXPLORER"** owned by **ALLAN & AGOSTO VILLANUEVA (VENDOR)** to **AGOSTO P. VILLANUEVA (VENDEE)**.

This application will be heard by this Authority on **04 March 2024, 10:00 AM** at Maritime Regional Office VI Bldg., De La Rama St., Iloilo City, at which herein applicant shall present its/his/her/their evidence. Before the start of the actual hearing, a pre-hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Rule 7 of the Interim Rules of Practice and Procedure.

At least seven (7) days prior to the date of Hearing, applicant shall publish this notice of hearing once in one daily newspaper of local circulation in the region and served by registered mail or personal delivery copies of the application and of this notice of hearing to all affected parties as appearing in the attached list.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written oppositions on or before the date of hearing, furnish a copy of the same to the applicant and appear at the hearing, with such evidence as maybe proper in the premises. Failure on the part of any person to file his opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of his right to be heard and this Authority will proceed to hear and decide the application on its merits.

WITNESS, the MARINA Administrator, **Hon. Sonia B. Malaluan**, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR:

(SGD.) **JEFFREY A. BANGSA**  
Regional Director

nia/mma  
Vendor: Allan & Agosto Villanueva  
Address: Manocmanoc, Malay, Aklan  
Vendee: Agosto P. Villanueva  
Address: Manocmanoc, Malay, Aklan  
Office of the Solicitor General 134 Amorsolo St., Makati  
FS, Manila  
File



Republic of the Philippines  
Sixth Judicial Region  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
Iloilo City  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT & EX OFFICIO  
SHERIFF

**FORECLOSURE**  
**FILE NO.**  
**F-109-14-24**

**RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION,**  
*Petitioner,*

---versus---

**SPS. RENE P. JASPE & MA. FLORA F. JASPE,**  
represented by attorney-in-fact **SALLY M. PASIDERIO.**  
*Mortgagors.*

X-----X

**NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL SALE**

Upon extra judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118, filed by the **petitioner RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION** (in its capacity as successor-in-interest of **RCBC Savings Bank, Inc.**), duly represented by **Maria Cielito R. Santos**, Legal Services & Documentation Department Consumer Lending Group, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor A.T. Yuchengco Centre, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Sts., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, against **SPS. RENE P. JASPE & MA. FLORA F. JASPE**, through attorney-in-fact **SALLY M. PASIDERIO**, both of legal age, Filipino citizens, with postal address at Block 2 Lot 5 Savannah Glen C, Abilay Norte, Oton, Iloilo, and collateral address Block 10 Lot 9, Lessandra B, Pavia, Iloilo, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which amounted to **SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY & 88/100 PESOS (Php 774,750.88)**, Philippines currency, exclusive of any penalties and interest, the undersigned and/or any of his authorized deputy will sell public auction on **16 April 2024** at 10:00 in the morning at the abovementioned Office of the Clerk of Court & Ex Officio Sheriff, CJRQA Hall of Justice Building, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City, to the highest bidder, for manager's check, in Philippine Currency, the mortgaged property together with all permanent improvements thereon, all covered by **Transfer Certificate of Title No. 090-2015004206 (Owner: Spouses Ma. Flora F. Jaspe & Rene P. Jaspe xxxx)**, and more particularly described as follows:

**"LOT NO: 9 BLOCK NO: 10 PLAN NO: PCS-06-006305**  
**PORTION OF:** LOT 1851, 1852, 1853, 1855 & LOT 1856 ALL OF AGONOA CAD. 8, LOT 1844-D-2, PSD-06-071867 & LOT 2, PCS-06-000197  
**LOCATION:** BARANGAY OF PANDAC, MUNICIPALITY OF PAVIA, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, ISLAND OF PANAY

**BOUNDARIES:**

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT(S)
1-2	SE	ROAD LOT 13 (6.50 M. WIDE), PCS-06-006305
2-3-4	SW, NW	ROAD LOT 22, PCS-06-006305
4-5	NW	LOT 1, BLOCK 10, PCS-06-006305
5-1	NE	LOT 8, BLOCK 10, PCS-06-006305

**AREA: SIXTY SIX SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS XXXX"**

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the abovementioned date and time. In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it will be held instead on **14 May 2024** at the same time and venue without further notice and re-publication.

Iloilo City, Philippines, 08 February 2024.

**(SGD.) ATTY. GERRY D. SUMACULUB**  
Clerk of Court & Ex Officio Sheriff

Prepared by:

**(SGD.) RAMIL G. FACURIB**  
Authorized Deputy Sheriff

# Prov'l board wants complete lab services in Antique gov't hospitals



**HOSPITAL SERVICES.** Provincial board member Egidio Elio (standing left) delivers a privilege speech about the delivery of clinical laboratory services in government hospitals in Antique during their regular session on Monday (Feb. 19, 2024). Elio said in an interview Tuesday (Feb. 20, 2024) that a day of delay in laboratory examination and treatment may already seem an eternity for patients. (PNA photo by Annabel Consuelo J. Petinglay)

**SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique** – The provincial board this week will discuss with officials of the provincial and district hospitals in Antique how to address the lack of complete clinical laboratory services in their health facilities.

Antique provincial board member Egidio Elio, a doctor by profession, raised the concern in a privilege speech he delivered Monday during their regular session, believing that they could

do something to help improve the delivery of health services.

"The laboratory examinations such as on creatinine, uric acid, and lipid profile are necessary for a doctor to come up with the right diagnosis and treatment of patients," Elio said in a follow-up interview on Tuesday.

He said a day of delay in laboratory examination and treatment may already seem an eternity for a patient.

The Angel Salazar

Memorial General Hospital (ASMGH), or the provincial hospital, offers 13 blood chemistry and hematology tests, including cholesterol, triglycerides, sodium, potassium, calcium, chloride, complete blood count, blood typing, hemoglobin and hematocrit, actual platelet count, bleeding time and clotting time, activated partial thromboplastin time, and erythrocyte sedimentation rate.

"Many problems at the hospital could not be solved instantly, but

I believe the legislative body could help address the most pressing issues through the legislation," he said.

During the session, board member Roni Molina requested a meeting with ASMGH chief Dr. Jose Lyndion Perez and chiefs of seven district hospitals to address the problem.

Patients resort to private hospitals and clinics and shell out from their pockets for clinical laboratory examinations. (PNA)

## ILOILO CITY TO RECLAIM LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT

For Iloilo City to welcome more development in the future, a land reclamation project is needed.

Inspired by the Dubai reclamation project he learned during his recent trip, Mayor Jerry P. Treñas is hopeful that the proposed reclamation project for Iloilo City will be realized.

"I hope it can happen during our time para makit-an ta pa, that will mean more job opportunities for Ilonggos," Treñas told the local press during Monday's press conference.

The proposed reclamation project, which will be both for commercial and residential purposes, is about 300 hectares along Iloilo Strait starting from Fort San Pedro (front of NEDA Office) in City Proper.

"It is going to be an island so that we resolve questions on drainage, among others. It will be 20 meters away from existing informal settlers kag butangan taytay. The proposed is 300 hectares, but it will start with 100 hectares, amat-amat lang," the city mayor shared.

Another reclamation

project is also being proposed in La Paz area but purely for industrial use.

Iloilo City, which has a total of 180 barangays, has a land area of 7,834 hectares. Six of its seven districts face the Iloilo Strait – Jaro, La Paz, La Puz, City Proper, Molo, and Arevalo.

Treñas explained that while there are still more vacant lots in the city especially along circumferential road, these are mostly privately-owned.

He added that developers will go to other areas if there are no more available lands for development in the city.

With the reclamation project, Iloilo City will be made more attractive to investors.

"We need it. Bacolod and Cebu have done it. Manila is doing it right now. We need to have more land for development. Ang Dubai naobra man nila," Treñas noted.

As to the environmental issues related to the project, the city mayor said that all reclamation will have to go through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. (Iloilo City PIO)





# Search Is on for Outstanding Ilonggas



Citing women's contributions to nation-building, the Iloilo City Government Gender and Development (GAD) Office and City Council Office of the Committee on Women and Family Relations will be recognizing their vital roles in society.

The Ten Outstanding Women of Iloilo City (TOWIL) 2024 will accept nominations until March 8 at 5 p.m.

This is in time with the celebration of Women's Month in March to give due recognition to women who have manifested exemplary performance in their particular field of profession that significantly contributed to the city's development.

The undertaking highlights the role of women who have shown excellence in their field of endeavor and made an important impact in Iloilo City.

The citations aim to acknowledge outstanding Ilonggo women who, in their various capacities, have served their community well.

TOWIL is in search of Ilonggas of legal age who are city residents and have shared outstanding dedication that has contributed with optimism to strengthen and serve as motivation for economic, social, and cultural improvements.

"We give honor to the valued contributions of women in various fields of expertise who are devotedly committed to using their knowledge to elevate the well-being of the Ilonggos," stressed GAD Office Head Mary Ann Ramos.

The judges will choose 10 awardees who will receive a plaque, a bouquet of flowers, and a gift.

The nominations shall be based on their

achievements in their respective fields of expertise, namely: Judicial Services; Academe; Volunteerism and Community service; Religious Services; Professional Services; Culture and Arts; Math, Science and Technology; Business; Civic Organization; Media; Government Services; and Philanthropic Works.

Any person or organization may nominate one or more women who meet the following criteria: Advocacy on Women Empowerment – 30%; Community Service Leadership – 25%; Recognition/Awards Received – 15%; Academic and Professional Achievement – 15%; and Inspirational/Sustained Excellence – 15%.

The presentation of the write-up should be in order of significance with a complete description and

documentation, a maximum of 12 pages, and Arial font size 12 on legal-size bond paper.

The submission of a nomination should be duly signed by the nominator and nominee, along with the outstanding accomplishments or exemplary norms of conduct.

Submission of the completed nomination form may be done electronically or in hard copy.

Nomination forms may be downloaded from the Iloilo City Gender and Development Facebook page, email [gadiloilocity@gmail.com](mailto:gadiloilocity@gmail.com) or call 333-1111 Local 217.

For inquiries, interested parties may visit the GAD Office or the Human Resource Management Office and look for Carmeli Las Monday through Friday during office hours. (Alexandra Jover/Iloilo City PIO)



## DOLE, NFSW hold dialogue on Freedom of Association and unionism

A productive dialogue on the importance Freedom of Association (FOA) and unionism was conducted between the Department of Labor and Employment and the National Federation of Sugar Workers-Negros (NFSW-Negros) which was held at the Sugar Workers Development Center (SWDC), DOLE RO 6 Negros Occidental Field Office on February 8, 2024.

Regional Director Atty. Sixto T. Rodriguez, Jr. formed a team headed by Regional Mediator-Arbitrator Atty. Divine Grace B. Gabunas to discuss pending labor cases assisted by the NFSW, livelihood for sugar workers, and cases of extra-judicial killings, alleged harassments and intimidation against labor unionist(s) filed by the labor group before the International Labor Organization (ILO).

"This dialogue is in line with the present drive of the Department to promote and protect Freedom of Association and unionism, to conduct thorough monitoring on complaints filed before the ILO and to assist the sugar workers on their needs through livelihood programs and other services," said Atty. Rodriguez.

The dialogue reviewed the status of thirty (30) NFSW-assisted labor cases filed before the Regional Office, most of which were already resolved or were elevated to the Office of the Secretary for review.

"The Regional Director has a marching order to fast track the resolution of the cases," said DOLE RO 6-NOFO Head Carmela M. Abellar, "currently, we are focusing on the resolution of the few remaining cases."

Mr. Mario Tapi-on, NFSW Spokesperson, said that his group was appreciative of the dialogue as it presented the current status of the cases. "Medyo nagsanag na (It is becoming clearer)," Tapi-on said. He was joined by Mr. Vincent Fernandez, Herman de la Cruz, Terry Manlawi and a staff.

The DOLE panel also presented the different livelihood programs through the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP) and the Workers Organization Development Program Plus (WODP+) which are available for the marginalized sector and registered unions. The NFSW representatives were likewise referred to the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) on their queries on the existing "pakyaw" rates. /jpm

## TESDA to train soldiers, remote communities

To reinforce its efforts to empower more Filipinos with employable skills, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) has partnered with the Philippine Army (PA) to provide technical training to indigenous people (IPs), former rebels, and other members of the marginalized sector.

This after TESDA Secretary Suharto Mangudadatu and PA Commanding General Lt. Gen. Roy Galido signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the PA Headquarters in Taguig City last February 12.

In his message, Secretary Mangudadatu emphasized the important role of the PA and other uniformed personnel in providing skills training to residents of communities in far-flung areas and other members of the marginalized sector.

"TESDA is very grateful for the contributions of the Philippine Army and other government agencies. As a result, our training programs have reached even more of our kababayans," the Secretary said.

TESDA's partnership with the PA aims to provide upskilling and lifelong learning programs to PA personnel through technical vocational education and training (TVET) which includes specialized/specific qualifications vital to the execution of their jobs, such as the conduct of community-based training for IPs, former rebels, and residents in remote communities.

Under the MOU, TESDA will provide free skills training, assessment, and issue certifications to qualified Army personnel who have undergone skills training. In turn, the trained Army personnel will assist TESDA

in the conduct of skills training programs for IPs, former rebels, and residents of far-flung communities in the country.

Meanwhile, Secretary Mangudadatu officially received his promotion to the rank of Colonel as a reservist of the Philippine Army during the Donning of Ranks Ceremony held at Fort Bonifacio after which the MOU signing was held.

"In my vision, we should be a force that thrives in the face of changing obstacles that never stops adapting. Not only should we be a light of strength during times of conflict, but we should also serve as representatives of stability and ambassadors of peace," Secretary Mangudadatu emphasized during his message.

"Together, we shall cultivate a place that values the unique experiences, skills, and knowledge that



each member of our team brings to the table, and create an environment that shall also promote resilience and inspire innovation," he added.

Present during the event were TESDA Deputy Directors General Rosanna Urdaneta, Aniceto Bertiz III, and Vidal Villanueva

III, and other TESDA and PA officials. The Secretary's spouse, Maguindanao del Sur Governor Mariam Sangki-Mangudadatu, and other members of his family likewise attended the ceremony.

It can be recalled that since 2020, TESDA and uniformed services such

as the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Department of National Defense (DND) have a longstanding partnership to bring community-based training to remote areas of the archipelago.

TESDA has so far trained 53,117 uniformed personnel from 2021 to 2023.



# Upgrade to dairy breed to boost income, farmers told

ILOILO CITY – The National Dairy Authority (NDA) on Monday urged goat and cattle raisers in Western Visayas to upgrade to dairy breeds for higher income.

“Dairy should stand as a main source of livelihood and not just a source of extra income,” NDA OIC Assistant Manager for Western Visayas Vicente Bitolinamisa III said in an interview.

In Western Visayas, dairy goats came second to cattle in inventory, with more than 4,000, while cattle had 2,300.

Bitolinamisa said one of the strategies to encourage farmers to go into dairy is to present the income generation opportunity of the industry, especially since it is not the main industry of Western Visayas.

He said the milk they produce provides an opportunity for farmers to convert them to cash daily, aside from meat.

“For the past three years, the dairy industry in Western Visayas has shown remarkable growth. Actually, there was a 6 percent year-to-year growth in terms of milk production and herd inventory,” he said.

The upgrade to the dairy breed can be done through artificial insemination. Farmers can approach any NDA office to ask about it, he said.

NDA has satellite offices in Tigbauan town for Iloilo, Belison in Antique, and Bacolod for Negros Occidental. (PNA)



**UPGRADE.** Goat and cattle raisers in Western Visayas are encouraged to upgrade to dairy breeds for higher income. National Dairy Authority Assistant Manager for Western Visayas Vicente Bitolinamisa III said they wanted dairy as the main source of livelihood for farmers and not just as a source of extra income. (Photo courtesy of Department of Agriculture)

## CCP CONTINUES TO WIDEN ITS STAGE IN THE REGIONS

The main building may remain asleep, but the shows must go on.

For CCP President Michelle Nikki Junia, the people do not need to go to Manila to experience world-class productions and training because the Cultural Center of the Philippines endeavors to bring the best of Philippine culture and arts closer to all Filipino people in the regions.

The CCP Office of the President's Outreach Program has its calendar full of concerts featuring the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, and Kabataang Gitarista, with select guest performers. While the CCP Main Building remains closed due to the ongoing rehabilitation, CCP intensifies its outreach programs and events, reaching as far as Tawi-Tawi, Cagayan de Oro, Bukidnon in the south, and Nueva Ecija in the north.

“Our outreach programs help us connect with our kababayan in the regions, and also learn what are the cultural and artistic needs of the locals. In this way, the CCP can expand its artistic programming to address the gaps and needs,” said Junia during the media briefing held in Iloilo City.

Junia stated how the outreach activities help discover the type of support a region needs and create cultural exchanges and artistic collaborations among artists from different localities.

For many years, the leading institution for the culture and arts has been widening the stage for Filipino artists and audiences. She observed that some existing musicians from

the far regions have limited access to proper training and mentors, and this is where the CCP comes in by providing free, convenient, and accessible masterclasses in every town and province the PPO sets foot on.

“The outreach events are not just about performances. Take, for example, the PPO outreach concert in Iloilo. We incorporate educational components such as masterclasses by the PPO’s resident conductor, Maestro Herminigildo Ranera. We also have concerts where the members of the orchestra teach interested young Filipinos about musical instruments. This is our way to educate the public about the value of classical music,” said Junia.

Following its mandate to nurture the next generation of young artists, the CCP president believes there are so many undiscovered talents in the regions and that the CCP president hopes to provide them with opportunities and equip them with skills through the various training and upskilling programs that the center offers.

Bringing these programs and concerts to the regions is only possible through good collaborations with provincial and local government units, as well as support from the executive and legislative branches of the government.

“We are happy to have our Senators backing up our outreach programs. We are also grateful to our LGU partners. Our CCP network and community have been growing, thanks to these partnerships and support. We don’t want this to be just a short-term relationship. We want it to

be a long-term, sustainable collaboration. We hope to gain more support from more and more government units. Our wish is to bring CCP programs to all the towns and provinces in our country, especially in the far-flung areas,” said Junia.

The CCP Office of the President Outreach Program kicked off with a back-to-back concert of the PPO in Iloilo City, in celebration of the Dinagyang Festival, and in Roxas City, Capiz. The country’s premiere orchestra enchanted both the Iloilo and Roxas crowds with classical and contemporary music. Singers Gian Magdangal and Lara Maigue serenaded the audiences with well-loved Filipino music.

“We hope to see you at the next leg of our outreach concerts. We will be in Palawan for Prinsipeng Bahaghari performances,

and Cavite for some classical concerts this February. I found fulfillment in seeing our fellow Filipinos, singing along, and enjoying the music. These are precious moments I shared with the artists performing, and with the audiences,” shared Junia.

The CCP Outreach Concerts will be at Palawan (February 23), Carmona, Cavite (February 28), Silang, Cavite (March 22), Bukidnon (April 12), Tacloban and Calbayog (April 26 to 30), San Pedro, Laguna with Madrigal and Kabataang Gitarista (May 3), Binan, Laguna (May 25 to 27), Tawi-Tawi with Madrigal Singers (August 4), Cagayan de Oro through Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (August 15 to 19), Munoz, Nueva Ecija (December 9), and San Agustin Church in Manila (December 18).

## URC breaks ground for new, leading edge production plant in Malvar

Universal Robina Corp. (URC) has broken ground for its new production plant in Malvar town in Batangas that will showcase its cutting-edge manufacturing process and sustainability drive.

“This mega plant will feature state-of-the-art manufacturing technology – from the way it will be constructed all the way to how it will be operated,” said Irwin Lee, URC’s president and CEO.

Lee said many of the new, high-quality products URC would introduce in the coming years would be made in Malvar.

Construction of the manufacturing plant will begin this year and expansion will span some 10 to 15 years.

When completed, it will cover an area of 30.7 hectares and employ some 3,000 workers directly and indirectly.

Lee said the manufacturing plant’s high-end technology will optimize use of resources.

“The manufacturing lines to be installed in Malvar will incorporate design improvements that will further reduce material resource inputs, production wastage, labor efforts, and energy as well as water consumption,” he said.

It will have solar panels to generate power, and the buildings will make use of as much natural lighting and ventilation as possible.

It will also maximize recovery of rainwater and reuse of wastewater.

URC, one of the Philippines’ largest food and beverage firms, has been pivoting towards making renewable energy take up a bigger share in its power use.

## Fund Space and Global Dominion join forces to boost financing for Filipino SMEs, individuals

FundSpace, a homegrown loan aggregator under 917 Ventures, has partnered with Global Dominion Financing, Inc. (GDFI) to empower Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and individual clients with a diverse range of financing solutions.

The collaboration introduces new loan options with competitive interest rates and flexible terms, broadening both parties’ reach and capacity to meet the varying needs of their customers.

Filipino citizens aged 21-60 years old with

proof of income can avail of the following funding options, when eligible:

- Sangla OR/CR or the Chattel Mortgage Loan (refinancing second-hand vehicles) - maximum loanable amount is PHP4 million

- Business Real Estate Mortgages - maximum loanable amount is PHP10 million

- MD/Doctor’s Loans - maximum loanable amount is PHP1 million

- Auto Loans (financing a brand new car or truck) - maximum loanable amount is PHP3 million

Interest rates can go as

low as 0.99%, depending on the loan type.

Applying for a Global Dominion loan is streamlined via the FundSpace website, where applicants can easily 1) fill out their loan details 2) choose GDFI as their partner and 3) submit the necessary documents. The process is designed to be as user-friendly and efficient as possible.

“FundSpace is honored to welcome Global Dominion Financing, Inc. to our platform. Our partnership is grounded on our mutual goal of helping more Filipinos reach their financial goals.

We hope that our clients find a great partner in Global Dominion, as much as we have,” said FundSpace Entrepreneur-in-Residence Martin Luchanco.

Melai Felicidadario, Chief Operating Officer of Global Dominion, added: “Recently, more and more Filipinos, particularly SMEs, are discovering how access to credit can uplift their lives, and this has been what we have been endeavoring in Global Dominion. We don’t just want to be their financing provider, we want to be their business partner.”



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