

Female inmates in Iloilo City learn bread making, financial literacy

ILOILO CITY – The local government here, through the Technical Institute of Iloilo City (TIIC), has equipped 25 persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) at the female dormitory of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) with skills training that will give

EXTRA POWER . . . (from page 1)

necessary on the Island of Panay," Castro said.

The MORE Power CEO stated that the possibility of experiencing another series of power outage similar to what happened last January will be reduced due to the CNP Project. "For consumers, if before the energization of the CNP project there was a 50% probability of experiencing again a 4-day blackout, now the probability is only 10-20%. However, this probability, as it's called, can still occur. I would attribute it to the configuration or the identification of whether ancillary services are needed on the Island," Castro added.

On the other hand, Castro explained the ancillary services through the usage of a spare tire's analogy wherein a spare one will readily replace a tire which became flat. Similar to power industry, once the major power plant is offline, there will be another one to readily replace it in order to prevent the uncertain power outage scenarios to happen just like on April 2023 and January 2024.

Treñas also expressed his gratitude for the completion of NGCP's backbone project through a Facebook post on April 9.

"As the Mayor of Iloilo City, I am deeply grateful for the completion of NGCP's CNP Backbone project. This transformative development holds the potential to be the much-needed solution to the power issues our city has been facing. With its enhanced transmission capabilities, I am optimistic that we can now provide a reliable and efficient power supply to our residents, paving the way to a brighter and more prosperous Iloilo," Treñas stated.

Meanwhile, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. also attended the ceremonial energization in Bacolod City alongside with NGCP President Mr. Anthony Almeda, Energy secretary Raphael Lotilla, Bacolod City Mayor Albee Benitez, and Rep. Greg Gasataya, and other important guests.

During his speech, Marcos also recognized NGCP's effort with regards to the project.

"We must recognize NGCP for the successful completion of CNP. The completion of this project marks a milestone in our pursuit to enhance the resilience and reliability of our power infrastructure, especially in this area. We have to align the different power systems available in Panay and Negros," said Marcos.

CITY . . . (from page 1)

Antonio Cabaljug Jr.

"These are very important projects nga malipay gid ang mga pumuluyo ta sa siyudad." Mayor Treñas said.

In addition, the said project aims not to only enhance the La Paz Plaza but also to create a stress-free and recreational attraction especially for students who shall visit the said area.

"The Koi, the butterfly, are additional attraction and they show that the city of Iloilo is livable." Treñas added.

On the other hand, the admission is free as everyone are welcome to visit the place and must be regulated once being opened.

"Ang koi ni may schedule ni dapat (ang pagpakaon) but because gusto ta man nga daw interactive man so ginapangitaan nila paagi nga maka feed man bisan sin-o," Treñas stressed.

Also, the Metro Pacific Iloilo Water assures the city mayor that they will also provide water supply to maintain the said pond while the watering of plants inside the butterfly garden was shifted at night time as the water quickly evaporates when it is done during daytime.

"Ang Metro Pacific has assured us nga kung mawad-an tubig, dugangan nila aside from that ang dako-dako naton nga cistern sang butterfly garden, Metro Pacific is continuously providing water there," said Treñas.

Meanwhile, also present in the event were Vice Mayor Jeffrey Ganzon, councilors of the Sangguniang Panlungsod (SP), GBP staffs and personnel, and other key figures who made the project possible.

them livelihood while inside the facility, and use it to land a job or engage in business once released.

In partnership with the Philippine Foremost Milling Corporation, which provided the flour and other ingredients, the 25 PDLs embarked on a jail pantry training on bread making that culminated on April 3.

The Department of Trade and Industry was also tapped for training on financial literacy.

"During the graduation, we turned over tools and equipment donated by the Iloilo Festivals Foundation Inc., and kiosks they can use in displaying their goods," TIIC administrator Mathilde Treñas said in an interview on Tuesday.

The city government provided a stove, while the Philippine Chamber of Commerce of Iloilo will continuously supply the liquefied petroleum gas.

Treñas added that they



SKILLS TRAINING. Female persons deprived of liberty in Iloilo City train in bread making under the jail pantry training of the city government's Technical Institute of Iloilo City last week. The city government will provide them a PHP125,000 seed capital so they can start a business inside the female dormitory of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. (Photo courtesy of TIIC-Molo)

were working on their start-up capital of PHP125,000, so they could start their business while inside the facility.

"They were emotional because they could feel the concern for their welfare even if they are inside the facility," she said.

She added they are already assured of the market

since the female dormitory is just within the compound of the Iloilo City Police Office headquarters.


It was the second time the city government, through the TIIC, has embarked on training the PDLs, Treñas said.

Before the pandemic, the TIIC trained 30 male

PDLs at the BJMP facility in Barangay Ungka in Jaro on bread making and food processing and provided them with a seed capital of PHP300,000 to start their business.

Treñas said they would continue to offer more training to PDLs once they transfer to a facility with a bigger space.

The city government has purchased a two-hectare property in Barangay Buntatala in Leganes, Iloilo, that it donated to the BJMP. It will house the facilities for male and female PDLs and the regional office of the BJMP. (PNA)



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NUTRIBOOST . . . (from page 1)

made to enhance the growth and productivity of agricultural products such as rice, corn, vegetables, sugarcane, and other crops.

Manufactured in Israel, this organic innovation was made available to the country through the efforts of Mr. John Nestor Villagomez, Importer and Country Manager of the said product, along with the support of his wife, Mrs. Jona Villagomez.

As a foliar fertilizer, NutriBoost aims to introduce smart farming and prevent the usage of pesticides and other toxic chemicals which may cause harm to the bodies of people once they intake the food being harvested.

"Environment friendly ni siya, indi ni siya makaguba sa mga duta or tanom," Villagomez said during the NutriBoost press conference on April 10 at Hangout Resto in Jaro, Iloilo City.

In addition, the said fertilizer can be directly applied to a plant's leaves, particularly in the stomata which results to improvement of the plant's health and fertility as well as to gain more nutrients or nutrient absorption.

The best time to apply the said product in plants is about 4:30 in the afternoon wherein its 10-gram sachet is equivalent to 200 liters of water, sufficient to water a one-hectare of rice field.

On the other hand, the acidity level of soil decreases within 45 to 60 days and no longer needed the soil analysis when using the product. This also increases the yield of harvests in the farm as this has a special blend of nanotechnology which nutrients are delivered through smaller particles.

At the height of El Niño season, the use of such organic

innovation could help in increasing the production of crops to a hundred percent as this product is approved by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) and has been tested in Regions 1-8.

"Ang aim gid naton is to have the purpose nga mag-increase ang aton nga pananom kag para hindi kabudlay sa aton farmers nga magtanom subong," Villagomez emphasized.

Pioneering in the market for five years, NutriBoost is also being imported and distributed by Quanergy Agri Trading within the Philippines. It was also tested in the Iloilo Province and even used in Mindanao area.

Meanwhile, the said fertilizer was registered and has also been tested by the Department of Agriculture (DA) in its different areas such as Ajuy, Iloilo, Benguet, and Isabela.

The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) in Negros Occidental has also proven NutriBoost's effectivity in terms of decreasing its input in rice along with sugarcane and it also helps to increase the yield.

"Ang aim gid naton is to have the purpose nga mag-increase ang aton nga pananom kag para hindi kabudlay sa aton farmers nga magtanom subong," said Villagomez.

NutriBoost was also validated by the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO) due to its effectivity while the Iloilo Province is also getting such supply for their farming needs.

Through Villagomez's innovative effort of creating Nutriboost, this could help in educating the farmers to upgrade and practice the use of organic, non-chemical smart fertilizer so that they will not left behind in terms of having a sustainable agriculture not only during the present times but also in the future.

Iloilo City gets P18-M risk resiliency aid

ILOILO CITY – At least 2,019 residents from 124 barangays here will benefit from the PHP18 million in funds under the Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development Western Visayas (DSWD 6).

The “Project LAWA at BINHI” (Local Adaptation to Water Access and Breaking Insufficiency through Nutritious Harvest for the Impoverished) will be implemented through cash-for-training and work (CFTW) focusing on water sufficiency and food security.

“RRP-CFTW is a proactive intervention and sustainable solution to combat hunger, alleviate poverty, and decrease the economic vulnerability of the communities by addressing food security and water scarcity exacerbated by climate change and disasters,” said the city government in a release on Friday.

The city government, represented by Mayor Jerry Treñas and DSWD 6 by its regional director lawyer Carmelo Nochete, signed the memorandum of agreement at the city mayor’s office on April 4.

“The DSWD’s support is a big help, especially with the present dry season wherein water and food security are in need,”

Treñas said.

City Social Welfare and Development Office head Teresa Gelogo said beneficiaries will have to undergo three-day learning and development sessions on climate change adaptation and mitigation followed by their 15 days of cash-for-work.

They will be engaged in container gardening and tree planting in target areas such as in JPT Ediscape communal gardens and Day Care Centers across the city.

They will be planting resilient crops and vegetables and fruit-bearing trees, which can augment the city’s supplemental feeding program, while they will be encouraged to have communal and container gardening in their respective backyards and communities.

They will also construct small farm reservoirs, repair and rehabilitate water harvesting facilities, diversify water supplies, repair multipurpose water infrastructures, and other activities supporting water sufficiency.

It will end with a two-day training on strategies for sustaining the project.

For the entire 20 days, they will get paid PHP450 per day. (PNA)



RESILIENT PROGRAM. Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Western Visayas regional director lawyer Carmelo Nochete sign a memorandum of agreement for the “Project LAWA at BINHI” under the Risk Resiliency Program of the department at the city hall on Thursday (April 4, 2024). The DSWD downloaded PHP18 million to the local government for the program that will benefit over 2,000 residents of the city. (Photo courtesy of Iloilo City Government)

BY MARY JOY CAVANAS

The Iloilo City Government through the Technical Institute of Iloilo City (TIIC) has conducted their four-day livelihood and skills training program at the Iloilo City District Jail-Female Dormitory to train the Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) wherein 25 of them have been trained and completed their pantry training.

According to TIIC Administrator Maria Mathilde Treñas, multi-sectors have also helped to initiate the said project such as the Philippine Foremost Milling Corporation (PFMC), Iloilo Festivals Foundation Incorporated (IFFI), and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) - Iloilo Chapter.

The said training aims to provide the PDLs with skills in baking and cooking; kitchen sanitation; usage of kitchen tools; and entrepreneurship.

“Ang aton na diri nga magtudlo kita, indi man siling nga magtudlo kita sang training and then after that tapos na, kundi gusto naton nga even nga waay na kita diri, masustain nila,” Treñas said.

In the said training, baking materials such as flour, butter and the like was provided by the PFMC while the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) -Iloilo was in charge of training for financial literacy.

“Since ang DTI nagprovide sang financial literacy training, kung mga trade fair pwede na ang products nila nga human nila (mabaligya), pwede nga mabuligan sila sang DTI nga ma-push ang product nila.” Treñas added.

During the graduation ceremony, the IFFI turned over kitchen tools and equipments as well as kiosks for the 25 graduates as their start-up business inside their facility while the city government donated two-burner stoves and LPG. The PCCI also pledged for the LPG content for the cooking activity of PDLs.

On the other hand, the Office of the City Mayor

City gov’t produces 25 female PDL graduates in livelihood training program

(CMO) headed by Mayor Jerry Treñas shall also provide a start-up capital of P125,000 for the said PDL graduates who will be given P5,000 each.

Ms. Treñas also eyes for additional trainings once the PDLs will transfer into a bigger facility.

“Damo pa gid additional trainings kung once magsaylo sila sa ila facility nga mas dako, mas damo pa ma-offer naton sa ila,” Treñas emphasized.

The TIIC Administrator also ensures that the trainings for the women PDLs shall be done continuously, citing that they are sentimental for such opportunities provided for them.

“Continuous gyapon ang trainings para sa women PDLs. Makita mo ang mga inmates nga sentimental sila because siguro na feel nila nga daw may concern man sa ila ang mga multi-sector even nga ara sila sa sulod sang facility,” said Treñas.

Meanwhile, trainings regarding bread and pastry making along with food processing were also conducted by the city government and PFMC for the 30 male PDLs at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in Ungka, Jaro last 2022.

The 30 male PDL graduates have also received their certificate of completion and a start up-capital from Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) amounting to a total of P300,000.



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Blame the Boomers, not Gen X-Y-Z

Employers nowadays complain about the “new generation” of employees who behave more like transient or transit passengers at an airport rather than long-term staff in companies. On the average, many new young hires stay about four to six months, not years.

What HR managers and employers now find shocking is the “cold” manner by which the new kids disengage from a company for more reasons than their parent’s generation did. They are labelled as feeling “entitled” or as spoiled brats. But it may shock you to realize that this behavior is “inherited” from us as a result of all our struggles and complaints as employees.

As far as young people are concerned, bully bosses, or crippling workspaces, or absence of intelligent life form will be tolerated for a maximum of two weeks and the kids leave “to preserve their mental health.” Patiently enduring and believing for a change is not in the equation. They leave with speed and that creates the change.

Today’s young employees put a premium on their self-respect over and above bringing home the bacon or keeping a job. Self-respect dictates that no one, not even their boss or a business owner, has a right to insult them, disrespect them or in any way or form insult them.

This generation has raised the bar for what is expected from leaders as well as the appropriate response to their conduct. You can tell them off but don’t make a habit of it because in their reality, you correct and teach a person about an error or task that does not come up to expectation. You don’t rub salt on the wound or use their “fail” to fertilize your ego or power trip.

Respect also dictates that their views be heard and considered. Today’s young people are far more informed, widely exposed and trained to be confident in their views. That is why we hear about “gaslighting” and “cancel cultures” and “talk to the palm” push

backs.

The internet and media have given them a global standard on how people should be treated as well as be recognized for their role and contribution, unlike their parents who just sucked it up, or sucked up to a boss. The kids now are intolerant of credit grabbers.

For those who stay a little longer, the subsequent triggers are generally a “toxic work environment” which doesn’t necessarily refer to a “Devil who wears Prada” at the workplace. Toxic could simply be the incessant deadlines, rush jobs or client reps who think they bought your soul because they chose you to service their requirements.

There was a time when “pressure” was all part of the job, late nights came with the territory and some boss cussing you out was all part of the job. But those days have slowly passed and for good reason.

Back in the old days, businesses were generally family owned and run by people who did not have the academic or professional management training. They subsequently treated their employees just a few notches better than their maids and houseboys.

In the days of Boomer office workers, college degrees were a plus but not necessarily essential. Drivers generally needed nothing more than a license, referral and work experience. A two-year secretarial course was enough to start you off as an “executive assistant.” Education was cheaper.

But nowadays, companies have piled up requirements to get the best candidates at the lowest price. Not only do you need to be cleared by the NBI, police and a laboratory for drugs or communicable disease at your expense, they now require college degrees for a position mixing coffee or selling credit cards.

Certain agencies and positions even demand a master’s degree but do not offer commensurate compensation for the investments made to get such degrees.

CTALK

Cito Beltran



One sensitive area among Gen XYZ involves impositions on personal time and space such as take-home work or overtime. Unlike past generations, the young people today have a life outside work, they treat their personal time as inviolable. These are all part of the “boundaries” they have learned and established through their life.

Their parents may have found overtime equates to more money, but the younger generation have better things to do with their time after office and a number really make more money doing side hustles and gigs outside of the office. Besides which, today’s young recruits are the “no homework on weekends” generation.

To better appreciate and understand this culture and values, we, the Boomers and elders, need to look back into our past life as “employees” who devoted our lives to a company or a job at the family’s expense.

Many of us lamented our “shitty” situation at work, the monster we work for or the backstabbing credit grabbers. Then we would tell the kids that there would be no weekend trip or “pasyal” because we had work to do. Kids were generally on the receiving end of the office-related anger and frustration.

We sold our soul to the company in the false hope of eventually having a nice shiny car or a house and lot but ended up working more for the company to get the upgrade. As the children grew, they slowly became aware of the high price of education, raising a family and the “slave wages” their parents were paid.

And so today, they are less inclined to pursue the dream and the romance their parents chased and compromised for. The only “good” we did was to show them it was not worth it and they have learned well.

Easing hunger

You are what you eat.

And if you’re not eating properly, it shows.

As nutritionists will tell you, it’s the quality, not quantity of food that counts. Obesity is a form of malnutrition. The human body needs sufficient, balanced amounts of nutrients for optimum physical and mental development.

It’s a testament to the continuing prevalence of poverty in our country that physical and mental stunting and wasting are serious problems.

Official data show that nearly 27 percent of Filipino children under five are stunted; the figure is a staggering 45 percent in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Nationwide, approximately 43 percent of children aged six to 12 suffer from iron deficiency anemia.

In poor households, malnutrition starts at conception, with the undernourished mother. Breastfeeding can make up for it; I know a baby from a low-income family who was born thin but grew into a baby with Buddha-like girth in no time from being breastfed.

Not all women, however, have enough breast milk. This is true particularly of malnourished mothers. Baby formula and high-nutrient baby feed can compensate for the nutrient deficiency, but these products are too expensive for millions of families in this country.

The government has launched several programs to boost early childhood nutrition, through school feeding programs wherein the food ingredients such as agricultural commodities are locally sourced. This in turn helps the local community.

Worldwide, however, programs to enhance food security have been affected by crisis after crisis, from climate change to the COVID pandemic and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, which wreaked havoc on supply chains, and now the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

* * *

The United Nations World Food Program is feeling

the impact. The WFP is a key Philippine partner in the uphill battle versus hunger and malnutrition.

For a food-insecure country like ours where people are heavily dependent on ayuda and outside help, the impact of multiple global crises on foreign aid should be a cause for concern.

Last Monday I sat down for an interview with WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain, who was in Manila for the Asia and the Pacific Food Security Forum of the Asian Development Bank. The forum aims to tackle the worsening food security problem in the region.

McCain, who met Monday with President Marcos at Malacañang, expressed appreciation for Manila’s “great support” (the Philippines is the third biggest donor to WFP in-country programs) and the government’s efforts to address food security issues.

But during our interview, McCain also expressed concern about increasing “donor fatigue,” whose impact is being felt not only by the WFP but also other UN agencies as well as nongovernment organizations.

WFP funding, McCain told me, “is down by half” since last year.

“The donor climate right now has changed,” said McCain, a former permanent representative of the United States mission to the UN Agencies in Rome, who took the helm of the WFP last year. “We’re all in the same boat.”

She noted that the world is dealing with such an “overwhelming” number of crises in a lot of places right now that “we don’t even know where to begin.”

“It’s very complicated right now, the world is very complicated,” she said.

* * *

Governments can no longer do it alone, she pointed out, so the WFP is hoping that the private sector will step in. She is happy to note that the WFP is seeing this happening.

How has this affected WFP programs in the Philippines? The strong partnership between the

WFP and the government is allowing programs to be sustained, McCain said.

With her during the interview was the WFP’s country director, Dipayan Bhattacharyya, who provided some information about WFP-supported initiatives in the Philippines such as the food voucher and food stamp programs under the Walang Gutom 2027 and nutribun project.

The WFP helps the country in capacity building, program development and efficient implementation. These include the promotion of a circular economy and climate-smart agriculture as well as support in food logistics and emergency telecommunications.

It has an extensive presence in the Philippines, which ranked 67th out of 112 countries in the 2022 Global Food Security Index.

The WFP also has programs to address the impact on food security of climate change and armed conflict such as in the BARMM, still the country’s poorest region. For 2024 to 2028, the WFP’s strategic plan for the Philippines focuses on crisis response and integrated resilience building in relation to food security.

With donor fatigue and so many other places with far worse problems than the Philippines, our country could go down in the totem pole of priorities of multilateral aid agencies like the WFP.

McCain, the widow of US senator John McCain, indicated this would not happen – or at least the WFP will try not to make it happen.

The WFP’s job, she said, is to address hunger and keep alive not only people in places that are going through major crises, but also “other places like the Philippines that are doing much better.”

“We want to keep that on track, too, so that we do progress,” McCain told me.

This is best achieved if the country can boost its own efforts and capacities for food security and climate resilience.

Sketches

Ana Marie Pamintuan



Bacolod City establishes ‘green routes’ for passenger e-jeepneys

BACOLOD CITY – The city government here has established two “green routes” that will exclusively use electric (e)-jeepneys to transport passengers.

Mayor Alfredo Abelardo Benitez said in an interview on Tuesday that at least eight e-jeepneys are now available for dry run for the Vista Alegre and Cabug loops.

“I think this is the first in the country. We have eight e-jeeps ready to be deployed. They have obtained the certificate of compliance for registration,” Benitez said.

He said the city government has sent a communication to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board on the schedule of the dry run.

Benitez said the operators of e-jeepneys, which have been assisted by the city government in obtaining a provisional authority,

will go through the same regulatory process followed by the operators of modernized jeeps.

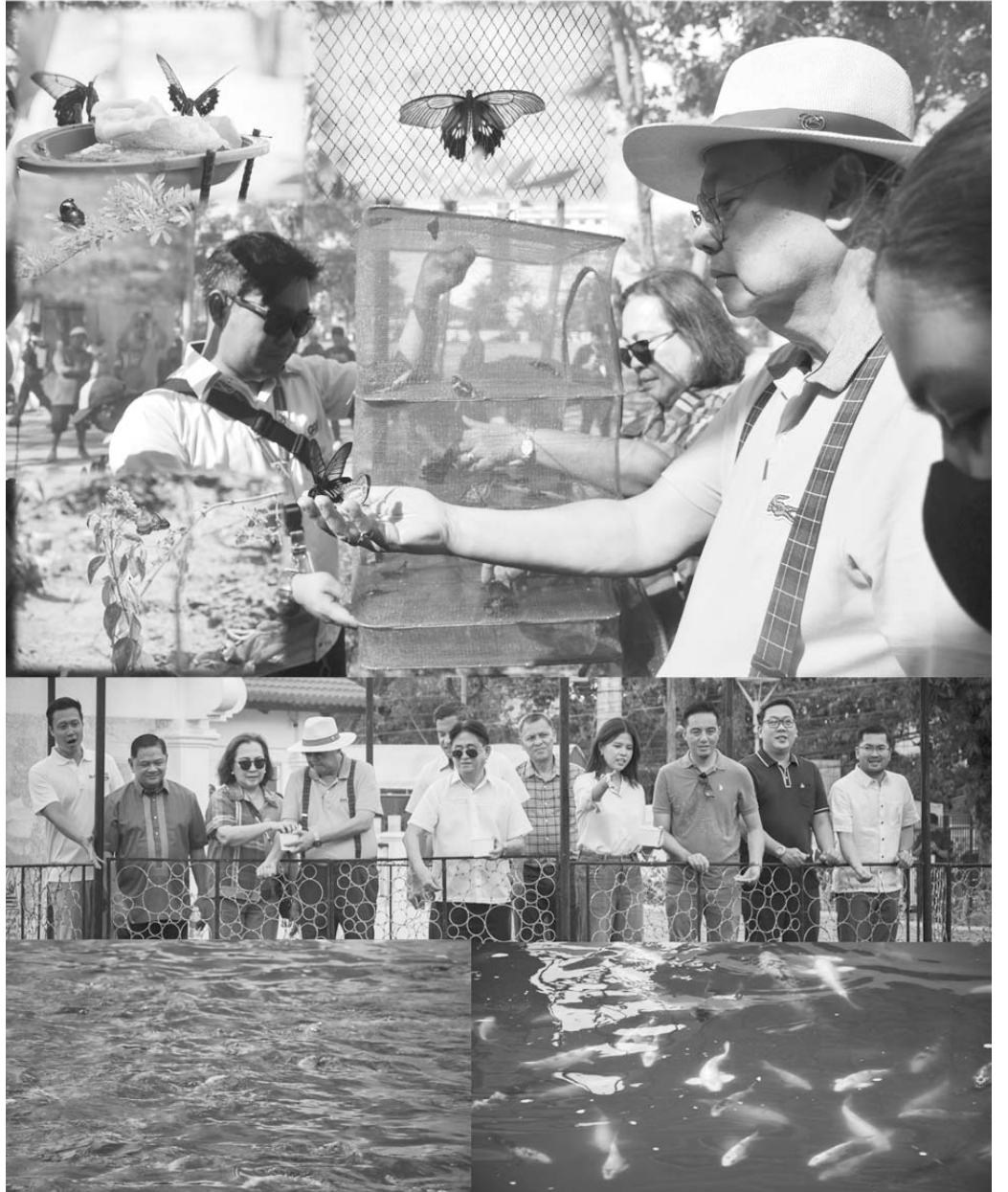
He said they can use the city’s charging station at the Bacolod City Government Center.

“Eventually, they will pay similar to a gas station. The operators said they can save up to 60 percent of the operation cost if they will use e-jeeps,” he added.

In July last year, Benitez signed an investment intention agreement with chairman Li Longde of the Chinese-Korean e-vehicle manufacturer Jiangsu Fengchuen New Energy Power Technology Co. Ltd. (Fengchuen).

The partnership is paving the way for Bacolod to become the first local government unit in the country to host the production of e-jeeps that would support the national government’s Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program.

In Bacolod, Fengchuen has set up an office for its subsidiary, e-Future Motors Philippines (PH) Inc., which aims to make Bacolod a model and pilot site for the use of e-jeepneys for public transport in the Philippines. (PNA)



Iloilo City Mayor Jerry P. Treñas was joined by his wife, Rosalie, and the city officials and departments in accepting the projects from GBP executives headed by its First Vice President for Panay Site Operations, Antonio J. Cabalhug Jr. and MERALCO PowerGen Corporation Head of Global Operations and Chief Operating Officer Dominic M. Camu, Jr.

City government to provide pregnant mothers with vaccines vs. pertussis

BY MARY JOY CAVANAS

As the children are more vulnerable to pertussis or whooping cough outbreak, pregnant mothers are highly encouraged to participate in vaccination for the welfare of their babies.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas has reminded them to also get vaccinated for the prevention of the said respiratory illness, stating that there are vaccines provided for them in health centers.

“Sa indi kasarang magkadto sa aton health centers, sa mga nanay nga nagabusong, gakadto sa mga sentro, may mga bakuna kita nga gina procure,” Treñas said.

The cases of the said respiratory illness have already reached to 22 with nine confirmed cases as of April 2, 2024 based on the report of Iloilo City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (ICESU).

The city mayor cited the significance of vaccination for pregnant mothers which is to prevent their babies from becoming carriers of pertussis or whooping cough.

“Importante nga ang mga nanay antis sila magbata kinanglan mahatagan na sila bakuna. We will procure vaccines so that we can even immunize the mothers who are pregnant,” Treñas added.

Treñas also encouraged those who could afford private doctors or pediatricians to have their children vaccinated for pertussis.

“Sa aton ya mga ginikanan, sa makasarang nga madala nila ang ila kabataan sa ila pediatician, ipa injectionan na nila,” Trenas stated.

In addition, Treñas also mentioned that the city government shall also provide for additional vaccines once needed as the city also grapples along with other local government units (LGUs) in procuring vaccine supplies.

“Kita ta ang data sang Iloilo City, but kung tan-awon ta may ato na to sa QC, may ara sa Cavite, may ara sa iban nga lugar, I think pertussis is all over the place because of the lack of vaccines,” Treñas emphasized.

Meanwhile, Iloilo City has been declared under state of calamity last March 26 by the Sangguniang Panlungsod (SP) due to pertussis wherein a quick response fund (QRF) amounting to P16 million out of the city’s calamity fund will be used to procure supplies of vaccine for children in order to prevent the said respiratory illness.

Grass fires burn across Bacolod City amid extreme heat



BACOLOD CITY – The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) responded to two more grass fire incidents here on Tuesday as the heat index forecast reached 42 degrees Celsius.

In March alone, at least 130 grass fires have been reported by the Bacolod City Fire Station.

Since January, BFP personnel here have responded to 262 fire calls involving grass fires.

Chief Insp. Stephen Jardeleza, city fire marshal, said they sometimes employ controlled burning to combat recurring grass fires, similar to what they did on Monday night at the city’s Reclamation Area.

“In a controlled burning situation, we control the direction and volume of the fire and the use of fuel load. We use grass cutter and backpack sprayer, and not always rely on fire hose. Still,

GRASS FIRE. A grass fire in Bangga Lote, Barangay Alijis, Bacolod City on Monday (April 1, 2024). In March alone, the Bureau of Fire Protection reported at least 130 grass fires in the city. (BFP-Bacolod City Fire Station)

firetrucks on standby,” he added.

On Tuesday morning, some two hectares of grassland were razed by fire in Barangay Bata. At past noontime, a grass fire also occurred in Barangay Handumanan.

An almost two-hour grassfire also took place in Barangay Alijis at noon on Monday.

Last month, the Bacolod City Fire Station received a total of 205 fire calls.

Aside from 130 grass fires, the rest involved rubbish – 26; post fire – 20; residential fire – 15; sugarcane field – 6; commercial fire – 5; and vehicular fire – 3. (PNA)

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Beijing's propaganda on WPS

Editorial

Amid what appears to be a deliberate campaign by Beijing to distort the truth about what's really happening in our Exclusive Economic Zone in the South China Sea, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro has correctly warned Filipinos not to believe any "Chinese propaganda" on the issue.

The Defense Secretary urged the public to be very wary of attempts by Beijing's spokespersons and their Filipino trolls to steer the conversation away from the main threat posed by China's harassment of Philippine vessels and other illegal activities in the disputed waters.

The defense official pointed out that Chinese propaganda has been highlighting Manila's supposed violation of a "gentleman's agreement" between then President Rodrigo Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping to maintain the status quo in Ayungin Shoal where the Philippines has stationed Filipino troops at BRP Sierra Madre, a grounded World War II-era warship that serves as Manila's military outpost in the area.

The Secretary is on the right track in asking Filipinos "not to fall for the trap by Chinese propaganda of refocusing the debate on a so-called promise while deflecting attention away from China's aggressive maneuvers, thereby freeing and allowing them to continue with their illegal activities in our EEZ."

He is not the only high government official to speak on the heightened tensions in the West Philippine Sea.

National Security Adviser Eduardo Año said he and his American counterpart Jake Sullivan recently discussed China's "coercive, aggressive and deceptive actions" in the West Philippine Sea.

According to Año, Sullivan reaffirmed Washington's ironclad commitment to their alliance, and expressed the US government's support for Manila following China's dangerous actions obstructing a lawful Philippine resupply mission to Ayungin.

The American official was referring to the March 23 water cannon attack by Chinese ships on a Philippine resupply boat heading to BRP Sierra Madre, leaving three Philippine Navy crew members injured.

Meanwhile, Commodore Jay Tarriela, PCG's spokesperson for the West Philippine Sea, echoed the call of Defense Secretary Teodoro for Filipinos to unite against China's illegal actions in the West Philippine Sea.

He warned that China's efforts to "spread disinformation and create division are strong, so we must double our efforts to counter their lies."

He also asked Filipinos to educate fellow countrymen "who may have been misinformed and have accepted China's false narratives" with "courtesy and professionalism."

We totally agree with the Coast Guard official's view that "our fight in the West Philippine Sea is not dictated by any external actor but driven by our national interest." (*manilastandard*)

Bayanihan for the dry season

The dry season is here, which means that we will see a spike in electricity consumption as more Filipinos turn to longer use of cooling appliances to cope with searing temperatures.

Studies have shown that historically, energy demand increases by around 10 percent to 40 percent between March and June, given the prolonged use of air conditioners and electric fans.

This year, the onset of the dry season comes as our country continues to weather the impact of El Niño—the effects of which are expected to last until May, according to weather bureau PAGASA.

With these conditions, it is timely to recognize the need to be smarter in our electricity use and to embody the spirit of bayanihan to manage the increasing energy demand.

Just recently, the Department of Energy (DOE) issued an advisory calling on the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) and distribution utilities to "be fully ready to activate and implement" the Interruptible Load Program (ILP) in time for the dry season. The ILP is a voluntary demand-side management mechanism that aims to spare households from power interruptions during instances of Red Alert or when the electricity supply is insufficient.

The advisory is a call for bayanihan in the business sector to help ensure continuous electricity service to households, many of which lack generators, and help prevent potential power interruptions. With extremely hot temperatures, continuous electricity service is a must, and ensuring so

requires active cooperation among all stakeholders.

The ILP is not only a demand-side management program, in a way, it is a collaboration tool that promotes a sense of shared responsibility for our energy utilization and our pursuit of a sustainable energy future. This early on, we must realize that we all play a role in energy demand-side management.

The government, for its part, should continue to proactively engage all energy industry stakeholders and be aggressive in communicating the benefits of joining the ILP to the business sector. In the Meralco franchise area for example, there are over 100 companies enrolled in the ILP equivalent to more than 500 MW of de-loading capacity.

On the part of the business sector, the ILP presents an opportunity for them to show their commitment to nation-building by contributing to the well-being of the communities they serve.

For households, embracing energy efficiency as a way of life is a big help to manage power demand. While Meralco recently announced a significant decrease of almost one peso per kilowatt hour in its electricity rate, households should continue to use electricity wisely.

For example, during this dry season, we can tailor-fit our activities to better conserve energy such as by using natural lighting whenever and wherever possible, sun-drying clothes instead of using a dryer, optimizing the temperature setting of the air conditioner to 25 degrees Celsius instead of 18 degrees Celsius.

ESPRESSO MORNINGS

BY JOE ZALDARRIAGA

By embracing energy efficiency, households not only contribute to demand-side management but also reap economic benefits as they are empowered to have better control over their electricity bills.

Beyond the management of energy demand and electricity bills, the impact of energy efficiency is long-term and crucial in our country's push for a sustainable energy future. By eliminating unnecessary energy consumption, we lessen our carbon footprint and help mitigate the environmental impact associated with power generation.

The benefits of energy efficiency cannot be stressed enough. As responsible citizens, we must embody the spirit of bayanihan through mindful consumption.

For now, may we all view energy efficiency as a way of life that, if collectively practiced, contributes significantly to our push for a sustainable energy future that benefits all of us.

Editor's note: The opinions expressed in the foregoing article are solely the author's and do not reflect the opinions and beliefs of the Philippine News Agency (PNA) or any other office under the Presidential Communications Office.

Taiwan earthquake: Lessons on composure, resiliency, preparedness

Last April 3, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck the east coast of Taiwan. Reportedly the strongest in 25 years, the said earthquake caused several buildings to collapse and mountains to crumble. One of the many things that struck people around the globe, while watching videos of the said massive earthquake, were scenes of Taiwanese being calm and composed during the quake.

There is this now viral footage of a news reporter continuing to give her report live on air while the studio was shaking around her. Several videos showed motorcycle riders calmly waiting on a bridge while it rocked violently, nurses intently looking after infants in cribs while debris fell around them, train riders calmly sitting while the train was swaying, a grandfather watching tv, and ordinary citizens standing still while waiting for the tremors to stop.

Having lived in Taiwan for a couple of years, I can attest to the fact that this is normal behavior for Taiwanese during emergencies. A few years ago, I was in a hotel outside of Taipei when a fire alarm suddenly blared at 1 a.m. while everyone was presumably sleeping. As I stepped out of our room, I was amazed at how the other guests were quickly but calmly going down the designated exits. There were no histrionics, shouting, or any of the normal signs of panic. A few days before I left my post in Taiwan, I also had the misfortune of being smack dab in the epicenter of a 6.3 magnitude earthquake with vertical tremors and an accompanying strange sound that resembled that of stones grinding. I was about to go out of the building but the Taiwanese official beside me held me down and advised me not to move and wait for the tremors to stop. As I looked around, I was surprised at how eerily calm and collected

everyone was in the room. Some of them were even eating and chatting with each other.

In addition to being calm during the last earthquake, the Taiwanese people also displayed their highly swift and efficient rescue system when their emergency response team immediately began rescuing people trapped while the buildings were still swaying. The calm demeanor and preparedness displayed by the Taiwanese are the result of decades of multi-faceted preparation. The Taiwanese have learned from past disasters and prepared accordingly.

Taiwanese begin their emergency drills at an early age in school which continues unabated till adulthood. The government conducts several drills that simulate everything from earthquakes to missile attacks. Their emergency phone alerts and air raid sirens have the same sound for any emergency thus forcing people to take every alert and siren seriously. Shelters are designated and several visual cues and signs can be seen all over cities showing the locations of these emergency shelters.

To foreigners, these emergency drills and reminders of every possible threat evoke not a small amount of trepidation and even concern. To the Taiwanese, these constant drills and reminders allow the Taiwanese to be mentally prepared for emergencies. They understand that being calm, composed, and alert during emergencies allow them to make rational decisions during these moments of stress.

It must be noted that after the initial tremors stopped, it was business as usual for the Taiwanese. No holiday or day for recovery was declared by the government. They literally dusted themselves off and started all over again. This, for

OBLIQUE OBSERVATIONS

By ATTY. GILBERTO LAUENCO, J.D.

me, shows how resiliency has also embedded itself into Taiwanese culture.

We in the Philippines would do well to take note of their preparedness and resiliency. Several scientists in our country have already warned us that we are due for a big earthquake. While we do conduct drills in schools and offices, there are some who observe that many Filipinos do not take these drills seriously and are even irritated when drills are conducted. I remember an incident in one municipality when people complained of the flood siren because it "scared them" and demanded that the use of such sirens be discontinued.

Other than earthquakes and natural disasters, we must also consider the possibility of man-made emergencies similar to the constant threat that Taiwan faces. There is an urgent need to take these drills seriously and prepare ourselves.

Yesterday, we celebrated Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor) in honor of our greatest generation who, when the hour of need arrived, rose to the challenge and defended our country during those dark days of World War 2. The Filipinos of that time have proven that as a race, we do not lack for courage and resilience. We hope that when the time comes that an emergency, natural or man-made arrives, we can also show to the world that we are made of sterner stuff. Perhaps, it is time to really come together and get ready.

This is my oblique observation.

Editor's note: The opinions expressed in the foregoing article are solely the author's and do not reflect the opinions and beliefs of the Philippine News Agency (PNA) or any other office under the Presidential Communications Office.

There's a need to bring rationality to our senatorial elections

Is there a possibility in the near future that the 24 Filipino senators mandated in the 1987 Constitution will all come from Metropolitan Manila and the rest of Luzon to the detriment of the people from the Visayas and Mindanao?

This question begins lingering in my mind as the Commission on Elections (Comelec) once again has started preparations for the conduct of the next mid-year polls on May 12, 2025, or barely a year from now.

To be elected in that polls are 12 senators, over 300 congressmen or representatives under the party-list system of election, 82 provincial governors and an equal number of vice governors, provincial board members and other local government officials such as city and municipal mayors and vice mayors, and councilors.

Sections 2 and 4, Article VI (Legislative Department) of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The Senate shall be composed of twenty-four (24) senators who shall be elected at large (meaning nationwide) by the qualified voters of the Philippines, as may be provided by law.

"The term of office of the senators shall be six years and shall commence, unless otherwise provided by law, at noon on the 30th day of June next following their election."

A glance at the roster of the 24 current members of the 19th Philippine Senate (2022-2025) shows that 20 of them are from Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon up to the Bicol

region.

Only four of the sitting senators come from Mindanao. They are Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri, Minority Leader Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, and Senators Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa and Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go.

This indicates a gross under-representation of the Visayas and Mindanao population in the present Congress. In view of this, some observers have voiced out the need to rationalize the election of the country's 24 senators in accordance with the constitutional mandate.

Even the first-ever senatorial elections held on May 11, 1987 under the present Charter showed very lopsided results against the people of the Visayas and Mindanao. The winners then were eight from Luzon, four from Mindanao and two from the Visayas.

Those who came from Mindanao were Senators Teofisto T. Guingona Jr. (who became Senate President Pro-Tempore); Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., Mamintal H. Tamano and Santanina Rasul.

The two lucky candidates from the Visayas were Senators John H. Osmeña of Cebu and Ernesto F. Herrera of Bohol.

The 18 dominant candidates from Luzon were Senators Jovito R. Salonga (who was elected Senate President); Orlando S. Mercado (Majority Floor Leader); Juan Ponce Enrile (Minority Floor Leader); Heherson T. Alvarez, Agapito "Butz" Aquino, Neptali A. Gonzales, Sotero H. Laurel,

GLIMPSES & GAZES

By SEVERINO C. SAMONTE

Ernesto M. Maceda, Rene A. Saguisag, Leticia Ramos Shahani, Wigberto Tañada, Edgardo Angara, Joseph Ejercito Estrada, Jose D. Lina Jr., Raul S. Manglapus, Vicente T. Paterno, Alberto G. Romulo, and Victor Ziga.

The succeeding synchronized election in May 1992 basically had the same results as far as the senatorial outcome was concerned.

Among those who have noted the need for more senators from the Visayas and Mindanao is veteran journalist Philip "Ka Ipe" Lustre Jr. in his Facebook post of Dec. 10, 2015. where he said:

"WANTED NATIONAL LEADERS FROM THE SOUTH. It is wrong to assume that the people of Luzon do not want national leaders from the South, particularly Mindanao. President Fidel Ramos was correct in saying that it's about time that a new president comes from Mindanao.

"The problem is Mindanao does not offer us the right candidates. The people had elected three guys from Cagayan de Oro City: Emmanuel Pelaez as vice president and senator for four terms; Nene Pimentel as senator for three terms; and Koko Pimentel. We had elected Teofisto Guingona Jr., a three-term senator, and son, Teofisto III, who both hail from Bukidnon.

"This only goes to show that the people in general, including those from Luzon, are capable of recognizing talents from Mindanao.

"Mindanao has many talents, but they have to come out and slug it out in the open."

Negros Occidental officials hail PBBM's assurance of signing NIR bill into law



MEDIA INTERACTION. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. talks to reporters on the sidelines of the ceremonial energization of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines' Cebu-Negros-Panay 230-kV Backbone Project in Bacolod City on Monday (April 8, 2024). Marcos expressed his support to the bill creating the Negros Island Region. (Photo courtesy of the Presidential Communications Office)

BACOLOD CITY – Top officials of Negros Occidental hailed the pronouncement of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. that he will sign into law the bill creating the Negros Island Region (NIR).

"I think, I will sign it," the President said during an interview on the sidelines of the ceremonial energization of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines' Cebu-Negros-Panay 230-kV Backbone Project here on Monday.

He added that "it makes sense" and "probably a good idea" to have a regional center in Negros Island to bring services closer to the people.

Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson thanked the Chief Executive for seeing the need to create the NIR, comprising the provinces of Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental and Siquijor and this highly-urbanized city.

"That's what we have been waiting for. From the very beginning when it was approved in the House and the Senate, we were already confident that the President will support it and true enough, he said it. We're very thankful," he said.

Vice Governor Jeffrey Ferrer, one of the President's advisers in the Visayas, said Marcos had told him he would approve the NIR bill.

"It's a big news for Negros Occidental. It's one of the two things I requested from him since we were campaigning. The Panay-Guimaras-Negros Bridge and the NIR. We discussed the NIR earlier, he said 'approved na 'yan'," he told reporters.

Lacson and Ferrer joined the President during the Department of Agrarian Reform's distribution of land titles and support services to agrarian reform beneficiaries in Negros Occidental in the neighboring Bago City.

Victorias City Mayor Javier Miguel Benitez, president of Negros Association of Chief Executives, said he is "very, very happy" with the President's pronouncement.

"We need the NIR for better cooperation and economic development and other programs. It's very exciting. I'm happy that he said it," he added.

Bacolod City Lone District Rep. Greg Gasataya and 6th District Rep. Mercedes Alvarez, who are among the principal authors of the NIR bill in the House of Representatives, expressed gratitude to the President for showing support for the NIR bill.

"We thank the President and we really appreciate his pronouncement that he will approve the NIR bill. I hope after it is signed into law, it can move immediately and be included in next fiscal year's budget," Gasataya said.

"We're very, very happy, not only for Negros Occidental but definitely also for Negros Oriental and Siquijor. This is a very beautiful gift to our island and also to Siquijor," Alvarez said.

The principal authors of House Bill 7355 have adopted Senate Bill 2507 which seeks to establish the NIR composed of the cities and municipalities under the provinces of Negros Occidental, including the highly-urbanized Bacolod City, as well as Negros Oriental and Siquijor.

Under the present set-up, Negros Occidental and Bacolod are under Region 6 (Western Visayas) while Negros Oriental and Siquijor belong to Region 7 (Central Visayas), which have regional centers in Iloilo and Cebu, respectively. (PNA)



SUPPORT TO PNP. Mayor Jerry Treñas on Tuesday (April 9, 2024) assured the Philippine National Police (PNP) of his support as long as he is mayor. The Iloilo City Police Office ranked second to the Regional Police Drug Enforcement Unit in anti-drug campaign accomplishments last month. (PNA file photo by PGLena)

Over P45-M illegal drugs seized in W. Visayas in March

ILOILO CITY – The month-long campaign of various units under the Police Regional Office 6 (PRO6) confiscated around 6,709 grams of shabu and 42 grams of marijuana with a total estimated price of PHP45.62 million in March this year.

PRO6 data showed for the whole month, the 194 police-initiated operations also apprehended 242 illegal drug personalities.

Lt. Col. Arnel M. Solis, officer-in-charge of the Regional Public Information Office, said in a text message on Tuesday that the successful campaign was the result of the directive of PRO6 director Brig. Gen. Jack Wanky for all drug enforcement units in the region to sustain their efforts down to the local police stations.

The Regional Police Drug Enforcement Unit (RPDEU) got the biggest drug haul of about 3,374 grams of shabu, followed by the Iloilo City Police Office (ICPO) with 1,369 grams, and the Iloilo Police Provincial Office with 651 grams.

The rest of the illegal substances came from operations in Negros Occidental, Capiz, and Aklan.

The confiscated volume of drugs is slightly lower compared with February when operating units launched 198 operations and seized over PHP45.78 million worth of drugs comprising 6,732 grams of shabu and 28 grams of marijuana. A total of 282 drug suspects were arrested.

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42 couples to tie the knot in Antique mass wedding

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – Forty-two couples from the remote barangays of San Remigio town in Antique will tie the knot during a mass wedding on April 14.

Mayor Margarito Mission Jr. said Wednesday the mass wedding would allow the couples to officially register their marriage.

He said that the couples from barangays Panpanan I, Panpanan II, Sumaray, Lapak, Walker, Insubuan, Rizal, Orquia, and Lumpatan would converge in Barangay Sumaray where the wedding would be held.



The local government will prepare wedding cakes for each couple, lunch, and gifts.

In February, eight couples from Barangay Bugo, San Remigio also got married in a mass wedding.

During the mass wedding on April 14, the LGU will also conduct free medical consultations. (PNA)

MASS WEDDING. Four of the eight couples that participated in the mass wedding in Barangay Bugo, San Remigio on Feb. 23 this year. Mayor Margarito Mission, Jr. said in an interview Wednesday (April 10, 2024) that 42 couples would get married in another mass wedding on April 14. (Photo courtesy of San Remigio LGU)

DOT commits to support Iloilo int'l airport privatization

ILOILO CITY – The Department of Tourism (DOT) will provide support to the Iloilo International Airport privatization that the city government has been pushing for.

DOT Secretary Christina Garcia-Frasco paid a courtesy call on Mayor Jerry P. Treñas at the city hall on Friday.

Treñas said he requested Frasco, who sits on the board of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), to fast-track the privatization proposal for the airport.

The DOT and CAAP serve as implementing agencies for the project.

“She promised to push for its (Iloilo International Airport) privatization,” the mayor said.

The privatization of the airport would ensure the expansion of the runway to accommodate bigger planes and the terminal to avoid congestion, especially during delayed flights; and repair of the escalator, air-conditioning unit and restrooms.

The mayor said that while the city government has secured PHP190 million

through the budget of Senator Grace Poe to improve the airport, it is still not enough.

Treñas said at least three investors had signified interest in the project.

The Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center website showed that as of March 22, the unsolicited proposal of the Prime Asset Ventures Inc. Consortium is “under initial evaluation by implementing agency,” while there is no available data yet for Aboitiz InfraCapital, Inc. and Megaworld.

The rehabilitation-expansion-operation-maintenance project covers the expansion of capacity of the passenger terminal building (PTB), construction of an apron adjacent to the PTB extension, renovation/maintenance of the existing building, installation of required equipment for passenger services in the new PTB, and operation and maintenance of the PTB and equipment and facilities during the concession period.

“I hope it happens soon because the PPP center is supposed to review all proposals within 10 days,” the mayor said. (PNA)



AIRPORT PRIVATIZATION. Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia-Frasco pays a courtesy visit to Mayor Jerry P. Treñas at the Iloilo City Hall on Friday (April 5, 2024). Treñas said Frasco promised to support the privatization of the Iloilo International Airport. (Photo courtesy of Matty Treñas)

Dumaguete Diocese asks PBBM to veto creation of Negros Island Region

DUMAGUETE CITY – The Diocese of Dumaguete called on President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to veto Senate Bill 2507, creating the Negros Island Region (NIR) due to a lack of fair, just, and truthful consultation.

The President recently announced he will soon sign the approved bill.

The diocese, headed by Bishop Julito Cortes, released Wednesday a letter addressed to the President sent during Holy Week.

It cited several reasons for their opposition to the creation of the one-island Negros region, which will comprise Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, and Siquijor.

The Diocese of Dumaguete covers the towns and cities from Basay in the south to Jimalalud in the north, and the entire island province of Siquijor.

In a letter dated March 25 and signed by the bishop and other church officials, the diocese appealed to the President to veto the bill for the NIR creation, citing the lack of information dissemination and the absence of public consultation with diverse sectors and stakeholders.

“As custodians of democracy, it is the people’s inherent right to be fully informed and actively engaged in decisions of such magnitude, for they shape the trajectory of our collective destiny,” the letter read.

It is also the church’s concern to ensure that the voice of the people be heard and duly acknowledged and accorded the justice it deserves, the diocese said.

Other reasons cited for the diocese’s objection to the creation of the NIR are the “disproportionate impact” on less privileged sectors; the threat to exacerbate existing inequalities; and the unequal distribution of resource allocation and representation, noting that Negros Oriental has fewer congressional districts compared to its western neighbor.

Msgr. Julius Heruela, a member of the diocese’s Circle of Discernment, said the letter was released only after the President’s recent announcement that he would sign the bill for the creation of the new region.

The diocese has not received any communication from the Palace regarding this, he added. (PNA)

CAMP PERALTA, Jamindan, Capiz - A member of the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) was neutralized in a series of encounters with troops of the Army’s 62nd Infantry (Unifier) Battalion in Barangay Quintin Remo, Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental.

The first encounter took place on April 3 when the troops engaged approximately five (5) members of the CTG, believed to be remnants of Central Negros I (Dismantled), Komiteng Rehiyon – Negros Cebu Bohol Siquijor, at Sitio Angalan, Barangay Quintin Remo in Moises Padilla town.

The said confrontation

resulted in the demise of a CTG member identified as Marlo Catacio alias Malot, a member of Sangay Yunit Propaganda (SYP), CNI (D), KR-NCBS.

Aside from his deceased body, the said encounter also yielded one (1) KG9 sub-machine gun with one (1) magazine loaded with four (4) serviceable ammunitions; one (1) rifle grenade; one (1) bandolier; one (1) jungle backpack; one (1) blue backpack; one (1) poncho, medical paraphernalia, and

subversive documents with high intelligence value.

Another firefight occurred in the morning of April 4, as the troops conducted pursuit operations towards the enemy’s withdrawal route in the southeast portion, encountering fleeing CTG members at Sitio Saksak in the same barangay.

The second encounter led to the recovery of one (1) cal .38 revolver loaded with three serviceable ammunitions, one (1) rifle grenade, one

(1) bandolier, and three (3) magazines (long) containing 29 serviceable 5.56mm ammunitions.

There were no casualties on the government side.

A retrieval team, comprised of personnel from the Moises Padilla Municipal Police Station and the 62IB, was dispatched to the encounter site to recover Catacio’s cadaver and conduct a thorough inspection and preliminary investigation.

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DUMAGUETE CLERGY. More than a hundred priests renewed their vows before Bishop Julito Cortes during the Chrism Mass at the Dumaguete Cathedral on March 24, 2024. The Diocese of Dumaguete, supported by its priests, opposes the creation of the Negros Island Region, saying this would be disadvantageous to Negros Oriental and Siquijor. (PNA file photo by Mary Judaline Flores Partlow)

**ILOILO GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, INC.
STA. BARBARA, ILOILO**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL
STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING**

Notice is hereby given to all shareholders that the Reschedule of Annual Stockholders' Meeting of the ILOILO GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, INC. will be held on May 12, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at its Clubhouse in Sta. Barbara, Province of Iloilo.

All proxies for the May 12, 2024 Stockholders' Meeting must be submitted **not later than May 10, 2024, 4:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Determination of Quorum
3. Proof of due notice of the meeting
4. Reading and approval of the minutes of the stockholders' meeting held on March 19, 2023
5. Report of the President
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Approval and ratification of all contracts and transactions of the corporation and all acts and proceedings of the Board of Directors for the year 2023
8. Election of Directors for the year 2024
9. Discussion of such other matters that may properly come up before the meeting which are within the ordinary concerns of the corporation
10. Adjournment

(SGD.) ATTY. FITZGERALD P. MACALALAG
Corporate Secretary

NE/April 8, 15 & 22, 2024



PROCUREMENT. Antique Vice Governor Edgar Denosta (second from left) is pushing to procure mobile water tanks for distribution to barangays suffering from water shortage. In an interview on Monday (April 8, 2024), Denosta said he would request a PHP2 million allocation once the province declares a state of calamity. (PNA photo by Annabel Consuelo J. Petinglay)

Antique eyes state of calamity; proposes water tank procurement

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – Antique Vice Governor Edgar Denosta will push for the procurement of mobile water tanks for barangays suffering from water shortage due to the El Niño phenomenon once the province declares a state of calamity.

In an interview on Monday, Denosta said there is a plan to declare a state of calamity on April 15, and the budget for the acquisition amounting to PHP2 million will come from the calamity fund.

"I had already a sponsored resolution approved during our provincial board session on Jan. 8, where I requested the allocation of PHP2 million for the procurement of the movable water tanks for the barangays," he said.

Denosta proposed the purchase of 50 water tanks with a capacity of 1,500 to 2,000 liters of water that will serve as reservoirs so barangay folks will have access to drinking

water and for their basic hygiene.

He said water shortage poses a real problem, especially in the far-flung barangays, so there is a need to transport drinking water for distribution to remote areas.

"We will request the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) fire trucks and the barangay emergency vehicles to transport water to these barangays," he added.

In a related interview, senior board member Mayella Mae Plameras-Ladislao said she would support the proposal to place the province in a state of calamity.

She said farmers are not only affected due to their damaged crops, but also their health due to the extreme heat caused by the El Niño phenomenon.

On Monday, public schools in the province implemented the alternative delivery mode (ADM) or the modular class for the health and well-being of the learners. (PNA)

DSWD expands risk resilient program to 3 Antique towns

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) will expand its Risk Resiliency Program to three more towns in Antique, following its initial implementation in three municipalities.

Erlyn Garcia, DSWD-Regional Office 6 (Western Visayas) Disaster Response Management Division chief, said that from the pilot municipalities of Sebaste, Sibalom and Barbaza, the Project Local Adaptation to Water Access and Breaking Insufficiency through Nutritious Harvest for the Impoverished (LAWA at BINHI) will already cover the towns of San Remigio, Valderrama, and Tibiao.

Project LAWA and BINHI is a proactive intervention and sustainable solution to combat hunger, alleviate poverty, and decrease the economic vulnerability of communities by addressing food insecurity and water scarcity due to climate change.

The six towns have an allocation of at least PHP22.2 million.

"The three additional municipalities were priority areas being exposed to the effects of El Niño phenomenon and with the most number of poor families based on the Listahanan 3," Garcia said in an interview Friday.

Listahanan 3 is the DSWD survey of the "poorest of the poor" families.

Garcia said that the municipality of Barbaza is the first to implement the project for 301 beneficiaries in the first week of May for 20 days.

She said the first three days are for training, focusing on learning and development sessions to get oriented on the importance of the project.

They will then embark cash-for-work for 15 days, including constructing of small water reservoirs and planting drought-resilient crops like bananas and cassava.

It will culminate with a two-day training on the sustainability of the project.

"The beneficiaries during the entire duration will receive PHP450 daily wage," Garcia said. (PNA)



EXPAND. The Project Local Adaptation to Water Access in Barbaza, Antique in this photo taken on March 5, 2024. Erlyn Garcia, Department of Social Welfare and Development-Regional Office 6 Disaster Response Management Division chief, said in an interview Friday (April 5, 2024) that the municipalities of San Remigio, Valderrama and Tibiao will be included this year. (Photo courtesy of DSWD-6)

Iloilo to disperse swine to help farmers cope with El Niño

ILOILO CITY – The provincial government has allocated PHP9 million for swine dispersal as a response to El Niño, initially targeting 15 municipalities situated in areas not affected by the African swine fever (ASF).

"We want to have a program that is El Niño-oriented. The assistance, instead of farm inputs, we will disperse animals that are not too dependent on the rain and the like," Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. said in a press conference on Tuesday.

Defensor said it is another adjustment of the provincial government, aside from the existing program in agriculture.

"The swine approach is an adjustment. We turn to the animal industry," he added.

The scheme is also one way of helping the swine industry increase its inventory amid the ASF.

The PHP9-million budget covers

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
 6TH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 22
 ILOILO CITY
rtc1ilo022@judiciary.gov.ph
 033-3279706

SPL. PROC. NO. 23-15573

IN RE: IN THE MATTER OF CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH, LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY NO. 88-1, OF J. GORGIO COFREROS GALARAGA

RICARDO WINSTON D. COFREROS, et. al.,
 Petitioner/s

-versus-

J. GORGIO COFREROS GALARAGA
 THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF OTON, ILOILO
 AND CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL, PHILIPPINE
 STATISTICS AUTHORITY,
 Respondents.

X-----X

AMENDED ORDER

Before this Court is a verified Petition for Cancellation of Certificate of Live Birth of J. GORGIO C. GALARAGA, filed by Counsel for Petitioners ATTY. ANNIE ROSE D. PARO. Petitioners alleges, among others, that they are nieces and nephews of deceased JOSEFINA COFREROS GALARAGA, who died intestate on October 26, 2023, in Oton, Iloilo. JOSEFINA COFREROS GALARAGA was born on December 25, 1939 at Barangay San Antonio Oton, Iloilo. Her Certificate of Live Birth was registered under Registry No. 2011-648. Petitioners personally know their aunt JOSEFINA COFREROS GALARAGA, who never bore a child of her own. However, petitioners soon found out that a certain J. GORGIO COFREROS GALARAGA, respondent in this case has a Certificate of Live Birth under Local Civil Registry Number 88-1, registered in the Philippine Statistics Authority, reflecting therein under the Mother's Name: JOSEFINA COFREROS GALARAGA, while his (RESPONDENT J. GORGIO COFREROS GALARAGA'S) date of birth: December 26, 1987. As alleged by Petitioners, their aunt's age if so, based on respondent's date of birth, was impossible to bear a child at age Forty Eight (48) years old during that time. Thusly, the said mentioned certificate of live birth of respondent, according to petitioners impairs their legal rights, considering that the same implies that he (respondent J. GORGIO COFREROS GALARAGA) is the legal compulsory heir of deceased JOSEFINA COFREROS GALARAGA, when in truth and in fact the said registration was clearly simulated, as he is not the heir of the latter. Petitioner consequently prays that after due notice and hearing, an Order be issued directing Respondents Local Civil Registry of Oton, Iloilo and Philippine Statistics Authority to cancel: CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY NO. 88-1, of J. GORGIO COFREROS GALARAGA.

WHEREFORE, let the initial hearing of the petition be set on **June 6, 2024, at 8: 30 o'clock in the morning.**

At the petitioner's expense, let copy of this Order be published for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the City and Province of Iloilo. Let copy of this Order be posted in at least three (3) conspicuous public places in the : 1.) The Barangay, where the Petitioners reside; 2.) The Municipality of Oton, Iloilo and 3.) at the main entrance of the Chief Justice Ramon Avanceña Hall of Justice, Iloilo City, so that any person who may have interest thereto, may appear to show cause, why this petition should not be granted.

Furnish copy of this Order the Solicitor General, the Local Civil Registrar of Iloilo City, the Philippine Statistics Authority the Petitioners through counsel on record, as well as the Respondent J. Gorgio Cofreros Galaraga.

SO ORDERED.

Iloilo City, Philippines, March 19, 2024.

(SGD.) REDENTOR E. ESPERANZA
 Presiding Judge



WATER DISTRIBUTION. The "Patubig sa Barangay" initiative of Bacolod City delivers water to residents of Barangay Taculing last Tuesday. Mayor Alfredo Abelardo Benitez said they are committed to ensuring every resident has access to clean and reliable water, especially during the El Niño. (Photo courtesy of Bacolod City PIO)

Bacolod City delivers water to El Niño-hit households

BACOLOD CITY – The city government here has initiated the "Patubig Sa Barangay" to provide supply to households with limited or dried-up water sources due to prolonged dry weather brought by El Niño.

Mayor Alfredo Abelardo Benitez said on Wednesday it is important to ensure every household in the city has access to clean and reliable water.

"This initiative is particularly crucial amid the threat of El Niño and the ongoing improvements by Bacolod City Water District (Baciwa)-Primewater," he said in a statement.

On Wednesday, water trucks were deployed to some areas in Barangays 32, 33 and 26.

The day before, water was also distributed to households in Purok (District) Masagana, Purok Progreso, and Purok Tumpok in Barangay Taculing, and in Bata Elementary School.

"We are committed to ensuring every resident has access to clean and reliable water, especially during challenging times such as El Niño," Benitez said.

He added that a filtration system will also be installed in water trucks to make the supply potable.

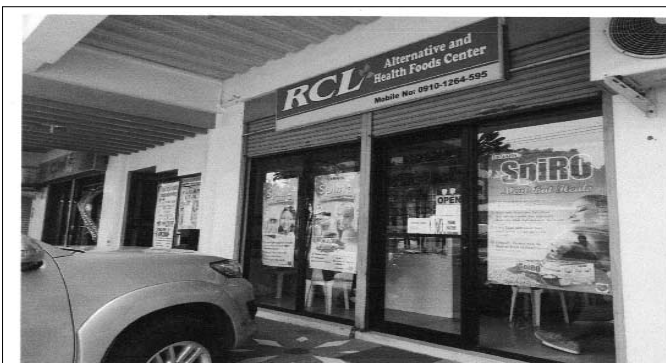
Villages, where residents need water supply, are advised to submit requests to the Public Affairs and Assistance Division, which will coordinate the schedule of delivery with the fire stations and water truck service personnel.

The Bureau of Fire Protection-Bacolod City Fire Station has also been serving areas with limited water supply since last month upon request of the village officials.

Last month, Benitez formed a coordinating action team mainly to expedite the implementation of vital infrastructure to improve water supply for Bacolodnons.

The body, which the mayor himself chairs, is working to come up with a coordinated action and approach plan as well as build effective collaboration between and among agencies in both the public and private sectors.

Benitez noted "as much as 15 percent" reduction in the level of the city's water sources, based on the report of Baciwa-PrimeWater. (PNA)



CISCHO BLDG. MABOLO DELGADO ILOILO CITY

FREE COMPUTERIZE MACHINE CHECK-UP

every Sunday to Friday 9am to 5pm

GUSTO KA BALANG MANG-AYO SANG IMO BALATI-AN...?

Nage-antus ka bala sang balati-an kaangay sang Arthritis, Diabetes, Asthma, Cancer, **MAYUMA**, Highblood Pressure, Sakit sa kidney, pungod, problema sa sex, prostate problem kag madamo pa...?

Madamo na bala nga Doktor ang imo nakadtoan kag napakonsultahan apang wala gihapon ikaw nag-ayo?

Para sa solusyon sang imo balati-an magkadtong na sa **RCL ALTERNATIVE & HEALTH FOOD CENTER** Nahamtang sa CISCHO BLDG. MABOLO DELGADO ILOILO CITY dira mabakal ang tanan klase sang HEALTH FOOD COMBINATION, ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE kag Food Supplement available man ang mga Health Combination "EDUKASYON PARA SA IKAAYONG LAWAS" nga inyo mabati-an sa **RCL ALTERNATIVE & HEALTH FOOD CENTER** Ang Masaligan mu nga katimbang sa Ika-ayong Lawas

Sa dugang nga kasayuran magpakig-angot kay Doc Gico sa Cell # 0910-126-4595

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
 6TH JUDICIAL REGION
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
and EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF OF ILOILO
 Chief Justice Ramon Q. Avanceña Hall of Justice
Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City
rtc1ilo0cc@judiciary.gov.ph
(033) 3353190
 -oOo-

FORECLOSURE NO. F-10923-24

FOR: **EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT NO. 3135 AS AMENDED BY ACT NO. 4118**

BDO UNIBANK, INC., (formerly BANCO DE ORO UNIBANK, INC.),
 Mortgagee,

-versus-

DONNA A. DELOS SANTOS rep. by
 Attorney-In-Fact, **Teresita A. Tejamo,**
 Debtor/Mortgagor.

X-----X

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION

Upon extra judicial petition for sale under Act No. 3135 as amended by Act No. 4118 filed by the mortgagee **BDO UNIBANK, INC., (formerly BANCO DE ORO UNIBANK, INC.)**, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, with principal office address at BDO Corporate Center, 7899 Makati Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines against **debtor/mortgagor DONNA A. DELOS SANTOS**, of legal age, Filipino, with postal addresses at (1) 295 Zone II, Veterans Village, Iloilo City (2) Block 3, Lot 3, Savannah Orchard C, Brgy. Abilay Norte, Oton, Iloilo represented by her Attorney-In-Fact, Teresita A. Tejamo to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of February 15, 2024, amounted to **TWO MILLION FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED ONE PESOS & 78/100 (P2,525,101.78)**, Philippine Currency, exclusive of interest, penalties and other charges, plus attorney's fees, publication cost, Sheriff's legal expenses and other incidental expenses of foreclosure and auction sale, the **Ex-Officio Sheriff of Iloilo or any of his lawful deputies** will sell at public auction on **MAY 22, 2024** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the **Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court, G/F Chief Justice Ramon Q. Avanceña Hall of Justice, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City**, to the **HIGHEST BIDDER**, for **CASH or MANAGER'S CHECK** and in Philippine Currency, the following real property, including buildings and all improvements found thereon, to wit:

Registry of Deeds for Iloilo, Iloilo
Transfer Certificate of Title No. 090-2022015816

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in BARANGAY OF ABILAY NORTE, MUNICIPALITY OF OTON, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, ISLAND OF PANAY, bounded and described as follows:

LOT NO: 3 BLOCK NO: 3 PLAN NO: PCS-06-006538
PORTION OF: LOT 1, BLOCK 23, PCS-06-005142,
LOT 1 AND 3, BOTH (LRC) PCS-1217
AND LOT 2-B, BCS-06-001676 (OLT);

is registered in accordance with the provision of the Property Registration Decree in the name of
Owner: DONNA A. DELOS SANTOS, SINGLE,
OF LEGAL AGE, FILIPINO

Address: 295 ZONE III, BRGY. VETERANS VILLAGE, ILOILO CITY

X X X
AREA: EIGHTY EIGHT (88) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS"

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the aforementioned time and date. In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on **MAY 29, 2024** at the same time and place aforementioned without further notice.

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the above-described property and encumbrances existing thereon, if any there be. Let this Notice of Sale be published and posted in accordance with the provisions of law.

Iloilo City, Philippines, **March 4, 2024**

(SGD.) ATTY. GERRY D. SUMACULUB
 Clerk of Court VII and
 Ex-Officio Sheriff of Iloilo

(SGD.) RITO RUEL A. CASTEN
 Sheriff IV/Sheriff-In-Charge

WARNING:

It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Sale on or before the date of sale, under penalty of law.

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **EUGENIO GALANTO** consisting of parcels of land with improvement situated at Bubog, Sibunag, Guimaras known as Lot No. 5215-32, Csd-06-005474 identical to Lot 7733, Psc-40, being S. 54-27., E covered by **Original Certificate of Title No. FG-1053** with an area of **EIGHTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE (18,553) square meters, more or less** and Lot No. 5215-26, Csd-06-005474 identical to Lot 7727, Psc-40, being S. 54-03 E., covered by **Original Certificate of Title No. FG-1054** with an area of **FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE (5,853) square meters, more or less** is adjudicated to heirs **ROSALINA GALANTO, EUFEMIA MARTIN, BELEN G. WILLEMS, EUGENE G. GALANTO, VENUS GALANTO LABARRE and NENA GALANTO TORRES**. That, the heirs hereby give **Special Power of Attorney** to **Atty. Mary Louise S. Villegas and/or Angel Marie A. Duclayan** to represent them in all transactions related therein as entered in the notarial registry of **Vice Consul VIDA SORAYA S. VERZOSA, Philippine Consulate General, City of Calgary, Alberta, Canada** per Doc. No. 2023NO28764, Page No. 26, Book No. IV, Series of 2023.

NE/April 1, 8 & 15, 2024

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH SALE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **FELOMINO P. VILCHEZ** known as a parcel of land Lot No. 7731-B, PSD-06-053904 located in Bubog, Sibunag, Guimaras covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 090-2022017329** with an area of **ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY (1,780) SQUARE METERS, more or less** is adjudicated to heirs **SOPHIA V. VILCHEZ, PACENCIA T. VILCHEZ, NANCY V. INFANTE, LEO V. VILCHEZ, ALLAN V. VILCHEZ, RAYMER V. VILCHEZ, JOHNNY V. VILCHEZ, and AMALIA V. MELLIZA**. That, all the heirs agreed to **SELL, CEDE, TRANSFER and CONVEY** by way of Absolute Sale the above-described lot in favor of **NENA GALANTO TORRES**, as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. April Joy A. Ortilano-Cajilo** per Doc. No. 266, Page No. 55, Book No. I, Series of 2023.

NE/April 1, 8 & 15, 2024

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of **FRANCISCO ALBA and ADELINA BARRIOS** Consisting of Lot 1, CCS-06-000124 Identical to Lot 1443, Cad-633-D under **Katibayan Ng Orihinal Na Titulo F-39400** with an area of **700 Sq. Meters** located at Estancia, Iloilo has been the Subject of an Extrajudicial Settlement With Absolute Sale as per document Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement With Absolute Sale dated 19 March 2024 known as Doc. No. 217; Page No. 45; Book No. 207, Series of 2024 of Notary Public **ATTY. EDUARDO N. REYES, JR.**

NE/April 1, 8 & 15, 2024

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **EVELINA SUALIBIOS** known as a parcel of land Lot 6889-B, Psd-06-005063, being a portion of Lot 6889, Sta. Barbara Cadastre, located at Brgy. Buayahon, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-110922** with an area of **TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTY NINE (24,369) SQUARE METERS, more or less** is adjudicated to sole heir **LEONIDO S. SUALIBIOS**. That, **LEONIDO S. SUALIBIOS** SELL, TRANSFER and CONVEY by way of **Absolute Sale** unto **SPOUSES ROYBEL SUALIBIOS TABOBO and DENGENE TABUNGAO TABOBO** the above-said property as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Ernesto H. Mediodia** per Doc. No. 56, Page No. 13, Book No. I, Series of 2024.

NE/April 15, 22 & 29, 2024

ILOILO . . . (from page 10)

the PHP6.93 million for the purchase of swine and PHP2.07 million for feeds.

Provincial Agriculture Office chief Dr. Idefonso Toledo said the province will download the funds to municipalities that will identify recipients.

Each recipient is expected to get two piglets for fattening.

Losses due to drought per PAO-validated data

DEED OF ADJUDICATION AND WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **CONSUELO D. DULLA** known as a parcel of land **Lot No. 2327-B, of the subdivision plan (LRC) Psd-269810, being a portion of Lot 2327, Dumangas Cad. Rec. No. 623**, located at Brgy. Baras, Dumangas, Iloilo covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-94062** with an area of **SIX HUNDRED FORTY NINE (649) SQUARE METERS, more or less** is adjudicated to heirs **SERAFIN D. DULLA and MARIA D. DULLA**. That, **MARIA D. DULLA, WAIVE, DONATE, CEDE, TRANSFER and CONVEY** unto **SERAFIN D. DULLA** all her rights, interests and participation over the above-said property as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Rey G. Canindo** per Doc. No. 122, Page No. 26, Book No. 4, Series of 2019.

NE/April 8, 15 & 22, 2024

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **SUSAN CASTRONUEVO SOBEZA** known as a bank deposit with **Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)** under **Account No. 9229-1800-34** is adjudicated to heirs **Marcelino C. Sobeza, Agnes S. Dalumpines, Patricia S. Pineda, and Marilyn S. Bacalso**. That, the heirs/adjudicatees agreed to give full power and authority to their sister **Marilyn S. Bacalso** to process, transact at any banks, government and private offices. Entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Claudio S. Segaya Jr.** per Doc. No. 278, Page No. 56, Book No. XII, Series of 2024.

NE/April 8, 15 & 22, 2024

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **ALBERTO TOLEDO, SR.** known as a parcel of land Lot No. 263, Cad. 569-D situated at Brgy. Poblacion Sur, Balasan, Iloilo covered by **KATIBAYAN NG ORIHINAL NA TITULO BLG. F-49228** with an area of **THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO (382) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS** is adjudicated to sole heir **MARGARITA DUREMDES TOLEDO**. That, the heir hereby **SELL, CEDE, TRANSFER and CONVEY** the above-said lot unto **BALASAN LIVELIHOOD EMPOWERMENT FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION (BLEEST) MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE** represented by its **MANAGER RENA S. BARRETO**, as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Alfonso D. Deboque** per Doc. No. 423, Page No. 85, Book No. IV, Series of 2021.

NE/April 1, 8 & 15, 2024

GENERAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby served to the Public that **ALMA GANANCIAL** owner of a passenger vessel named **MBCA "KARRELLE"** with business address at Nueva Valencia, Guimaras has filed with **MARINA Regional Office VI** for re-issuance of Certificate of Philippine Registry due to the loss of the original certificate per Affidavit of Loss dated 11 April 2024 submitted by Alma Ganancial. Notarized by Atty. Elmer R. Camarista, a Notary Public in Iloilo City, docketed as Doc. No. 306, Page No. 63, Book No. I, series of 2024. Any person or entity adversely affected by said claim may file their written opposition with Maritime Industry Authority Regional Office VI, MARINA Bldg., De La Rama St., Iloilo City within ten (10) days from the publication date.



reached PHP526.61 million, covering 9,528.18 hectares of high-value crops, rice, and corn and the fishery sector affecting 10, 292 farmers and fisherfolk from the 17 municipalities of the province.

Defensor said the cost of damage may increase as the El Niño progresses until May.

"Our projection is until May. We will continue to implement our measures and extend as much as we can," he added. (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

ROMEO M. YAP
Applicant.

Case No. **MRO VI 18-019**
CPC Renewal

X-----X

ORDER

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

ROUTE/S TO BE SERVED: CATICLAN, MALAY, AKLAN TO MANOCMANOC, BORACAY ISLAND, MALAY, AKLAN & VICE VERSA (DAYTIME TRAVEL ONLY)			
OWNED BY APPLICANT	HULL	TYPE OF SERVICE	CARGO RATE
MB "YR"	WOOD	CARGO	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 **10 May 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), afterwhich, 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 8th day of April 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. 6th Coast Guard District, Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City
File



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



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

SALVADOR T. AMIT III
Applicant

Case No. **MRO VI 21-003**
4th CPC Amendment

X-----X

ORDER

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

ROUTE/S TO BE SERVED GETULIO, BUENAVISTA/JORDAN/ALUBIHOD, NVA. VALENCIA, GUIMARAS TO PAROLA/FISHING PORT/LAPUZ, BO. OBRERO, ILOILO CITY AND VICE VERSA			
Vessel Name	GRT	HULL	Additional Service
MBca "DS RAIDERS"	6.67	Wood	Carriage of Motorcycles
MBca "DS PERFORMER"	7.22	Wood	Carriage of Motorcycles

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, port terminal and offices.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on **10 May 2024 at 10:00 A.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), afterwhich, 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 4th day of April 2024.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR:

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

Copy furnished:
Applicant Sto. Rosario, Buenavista, Guimaras
Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St. Legaspi Vill., Makati Metro Manila
Phil. 6th Coast Guard District, Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City
File

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
6TH JUDICIAL REGION
Branch 76

Janiuay, Iloilo
Email: Contact nos. (033) 503 5371 / 320 5408
Email: rtc2jvi076@judiciary.gov.ph

Spl. Proc. No. 24-0191

IN RE: PETITION FOR CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF HARRY MANEJO STA. ROMANA

HARRY MANEJO STA. ROMANA,
Petitioner,

-versus-

MELECIO BAYLIN STA. ROMANA AND MERLA STA. ROMANA MANEJO

AND

LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF MAASIN, ILOILO, and PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY,
Respondents.

x-----X

ORDER

A verified petition was filed before this Court by petitioner, thru counsel, praying that after due hearing, judgment be rendered:

1. Ordering the Local Civil Registrar of Maasin, Iloilo to remove/delete the date and place of marriage of petitioner parents in his Certificate of Live Birth;
2. Ordering the Local Civil Registrar of Maasin, Iloilo to indicate in the Certificate of Live Birth of the Petitioner the Admission of Paternity executed by his biological father;
3. To allow the Petitioner to continue to use the surname of his biological father, and;
4. Ordering the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to issue a new certificate of Live birth in favor of the Petitioner indicating the proper correction and deletion.

Finding the said petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for hearing on **June 24, 2024, at 8:30 in the morning** before this Court. Notice is hereby given that any person who has objection to this petition may file his/her opposition thereto within 15 days from service or last day of publication of this Order, stating the grounds or reasons therefor.

The petitioner shall cause this Order to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City and Province of Iloilo, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, such that the last publication should be at least fifteen (15) days before the date of hearing.

Furnish copy of this Order the Petitioner, Atty. Fatima Mae Muyaela, the Office of the Solicitor General, the Local Civil Registrar of Maasin, Iloilo, the Philippine Statistics Authority, and the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor of Iloilo.

SO ORDERED.

Janiuay, Iloilo, Philippines, March 11, 2024.

(SGD.) GEMALYN FAUNILLO - TAROL
Presiding Judge

NE/April 8, 15 & 22, 2024



DepEd Antique to offer Madrasah Education for secondary learners

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – The Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division of Antique plans to open the Madrasah Education for Muslim secondary learners for the school year 2024-2025.

Dr. Eleanore Dagala, DepEd Antique supervisor for Aralin Panlipunan to which the Madrasah Education belongs, said in an interview Wednesday that two schools in San de Buenavista had been teaching Arabic language and Islamic Values to elementary learners.

This is part of the inclusive program for Muslim learners in the province through the support of Dr. Nicasio S. Frio, Schools Division Superintendent.

Starting this coming school year, these two subjects will also be open to secondary learners, Dagala said.

“This school year there are 55 Muslim learners at the San Fernando Elementary School and 85 at the Gov. Santos Capadocia Memorial School that are taking the Madrasah Education,” she



MADRASAH. Dr. Eleanore Dagala, Department of Education (DepEd) Antique supervisor for Aralin Panlipunan of which the Madrasah Education belongs (standing center) with learners of the Gov. Santos Capadocia Memorial School in San Jose de Buenavista doing their DepEd Region VI mantra Home of the Champions (C-sign) in this undated photo. Dagala said in an interview Wednesday (April 10, 2024) that as part of the inclusive program for Muslim learners, there is a plan to open the Madrasa Education for Muslim secondary learners this school year 2024-2025. (Photo courtesy of DepEd Antique)

said. Each subject is taught for one hour daily.

With the opening of the Madrasah Education at the secondary level this school year, Dagala said Muslim teachers would be hired to teach Arabic Language and Islamic Values.

The opening of the Madrasah Education at the secondary level will

provide competencies of a higher level to the learners and strengthen their values including perseverance, love for peace, gratefulness, and a sense of responsibility.

In a separate interview, Muslim college student Esmail Guro Rimpa said he was grateful that Antiqueños respected their tradition as they were able to celebrate

Eid’l Fitr or end of Ramadan peacefully.

Rimpa along with several other Muslims gathered at Barangay 3 plaza in San Jose de Buenavista to celebrate Eid’l Fitr.

Rimpa’s family originated from Marawi City in Lanao del Sur. (With a report from Nildz Kate Millondaga PNA OJT/ PNA)

Bacolod City signs up 800 confirmed beneficiaries for 4PH project

BACOLOD CITY – The city government here has signed up an initial 800 beneficiaries as confirmed buyers of housing units at the Asenso Yuhum Residences-Arao, the first among its shelter projects being implemented under the Pambansang Pabahay Para Sa Pilipino (4PH) Program.

Mayor Alfredo Abelardo Benitez said on Thursday he presented project updates during a meeting with visiting officials of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) at Seda Hotel here on Wednesday.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to showcase Bacolod’s progress on our Asenso Yuhum housing under the 4PH program to Undersecretary Samuel Young,” Benitez said in a statement.

The Asenso Yuhum Residences-Arao, located in Barangay Vista Alegre, will house 17 buildings with a total of 4,456 housing units, with an area of at least 24 square meters each.

The first four buildings are now being constructed through the city’s joint venture agreement with the consortium of WRS Holdings Inc. and Scheirman Construction Consolidated Inc.

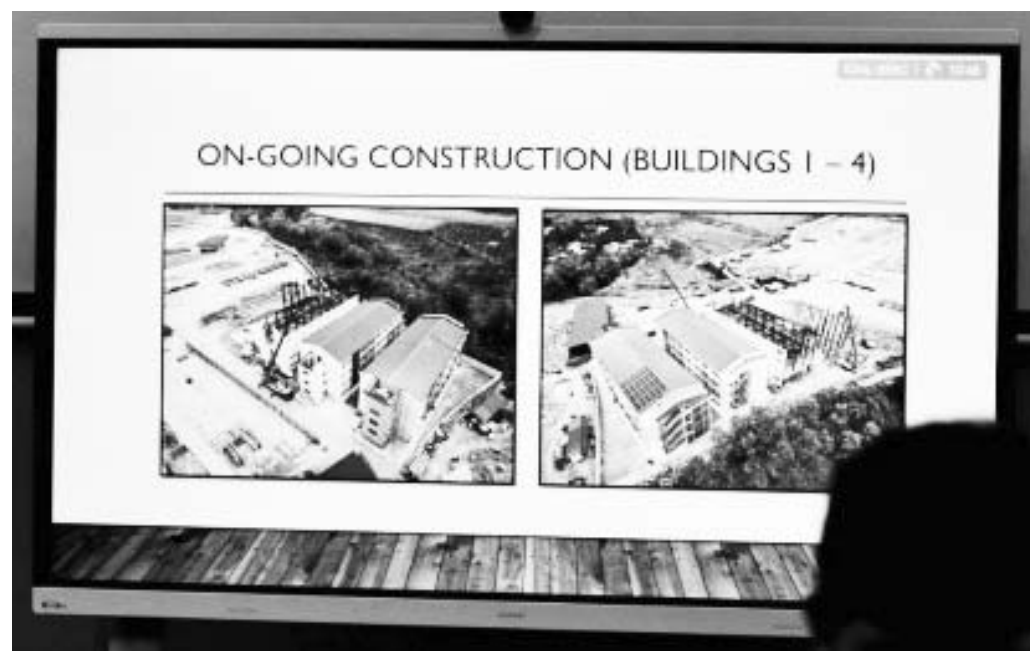
The development will have a vast open space with amenities like a park, large swimming pool, clubhouse/ multi-purpose hall, basketball court, commercial spaces, and parking lots.

“Right now, 800 beneficiaries have already signed up and 500 are under verification. Together, we’re working towards brighter housing opportunities for our city,” Benitez said.

In 2023, Bacolod was the first local government unit to sign an agreement with DHSUD to implement the 4PH, the flagship shelter program of the Marcos administration.

Awardees will initially include informal settler families earning the equivalent minimum monthly wage of PHP10,000 and qualified to take out long-term housing loans under the Pag-IBIG Fund.

They will benefit from the DHSUD subsidy and pay a reduced monthly amortization of PHP2,300 for 30 years. (PNA)



SHELTER PROJECT. The ongoing construction of the first four buildings of Asenso Yuhum Residences-Arao in Barangay Vista Alegre, Bacolod City. Mayor Alfredo Abelardo Benitez said in a statement on Thursday (April 4, 2024) there are now 800 beneficiaries who have signed up and 500 are under verification. (Photo courtesy of Bacolod City PIO)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Iloilo
Municipality of Barotac Nuevo

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRAR

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In compliance with R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **GLORIA P. HORTILLOSA** has filed with this office a Petition for Change of First Name from "**CUPID**" to "**NICOLAS CUPID JR.**" in the birth certificate of **CUPID BUENO HORTILLOSA** who was born on **November 10, 1968** at **V Luna General Hospital, Quezon City**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file a written opposition with this office.

(SGD.) ATTY. REYNOLD A. PEREZ
Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/April 8, 2024 & April 15, 2024

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Guimaras
Municipality of Jordan
OFFICE OF THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In Compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to OCRG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1. Guidelines in the Implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2012 (IRR on R.A. 10172), Notice is hereby served to the public that **ZALDI G. DELA CRUZ** has filed with this Office, a petition for correction of **date of birth** from "**JUNE 30, 1971**" to "**MAY 30, 1971**" and a petition for change of first name from "**REY**" to "**ZALDI**" in the Certificate of Live Birth of **REY G. DE LA CRUZ** at **JORDAN, GUIMARAS** and whose parents are **LEONARDO DE LA CRUZ** and **SALVACION GRANADA**.

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

(SGD.) JESUSA M. MILLONDAGA
Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/April 8, 2024 & April 15, 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 **ERWIN L. CATUNAO** 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 **ERWIN LAGUNDO CATUNAO** who was born on **JULY 30, 2005** at **Pototan, Iloilo** and whose parents are **ARNOLD A. CATUNAO** and **ANNA BELLE C. LAGUNDO**.

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/April 8, 2024 & April 15, 2024

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

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with **R.A. Act No. 9048**, a notice is hereby served to the public that **MA. PILAR PALACIOS LEBANAN** has filed with this office a petition for **CHANGE OF FIRST NAME** from **MARIA PILAR** to **MA. PILAR** in the Certificate of Live Birth of **MA. PILAR PEDREGOSA PALACIOS** was born on **MAY 26, 1981** at **Pototan, Iloilo** and whose parents are **LEO S. PALACIOS** and **GLORIA P. PEDREGOSA**.

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

(SGD.) MARY ANN S. JARDELEZA
Acting Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/April 8, 2024 & April 15, 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 **DONNA SOQUEÑO PANES** has filed with this office a petition for correction of entry in **CHILD'S DATE OF BIRTH** from **OCTOBER 26, 1970** to **OCTOBER 24, 1970**, in the Certificate of Live Birth of **DONNA CONSULAR SOQUEÑO** who was born on **OCTOBER 24, 1970** at **Pototan, Iloilo** and whose parents are **PATERNITO M. SOQUEÑO** and **LYDIA P. CONSULAR**.

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/April 8, 2024 & April 15, 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 **IMEROSE GALGO PASTERA** has filed with this office a petition for correction of entry in **CHILD'S SEX** from MALE to **FEMALE**, in the Certificate of Live Birth of **IMEROSE JAPITANA GALGO** who was born on **DECEMBER 8, 1991** at **Pototan, Iloilo** and whose parents are **DANILO P. GALGO** and **ROSALIE T. JAPITANA**.

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/April 8, 2024 & April 15, 2024

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province: ILOILO
Municipality: SAN DIONISIO

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of **R.A. No. 9048**, a notice is hereby served to the public that **TEODORICO B. TINASAS** has filed with this Office a Petition for Change of First Name from **TEDDY** to **TEODORICO** in the birth certificate of **TEDDY B. TEWASAS** who was born on **March 9, 1958** at **San Dionisio, Iloilo** and whose parents are **Francisco Tinastas** and **Violeta Bermejo**.

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

(SGD.) MARY JEAN G. DEMONTEVERDE
Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/April 8, 2024 & April 15, 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 **YOLANDA SABO-O PUDADERA** has filed with this Office a petition for Change of First Name from **MA. YOLANDA** to **YOLANDA** in the birth certificate of **MA. YOLANDA ARIPIO SABO-O** who was born on **January 3, 1964** at **Janiuay, Iloilo** and whose parents are **Martin Sabo-o** and **Angeles Aripio**.

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

(SGD.) ANA LISA M. CORNELIO
OIC-Office of the Mun. Civil Registrar

NE/April 15, 2024 & April 22, 2024

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

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In Compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **Gina F. Labra** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from "**MARIA NANCY**" to "**MA. NANCY**" in the Birth Certificate of **MARIA NANCY GOTERA** who was born on **January 4, 1965** at **San Miguel, Iloilo, Philippines** whose parents are **FORTUNATO GOTERA** and **RAMONA SABA**.

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

(SGD.) JESUSA M. MILLONDAGA
Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/April 15, 2024 & April 22, 2024

NPA . . . (from page 9)

Marlo Catacio was involved in a reported shooting incident that occurred on August 6, 2023, at Sitio Inarawis, Barangay Quintin Remo, resulting in the death of Benitez Juanites, a 28-year-old male laborer and resident of the same barangay. Catacio was accompanied by fellow CTG's Special Partisan Unit (SPARU) members, including Reynaldo Catasio, Jesus Molena, Rolando Juanites, and Carmelito Juanites. According to the mother of the victim, five suspects accused the victim of feeding information about the CTGs to the Philippine Army.

Major General Marion R. Sison, Commander of the 3rd Infantry (Spearhead) Division, reaffirmed his call to the remaining members of the communist terrorists to end their senseless armed struggle and surrender to avoid misfortune. He urged them to make this decision before it becomes too late, emphasizing that surrendering now can prevent them from meeting the same fate as their comrades who lost their lives fighting for a worthless cause.

"Engaging in a futile struggle against the government will only bring you nothing but death and misery. Returning to the

olds of the law is the best option and will open opportunities for you to break free from this vicious cycle. Your government, especially your Army, is ready to support and assist you if you choose the path of peace. Grab this chance while you still have time, for we are resolute in eliminating the remaining traces of the communist terrorists and ceasing the threat that they pose. This is part of our shared commitment and goal to establish a Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS) environment not only in Negros Island but in the entire Western and Central Visayas," MGen Sison said.

El Niño damage on crops in Antique hits P141-M

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – The damage caused by the El Niño phenomenon on crops, including the supposedly drought-resilient corn in the province of Antique, has now reached over PHP141 million.

Provincial Agriculture Office chief Nicolasito Calawag said in an interview Thursday that because of the extreme heat caused by El Niño, corn that had been planted and are now on their reproductive to maturity stage, had been damaged.

“The extreme heat and lack of water had damaged the corn planted in 360.105 total hectares in various municipalities of the province,” he said.

He added the total damage on corn in the municipalities of Barbaza, Patnongon, Hamtic, Sibalom, Valderrama, San Remigio, San Jose de Buenavista, Tobias Fornier, Tibiao, and Sebaste is PHP18.8 million.

However, Calawag said the damage on rice is the biggest at over PHP110 million, affecting 4,151 farmers in 2,340.94 hectares of land.

The 13 towns that have reported damage on rice crops are Hamtic, Patnongon, Valderrama, Anini-y, Tobias Fornier, San Jose de Buenavista, Sibalom, San Remigio, Culasi, Laua-an, Bugasong, Tibiao, and Sebaste.

High value crops such as radish, squash and pechay planted in the three municipalities of Bugasong, Sibalom, and in Tobias Fornier also suffered losses amounting to PHP9.6 million, involving 140 farmers who own 253.78 hectares of land.

Inland fisheries have not been spared by drought, incurring PHP2.6 million damage in the towns of Bugasong, Hamtic, and Tobias Fornier.

“Together with the Philippine Rice Research Institute, we have already inventoried the rice affected areas so seeds could be provided to the farmers for them to use during the wet season,” Calawag said.

He said the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) will also be providing assistance to the inland fish farm owners.

“Once the province could be declared under the state of calamity, the PHP20-million Quick Response Fund of the provincial government could also be used to assist the affected farmers,” Calawag added.

So far, only the town of Sibalom has yet been declared under the state of calamity due to the effect of El Niño. (PNA)

OVER . . . (from page 8)

Meanwhile, Mayor Jerry Treñas lauded the accomplishment of the ICPO.

“I am happy with the continuous drug operations of the Iloilo City PNP (Philippine National Police), and I will continue my support for them. We will have one of the best LGU-supported and equipped PNP in the country,” he said in a statement on Tuesday. (PNA)



CROP DAMAGE. A rice farm in Sibalom, Antique that had been damaged by the El Niño phenomenon. Provincial Agriculture Office chief Nicolasito Calawag said Thursday (April 4, 2024) the total damage on agricultural crops has now reached more than PHP141 million. (PNA photo by Annabel Consuelo J. Petinglay)

Bacolod cops form anti-vandalism body

BACOLOD CITY – The Bacolod City Police Office (BCPO) has formed a task force to address the recent proliferation of vandalism, which is prohibited by City Ordinance 534.

Col. Noel Aliño, police city director, said on Thursday they have been directed by Mayor Alfredo Abelardo Benitez to strictly implement the ordinance as more vandalism on walls of commercial establishments have been monitored around the city.

“I issued an order to all BCPO operatives on this. Those who are able to arrest the vandals will receive monetary reward,” he added.

Aliño assigned Lt. Col. Lester Leada as the anti-vandalism task force’s overall supervisor and Lt. Greeky Cayao as the team leader.

The members include the chiefs and personnel of the 10 police stations, Bacolod City Mobile Force Company, Mobile Patrol Unit and Traffic Enforcement Unit.

Aliño said during the task force’s first online meeting, they discussed the salient provisions of City Ordinance 534, measures to be implemented, identification and filing of cases

against vandals, and monitoring of interventions and accomplishments.

“This is the BCPO’s anti-vandalism program or intervention,” he added.

The BCPO chief said they will also tap the assistance of the community of LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning and more) under the “Bacolod (B)-PLUS” initiative.

“We will identify the vandalized places and start a clean-up. These will be painted by the group from the LGBTQ+,” he added.

Benitez’s spokesperson, Singcang-Airport village chief Caesar Distrito, said personnel of the city’s Department of Social Services and Development (DSSD), Public Order and Safety Office and Bacolod Traffic Authority Office as well as the Department of the Interior and Local Government and Department of Public Works and Highways will also coordinate with the task force.

Based on DSSD data, most of the vandals in the city are minors. (PNA)



TASK FORCE MEETING. Col. Noel Aliño (center), police city director, meets with the heads of Bacolod City Police Office Anti-Vandalism Task Force on Wednesday (April 3, 2024). Aliño ordered all BCPO operatives to strictly implement the city ordinance prohibiting vandalism. (Photo courtesy of Bacolod City Police Office)



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