

# Provincial Capitol fetes first MoRProGRes Garden winners

By MARY JOY CAVANAS

The Iloilo Provincial Government has awarded the winners in its first ever MoRProGRes Garden contest at Iloilo Provincial Capitol lobby on April 12, 2024.

The following are the winners in the academe category:

Elementary level :

\* First place - Tagbac Elementary School Garden (Oton, Iloilo)

\* Second place - "BUYLOG"/Buy Local in our Organic Garden of Guimbal Central Elementary School (Guimbal, Iloilo)

\* Third place - Gulayan sa Don Bee of Don Benjamin Jalandoni Sr. Memorial Elementary School (Zarraga, Iloilo)

Secondary level:

\* First place - AFS Garden of Progress in Agdahon Farm School (Passi City, Iloilo)

College level:

\* First place - Rainbow Ville of Leon Ganson Polytechnic College (Balasan, Iloilo)

\* Second place - La Guerta Verde de ISAT U of Iloilo Science and Technology University (Leon, Iloilo)

The winners in the local government units (LGUs) category which are divided into two levels are the following:

Barangay level:

\* First place - Nueva Union Community Garden (Passi City, Iloilo)

\* Second place - Barangay Agta Communal Garden (Leon, Iloilo)

\* Third place - Barangay Pagaypay Community

Garden (Passi City, Iloilo)

Municipality level:

\* First place - Passi Sweet City Garden (Passi City, Iloilo)

\* Second place - Daga Ecological S.W.M. Center (Sta. Barbara, Iloilo)

\* Third place - Lagwerta De Oton (Oton, Iloilo)

Meanwhile, the winners of private/business sector category divided into two levels are:

DOT non-accredited level:

\* First place - Junbee Farm (Concepcion, Iloilo)

\* Second Place - Farmer's Café Garden (Leganes, Iloilo)

\* Third Place - D&E Bugana Farm (Calinog, Iloilo)

DOT accredited level:

\* First place - Ephrathah Farms (Badiangan, Iloilo)

\* Second place - ATIZ Integrated Farm (Tigbauan, Iloilo)

\* Third place - Gaja Agri Farm (New Lucena, Iloilo)

Gracing the awarding ceremony was Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor, along with Provincial Administrator Dr. Raul Baniyas, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) 6 Regional Assistant Ms. Maria Calpiza Sardua, and among others.

The MoRProGRes gardening was mandated by the provincial government under Executive Order (EO) No. 640 series of 2022 was initiated for the most beautiful and environment-friendly garden with aims of promoting high value crops for food security, blending ornamental gardening and landscaping for agri-tourism and using recycled materials as a response for climate change in Iloilo Province.

## MPIW . . . (from page 1)

Mandurriao, Iloilo City on April 16.

Spearheading the event was the Iloilo City Government headed by Mayor Jerry Treñas alongside MPIW Chief Operating Officer Mr. Angelo David Berba; Metro Pacific Water President and CEO Mr. Andrew Pangilinan; Metro Iloilo Water District (MIWD) Chairperson Ms. Rebecca Maravilla; and Engr. Jerry Guillergan, head of MPIW's Engineering Department.

Also, present in the event were Vice Mayor Jeffrey Ganson, City Councilors Johnny Young, Miguel Treñas, Romel Duron, Sedfrey Cabaluna, and other key figures who are part of the said groundbreaking ceremony.

The P77-million project with a span of 5,418 linear meters is through MPIW's initiative of implementing service expansions for the districts of Mandurriao, particularly in San Rafael; and Jaro, specifically in Brgy. Camalig, Brgy. Lanit, and Sitio Ilaya in Brgy. Tabuc Suba to improve water availability.

Pipe retrofitting shall also be done at Carpenters Bridge located in Molo district through the use of Tyfo-Fibrewap technology which allows the repair of leakage without having a water service interruption during its leak repair activities.

The said projects are expected to be completed in approximately six months through different contractors, aiming to improve water stability and to reach the unserved areas of Molo and Jaro.

About 6,000 households will be provided by the MPIW with potable water or drinking water once the said projects will be completed as the project aligns with the National Water Resources Board's policy by discouraging the use of illegal deep wells.

In his speech, Treñas said that these projects mark a significant step forward in ensuring the availability of essential public utilities, especially water to all of the residents in the city.

"These projects do not only signify a commitment to providing quality public services but also highlight the importance of investing in sustainable infrastructure for the benefit of everyone including the future generations," Treñas said.

The city mayor also commended MPIW's efforts in initiating the said projects.

"Let us continue to work together to ensure that our beloved city remains a place where public utilities are reliable and accessible for all, promoting a better quality of life for everyone," said Treñas.

On the other hand, Pangilinan also thanked the city government for its continuous support towards MPIW's projects.

"These projects strengthen Metro Pacific Iloilo Water's commitment to uplifting the lives of Ilonggo communities through safe and reliable water. We thank the local government of Iloilo City for its continued support and for making this project possible," said Pangilinan.

By providing water service and accessibility, MPIW serves not only to Iloilo City's seven districts but also to municipalities of Oton, Sta. Barbara, Cabatuan, Maasin, San Miguel, Pavia and Leganes.

## SEEKING JUSTICE . . . (from page 1)

Under her auspices, Dinopol, former principal of Jaro National High School in Jaro district, Iloilo City, let Jolean pursue her high school education at the said school.

In their affidavits, Rosale and Gerardo claimed that at first their sister's situation was okay but as days go by she told them that she was being treated indifferently by Dinopol and her family.

As an offshoot of Jolean's death, Rosale filed administrative cases against Dinopol at the Department of Education (DepEd) Regional Office 6 last August 4, 2023.

Her complaints, however, were dismissed by DepEd 6 Regional Director Ramir Uytico on August 10, 2023 for lack of jurisdiction.

To recall, Jolean's case was among the reasons why RMN DYRI radio anchors Novie Guazo, Regan Arlos, Israel Vincent "Don" Dolido, and Henry Lumawag are facing libel raps courtesy of Uytico.

The said radio anchors criticized Uytico's handling of the case filed by the Valentin family against Dinopol along with several other issues.

Meanwhile, Dinopol also filed a case for violation of the Cybercrime Act of 2012 against Guazo, Arlos and fellow RMN DYRI anchor Ben Roy Bernal together with Rosale Valentin and Christian Dave Rapista, Jolean's boyfriend.

Dinopol claimed that the said RMN anchors made defamatory commentaries against her relative to the handling of the Jolean Valentin case in their respective radio programs.

## 'Tiringbanay' fest gives importance to Antique farmers, fisherfolk

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – The "Tiringbanay" (Coming Together) Festival of this capital town of Antique is a venue to give importance to farmers and fisherfolk.

San Jose de Buenavista Mayor Elmer Untaran said on Wednesday that this year's festival set on April

19 to May 1, coinciding with the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, will have activities dedicated to their sector.

"Farmers and fisherfolks will have their special event on April 30," he said in a press conference.

Twenty farmers and 16 fisherfolk associations will gather for an exhibit of their

products at the Evelio B. Javier Park.

San Jose de Buenavista municipal agriculture officer Lucia Bantolo said the one-day exhibit will provide an opportunity to sell their newly harvested vegetable, such as string beans and fish catch.

"Our farmers and

fisherfolks really faced challenges because of the El Niño phenomenon that we would like to provide them an opportunity where they could sell their products," she said.

San Jose de Buenavista incurred PHP32.9 million in losses on rice crops and

TIRINGBANAY / page 15

## CITY . . . (from page 1)

Tan; Megaworld Hotels and Resorts Managing Director Ms. Cleofe Albiso; and other significant figures involved in the said launching.

The campaign aims not only towards tourism but also the practice of responsible tourism such as environmental preservation, cultural respect, and support for conservation and local economies.

During the event, Treñas delivered his speech, stating that the said initiative shall change the lives of Ilonggos.

"Iloilo City has thrived as a cultural and tourist hub for years in the Philippines. Some place where visitors keep on coming back as they are captivated by our lively festivals and rich cultural heritage," Treñas said.

The city mayor also supports the said campaign initiative which shall elevate the city's image as a top destination.

"My commitment goes beyond words. I pledge to actively champion the campaign's success and encourage local businesses and stakeholders to participate," Treñas added.

Treñas also eyes for opening the city's doors to the world.

"As we launch this campaign, I look forward to share with all of you the magic of Iloilo City and opening our doors to the world," said Treñas.

On the other hand, Defensor also thanked the guests and visitors who attended the event citing that through the city and province's collaborative effort could help boost the tourism sector.

"Our tourism mantra (in Iloilo province), "Fun, Foodie, Friendly" because we are aligned with the national

government "Love The Philippines. In three simple words, we are able to capture who we are as a people and what the province is," Defensor said.

The governor elaborated the three words: "There is fun because of tourist destinations, foodie because Ilonggos are fond of eating, and friendly because Ilonggos are known to be hospitable."

Defensor emphasized that the province together with the city want the food to be the center of tourism as Iloilo is an agricultural province that produces food which boosts the economy and could shape agri-tourism.

In appreciation for Iloilo's food, beauty, destination, and culture, Filipino-Canadian social media influencer Mikey Bustos also performed his song "Heart and My Soul in Iloilo" which is an adaptation of Mr. Dante Beriong's song, "Hala Bira, Iloilo".

Also, Filipino Clothing masterpieces of Ilonggo fashion designers were also showcased during the event such as the works of Aisha Peñalosa, Tata Blas, and Jaki Peñalosa.

Through this significant initiative, Department of Tourism (DOT) 6 Regional Director Ms. Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez also sent her support and commitment to the said campaign.

"This initiative not only promotes tourism but also encourages visitors to embrace responsible tourism through various practices such as preserving nature, respecting local cultures, and supporting conservation efforts and local economies," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez emphasized that DOT-6 is committed to providing assistance to ensure the campaign's success and hopes that it will inspire other local government units (LGUs) and tourism stakeholders to foster strong partnerships.

# PMA Cadets meet for 4CCMM's 1st Fellowship Night

**Around 200 former Philippine Military Academy (PMA) cadets, graduates and non-graduates, attended the 4CI Club Metro Manila's (4CCMM) First Fellowship and Organizational Dinner Meeting last Saturday, April 13, 2024.**

Held at the historic Kalayaan Hall of Club Filipino at Greenhills, San Juan City, the occasion saw the meeting of long lost mistahs, upperclassmen and underclassmen even as discussions on the fate and future of the new organization were also made.

The 29th Chief of the Philippine National Police Benjamin Acorda Jr. PMA '91, graced the affair and delivered an inspirational message to the PMAers present.

Former senator Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, PMA '71 and Medal for Valor Awardee Ariel Querubin, PMA '79 also attended.

Moreover, the organization's interim trustees and officers led by its Interim Trustee and Chairman, former PNP and LTO Chief, Roberto "Bobby" Lastimoso PMA '67, interim trustee, President & CEO, Bernie Miaque PMA '87, Audie Mongao PMA '92, Leo Bungubung Jr PMA '98, Edmund Tan PMA '80, Raul Villanueva PMA '90, and Ace Esmeralda PMA '89, were also formally introduced to the group.

The said interim trustees and officers were later unanimously voted unopposed to the 7-member Board of Trustees of 4CI Club Metro Manila.

The election was conducted under the supervision of lawyer Neil Albopera. The program proper started



**MIAQUE**



**LASTIMOSO**

with the unveiling of the 4CL COLOUR together with the PMA flag.

Lastimoso for his part delivered the welcome address, followed by Miaque's introduction of the group's rationale. Awards and recognitions under such categories as most senior attendees among others, were also presented during the program, where those who joined came from PMA Classes 1967 to 2022.

Awarded as most senior in the civilian or private

sector present was Arthur "Tex" Balmaceda PMA '71, while in active police or military service present was Dennis Pacis PMA '91.

But that's not all, there were lucky attendees who even went home winners in the raffle draws. The group was entertained by Cebu's Angel Fire dance troupe, Cavaliers Band, Don Conejo's Band and comedian James Macasero aka "Moymoy Palaboy".

**STATE OF CALAMITY.** The Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (LDRRMC) approves on Wednesday (April 17, 2024) a resolution recommending Iloilo City under a state of calamity. They also approved the fund recommendation of PHP12 million to purchase static tanks for water distribution. (PNA file photo)



## Disaster council recommends state of calamity in Iloilo City

**ILOILO CITY** – The Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (LDRRMC) approved on Wednesday a resolution recommending this city under a state of calamity.

"The council recommended to declare a state of calamity based on the data reported from the ground and the same time from three different offices that helped validate the data on the ground of water scarcity problem in our barangays," engineer Neil Ravena, head of the General Services Office, said in an interview.

Based on the data, 23,200 or over 25 percent of the 90,000 individuals from 25 barangays covered by the Calamity and Disaster Risk Assessment (CDRA) are affected, Ravena said, meaning this is more than enough of the 15 percent requirement before a city can be placed

## MORE Power to conduct Phase 2 cleaning of 69KV lines

MORE Power is set to commence phase 2 of its extensive cleaning operation on its 69kV lines, prompted by the prolonged absence of rain in Iloilo City since January 2024.

Engr. Bernard Bailey Del Castillo, Vice President of the Network Development and Operations Group, highlighted that the emergency power interruption on March 27, 2024, marked only the initial phase of their efforts, following two consecutive unscheduled power interruptions affecting 69KV line 2, which links four substations: Molo, Mobile, Megaworld, and Diversion.

Del Castillo pointed out that these issues are new. Because of El Niño and very light rain, dirt and salt have built upon insulators and facilities, causing sparks and power outages.

"Dirty insulators on our power lines are a big problem because when it lightly rains, it can cause sparks and outages. We need heavy rain to wash away the dirt," Del Castillo explained.

Early on April 12, there was another unscheduled power interruption due to sparks on the insulator of their 69KV line 5 at La Granja junction, which affected almost the entire franchise area except for Lapaz Substation. Even though they had planned to fix this line in phase 2 this month, the incident occurred before they could start.

"We cannot interrupt all 69kV lines simultaneously due to the expansive working area; therefore, we need to conduct the process in several phases. In fact, in our phase 1, aside from the washing of facilities, we also replaced more than 100 pieces of post insulators, and another 150 pieces for Phase 2," added Del Castillo.

Consumers can anticipate a franchise-wide scheduled power interruption within April to prevent similar incidents, especially with the expectation of light rains in the upcoming weeks. Specific details regarding the scheduled power interruption will be posted on MORE Power's Facebook Page.

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## Hot house: Form or function?

Many Filipinos are now suffering from the sweltering heat and the constant reminder from media about how hot it is really doesn't help, unless it's just to warn people to limit outdoor activities, etc. The over-all electricity consumption is rocketing, and it won't be long before warnings are issued or rotating blackouts are declared.

My daughter Hannah has implored me to please write something about the need to plant so many trees to somehow deflect the heat, increase oxygen and when the rainy seasons come around, hopefully reduce landslides and flooding. All that of course is part of what she has learned while studying in the Netherlands and EU where they are acutely aware of climate change.

This current state of heat and difficulty in the Philippines brings me back 22 years ago on how we went through a slow process of elimination to radically reduce the heat in our "Hot House." As we were building our home in Pasig, we were challenged by the location of our small lot that was facing west, or the hot afternoon sun.

During my talks for BMeg feeds, I generally advise people, as well as farmers, to pay attention to lot orientation so that heat buildup does not become a problem. In our case, however, we had no choice. As the structure began to rise, it became clear that we were going to have to do something about the design because afternoons soon turned the front side into a veritable oven.

We had designed the house based on the old houses of the Philippines that had high ceilings and cross ventilation which makes old houses cooler, but the lot orientation presented a serious challenge. Our architect and builder suggested using double glazed windows, but the price was just as much as the weight of the windows. So, the next choice was reflective glass windows the size of doors.

The concept was stylish, provided privacy from onlookers and supposedly cuts the heat by 70

percent. The problem was that it cost us a small fortune and meant that we would have to close the windows between 1 and 5 pm. We bit the bullet and paid for the windows, and they certainly completed the "form" of the design. Unfortunately, where there was lots of form or "porma," the windows failed in the "function" part.

The two floors facing west built up and absorbed so much heat in four to five hours and would release all that stored heat in the evening. The reflective glass surely cut off some of the sunlight but not enough to cool or regulate the room temperature. On numerous occasions we had to open the air conditioner which was technically supposed to be a backup only. A few years later, the area is crowded, traffic goes through our barangay and climate change have all combined to even higher ambient temperatures.

As the summer days grew unbearable, I became desperate enough to try crazy solutions such as extra tint on the windows. That failed and was a total waste of money because tints just made the room darker and peeled off a few months later.

My wife Karen joined the problem solving and started sewing up a "black out curtain" while I did the unthinkable and unfashionable: I bought a roll of insulation material like they use for ceilings and factories and placed them behind the curtains. As expected, the material cut the direct temperature by five degrees but raised the "Ugly" factor by a thousand!!! Desperate times may require desperate measures, but "Ugly" should not be part of it.

We eventually went back to our "drawing board" and pre-construction notes and remembered that one of our first options was to install a trellis and Singapore-style shutter windows. What prevented us from doing the shutter windows was their extremely high cost as well as the challenge of maintaining and preserving wood.

Setting aside the shutters, we seriously studied the trellis solution. With my experience in resort

### CTALK

Cito Beltran



construction and car restoration, making an all-steel trellis was not daunting. The next big challenge was finding the right plant/vine and after several picks we ended up with what they call the Millionaire's Vine or Buhok ni Maria, a leafy perennial vine that shoots out reddish-colored fine aerial roots.

After a slow start, the vines soon took over everything, climbed all the way to our roof deck four floors high and because we have a small narrow lot, the vines completely covered our frontage. The house has been the coolest it has ever been, and most people appreciate the natural look. The vines also offer us a green wall instead of staring over roofs and electrical lines. This year, we have started germinating up, sayote, ampalaya, etc. that we hope to train over the 30 percent shade net over the roof deck.

I share this story simply to encourage you all to consider "alternative solutions." When we used to rent a bungalow in the 90s, it was another oven with a tin roof and no insulation. After one summer, we installed shade nets used in orchidariums by installing a 1.5-meter high framing on top of the tin roof.

The concept is similar to bunkers that are covered with camouflage during wars. The shade net and framing is similar to putting up a fake green house on top of your roof. Believe me, a 70 percent shade net from Harbest will cool your roof and deflect the heat.

Whether you use shade nets, plants and trellises, white reflective roof and wall paints, inverter air conditioners, green walls or plant trees, there is a solution that will help beat the heat and keep you cool. God bless you all.

## It's complicated

At the rate relations have been going downhill between the Marcos and Duterte clans, the current administration should be hoping that it won't be replaced by one led by another Duterte.

Rodrigo Duterte, as the nation has seen, doesn't easily forget, much less forgive. And he doesn't hesitate in using whatever power is at his disposal to exact revenge.

His two sons are showing that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. What about his daughter the Vice President? In 2011 when she was Davao mayor, Inday Sara slugged a court sheriff four times on the face for carrying out a demolition order in a shantytown in the city.

As first daughter in the previous administration, Inday Sara reportedly worked to unseat Pantaleon Alvarez and replace him as House speaker with her ally Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. When the two women tried it again under Marcos 2.0 (denied by GMA), the President's favorite cousin Speaker Martin Romualdez gave them a rude awakening about who's in charge in the new dispensation.

While VP Sara doesn't cuss as much as her father, she's not beyond issuing snide remarks. The difference is that her father openly identifies the targets of his insults; the VP doesn't name names, even if the identity of the target of her barbs is easy to guess.

As the week started, a video circulated, showing the VP slowly eating slices of green mango that she dipped in ginamos, a type of Visayan fish paste, and talking in a mix of Visayan and Tagalog.

Near the end of the video (which so far hasn't been shown to be a deepfake), she asked if her companions knew "another name para sa mangga." Someone asks, what? She replied with relish: "Mangga...gamit."

User.

Maybe the VP was just being playful with her companions, although compared with her father with his wicked humor, she comes off humorless. Or maybe the video was again directed at an unnamed someone she dislikes.

Who's the user she might she be alluding to? It was

as cryptic as her post advising an unnamed tambaloslos – a mythical creature with oversized balls – to rein in his ambition.

You'd think the VP would have learned her lesson from the tambaloslos episode. Only one person felt alluded to, and he and his allies promptly hit her where it hurts, junking her request for P650 million in confidential funds for this year.

\* \* \*

How much of the UniTeam rift is speculation and how much is real?

In Honolulu on Nov. 20 last year, President Marcos said he didn't want the VP impeached, she was doing good as secretary of education, and his ties with his 2022 running mate were "excellent."

Asked by reporters if there were cracks in the vaunted UniTeam, BBM replied: "I don't think so. Mas tumitibay pa nga eh" – the bond was in fact getting stronger.

Last Monday, facing journalists working for the foreign press, he was asked about his ties with the VP and the Duterte family.

BBM replied with a wry chuckle, "It's complicated."

He maintained that his ties with the VP since their tandem in the 2022 campaign haven't changed. Still, she's a Duterte and daughter of his most formidable critic.

Between "excellent" and "complicated," what happened?

Perhaps BBM has seen the 2009 romcom "It's Complicated," starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin, about complicated entanglements.

In romantic relationships, complications can lead to a breakup. Are the cracks in the UniTeam irreparable?

And if they are, what's in store for the Marcoses post-2028?

\* \* \*

BBM has said he entered politics for the survival of his family. That family still has hundreds of pending cases involving ill-gotten wealth, many of which will surely remain in litigation when he is no longer in power. His mother is appealing a conviction for seven counts of graft.

It's unclear if BBM remains the administrator of the Marcos estate, which has yet to pay a whopping P203 billion in estate tax including penalties.

For now, he says he's focused on running the government, and will leave legal entanglements to the lawyers. But once out of office, he will have to focus on his legal affairs, especially if he is replaced by someone hostile to him or his family.

His cousin the Speaker, the person widely seen to be maneuvering for continuity of their clan's political influence, is languishing in reputable surveys behind the VP.

With Romualdez looking like he can't win in a presidential election, the Dutertes have openly expressed suspicion that Marcos 2.0 is pushing for Charter change to stay in power beyond 2028 – a move that would scuttle the chances of VP Sara for the presidency.

The Ate ng Pangulo, Senator Imee, is faring better than Romualdez in the surveys, but she's allied with VP Sara and these days seems to be outside the Palace kulambo or mosquito net. After Ferdinand Junior, will Filipinos pick Imelda Marcos Junior as his replacement? Is she even interested? And will cousin Martin go along with it?

For survival and continuity, the Speaker may have to give up his ambition (as the VP advised the tambaloslos) and instead support a compromise candidate. At this point, only Sen. Raffy Tulfo is topping the VP in the surveys for "presidentiables" in 2028.

Tulfo has said 2028 is far from his mind. Will Tulfo, who is reported to have roots in Davao and ties with the Marcoses, change his mind and shed his independent political stance to win the Solid North? Considering his popularity across the country, however, does he even need to align with anyone?

Reconciliation with the Dutertes is another option for the Marcoses, to guarantee continuity. The possibility is looking increasingly remote, but one can never say never in this land of complicated entanglements.

### Sketches

Ana Marie Pamintuan



# Over 11K to join Iloilo City's advocacy run vs. illegal drugs

ILOILO CITY – Iloilo City seeks to raise awareness against illegal drugs with around 11,400 stakeholders joining the Buhay Ingatan Druga’y Ayawan (BIDA) RISE and Run advocacy run covering the over five-kilometer stretch of the city road on April 20.

“This program is the advocacy of the LGU (local government unit) plus the barangays in the campaign against drugs. BIDA is a flagship program of the DILG,” said Oscar Lim Jr., Director of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in an interview on Wednesday.

The program is focused on the pillars of prevention, law enforcement, prosecution, correction, rehabilitation, wellness, and reintegration, he said.

In addition to raising awareness against illegal drugs, the BIDA run also promotes a healthy lifestyle,

encourages, especially the youth, to become physically fit, and inspires the community to spend their time doing more productive endeavors rather than resort to illegal drugs.

The run will start from the Iloilo City Hall to Fort San Pedro, Parola, Muelle Loney, Grand Xing Hotel, Iznart Street, J.M. Basa Street, and back to Iloilo City Hall.

Expected participants will come from the 180 barangays of the city, tanods, students, athletes, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Armed Forces of the Philippines, government employees, private citizens, running clubs, and even persons who use drugs, who are yet to complete their rehabilitation.

“Through this activity, the city and barangays would like to show that drugs are not welcome in Iloilo City,” he said. (PNA)



## 8 Antique LGUs recipients of P41-M multipurpose halls

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – Eight local government units in Antique are recipients of multipurpose halls with costs totaling PHP41 million funded by the national government and facilitated by the Uswag Ilonggo Partylist.

Partylist Representative James Ang, who led the inauguration of the first four multipurpose halls in the municipalities of Anini-y, Hamtic, Belison and Patnongon, on Wednesday said the projects provide a more convenient place where the public could hold their meetings and other activities.

The four others in Bugasong, Tibiao, Culasi and Sebaste towns will be inaugurated on Thursday.

“The Uswag Ilonggo finds ways in order to deliver projects that could really be of use to the people of Antique,” Ang said in his message.

He said that as a party-list representative, he serves as an “ambassador” to look for projects from national government agencies like the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The eight multipurpose halls are the first of the 18 that will be implemented in all towns of the province this year until 2025.

The projects are funded and implemented by the DPWH through the 2023 General Appropriations Act.

“We are also planning to have as for our next project in the municipalities the construction of the public malls and upgrading of the school buildings,” Ang said.

While in the province, he would meet with the Department of Education (DepEd) officials to confer on the plan to upgrade their school buildings.

He credited Senate Pro-Tempore Loren Legarda and Antique Rep. Antonio Agapito Legarda for helping source funds for the projects.

“Many projects are up for Antique because of Senator Legarda,” he said.

Meanwhile, Hamtic Vice Mayor Julius Pacificador said they are fortunate to have the project in their municipality.

“We are grateful to the Uswag Ilonggo party list for providing us with a two-story multipurpose hall that we really need,” Pacificador said. (PNA)



BIDA RUN. Officers of the Iloilo City Police Office join the Buhay Ingatan Druga’y Ayawan (BIDA) run in Iloilo City in 2023. Over 11,000 participants are joining the BIDA RISE and Run advocacy run covering the over five-kilometer stretch of the city road on April 20, 2024. (File photo courtesy of ICPO Serbisyo Publiko FB page)

## Iloilo eyes tents as temporary classrooms

ILOILO CITY – The Iloilo provincial government is studying the possibility of using tents as catch-up classrooms while the construction of permanent structures is ongoing.

“(The strategy is) to have a facility that can help us catch up soon while we are constructing classrooms,” Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. said in a media conference on Tuesday.

Defensor Jr. led the inspection of a modular tent of the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) on Tuesday and Wednesday to look into the ventilation, durability, and other ancillary matters to make the facility conducive as a classroom.

He said the design is different, and the material has to withstand heat.

“We want to be sure it is correct. We examine the temperature and the adjustments if ever we decide that this is part of our solution to classroom shortage on a temporary



basis,” he said.

The province lacks around 300 classrooms, he added.

The governor said the strategy is to allot a part of the special education fund (SEF) for the catch-up plan.

ILOILO / page 15

## CMPMI Breaks Ground for New CARD MRI Building in San Pablo City



In the photo (from left to right) are Engr. Ariel Mendoza, Architect Mark Guevara, CMPMI President Maida Decano, and Property and Facilities Manager Henry Aurin during the groundbreaking ceremony of CARD MRI Building. This significant accomplishment signals a lot of opportunities for the institution to further its mission in advancing the development of communities across the nation.

CARD MRI Property Management, Inc. (CMPMI), the property development arm of CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), marked the construction of the CARD MRI building through a groundbreaking ceremony held at City Subdivision, San Pablo City, Laguna, on April 3, 2024.

CMPMI President Maida Decano stated, “This groundbreaking ceremony is a celebratory moment not only for CMPMI but also for the whole CARD MRI. It’s a symbol of progress in what we do as a social development organization. It will stand as a symbol of boundless opportunities for the people we serve while still holding on to the institution’s goals and values.”

Present at the event were Vicente Briones Jr., Executive Director of CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO); Edgar Cauyan, President and CEO of CARD MRI Information Technology, Inc. (CMIT); and Ma. Sharon Roxas, Senior Director for Support Services. Also in attendance were various staff from CARD MRI. Completion of the new CMPMI Building is expected around August of this year.

Established on November 10, 2016, CMPMI was born

CMPMI / page 15



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## 'Wangwang' abuse must stop

*Editorial*

You would think President Marcos Jr. is too preoccupied with foreign policy issues and frequent trips abroad that he has forgotten to keep his ears close to the ground and address issues that matter to ordinary Filipinos.

But no, the Chief Executive does respond to street-level issues.

Ample evidence is his issuance of an order prohibiting government officials and employees from using vehicle sirens and blinkers indiscriminately or simply force their way through heavy traffic by feigning a real emergency.

The presidential order did not stop there. In what's clearly a deterrent against power-tripping on the road, the President also reduced the list of the government VIPs who are entitled to special license plates.

It's about time.

In restricting the use of sirens, or wangwang, in street lingo, the president followed the

example the late former president Benigno Aquino III whose inaugural address in 2010 slammed the unwarranted use of sirens as a symbol of government abuse or entitlement that his incoming presidency intended to curb.

In fact, the younger Marcos merely revived Presidential Decree 96 issued in 1973 by his father which "prohibited the use or attachment of any siren, bell, horn, whistle, dome lights, blinkers and other signaling or flashing devices on vehicles, except for official vehicles of the military, police, hospital ambulances, etc."

This decree imposed a penalty of six-month imprisonment and a P600 fine on violators, apart from the revocation of the driver's license and vehicle registration.

In Administrative Order 18, President Marcos Jr. pointed out: "It has been observed that the unauthorized and indiscriminate use of sirens, blinkers and other similar signaling

or flashing devices has been rampant, causing traffic disruptions and unsafe road and traffic environment."

The order covers all government officials and personnel, except official vehicles of the armed forces, police, NBI, fire trucks, hospital ambulances and other emergency vehicles.

The President also cited Republic Act 6713, or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, which emphasized the state policy to "promote a high standard of ethics in public service."

What is important to point out here is that no issue is too small or too trivial for the Chief Executive, as the highest elective public official, to address, especially if it would mean a diminution of the trust and confidence of the people in their government.

'Wangwang' abuse is not part of good governance, and it must stop. (manilastandard)

## Improving mass transport

Just after the midweek holiday break last week, the Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA) once again seemed like a huge parking lot, with vehicles at a standstill as many rushed to return to Metro Manila. Sadly, the congestion on Manila's roads has become a common sight and it's simply frustrating to think about the hours of our lives, not to mention the billions of productive time and opportunities, we lose to traffic jams.

A study by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) revealed that traffic congestion in the capital region alone costs the economy some PHP3.5 billion per day—around PHP1.27 trillion per year. Imagine the jobs this huge amount could have generated.

The need for a better, efficient, and reliable mass transport system has never been more urgent to address the worsening traffic situation especially since many companies have required workers to report onsite anew following the pandemic.

As President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. recently said, the only way to decongest Metro Manila traffic is through a mass transit system, noting that in other countries—even the affluent ones ride the train. I have been to Tokyo, Paris, New York, Seoul, Singapore, Hong Kong, London, and many other countries with rail networks that were reliable for the daily commute

of most people. I also had the chance to take a cross-country journey via Amtrak from Seattle to San Francisco, and from London to Waverly as well. These scenic routes were priceless and if only we had the same reliable rail system here; it certainly would help boost tourism.

Here in the Philippines, top of mind when it comes to improving our mass transit system is the country's busiest railway line, the Metro Rail Transit-3 (MRT-3) which traverses EDSA and ferries—at most is said to serve—48,000 commuters per hour.

While significant improvements have been made to improve the commuting experience for MRT-3 passengers, much still needs to be done as soon as possible. The Department of Transportation (DOTr) is expected to soon bid out the concession to operate the Metro Rail Transit-3 (MRT-3) since its contract with Metro Rail Transit Corp. will expire in 2025.

The government is expected to pursue a public-private partnership (PPP), which I believe is the most effective, doable, and most efficient way to bolster the services of MRT-3.

The MRT-3 system is already too strained given its years of service. To enable it to keep up with the evolving demands of our economy, the government must ensure that the next operator is not only knowledgeable but is heavily experienced and has

## ESPRESSO MORNINGS

BY JOE ZALDARRIAGA

a proven track record which of course includes the financial capability and track record.

After all, addressing the problems hounding our mass transport system is not simply about moving people from one point to another. Holistically, mass transport should be viewed as a pillar of economic development that can serve as either an enabler or roadblock of progress depending on how we act on it.

When it comes to the MRT-3, the government should consider those with experience in PPPs such as Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) and its partner, Japanese conglomerate Sumitomo Corp., which have previously offered to take over the operations of the MRT-3. Had this been done, we could have had a better MRT-3 now.

MPIC, through its Metro Pacific Light Rail Corporation, has shown rail expertise with its investments in the Light Rail Manila Corporation, which operates the Light Rail Transit-1 (LRT-1). It

# No shortcuts to becoming a successful entrepreneur

A total disaster. This will happen if a planned social media marketing strategy begins on the wrong footing.

The owner of a Takoyaki store who wanted to promote his product by challenging its followers on April 1 to have its logo tattooed on their foreheads in exchange for PHP100,000 is now in deep trouble. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is looking at the possibility of suspending or revoking its business name registration because "the Facebook post was irresponsible." The DTI also plans to refer the matter to the office of the mayor, where the business is located, to revoke its business permit. And to make matters worse, the DTI has reported the incident to the Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) to charge the owner of the business with possible violations and to Meta, the parent company of Facebook, for violating the social media platform's community standards.

The April Fool's Day social media marketing backfired when one netizen supposedly tattooed the logo on his forehead. The owner purportedly paid the netizen a PHP100,000 prize. Reports indicate that the netizen faced pressure to accept the challenge for his Down syndrome-stricken son. The viral April Fool's Day turns out to be scripted.

I pity the store owner for his failed marketing stunt. Instead of promoting his business, the storeowner now faces the possibility of having his business permit revoked and facing appropriate charges.

I understand the struggle that business owners must undergo to promote their products. Social media technology has leveled the playing field when it comes to product promotion. Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) can now promote their products and services for free or with minimal expenses. However, I consistently emphasize that we should hold entrepreneurs accountable for the content of their social media marketing. Marketing is not just doing it with common sense. There is even a course that teaches students the skills and strategies to help identify customers' needs and wants,

among others.

In the age of social media technology, marketing based on pranks is dangerous to businesses. The sustainability of a business is not solely based on social media promotions but also the quality of the products to increase return customers. MSMEs need to seriously consider social media responsibility and accountability when posting about their products.

There are thousands of scammers out there that affect legitimate businesses. I urge legitimate businesses and serious entrepreneurs not to contribute to polluting the social media universe by promoting unnecessary and irresponsible marketing promotions. No amount of apology can restore the integrity of the storeowner and his business as soon as the prank is discovered to have been scripted. Using a prank for business promotion is a no-no. It will surely backfire and cause the business irreparable damage or, worse, to fold up.

The supposed netizen who tattooed his forehead agreed to the scripted prank for the benefit of his special child. We can just commiserate with the situation of the father, who is a fish ball vendor. The father's courage to take any action for his son, who suffers from Down syndrome, deeply touches me. We know that tattoos are permanent. Removing tattoos can be challenging, costly, and may not yield complete removal. Moreover, the family has been exposed, and we don't know the effects of such exposure on the children and the family.

Desperate individuals are vulnerable to exploitation. Having the father tattooed with a logo and becoming an accessory to an elaborate stunt indeed reeks of desperation. Never mind the humiliation, as long as it has become beneficial. Reports have it that the father had already received more than PHP200,000 in gifts and donations from concerned citizens before it was discovered that the tattoo drama was a mere stunt.

I always emphasize that entrepreneurs, especially those at the start-up level, need to seriously market their products and services without resorting to stunts. Of

## FRESH VIEWPOINTS: A NEW PERSPECTIVE

By Brian James Lu

course, there is the use of social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and X for marketing campaigns. Filipinos are the top users of social media applications, which are a cost-effective platform that reaches a wide audience.

There is also a need to engage in community events. Entrepreneurs who participate in local events, festivals, and community gatherings get a lot more attention from customers or their target markets. They can build relationships and create brand awareness.

The Quezon City government provides a venue in city hall where entrepreneurs can showcase their products. This gives them more exposure to customers who can buy their products. They maintain a close relationship with their customers, extending their reach to online marketing through various delivery platforms. The Quezon City Hall grounds also provide an opportunity for entrepreneurs from other cities and provinces. I laud Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte for her initiatives to give non-QC entrepreneurs the opportunity to sell their products at the city hall grounds.

Entrepreneurs can also consider utilizing localized content that reflects Filipino culture and raising awareness to patronize locally-made products. Despite the constant influx of imported products, entrepreneurs must persist in showcasing Filipino ingenuity and productivity through the sale of locally produced commodities. We should not tire ourselves from promoting our products, and we can compete with imported ones in terms of quality.

Indeed, there is no shortcut in product promotion. Successful entrepreneurs took several years of failure before they were able to secure a foothold in their businesses. Patience, failure, networking, and seeking their niche in the business world are the ingredients to becoming a successful entrepreneur.

*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.*

# Why do we need a National Environmental Protection Agency?

To avoid the destruction of the country's protected and heritage sites for tourism purposes, there is a need for the government to create a National Environmental Protection Agency or NEPA separate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

This suggestion was made by the widow of former Senator and Environment Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez in the wake of what she considered as "the horrendous assault on a protected area, the Chocolate Hills in Bohol, recognized as a geological monument" and first geopark in the Philippines by the UNESCO or the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Mrs. Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, a UNESCO Artist for PEACE awardee and Earth Savers' Dreams Ensemble director, deplored "the amazing existence of the construction and operation of a resort at Chocolate Hills without an Environmental Compliance Certificate."

She said: "One wonders how many more protected areas are defiled. Also observed the absence of basic coordinated hearing among all constituency sectors."

According to her, immediate action for reparation and restoration is essential to avoid the possible challenge of delisting from being a heritage site or from being branded with a UNESCO-designated honor realized after years of tedious study and verification.

"We must remember, any honor has the concomitant responsibility of guaranteeing the integrity of the honor bestowed to a country, province or city. We are glad

the collective voice of protest has been registered by the Senate Committee on Environment and Climate Change headed by Senator Cynthia Villar, who already filed a resolution for an investigation, while Interior and Local Government Secretary Benhur Abalos has organized an oversight technical team," Mrs. Alvarez said.

"Nobody is above the law, and that must be executed with diligence without favor to anyone. President Bongbong Marcos has committed at several United Nations meetings to promote sustainable tourism while actualizing our fulfillment of the Social Development Goals (SDGs) 2023 agenda linked to the Paris Climate Accord," she added.

In a letter to the Manila Times Opinion editor last March 27, she said that in 1987, when then Senator Heherson Alvarez assumed chairmanship of the Senate Environment committee, his concern was to provide the pioneering voice of defusing the ecological time bomb of global warming as the world now suffers climate catastrophes. He crafted and sponsored the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992.

"I recall he pointed out that the DENR has an identity crisis, a conflict of interest ingrained in its function that naturally favors creating wealth through resource development, sacrificing its regulatory function of biodiversity-ecosystem protection, which needs police power so this will ensure the rule of law prevails in granting permits, supervising pollution control causing deforestation and wanton industrialization polluting our water bodies, land, air with black carbon and destroying heritage sites.

## GLIMPSES & GAZES

By Severino C. Samonte

Circuitous breakage of restrictive barriers must be prevented.

"Thus, Senator Alvarez pushed in the Senate a bill detaching the Environment Management Bureau from the DENR through the passage of an independent National Environmental Protection Agency as the watchdog for Mother Earth.

"Unfortunately, like the anti-political dynasty bill, it could not gather the majority support," lamented Mrs. Alvarez, who is also a Ramon Magsaysay Foundation award recipient in 1972 and founder of the Philippine Educational Theater Association or PETA.

"We at the Philippine Center of the International Theater Institute, currently led by former Senator Joey Lina, with the Earth Savers now headed by Consul General Fernando Peña, are ready to assist in an effective culture-based information campaign to fill the communication gap of engaging all citizens to be aware of their rights and duties to care for creation. Neither ignorance of the law nor insensitive execution of the law is an excuse for non-compliance with the law.

"It is important to have continuous diligent monitoring and transparent review of needs and conditions, besides excising the culture of corruption and promoting a dedicated public service mindset to achieve peace, justice, truth, and freedom geared toward a unified effort to unlock the gridlock of poverty.

"As Senator Alvarez's widow, I re-echo his clarion call: Urgent action now to save tomorrow for the survival of mankind and our common home, planet Earth."

# ILOILO CITY RISE-A-FARM VIES FOR WALANG GUTOM AWARDS

Mayor Jerry Treñas led the panel presentation and interview of the Resilient, Integrated, Sustainable Environment for Agriculture Farming (RISE-A-FARM) to the Walang Gutom Awards of Department of Social Welfare and Development and Galing Pook Foundation April 17.

RISE-A-FARM is an integrated farming, all-inclusive and eco-friendly program led by the Office of the City Agriculturist, together with the City Health Office, City Social Welfare and Development Office, City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, Local Economic Enterprise Office and Local Economic Development and Investment Promotions Office.

City Agriculturist Iñigo Garingalao, City Health Officer Dr. Annabelle Tang, and City Social Welfare Development Office Head Terry Gelogo also attended the validation as among the 25 out of 101 entries shortlisted by the National Selection Committee.

Walang Gutom Awards panel online included Dr. Emma Porio, Professor of Sociology, Ateneo de Manila University, and Ramon Derige, Executive Director of Seaoil Foundation.

The “Walang Gutom Awards” seeks the local government units (LGUs) with the best anti-hunger initiatives and practices on food security. (Iloilo City PIO)

## Drought destroys over P173-M rice, corn crops in Negros Occidental

BACOLOD CITY – Drought has dried up some 3,241 hectares of rice and corn fields in 24 local government units (LGUs) across Negros Occidental, latest data from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) showed.

As of Wednesday, affected are 4,431 farmers in 167 barangays with reported damage to crops totaling PHP173.576 million, based on the period covering November 2023 until April 12, 2024.

OPA officer-in-charge Dina Genzola said they have already submitted the updated damage report to Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson, who earlier said the provincial government would provide cash assistance to the affected farmers.

Based on the report, a total of 3,116 hectares of rice fields in 23 LGUs have been damaged amounting to PHP168.838 million.

Some 4,266 farmers in 148 barangays have been affected.

Worst-hit are rice farms in the south, particularly



**CROP DAMAGE.** A dried-up rice farm in southern Negros is shown in this undated photo. As of the second week of April, at least 3,116 hectares of rice fields in 23 local government units in Negros Occidental have been damaged, amounting to PHP168.838 million, a report of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) showed. (Photo courtesy of OPA-Negros Occidental)



Cauayan town and Kabankalan City.

In Cauayan alone, rice fields in 20 of its 25 villages planted by 1,128 farmers have been affected, with total damage pegged at PHP67.889 million while in

Kabankalan, 13 barangays with 1,214 farmers reported damage worth PHP41.910 million.

The other affected LGUS include Candoni, Bago City, Himamaylan City, San Enrique, Valladolid, E.B. Magalona, and Hinoba-an.

Damage to corn, which was reported in five LGUs, reached PHP4.737 million.

Calatrava town logged the highest total damage of PHP3.877 million, affecting 83.29 hectares planted by 110 farmers in 13 barangays.

Other affected LGUs include the municipalities of Don Salvador Benedicto, Murcia, Isabela, and Sibalay City. (PNA)

## Council recommends state of calamity for Antique due to El Niño

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – The Antique Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) approved a resolution on Monday recommending the state of calamity in Antique due to the El Niño.

Antique PDRRM Officer Broderick Train said the council made the recommendation following the declaration of the state of calamity in three municipalities in the province.

“The towns of Sibalom, Anini-y, and Laua-an have now come up with their own declarations of the state of calamity that is why the PDRRMC also had come up with a declaration for the province,” Train said.

Sibalom declared a state of calamity on March 13, Anini-y on March 27, and Laua-an on April 12.

“The PDRRMC will be submitting its recommendation for the provincial board to deliberate in next week’s regular session,” Train said.

The PDRRMC allocated an initial of PHP10 million from the PHP30 million Quick Response Fund (QRF).

“We will allocate PHP10 million to assist the affected

# Hearing-impaired, special needs persons obtain IT design certificates

**BACOLOD CITY – Four hearing-impaired learners and two persons with special needs are the pioneer graduates of the animation and graphic design training courses of the provincial government’s Negros Occidental Language and Information Technology Center (NOLITC).**

Vocational school administrator Ma. Cristina Orbecido said on Wednesday the development highlights the commitment of NOLITC to social inclusion and diversity in the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) sector.

The six are among the 61 scholars in Animation National Certificate (NC) II Batch 1 and Visual Graphic Design NC III Batches 12 and 13 who completed their training course on April 12.

The four hearing-impaired learners, among them Bacolod Integrated Deaf Association (BIDA) president Lafonza Latoza, were trained in visual graphic design while the two special needs persons, who studied animation, will continue their training to also obtain Level III certification.

Orbecido said they are the first to have completed the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority certification courses after the initial digital literacy training course conducted for persons with disability (PWDs) in July last year.

BIDA coordinator Joan Briones commended the NOLITC for its inclusion initiative that enabled the hearing-impaired to be trained in certification courses, saying “this has opened doors” for them.

“Many deaf have already been informed about the programs at NOLITC. We will be campaigning for more deaf, even those outside Bacolod, to enroll at NOLITC without having to pay for anything. We can also provide them the assistance that they need,” she added. (PNA)



**GRADUATION RITES.** Four hearing-impaired learners and two persons with special needs are the pioneer graduates of certification courses at the Negros Occidental Language and Information Technology Center in Bacolod City. Vocational school administrator Ma. Cristina Orbecido (center) with Bacolod Integrated Deaf Association president Lafonza Latoza (right) and coordinator Joan Briones are shown during the culmination ceremony on April 12, 2024. (Photo courtesy of Negros Occidental Language and Information Technology Center)

## Close to P80-M projects to boost water supply in Iloilo City

**ILOILO CITY – Water supply is expected to get a boost from PHP80 million worth of pipelaying projects covering 5,418 linear meters in this city.**

Metro Pacific Iloilo Water (MPIW) broke the ground for its three such projects and also inaugurated two completed projects here on Tuesday.

The projects aimed to improve water availability in its service areas, reach unserved areas in Mandurriao and Jaro districts, and cease the operations of illegal deep wells in the area while targeting about 6,000 new accounts.

“We do need water for Iloilo and right now, our coverage is only 26 percent. We are starting to be more aggressive in expansion and this is a small scope compared to the overall target that we want. We want to cover 100 percent of the Iloilo Water District. We expect to have more projects in the near future,” MPIW president and chief executive officer Andrew Pangilinan said in an interview.

Pangilinan, joined by Iloilo City officials led by Mayor Jerry Treñas, inaugurated the newly completed pipe expansion project in Barangay Camalig in Jaro district and the finished retrofitting project along the Carpenter’s Bridge in Molo district.

The new pipelaying projects expected to finish in six months are along Diversion Road and Barangay San Rafael in Mandurriao and Barangay Lanit and Sito Ilaya in Barangay Tabuc, all in Jaro.

Pangilinan said that in addition to pipelaying projects, they also brought foreign equipment called Sahara mobile

leak detection system to address the high non-revenue water.

“That will help improve and give additional supply (of water). We will be more aggressive, we will see more pipelaying all around Iloilo City and outside concession,” he said.

Pangilinan also announced that they will start building their desalination plant in the third quarter of this year.

“We should expect additional volume for Iloilo at 65 million liters per day (MLD) by 2026. That’s a first in the Philippines,” he said.

Treñas, in his message, said the city government welcomes any initiatives or measures that can help address the depleting water sources, especially barangays affected by the El Niño phenomenon.

“These projects mark a significant step forward in ensuring the availability of essential public utilities, especially water, to all our residents. These projects do not only signify a commitment to providing quality public services but also highlight the importance of investing in sustainable infrastructure for the benefit of everyone, including the future generations,” he said.

MPIW, established by the Metro Iloilo Water District (MIWD) and Metro Pacific Water (MPW), the wholly owned water infrastructure investment of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC), also serves the municipalities of Oton, Sta. Barbara, Cabatuan, Maasin, San Miguel, Pavia and Leganes. (PNA)

**WATER SUPPLY BOOST.** Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas drinks water straight from the faucet during the inauguration of two newly completed projects and the groundbreaking ceremony of three pipelaying projects held in Mandurriao district on Tuesday (April 16, 2024). The Metro Pacific Iloilo Water (MPIW) invested close to PHP80 million for the projects, covering 5,418 linear meters. (PNA photo by PGLena)



Republic of the Philippines  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**  
 Region VI  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Gaisano Capital – ICC Mall, B.S. Aquino, Jr. Avenue, Diversion Road  
 Mandurriao, Iloilo City

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that **FILINVEST LAND, INC.** (developer) has filed with this Office a sworn registration statement for the sale of condominium units in **FUTURARISE** located at Brgy. Cagamutan Sur, Leganes, Iloilo for consolidation and subdivision of **Lot 3303, Cadastral Survey of Sta. Barbara** containing an area of **114,430.00 square meters** and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. **090-2016008081 (portion)** registered in the name of **FILINVEST LAND, INC.** (landowner).

The developer of the foregoing project is allocating an amount equivalent to 25% of 5% of its total project cost through Escrow Account as its provisional socialized compliance pursuant to Sec. 18 of R.A. 7279, as amended by R.A. 10884.

All papers relative thereto shall, upon request and payment of processing fee, are available for inspection during business hours by any person having legal interest thereon.

Absent any legal impediment, the above-cited project is deemed registered and a certificate, as evidence thereof, shall forthwith be issued after five (5) days from the last day of publication and after submission of the required documents.

Iloilo City, Philippines, April 18, 2024.

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

NE/April 22 & 29, 2024





**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



**UNAFFECTED.** Traffic congestion along Iloilo City's Iznart Street Monday afternoon (April 15, 2024). The Police Regional Office 6 (PRO6) said the traffic caravan failed to cripple transportation in Iloilo and Panay. (PNA photo by PGLena)

## Caravan fails to paralyze public transport in Iloilo

ILOILO CITY – The transport caravan, instead of the strike by unconsolidated groups, failed to cripple transportation in Iloilo and Panay on Monday, according to the assessment of the Police Regional Police Office 6.

"They could not muster a big number, and what is important is they could not cripple the normal flow of

public conveyance," PRO 6 regional director Brig. Gen. Jack Wanky said in an interview.

"Only minimal members (have joined), and they have been noted in the past rallies, especially this Bayan group."

The Western Visayas top cop said they have prepared vehicles in case there were stranded passengers.

"We have patrol cars and vehicles coming from LGUs (local government units)," he added.

He said patrol cars can be utilized as long as there are no emergencies.

At the regional headquarters, there are two-man trucks and 6x6 trucks.

Raymundo "Boyot" Parcon, president of the Western Visayas Transport Cooperative (WVTC), in a separate interview, said there was an influx of passengers in the morning due to students and workers returning to the city.

"We did not feel there was a strike since other consolidated jeepneys even ply their routes," he said.

He also assured commuters that all transport cooperatives and even those unconsolidated are plying their routes.

"It has no effect," he said, adding that they met with the alliance and agreed to continue plying their routes. (PNA)



**WATER SHORTAGE.** Households in an area in Barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod City avail of water supply on Sunday (April 14, 2024). Mayor Alfredo Abelardo Benitez had asked the Bacolod City Water District to submit a water security plan and explain the shortage of supply. (Photo courtesy of Bacolod City-PIO)

BACOLOD CITY – Mayor Alfredo Abelardo Benitez on Monday asked the Bacolod City Water District (Baciwa) to submit a water security plan as he noted the failure of PrimeWater Infrastructure Corp., Baciwa's joint venture agreement partner, to improve supply in the past four years.

"I have communicated with Baciwa. I'm asking for a water security plan. It would not address (the water shortage) due to El Niño, but in overall direction, planning perspective, where are we when it comes to water supply," Benitez said in a press conference.

Since last month, water rationing has been scheduled in various villages experiencing shortage, including certain areas in Barangay Mandalagan,

Handumanan, Villamonte, Mansilingan, Taculing, Estefania and Singcang-Airport.

In the city proper, water supply has also been delivered to Barangays 27, 30 and 33.

"We have existing 70 million liters of water per day (MLD) but because of El Niño, it decreased to 50 MLD. We're short of 20 MLD to begin with. PrimeWater customers need 90 MLD, so we're really short of 40 MLD," the mayor said.

Water experts' verification, however, showed that Bacolod requires as much as 125 MLD, he added.

Benitez pointed out that in the contract between PrimeWater and Baciwa, Section 5.1.2 states that within five years from Nov. 13, 2020, PrimeWater

## Mayor seeks water security plan for Bacolod

shall ensure that all consumers enjoy 24-hour uninterrupted water supply by the end of the second year or by the end of 2022.

"Basically, this provision has not been complied with. This is what I want to take up with Baciwa, what have they done since 2022. This should have been already rectified or if not, a penalty should have been imposed. This is one thing I would like Baciwa to answer," Benitez said.

"I asked Baciwa to furnish me the violations of PrimeWater for possible renegotiation or termination of their contract," he added.

Benitez said that in the water security plan, he wants Baciwa to include a buffer water stock.

"As part of the water security plan, I would ask them to ensure that all deep well sources being used by PrimeWater should be reserved for emergency," the mayor said.

Benitez also said that Baciwa should present actions to address complaints of water discoloration experienced by a number of consumers. (PNA)

# Panaad Festival 'achievement' of Negrenses – Senator Imee



**PANAAD FEST.** Senator Imee Marcos (right) and Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson flash the "Abanse Negrense" sign on the sidelines of the opening of the 28th Panaad Sa Negros Festival at the Panaad Park and Stadium in Bacolod City on Monday afternoon (April 15, 2024). Marcos said in her message that the theme of the festivity was "living the promise" of better and brighter days for the province of Negros Occidental, as Panaad is already an achievement. (Photo courtesy of PIO Negros Occidental)

BACOLOD CITY – Senator Imee Marcos called the Panaad sa Negros Festival an "achievement" of the Negrenses as she highlighted the "visible and tangible developments" in Negros Occidental and this highly urbanized city in recent years.

"Today's theme, as expressed by our good governor (Eugenio Jose Lacson), is 'living the promise' of better and brighter days for the province of Negros Occidental. Panaad is no longer a mere promise but in fact, achievement," she said during the opening of the weeklong festival's 28th edition at the Panaad Park and Stadium here Monday afternoon.

The province's award-winning "festival of all festivals," took its name from "Panaad," the Hiligaynon word for vow or promise.

"All the mayors and vice mayors of all 32 local government units (LGUs) of Negros Occidental, bawat isa sa inyo ay panalo na dahil nakilahok kayo. Because you joined this contest, you're all winners and I congratulate you for this colorful and festive occasion," she added.

Marcos said she learned something new from the Panaad sa Negros Festival, noting the relatively new provincial festival of Ilocos Norte that she initiated when she was still the governor.

"Today, I learned something new. We need also the trade boost and exhibition so that everyone, each of the towns, can get some ROI (return on investment) from the expense of the fiesta, selling their very best products and specialties. This is truly a best practice," she said.

Citing figures from the Philippine Statistics Authority, Marcos said that in 2022, the gross domestic product (GDP) of Negros Occidental was PHP246.39 billion while Bacolod City hit PHP132.81 billion.

"The combined GDP of Bacolod and Negros Occidental accounted for almost 40

## Over P2.9-M shabu seized in Iloilo City drug sting

ILOILO CITY – Anti-drug operatives arrested a 49-year-old suspect considered a high-value individual after he was caught for the third time selling shabu during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Caingin in this city's La Paz district on Friday.

Recovered from the suspect's possession was 430 grams of shabu with a standard drug price of PHP2.9 million but it could be sold for up to PHP8.6 million on the street, said Col. Joeresty Coronica, director of the Iloilo City Police Office, who joined the CDEU during the operation.

City Drug Enforcement Unit (CDEU) Chief Lt. Col. Antonio Benitez Jr. said alias "Damian" was first caught in 2013 and released in 2018, but in the same year, he was again apprehended for the same offense and availed of plea

bargaining in 2022.

"We monitored him for over a month. It was difficult to penetrate his place, but with the help of residents and an informant, we learned of the arrival of his new stocks," Benitez said in a media interview.

The suspect reportedly has direct contact inside the Bilibid Prison and



personally distributes his stocks to his patrons in the city.

Benitez said they are trying to determine how the illegal drugs were shipped to Iloilo. (PNA)

## CDRRMC RECOMMENDS 'STATE OF CALAMITY DUE TO WATER SCARCITY'

The Iloilo City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (CDRRMC) has recommended for the declaration of state of calamity due to water scarcity, April 17.

Mayor Jerry P. Treñas, chairman of the CDRRMC, emphasized that the declaration will allow the city to utilize its quick response fund (QRF) to procure additional water, and provide for the immediate potable water needs of affected communities.

The council approved to utilize some P12,544,200. More than 20,000 individuals from 25 barangays have already been affected by drought. This is expected to rise in the coming months. Barangays in the City Proper District are severely affected, as well as the districts of Arevalo and Mandurriao.

Water distributors, South Balibago Resources Inc. and Metro Pacific Iloilo Water, have promised to provide water tanks to barangays if needed. They will be expected to deliver water on

percent of the GDP of Western Visayas. Panaad fulfilled, indeed. Today, Abanse Negrense is not a mere slogan, not another catchword but the truth, the reality of the progress and prosperity of this great province," she added.

Marcos also noted that Negros Occidental has the largest share of Western Visayas' agriculture, accounting for 32.3 percent, and has the largest share in the total industry of the region, at 33.6 percent, or PHP205 billion.

"Truly, these numbers are backed by visible and tangible development. As an example, on my way to Bacolod City from the airport in Silay, I couldn't help but notice the amazing construction boom," Marcos said.

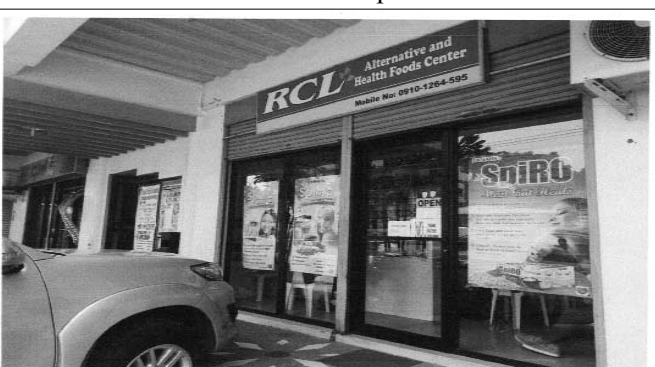
"Flying from San Carlos City, once again it was hard to avoid noticing the huge number of solar panels, the number of factories, and other developments. I see also in Bacolod the rapidly rising skyline of the BPOs (business process outsourcing)," she noted, adding the need to further develop the abundant renewable energy sources in Negros Occidental.

Marcos also shared that her brother, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., will sign into law the Negros Island Region Act "within a few days"

"No doubt that law will only serve to bring government goods and services even closer to the people," she added.

Moreover, the senator took note of the thousands of farmers, including those in Negros Occidental, affected by the drought brought by El Niño, saying that she would call for an urgent Senate inquiry to investigate the country's water and farming situation.

Marcos expressed support as well for higher farm gate prices of sugar, saying she hopes it would return and remain at a minimum of PHP3,000 per 50-kg. bag, after still hovering between PHP2,700 and PHP2,800. (PNA)



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**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 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 TABUNGGAO 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

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 **CESAR B. BATAN** has filed with this Office a Petition for Change of First Name from **RENE** to **CESAR** in the birth certificate of **RENE BALANTONO BATAN** who was born on **May 19, 1963** at **San Dionisio, Iloilo** and whose parents are **Roberto C. Batan** and **Venancia L. Balontong**.

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 22, 2024 & April 29, 2024

**DEED OF EXTRA JUDICIAL PARTITION AND ABSOLUTE SALE**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **BASILIO ALBILA** known as a parcel of land **Lot No. 2498** situated in **Sitio Cudyapa-Dalag, Alimodian, Iloilo** covered by **ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. F-13953** with an area of **FIFTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY FOUR (15,894) square meters, more or less** is adjudicated to heirs **SIMEON ALBILA, ADORACION ALBILA and CONRADO ALBILA**. That, **ADORACION ALBILA and CONRADO ALBILA** SELL, CEDE, TRANSFER and CONVEY by way of **Absolute Sale** the above said property of **TWO-THIRD (2/3) undivided share** thereof, together with all the improvements thereon, free from liens and encumbrances unto **SIMEON ALBILA**, as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Antonio M. Natino** per Doc. No. 209, Page No. 66, Book No. II, Series of 1984.

NE/April 22, 29 & May 6, 2024

**EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT AMONG HEIRS WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **LEOPOLDO B. CORILLO** known as a back earned pension at the **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE** is adjudicated to heirs **LARRY C. CORILLO, SR., LEAH C. HERRERA, GREG C. CORILLO and BILL C. CORILLO**. That, the heirs agreed to **WAIVE, TRANSFER, and RENOUNCE** all their rights, interests and shares in the said estate in favor of their sister **LEAH C. HERRERA** as entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Nicky Joy M. Camanso** per Doc. No. 464, Page No. 94, Book No. XI, Series of 2004.

NE/April 22, 29 & May 6, 2024

**DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **RAMON L. MILITANTE** known as 1) **LOT No. 393** located at Brgy. Salong, Batad, Iloilo covered by **Tax Declaration No. 09-0021-00002** with an area of **14.5164 Hectares**; 2) **LOT No. 395** located at Brgy. Salong, Batad, Iloilo covered by **Tax Declaration No. 09-0021-00011** with an area of **3.2839 Hectares**; 3) **Savings Account with LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES, Estancia, Iloilo Branch** under the account name **RAMON L. MILITANTE** with **Savings Account No. 4156-0455-14**; and 4) **proceeds, claims and benefits from Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), United Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corporation (COCOLIFE) and other private and public agencies** are adjudicated to heirs **JOSEPHINE MILITANTE BADOLES, JOSETTE B. MILITANTE, and JOEL B. MILITANTE**. That, the heirs/adjudicatees **Josette B. Militante and Joel B. Militante** agreed among themselves to constitute and appoint their co-heir **Josephine Militante Badoles** to be their true and lawful Attorney-In-Fact (AIF). Entered in the notarial registry of **Atty. Ralph Angelo G. Obligar** per Doc. No. 188, Page No. 39, Book No. 6, Series of 2024.

NE/April 22, 29 & May 6, 2024

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. 9048**, a notice is hereby served to the public that **RAMON JR. CORIANA** has filed with this office a Petition for Change of First Name from **"RAMON"** to **"RAMON JR."** in the birth certificate of **RAMON MAGBANUA CORIANA** who was born on **May 15, 1962** at **Binalbagan, Negros Occidental**.

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 22, 2024 & April 29, 2024

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

**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 **Janiuary, 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

Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Iloilo  
**MUNICIPALITY OF MAASIN**

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRAR  
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

In compliance with Section 7 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **SALDHI STEPHEN MONTEFRIO HISOLE** has filed with this Office a petition for **Change of First Name** from **STIPHEN** to **SALDHI STEPHEN** in the Certificate of Live Birth of **STIPHEN MONTEFRIO HISOLE** who was born on **MARCH 3, 1966** at **MAASIN, ILOILO** and whose parents are **SALVADOR CORDOVA HISOLE** and **LILIA DELFINO MONTEFRIO**.

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

(SGD.) **REENA MARIEL M. LIMOSO**  
Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/April 22, 2024 & April 29, 2024



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**REGIONAL TRIAL COURT**  
 6<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL REGION  
**Branch 76**  
 Janiuay, Iloilo  
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 Email: [rtc2jvj076@judiciary.gov.ph](mailto:rtc2jvj076@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



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 **ARLENE GONZALES TORRE** has filed with this office a petition for CHANGE OF FIRST NAME from MARIEDEL to **ARLENE** in the Certificate of Live Birth of **ARLENE SORILLA GONZALES** who was born on **DECEMBER 12, 1958** at **Pototan, Iloilo** and whose parents are **ALFREDO B. GONZALES** and **GREGORIA S. SORILLA**.

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 22, 2024 & April 29, 2024

Republic of the Philippines  
 Province of Iloilo  
 Municipality of Janiuay

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRAR**  
 -ooOoo-

**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 **DELFIN BOLATIN CONVOCAR** has filed a petition for **Correction of Clerical Error in the Child's Date of Birth** from "**December 14, 1939**" to "**December 24, 1939**" in the Certificate of Live Birth of **DELFIN BOLATIN CONVOCAR** whose parents are **SALVADOR CONVOCAR** and **MODESTA E. BOLATIN**.

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

**(SGD.) ANA LISA M. CORNELIO**  
 OIC, Office of the Municipal Civil Registrar

NE/April 22, 2024 & April 29, 2024

**GENERAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby served to the Public that **YAPAK DIVE ACADEMY, INC.** with business address at Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan has filed with **MARINA Regional Office VI** for a re-issuance of Certificate of Philippine Registry due to Change of Ownership from **YAPAK DIVE ACADEMY, INC.** to **BLUEFIN DIVE CENTER CORP.** and change of name of vessel from **MBCA "YAPAK K DIVERS"** to **MBCA "BLUEFIN"**. 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 date of posting.

**GENERAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby served to the Public that **MARLON MAHASOL**, owner of the passenger motor banca named **MBca "KC EXPRESS"** with business address at San Juan, San Carlos City, Neg. Occ. has filed with MARINA Regional Office for the re-issuance of Certificate of Philippine Registry due to loss of the said certificate per Affidavit of Loss dated 06 March 2024, Notarized by Atty. Joseph Mark A. Antonio, a Notary Public, docketed as Doc. No. 2443, Page No. 71, Book No. V, 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 date of publication.

**GENERAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby served to the Public that **EMMY ROSE BARROCAMO** with business address at Talokgangan, Banate, Iloilo has filed with **MARINA Regional Office VI** for a re-issuance of Certificate of Ownership and Certificate of Philippine Registry due to a Change of Ownership from **JOVEN A. DUMARAOG** to **EMMY ROSE BARROCAMO** and Change of vessel name from **FBCA "SHIN AND JANN"** to **FBCA "JOSE EMMANUEL"**. 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 date of posting.

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. 9048 & 10172, a notice is hereby served to the public that **FEBI BLANCHE FRANCES DE LA CRUZ** has filed with this office a Petition for Change of First Name from "**BLANCHE FRANCIS**" to "**FEBI BLANCHE FRANCES**" and from "**MALE**" to "**FEMALE**" in the birth certificate of **BLANCHE FRANCIS DELMO DE LA CRUZ** who was born on **February 17, 1996** at **Lanas, Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo**.

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 22, 2024 & April 29, 2024

**GENERAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby served to the Public that **YAPAK DIVE CENTER ACADEMY, INC.** owner of a passenger vessel named, **MBCA "YAPAK K DIVERS"** with business address at Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan has filed with **MARINA Regional Office VI** for a re-issuance of Certificate of Philippine Registry due to the loss of the said certificates per Affidavit of Loss dated 15 April 2024 submitted by Gay P. Rebaño, Notarized by Atty. Immanuel L. Sodusta, a Notary Public in Malay, Aklan, docketed as Doc. No. 361, Page No. 74, Book No. XII, 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 date of publication.



**AWARDEE.** Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. (third from left) gives the first place award for the best implementer among secondary schools in the academic category of MoRProGRes Gardens to the Leon Ganson Polytechnic College (Rainbow Ville) in Balasan during the awarding ceremony at the provincial capitol lobby on Friday (April 12, 2024). Defensor, in his message, said the Gardens program will be leveled up to be part of a nutrition program. (PNA photo by PGLena)

Republic of the Philippines  
**REGIONAL TRIAL COURT**  
**6th Judicial Region**  
**Branch 64 - Bugasong, Antique**  
 (036) 540 7204 [rtc2bgs064@judiciary.gov.ph](mailto:rtc2bgs064@judiciary.gov.ph)  
 Station: Justice Calixto O. Zaldivar Hall of Justice  
 San Jose, Antique

SPL. PROC. NO. 0296

**IN THE MATTER OF THE CANCELLATION OF  
 CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH, REGISTRY NO.  
 2002-308, OF THE CIVIL REGISTRY OF  
 PATNONGON, ANTIQUE,**

**CRISPIN BALADIANG BACONGALLO, joined by  
 his parents, BEBETH B. BACONGALLO, and  
 EDGAR BACONGALLO,**  
 Petitioner,

-versus-

**CIVIL REGISTRAR OF PATNONGON, ANTIQUE,  
 PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY, AND ANY  
 OTHER PERSONS THAT MAY BE ADVERSELY  
 AFFECTED,**  
 Respondents.

X-----X

### ORDER

In a verified *Second Amended Petition* filed on 23 February 2023 petitioner **CRISPIN BALADIANG BACONGALLO** alleges among others: that he is of legal age, single, Filipino, and a resident of Aureliana, Patnongon, Antique; that he was born on 19 December 1998 in Caritan, Patnongon, Antique as the fourth child of **BEBETH B. BACONGALLO** and **EDGAR BACONGALLO**; that his birth was registered through a delayed registration on 23 April 2002, processed and submitted by his mother's aunt, Lolita Annaiz; at the time of his delayed registration, he was already using the name **CRISPIN BALADIANG BACONGALLO**, as shown by his school records; that recently when he obtained a copy of his birth certificate he discovered several errors on the entries including his name which is Crispin Baladiang and not Crispin Baladiang Bacongallo; that likewise, the birth certificate erroneously indicated that he was an illegitimate child though his parents were married on 21 November 1992 at Filipina Independiente Church in Caritan, Patnongon, Antique; that his birth date was also erroneously entered 19 December 1997 instead of 19 December 1998; that the age of his mother at the time of his birth should be corrected from 33 years to 30 years old and that of his father from 29 to 35 years old; that he is the 4th child of his parents but was incorrectly reflected as the 3rd child; that he prays that an order be issued directing the public respondents to CANCEL his birth certificate appearing under Entry No. 2002- 308 of the Local Civil Registrar of Patnongon, Antique.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for hearing on **23 May 2024 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning** at the session hall of this court, at which date, time and place, interested parties may appear and show cause why the *Petition* should not be granted.

Let copy of this order be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in **News Express**, a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Antique and in Western Visayas.

Furnish copy of this order be furnished the Solicitor General, the Local Civil Registrars of Patnongon and Bugasong, Antique, the Provincial Prosecutor, the petitioner, and his counsel.

SO ORDERED.

San Jose for Bugasong, Antique, 14 March 2024.

**(SGD.) MARIO G. ANDRES, JR.**  
 Presiding Judge

NE/April 22, 29 and May 6, 2024

ILOILO CITY – The provincial government on Friday awarded the best implementers of the MoRProGRes (Movement for a Robust Garden, Progressive and Globally competitive and Resilient Province of Iloilo) Gardens program, the brainchild of Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. aimed at creating agri-tourism destinations by blending ornamental gardening, landscaping and high-value crop production.

“MoRProGRes Gardens is a program for food security and tourism and it is also a climate change response. We wanted to combine ornamental gardening, agriculture,

# Balik Scientists boost S&T efforts in the countryside

ILOILO CITY -- The engagement of Balik Scientists in the regions and their permanent repatriation in the country has advanced the level of scientific endeavors in the countryside, according to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

DOST - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) Executive Director Dr. Enrico Paringit highlighted how Balik Scientists are instrumental in addressing various challenges and promoting innovation and research.

“(The Balik Scientist Program) ensures that there is a steady stream of knowledge that will also make impacts to the lives of people especially in those areas that are most needing of answers, needing of solutions, and most needing of opportunities whether it’s economic, social or otherwise,” Paringit said in an interview.

Dr. Paringit was recently here in Iloilo City for the exit conference of Dr. Noel Peter Tan, a Balik Scientist based in University of San Agustin (USA) whose expertise lies in nanoscience and nanotechnology.

Paringit also mentioned that Balik Scientists under DOST-PCIEERD are working on sectors to include food safety, countryside development, competitive industries, intelligent transport system, renewable energy, storage systems, security, and disaster risk reduction.

Meanwhile, Dr. Tan’s tenure at USA since 2022 led to the development of a plant-based, biodegradable packaging from waste materials.

Dr. Tan spearheaded a research on Nano-enabled bioplastics from regenerated cellulose aimed at producing an alternative source of biodegradable bioplastic with an improved mechanical property suitable for packaging materials.

He also developed a Membrane Technology for

Seawater Desalination Program on improving a passive membrane-distillation system powered by solar energy. The preliminary data generated in this proposal will have significant impact towards the development of a functional prototype of desalinator for community-based application in the future, particularly providing sufficient water access.

Currently, Dr. Tan heads the Center for Advanced New Materials, Engineering, and Emerging Technologies (CANMEET) at USA which is the first material science and emerging technologies research center in the region.

To note, the Balik Scientist Program is a government initiative aimed to encourage Filipino scientists, researchers, and experts who are working abroad to return to the Philippines and contribute to the country’s scientific and technological development.

It offers incentives and support to returning scientists such as funding for research projects, support for relocation, and assistance in establishing partnerships with local institutions.

DOST-6 regional director Rowen Gelonga, for his part, said that DOST 6 offers a helping hand in nurturing partnership between Balik Scientists and the industries in Western Visayas.

“We are trying to really link the Balik Scientist to the different universities as well as industries in the region so that we can be assured that the outputs and the engagements of the scientists go down to the benefit of the region,” Gelonga conveyed.

Gelonga, who also serves as the chairperson of the Regional Research Development and Innovation Committee under the Regional Development Council (RDC) 6, bares plans to introduce Western Visayas-based Balik Scientists to RDC and inform them of the specializations and engagements they are having to identify opportunities for collaboration. (AAL/LMLE/PIA Iloilo)



## Iloilo fetes best food security, tourism garden program implementers

especially high-value crops, and the upcycling and recycling of waste materials so that we can help the environment. For a first time and a first year, we did very well and we have very good results,” Defensor said in his message during the awarding ceremony at the lobby of the provincial capitol.

Launched in 2023, the contest for the best implementers came in three categories namely local

government units consisting of municipality and barangays; academic and technical institutions for public and elementary and secondary schools, or private colleges and universities, and state universities and colleges; and business sector to include both accredited and non-accredited establishments of the Department of Tourism (DO

ILOILO FETES / page 15

**TIRINGBANAY** . . . (from page 2)

PHP220,500 on corn due to drought.

Bantolo further said that in addition to the exhibit, farmers and fisherfolk will also have their song and dance competition on the same day.

There will also be a singing contest among their children.

Other activities during the festival are the beauty pageant, jobs fair, band, motocross, food festival, and street dancing on May 1. (PNA)

**DISASTER** . . . (from page 3)

under a state of calamity.

Ravena said the severity of the situation widens when they include the around 25 barangays adjacent to the CDRA-covered villages, which might reach 30 to 40 percent.

Along with the resolution to declare the state of calamity, the council sought a PHP12 million fund to purchase static tanks for water distribution.

The city will augment 52 water tanks to ensure that the supply is sufficient.

"There are wells that dried up, and, worse, there are seawater intrusions and seepage. We monitor closely the seepage in Rizal Pala-Pala to avoid contamination and health problems," he said.

Ravena said he met with two bulk water suppliers, Metro Pacific Iloilo Water and the South Balibago Waterworks, after the LDRRMC meeting for the possible deployment plan on water rationing.

"We emphasize that the water they will deliver based on the calamity situation should be on top of the delivery that they serve to barangays," he added.

The recommendation will be endorsed to the Sangguniang Panlungsod for appropriate action.

Iloilo City on March 26 was placed in a state of calamity due to the pertussis outbreak. (PNA)

**ILOILO** . . . (from page 5)

"The larger part of our SEF goes to an intensified classroom program where we construct typhoon-resilient classrooms," he added.

He said when not in use, they could turn over the tents to local disaster risk reduction and management councils that could be used during calamities. (PNA)

**COUNCIL** . . . (from page 8)

families and individuals," Antique Governor Rhodora J. Cadio, who presided over the PDRRMC meeting, said.

The governor said they need to distribute family food packs and aid to individuals in crisis situations (AICS).

"We also need to procure movable water tanks and their needed accessories for barangays suffering from water shortage," Cadio said.

The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Antique will have PHP100,000 for fuel for the firetrucks to transport water to the barangays and respond to fire incidents due to drought.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) will also have PHP100,000 for their fuel to back up the BFP during fire incidents.

The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) report said that 12,552 families with 50,292 individuals were affected by the phenomenon, either because of damaged crops or destroyed houses.

Those with houses destroyed by fire will receive PHP10,000 AICS and PHP5,000 for partially burned houses.

Antique has PHP165.6 million recorded damage on rice crops as of April 11. (PNA)

**CMPMI** . . . (from page 5)

out of the dream to contribute to the development of the country through property investments and forming a large development project. Since 2016, the institution has offered a good partnership, opened doors for wise investment, ensured the security and maintenance of properties, and valued staff's and clients' privacy.

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**ESPRESSO** . . . (from page 6)

must be noted that for decades, the proposal to extend the LRT-1 has repeatedly been sidestepped and it was only when LRMC stepped in that the initiative took off.

Sumitomo on the other hand has first-hand knowledge when it comes to the case of the MRT-3. Since assuming the railway line's maintenance, Sumitomo has greatly improved the reliability of the MRT-3. Moreover, Sumitomo has demonstrated extensive rail expertise and network in Japan.

It's high time for the government to take a smart and bold step by entrusting the operations of the MRT-3 to one that has demonstrated expertise, willpower, and a track record when it comes to mass transit system operations and maintenance.

Our commuters deserve better. It's time to seize the opportunity to improve the MRT-3 in the best way possible.

By leveraging the resources, experience, and expertise of the private sector, we not only provide commuters with an efficient and effective mass transportation system that they rightfully deserve, but we also contribute to the country's sustainable economic growth—both of which I hope will benefit future generations to come.

*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.*

**ILOILO FETES** . . . (from page 14)

From 252 registered entries, 32 were selected as finalists and 18 were awarded winners.

First placers received PHP200,000 each, PHP150,000 for second placers, PHP100,000 for third placers, and PHP50,000 for finalists.

For the academic category, the awardees are the Tagbac Elementary School (ES) in Oton, Guimbal Central ES (Buy Local in our Organic Garden of GCES) of Guimbal, and Don Benjamin Jalandoni Sr. Memorial ES (Gulayan sa Don Bee) in Zarraga for elementary level; Agdahon Farm School (AFS Garden of Progress) of Passi City for high school; and Leon Ganzon Polytechnic College (Rainbow Ville) in Balasan and LaGuerta Verde de ISAT University in Leon for the secondary level.

For local government units, the winners are Barangay Nueva Union Community Garden in Passi City, Barangay Agta Communal Garden in Leon, and Barangay Pagaypay Community Garden also in Passi City for barangay level; and Passi City Sweet Garden, Daga Ecological Solid Waste Management Center in Sta. Barbara, and the Lagwerta de Oton of the town of Oton for the municipal level.

Winners in the business category are the Ephrata Garden in Badiangan, Atiz Integrated Farm in Tigbauan, and Gaja Agri Farm from New Lucena for DOT-accredited; and Garilva Junbee Agri Farm and Leisure Resort in Concepcion, Farmer's Cafe Garden in Leganes, and D&E Bugana Farm from Calinog for non-DOT accredited.

Defensor said the program will level up to become part of a nutrition program and have it institutionalized to align with the program of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on community gardening.

He said municipalities and barangays are encouraged to utilize the produce of MoRProGRes Gardens for their nutrition programs in daycare.

"That is why right from the very start, we involve the barangay because it is better if we could sustain to augment for our feeding in daycare," he said. (PNA)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
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**SPEC. PROC. CASE NO. 24-15655**

IN RE: PETITION FOR CORRECTION  
OF ENTRIES IN THE MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE  
OF SPS. MARK S. ESPORA AND MARY JESIERYL  
P. ESPORA BEARING REGISTRY NO. 2004-2544,

**MARK S. ESPORA,**  
Petitioner,

-versus-

**FLORENCIA S. ESPORA, THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR  
OF ILOILO CITY, THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL,  
PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA) AND ALL  
PERSONALITIES WHO MAY BE AFFECTED THEREBY,**  
Respondents.

X-----X

**ORDER**

Before this Court is a verified petition for the correction of entry in the Certificate of Marriage of **SPOUSES MARK S. ESPORA** and **MARY JESIERYL P. ESPORA** bearing Registry No. 2004-2544. They pray that after due notice and hearing, an order be issued directing the Office of the Registrar General and the Local City Civil Registrar of Iloilo City to correct the following entries:

- Name of Petitioner's Mother from: "SOLEDAD SOCUELAN" to "FLORENCIA S. ESPORA";
- Name of Petitioner's Father from "DELFIN ESPORA" to "Blank"
- Name of the persons who gave consent or advise: from "SPS. DELFIN AND SOLEDAD ESPORA" to: "FLORENCIA SOCUELAN ESPORA".

The petitioner **Mark S. Espora** alleges, among others, that he discovered that the fact of his birth was first registered (first registration) by his mother as evidenced by Certificate of Live Birth bearing Registrar No. 9260 (K-83) issued on November 2, 1983, but his grandparents caused a subsequent registration (second registration) as evidenced by Certificate of Live Birth bearing Registry No. 7350 (f-76) issued on June 18, 1984.

On May 27, 2004, the petitioner went to the National Statistics Office (NSO) to secure a certified true copy of his Certificate of Live Birth, as one of the requirements for Marriage License Application. The NSO on June 18, 1984 issued a Certificate of Live Birth under Local Civil Registry No. 7350 (f-76) Despite petitioner's explanation to NSO that the erroneous entries on the aforementioned Certificate of Live Birth, specifically on his mother's name and the entry on his father's name, the NSO maintained that those entries were the only existing record of the registration of his birth. Since petitioner felt the urgent need to secure his Marriage License for his marriage to proceed, despite being erroneous, he submitted his Certificate of Live Birth to the Local Civil Registrar (LCR) of Iloilo City. The erroneous entries from his Certificate of Live Birth was carried on to his Certificate of Marriage bearing Registry No. 2004-2544, issued on May 27, 2004. Hence, the filing of this Petition.

WHEREFORE, let the initial hearing of the petition be set on **July 11, 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: (1) in the Iloilo City Hall, (2) the Barangay Hall, where the petitioner resides, and (3) at the main entrance of the Chief Justice Ramon Q. 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.

The petitioner is directed to furnish the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) copy of its petition and annexes.

Furnish copy of this Order the petitioner, his wife Mary Jesieryl P. Espora, Florencia Espora, the Office of the Solicitor General, the Local Registrar of Iloilo City and the Philippine Statistics Authority.

SO ORDERED.

Iloilo City, Philippines, April 3, 2024.

**(SGD.) REDENTOR E. ESPERANZA**  
Presiding Judge



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