

OPINION

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Laoag City Mayor Michael Marcos Keon (center) meets new acting Ilocos Norte police provincial director P/Col. Julius Suriben, 24th army infantry battalion commanding officer Lt. Col. Ricardo Gary Garcia III, and provincial election supervisor Atty. Joel Gines, during their courtesy call on his office on February 1, 2022. The three visiting officials talked with Mayor Keon about the Provincial Joint Security Control Center for the 2022 national and local elections. (Photo courtesy of LC CMO)

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I.N. lacks mechanization, investors told to come in

● **Gov.MMM wants Badoc Island in “high-end” if sold to a luxury resort developer**

Ilocos Norte Governor Matthew Marcos Manotoc has urged private sector investors to come in and help expand the province’s agriculture and tourism industries.

Governor Manotoc made the call on the private investors when he guested at the Feb. 3 “Pandasal Forum” hosted by the Kamuning Bakery Café.

He said that the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte has been pioneering efforts to give a major boost to the local economy affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the said Forum, he encouraged investors and businessmen to help Ilocos Norte in shifting from farm production

(Pls. turn to page 3)

Feb. 10 is non-working holiday in Laoag City

LAOAG CITY –February 10, 2022 is a special non-working holiday in Laoag City in celebration of its annual Pamulinawen Festival.

In a Proclamation No. 1088 signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, Malacañang recognized the

annual fiesta celebration of Laoag in honor of its patron St. William the Hermit.

Laoag City Mayor Michael Marcos Keon assured the public that festivities will conform with minimum health and safety

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THIS WEEK'S NEWS IN A FLASH

by Multimedia Report

PGIN mulls to sell the Badoc Island to a luxury resort developer, Gov. MMM tells Forum

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IN’s most wanted for homicide, frustrated homicide arrested at Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

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Laoag employee gets citation ticket for various violation of city traffic ordinance

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A lady councilor of Vintar, IN passes away due to cardiac arrest, says VM Racimo

===

10.8K fully grown Marijuana plants valued at P2.1M uprooted, burned by cops at the border of Sugpon (I.Sur) and Benguet

===

Ex-village chieftain of Labrador, Pangasinan killed by gun men who disguised as bamboo buyers

===

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Ilocos Sentinel Newspaper is published weekly in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte since Year 2006. It is widely circulated in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, CAR and the entire Philippines. The clan Guiangs behind this paper are the proud direct descendants of DON MARTIN GUIANG, founder of the town of Paoay, Ilocos Norte and first chief executive of Paoay town (1701-1704).

Guest Editorial:

DOH reiterates importance of airflow and vaccination as protective measures against airborne COVID-19

Clarifications on the spread of COVID-19 both through airborne particles and droplets were made by Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Singh-Vergeire in the latest press briefing with Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, today, 28 January 2022.

Reminding the public that COVID can easily spread through the air, Undersecretary Vergeire stated that, “Kinakailangan nating sumunod sa minimum public health standards gaya ng pagsuot ng face masks at physical distancing - hindi lamang ng ating mga sarili kundi pati ng mga taong nakapaligid sa atin.”

Implementation of minimum public health standards (MPHS) and the “mask-hugas-iwas-airflow” has been in place to remind Filipinos of the different health protocols. In line with that, Undersecretary Vergeire underscored that ensuring proper ventilation in homes, workplaces, and other establishments is highly-recommended to allow the circulation of clean air indoors, which helps further prevent the spread of the virus.

The DOH noted that proper ventilation can be achieved by always keeping windows or doors open for fresh air to flow or putting an electric fan in front of a window for good air circulation. If the weather’s too hot to keep windows open, one can open it for a few minutes every hour.

Vergeire also reminded the public that in case they’re meeting with friends, colleagues, or relatives, they should make sure the meeting is in a well-ventilated space. It is best to practice social distancing and the wearing of face masks at all times. If possible, limit interaction to an hour to limit transmissions and infections.

With the ongoing expansion of vaccination coverage and opening of more sites through programs such the Department’s “Resbakuna sa Botika at Medical Clinics” program, the Undersecretary noted the importance of vaccines as our protection from COVID-19, “Hinihikayat ang lahat na upang maging protektado, tayo ay maging bakunado. Magparehistro at agarang tumungo sa ating mga vaccination sites at makipag-ugnayan na sa ating mga LGUs para makapagbakuna laban sa COVID-19.”

Preparations are also underway for the rollout of pediatric vaccinations for children aged five (5) to eleven (11) years-old this coming February. As children are also susceptible to the virus, and cases around the country remain high due to the Omicron variant, it is imperative that younger populations have access to the safe and effective vaccines.

The DOH urges the public to strictly follow all of the minimum public health standards and protocols implemented by the Department. In addition to vaccination, these practices will help in achieving maximum protection from the virus. These collective efforts in preventing further transmission of COVID-19 is a step towards living in the ‘new normal’. (DOH)



WORD ALIVE

by Fr. Bel R. San Luis, SVD

Every Christian is a ‘fisher of men’

The gospel of this 5th Sunday relates about Jesus calling his first apostles — a band of simple fishermen. The Lord must have made a deep impression on them that “they left everything” — their work, their boats, their families — and followed him (Lk 5:11). This band formed the core group on which Christ founded his Church

Unfortunately, many have the idea that the call of Christ is addressed only to the apostles and their successors — priests, bishops and popes.

That’s not true. Every Christian is commissioned to the ministry of healing, preaching and teaching by virtue of his or her baptism.

The Decree on the Laity of Vatican II states: “Incorporated into Christ’s Mystical Body through baptism and strengthened by the power

of the Holy Spirit through confirmation, the LAITY are assigned to the apostolate by the Lord Himself” (3).

How can you be an apostle of Christ or “fisher of men”? Aside from attending Holy mass and receiving the sacraments, you could participate in church works in your parish. Today there are numerous lay Catholics who sacrifice time, talent and treasure for the church, rendering services as lay ministers, lectors, collectors, choir members, catechists, social workers.

Then there are those involved in church organizations like the Legion of Mary, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women’s League as well as the renewal movements like the Marriage Encounter, Couples for Christ, El Shaddai, Loved Flock, Lord’s

(Note: Fr. San Luis hails from Laoag City. He served as President of Divine Word College of Laoag in the 1980s. His new turf is the Christ The King Seminary in Quezon City. Thank you, Father Bel for sharing your weekly column for the Ilocos Sentinel.—Editor)

Flock and many others.

Testimony of Christian living

The most basic and effective form of being a “fisher of people” is the testimony of Christian living or witnessing to the gospel values like charity, justice, forgiveness, honesty, peace in daily life.

Examples of Christian witnessing especially at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis are the medical frontliners sacrificing double-time for the sick, those engaged in bayanihan projects like people offering their hotels and apartments as accommodations for those stranded, putting up community pantries to share food resources, and prayer warriors.

The British TV journalist
(Pls. turn to page 3)



THE ILOCANO EDUCATOR

by Eduardo Teodoro “Jet” B. Ramos, Jr.

YYYWWW: Yeah, Yeah, Yayas (and Yayos)! What Wondrous Wizards!

Eduardo Teodoro “Jet” B. Ramos, Jr., MAELED, LPT is the corporate communications associate of MFI Polytechnic Institute, Inc. and the training manager and partner of JFE Teacher Training Services and JFER Training and Development Services. He is also a founding member, the publicity and communications head, and a member of the board of trustees of Philippine Advocates for Consultants and Trainers, Inc. (PACT, Inc.), a non-profit association of consultants and trainers in the Philippines. Apart from being a teacher for 13 years now, he is a character actor, inspirational speaker, corporate trainer, researcher in linguistics, and a media practitioner, being the host of VOICE OF THE TEACHERS RADIO (airing on Sundays from 1:00 to 2:00 PM over DWDD 1134 AM). For comments, suggestions, and inquiries, please contact Jet at (0917)648-43-28 and (0928)439-76-90. You may send him an email to edteo.ramos@yahoo.com or message him on Facebook (Jet Ramos).

(The featured piece was originally written in 2008, the year I went through a major personal upheaval a few months after my return from San Francisco, California. Major edits have been made by the author himself for brevity. -ETR)

Before I start my piece, I would like to tell you this: The names used in this essay are fictitious. However, to the yayas (and yayos) in my life, you know who you are.

“Jet, kakain na (Jet, time to eat),” my aunt and uncle’s widowed, then-60-something former yaya/kasambahay (nanny) Leni beckoned at me from our old duplex home. In her usual poker-faced manner, she invited me to eat with my cousins Larry, Maharlika, and Dante, together with their parents Bongbong and Sara.

Coming from the other house, newly-built, where I just had my shower, I told her upon facing her, “Opo, Manang (Yes, Manang)!”

Because I was having hunger pangs, I proceeded to the table, where I had my dinner with my cousins. It was another of those rare nights without my (now-deceased) grandmother, who as usual was playing mahjong with her geriatric super friends, one of them a well-revered school executive and another a practicing psychologist.

On another occasion, I was over the phone with

our family nanny Yaya Leila. Hearing about the burns that I got from leaning against a motorcycle muffler, she was aghast and at the same time disappointed in me for not being careful.

“Kumusta na ang mga paso mo (How are your burns),” she asked me. Reassuring her that I would be fine, I quipped, “Ayos lang. Kaya naman ng powers ko, parang si Hesus sa krus (They’re about to heal. I can withstand the pain, just like Jesus nailed on the cross!)” Though she nagged me about the possibility of having a small scar on my right leg, I decided to cheer up despite her “prediction” (the scars have faded over time, thank God).

It’s so heartwarming to be called, remembered, and reminded by our yaya or yayo (we call them kasambahay to be politically correct and inclusive), isn’t it? Being with us 24 hours a day, six or seven days a week, we would feel elated, albeit at times a little annoyed, by our yayas’ constant reminders and occasional pieces of advice.

For some of us who are the English-speaking, upper-middle-class or elite type, we would respond with, “yeah, yeah, yaya (or yayo)”. On the other hand, for some of us who belong to the middle class and are the bilingual, “Oo na (Yeah), yaya” would be our reply to them.

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Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this Commentary Section are solely owned by the individual columnists and authors and do not absolutely reflect the Ilocos Sentinel’s position. We are pleased to accept and publish any written reaction to all published articles herein. Please send thru e-mail, text, and postal mail with your name and address. Letters may be edited for clarity and space.

IN's anti-plastic volunteers mark Zero Waste Month

By Emma Joyce F. Guillermo

LAOAG CITY, Pollution (MAPP) in Ilocos Norte had consistent projects on coastal preservations through clean-up drives. MAPP president Ramil Llanes, who guested at the PIA Ilocos Norte's Danggay ti Panagdur-as radio show, announced the following:

Organized in 2017, the youth volunteers who called their group Movement Against Plastic

--they will sell environmentally-friendly substitutes like bamboo and metal straws to replace plastic straws as well as reusable face masks.

--they will distribute "Stay at Home" workbooks for children to instill at early age environmental protection awareness.

--their volunteers will also distribute free home-planting starter packs for backyard gardening.

Llanes had urged his fellow youths to play the vital role as environmentalists not only during this Zero Waste Month celebration but all the year-round. (JCR/JNPD/EJFG, PIA Ilocos Norte)

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to product processing and agribusiness.

"There are many agricultural surpluses in Ilocos Norte and I think that is a right opportunity for an investment in product processing because that is where I see our province still behind in terms of mechanization, product processing, and agri-business," Governor Manotoc explained.

It may be noted that Ilocos Norte is a significant contributor to the country's food security and sufficiency.

Among its main agricultural products are garlic, native shallot, dragon fruit, mango, tomato, and high-value crops.

On local tourism, Governor Manotoc said it offers multiple investment opportunities as the province had a plan to sell

the 36-hectare white-sand Badoc Island, a kilometer away from the Badoc town proper.

"We would really like to sell it to a luxury resort developer, someone who will build something responsibly and something likely high-end. That is our hope for the island," he stressed.

Among other industries that the Governor hopes to further improve include the province's renewable energy, business process outsourcing, information technology, and responsible mining.

"I would like to think that our institutions are in place and we are well-equipped to welcome investors and businessmen," he concluded.— (Blessing Angel V. Agliam, PGIN-CMO)

The Ilocano Educator.....(page 2)

On days when we're despondent and moody, we either frown at our yayas (or yayos) or throw things at them out of tantrum, whether we admit it or not.

From our infant (or toddler) years to even adulthood, our yayas (or yayos) have been significant parts of our lives. Some of them come and go like the weather; some stay for so long that even their quirks are known to us. Married, single, widowed, or separated, they act as surrogate parents to us whenever our parents would be out making both ends meet and going to the extent of sacrificing their own happiness. They, too, give up their personal happiness just to serve us. From sunrise to sunset, they cut back on their sleeping hours just to run the house. In collaboration with our parents, they guard us and our home with their lives, notwithstanding their fear of being scrutinized by their employers even for just the slightest mistakes. They bite the bullet whenever we throw tantrums if our demands are not met.

Despite our shortcomings towards them, they still love us. They love us like their own offspring or siblings, though we perceive them as at times "masungit" (moody), "istrikto" (strict), or "mataray/irritable" (grouchy) when they warn us or remind us about our behavior.

Though our house help tend to be targets of pejoratives and acts of discrimination, they do not have the right to suffer unjustly due to our impertinence and heartlessness. They deserve to be treated with respect, love, kindness, and compassion.

What our yayas (and yayos) truly deserve

There is more to our yayas (and yayos) than giving them their monetary dues. They are human, too, so they deserve more than that.

Let us be reminded that our yayas/yayos need rest and recreation; gone are the days that they have been working almost slavishly (except in other countries, particularly Saudi Arabia). Moreover, they need nutritious food in order that they would be able to have nourishment. Another need that they must fulfill is companionship, which must be in the form of our friendship and love. Our yayas/yayos also need empathy because they have feelings that need to be validated. Finally, the right to just compensation is what they need for we have to pay their social security, their PhilHealth, and, especially their taxes. We need to encourage them to save not just for emergencies but for businesses and for their retirement.

Our yayas/yayos should not be looked down on by us. We've got to consider them part of the labor force because of the professionalism and the dedication they possess.

Yeah, yaya/yayo, you're a wondrous wizard not only at home but also in dispensing life lessons that remain in our hearts and minds!

GUESS WHAT, GUESS WHO!

GUESS WHAT: Modern slavery and human exploitation are the orders of the day of this major

multinational manufacturing company. My sources, who are currently rank and file employees of the company, have just recently shared with me quite juicy information about the shenanigans and the wheeling and dealing of the manufacturing company.

One of the major transgressions of this company is that they pay their workers a very paltry sum. Because this company has as its owners foreigners whose nationality is known for being financial curmudgeons, the hapless local workers are being compensated less satisfactorily compared to those who are abroad. Another peccadillo of the company is that it makes its factory employees work seven hours a week like the Israelites who were held captive by the Egyptians during the time of Moses. Finally, the company in question is known for renegeing on its promises especially towards its loyal employees, one of them salary increases.

What are the lessons from this story? Never ever treat your employees like rag dolls. Compensate your employees well and never sap their energies from their bodies by making them work slavishly. Follow the labor code and you will do just fine. Remember that you are foreigners in this country called the Philippines, so avoid wielding your egos like swords or shotguns.

GUESS WHO: This human resources head of the major multinational manufacturing company featured today is as cunning and unrepentant just like Fagin from Oliver Twist. According to my sources, who are employees of the company in question, our subject is known for secretly siphoning money from the company that has our subject as one of its members of upper management. S/he is also known for soliciting grease money from local politicians and from suppliers as well in order that their proposals eventually are approved by upper management. One of my sources, a factory worker barely out of his/her teens, also whispered to me that our subject is known to be yayamanin (nouveau riche) mainly due to his/her surreptitious filching skills. Our subject is also known to be aloof towards those beneath him/her yet fawning towards his/her foreign bosses. My other source, an HMO professional, has an ax to grind against our subject because s/he has been contacting the seemingly incommunicado HR manager.

What are the morals of the story? Never ever bite the hand that feeds you. Moderate your greed if you cannot eliminate it indeed. Be compassionate to the people you meet on your way up because you will still meet them on your way down. Avoid hobnobbing with political predators and corporate crooks so that you would save your life and your skin in case (and eventually save face in the face of misfeasance and controversy).

If you have suggestions in terms of the education-related topics that you want me to feature, please feel free to send me an email to edteo.ramos@yahoo.com or to coachjet.inspirations@gmail.com and I will reply to you as soon as I receive your email.

Word Alive.....(page 2)

Malcolm Muggeridge was a celebrity who did not care much about God and religion. He did something he swore he would never do — become a Catholic.

What led to his conversion? He had an assignment to write about the late Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Travelling to India, Muggeridge thought the trip was just the usual work but the amazing thing was in the course of his talks and days of observation of the kindly nun, he experienced a change of heart.

Muggeridge said: "Words cannot express how much I owe her. She showed me Christianity in action."

Would non-Catholics and lukewarm Christians be so edified by your way of life as to want to become active Catholics?

In his encyclical "Redemptoris Missio," Pope St. John Paul II said: "People today put more trust in witnesses than in teachers...The witness of a Christian life is the first and irreplaceable form of evangelization."

In preaching the Good News, we must, first of all, BE Good News to people.

Support Seminarians. Seminarians are very important in the Church. We cannot have priests, missionaries and bishops if there are no seminarians simply because they all start as seminarians. So, let's support them.

Chip in an amount or sponsor a seminarian's schooling for one year. For inquiry, e-mail me at: belsvd@gmail.com.

The lighter side. Three classmates in high school met in a class reunion. "In our town," said the first, "people call me 'Monsignor' because I am a lay minister."

The second bragged: "Well, I'm a charismatic elder. I give spiritual talks so everybody calls me 'Cardinal'."

Unimpressed, the third said: "I'm higher than you two. I'm a sales representative going from house to house but I serve as collector at Mass. Many call me 'God.'"

The friends were flabbergasted and said: "What, God? How come?" "You see, when I knock at the doors of my customers and they see me," the sales rep said, "they exclaim, 'My God, my God, you again!'"

ILOCOS SUR

84% of Ilocos Sur's target population are now fully vaccinated

VIGAN CITY, Feb. 4 (PIA) – Some 488,806 eligible individuals or 84.35% of the target population of the province of Ilocos Sur are now fully vaccinated against Covid-19 as of February 3, according to the Department of Health-Ilocos Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD1).

The province has a total of 724,395 estimated population and more than 500,000 of this have received at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

There are some 158,758 remaining residents of the province's eligible population who haven't received a single dose of Covid-19 vaccine as per the DOH.

Dr. Rheuel C. Bobis, Medical Officer IV of the DOH CHD1, said the part 3 of the National Covid-19 Vaccination Days will be held on

February 10 and 11, 2022 to vaccinate all 12 years of and above prioritizing the administration of booster doses and primary and booster doses of A2 and A5 population.

Meanwhile, Ilocos Sur now has listed 11 Covid-19 Omicron variant cases as of January 31.

Nine of these are local residents while two are returning overseas Filipinos, Dr. Bobis said during the 26th episode of the PIA and DOH in Ilocos' Virtual Presser on Friday.

The province has recorded a total of 20,018 Covid-19 cases since March 2020.

Of which 1,646 are active cases while 18,129 cases have recovered as of Thursday.

Some 243 residents have died of Covid-19. (JOYAH MAE C. QUIMOYOG/PIA Ilocos Sur)

ILOCOS SUR

Bello pours DOLE aid in Ilocos Sur

Labor Secretary Silvestre "Bebot" Bello III has brought aid to hundreds of Ilocano, as he visited the heritage province of Ilocos Sur on January 31-February 1, 2022 to lead in the awarding of various projects to beneficiaries of the Department of Labor and Employment.

Sec. Bello, who traces his roots in the town of Santa in this province, was warmly welcomed by his fellow Ilocanos who excitedly received livelihood and employment aid through DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (DILEEP) and the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers (TUPAD).

In Narvacan, around 300 marginalized workers received free bikes with a package of mobile phone with P5,000 load. Called the FreeBis, this DILEEP component is geared towards jumpstarting livelihood of low-income workers who can use the

bikes in various trades such as vending and service delivery in their barangays.

In Santa, members of the Association of Barangay Rural Enterprise Workers of Santa (ABREWS) received assistance from DOLE, as the Labor Secretary handed in checks for various projects.

The DOLE funded the association's Bagoong Ipon Processing Project, with P1,000,000 to benefit 60 members; and another P1,560,000 for Sari-Sari Store Project to cover 52 beneficiaries.

FreeBis worth P1,040,000 were also given to 52 ABREW members. Meanwhile, 935 TUPAD workers also received their wages worth P4,420 after rendering 13 days of community work.

Bello underscored to the beneficiaries that these support interventions are a manifestation of the government's unwavering commitment to bring social development in

(Pls. turn to page 5)

LA UNION

SSS La Union puts up call center to answer members' queries

SAN FERNANDO CITY, Jan. 31 (PIA) -- The Social Security System (SSS) La Union has put up a call center booth as an additional platform to communicate with their members and aid their queries and concerns.

Christian Andrew Rillorta, SSS Regional Communications Officer, said this initiative is in view of the continuing threats of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

"Members, instead of physically queueing in the branch for inquiry, may call the branch's call center and they will be assisted by an employee," Rillorta said.

On the average, the SSS La Union branch receives 45 calls daily, mostly for verification and follow-ups of submitted claims.

Rillorta said all calls received and assisted are

recorded in a log sheet as the basis for status verification.

Further, the branch is implementing the number coding scheme where members and employers are allowed for their transaction based on the 10th digit of their Social Security Number/Common Reference Number (CRN) or Employee ID Number.

Those ending in 1 and 2 are to transact only every Monday, 3 and 4 every Tuesday, 5 and 6 every Wednesday, 7 and 8 on Thursdays and 9 and 0 on Fridays.

Members may reach SSS La Union branch through their hotline numbers from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday (except holidays): 0969-223-8837, 242-5668 or send them e-mail through: launion@sss.gov.ph.

Meanwhile, Rillorta

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ILOCOS SUR

Multiple DPWH projects in Ilocos Sur, in the works

VIGAN CITY, Jan. 31 (PIA) -- The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in Ilocos Sur will continue to lead the construction of multiple infrastructure projects for 2022.

According to District Engineer Emil Rodriguez Ganaden of the Second District of Ilocos Sur, there are still bridges which have not yet widened in the second district of the province such as bridges in Santa Maria and Narvacan towns.

"Our focus is to make the roads, four lanes and also our flood control projects to protect lives," Ganaden said.

These projects include the Poblacion Norte Bridge, Sulvec Bridge in Narvacan and the flood control projects in San Antonio River worth P90 million pesos, among others.

Ganaden said: "Our

fund in 2022 is much bigger than our funds from 2020 and 2021. This year, it is P2.3 billion, aside from the projects implemented by the regional office, our fund is big, so we have a lot of projects, we have 122 projects."

However, Ganaden said while the budget for capital outlay increased, the fund for routine maintenance decreased to P20 million that is why DPWH checks the situation on the roads because the limited funds has caused the agency to cut back on hiring personnel.

With the ongoing construction, Ganaden reminded motorists to drive slowly because there are sections that are not yet restored and asked the public to inform their office immediately when they see damages on the roads. (Aila T. Villanueva/PIA Ilocos Sur)

PANGASINAN

DPWH completes multi-purpose building in Pangasinan town

DAGUPAN CITY, Feb. 4 (PIA) – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has completed the construction of a multi-purpose covered court that can be utilized by residents of San Vicente village in San Jacinto town for various activities.

Information Officer Esperanza Tinaza of DPWH in Ilocos said, "With its multi-functional concept, residents now have a better location for recreational activities and events that are permitted under the guidelines of community quarantine."

"The covered court also facilitates a convenient venue for the ongoing rolling out of vaccines against COVID-19 with its wide space that can house more than 100 people which allows social distancing," she told the Philippine Information Agency.

Tinaza said, "The 18 meters by 15 meters extended covered court is situated at San Vicente

Elementary School which may also be used for school programs and activities once community quarantine is lifted and face to face classes are allowed."

"In times of calamities, the covered court may also serve as an evacuation center for Barangay San Vicente and its neighboring barangays, providing shelter and security to affected individuals," she added.

According to Tinaza, the project was implemented by the Pangasinan Second District Engineering Office, headed by District Engineer Edita L. Manuel.

It has a project cost of Php 1,980,000 funded under the General Appropriations Act of 2021.

With the completion of this structure, the DPWH has provided the local community with a reliable public building that can be utilized in the delivery of government services. (APRIL M. MONTES-BRAVO/PIA Pangasinan)

PANGASINAN

Pangasinan town offers free flu vaccine shots

A S I N G A N , Pangasinan, Jan. 31 (PIA) -- At least 1,716 residents in Asingan town aged three and up were given free Influenza vaccine jobs during the vaccination activity conducted by the Local Government Unit here at Hon. Sapigao Sports Complex on Friday.

Romel Aguilar, municipal information officer of Asingan, said the inoculation of influenza vaccine to the residents is part of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) response and management of the municipal government that aims to provide protection to children three-years old and above as well as the senior citizens who have not yet received their COVID-19 vaccines.

"Layunin ng pagbibigay ng bakuna kontra flu na mabigyang proteksyon ang mga bata na hindi pa eligible para sa COVID-19 vaccine

at dagdag proteksyon na rin sa mga seniors at mga residente natin dahil nga flu season rin ngayon," Aguilar said.

He said the initial target to be administered is only 1,000 doses but due to the overwhelming number of recipients of the vaccine, the Municipal Health Office (MHO) requested for an additional supply of vaccines from the Department of Health.

He said the MHO is set to administer another set of 350 flu shots on Jan. 31 but it will be on a first come, first served basis.

He added that for children aged three to 11, only birth or baptismal certificate is required during the vaccination while vaccination card or copy vaccination certificate for 12 years old and above to verify the two-week interval from their last vaccination. (Elisha Marie S. Arguel/PIA Pangasinan)

Dagupan Doctors Villaflor Memorial Hospital brings advanced cancer treatment to Pangasinan with VitalBeam™ Radiotherapy System

In a promising development for cancer patients in Pangasinan and the rest of Northern and Central Luzon, the Dagupan Doctors Villaflor Memorial Hospital (DDVMH) – a partner hospital of Mount Grace Hospitals, Inc. - brings new technology in treating cancer patients using the VitalBeam™ radiotherapy system from Varian Medical Systems (a Siemens Healthineers company) bringing intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT) capabilities in the province.

VitalBeam delivers powerful cancer treatments with pinpoint accuracy and precision. It uniquely integrates imaging and treatment technologies within a sophisticated architecture that makes it possible to deliver intensity-modulated radiotherapy safely and efficiently, opening the door to new possibilities for the treatment of head and neck, central nervous system, lung, gastric, urinary bladder, prostate,

as well as other cancers that are treatable with radiotherapy.

“VitalBeam is a real game-changer that will enable us to treat even challenging cases with pinpoint accuracy and precision, making it possible for us to offer fast, targeted treatments,” said Dr. Francis Ramirez, Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology of Dagupan Doctors Villaflor Memorial Hospital. “We cannot let the pandemic divert our attention away from cancer care. Because cancer can be beaten if detected early and addressed with the proper treatment.”

According to the Philippine Cancer Control Program, cancer is the third leading cause of morbidity and mortality for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in the country after diseases of the heart and the vascular system.1 In 2020, Globocan recorded 153,751 new cases of cancer in the Philippines with a total of 92,606 in death. Breast cancer remains to be most common cancer followed by lung, colorectum, liver,

and prostate for both male and female.2.

“As one company, Siemens Healthineers and Varian ceaselessly support and enable healthcare providers like Dagupan Doctors Villaflor Memorial Hospital to increase value as we take a leap together in the fight against cancer and a leap in the impact on healthcare overall. While communicable diseases continue to pose a threat, chronic and non-communicable diseases are also on the rise3 with cancer being one of them. Even with restrictive movements due to the pandemic, we were able to work together with the team of medical experts from DDVMH to ensure that the battle against the Big C never stops,” said Juan Miguel P. Tan, President and Managing Director of Siemens Healthineers Philippines.

A VitalBeam system can deliver treatment dose with tremendous precision. Its accuracy is made possible by a sophisticated architecture that synchronizes imaging, patient positioning,

beam shaping, and dose delivery, performing accuracy checks every ten milliseconds throughout a treatment.

VitalBeam can be used for radiotherapy treatments including conventional (2-D), conformal (3-D), and intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT). The VitalBeam also has a modular design which makes it upgrade-ready, enabling image-guided radiotherapy (IGRT), volumetric modulated arc therapy (VMAT) with RapidArc®, stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS), and stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) capabilities in the future.

“As we celebrate World Cancer Day, the new Vitalbeam, which is capable of IMRT and with the advance cure for cancer, is an added value to our services in holistic cancer treatment through the aspect of MDT approach for quality cancer care for all,” added Dr. Vivencio Jose P. Villaflor III, Hospital and Medical Director of DDVMH.

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL AND CITY SHERIFF
Marcos Hall of Justice
Laoag City

SAN JOAQUIN MULTI-PURPOSE
COOPERATIVE,
Mortgagee,

-versus-

ELMER R. ESPIRITU,
Mortgagor.

Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgage

EJF No. 27-2021

X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended filed by the **San Joaquin Multi-Purpose Cooperative** with principal office and place of business at **Brgy. 1, San Joaquin, Sarrat, Ilocos Norte**, against **Elmer R. Espiritu**, with postal address at **Brgy. 3, San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte**, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of **November 15, 2021**, the outstanding obligation exclusive of accrued interests and penalty, amounts to **Three Hundred Sixty-two Thousand One Hundred Eighty-four Pesos and (8/100) (P362,184.08)**, Philippine Currency plus the stipulated interest, penalty, attorney's fees and other charges and the expenses of this foreclosure, the undersigned or his duly authorized deputy will sell at public auction on **February 22, 2022** at 9:00 to 11:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the entrance of the **Municipal Hall of Vintar, Ilocos Norte**, to the highest bidder, for cash and in Philippine Currency, the real property together with all improvements found thereon, to wit:

“Tax Declaration No. 14-0009-02866
Certificate of Title No. OCT No. P-84566
Cadastral Lot Number 35063

A parcel of land situated at Brgy. 28, Bago, Vintar, Ilocos Norte. Bounded on the East, along line 1-2 by Lot 35062, Cad-577-D; on the South along line 2-3 by Creek; and on the West and North, along lines 3-4-1 by Lot 35064, Cad-577-D. Containing an area of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND SIX (2,506) SQUARE METERS more or less, with a total market value of 65,310 and total assessed value of 14,920 for the current year.

Residential House erected on Lot No. 35063 covered by Tax Declaration No. 14-0009-00172, containing an area of 130 square meters more or less, with a market value of 481,000.00 and assessed value of 96,200.00.

This document shall be registered under Act 496 as amended.”

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

In the event the public auction shall not take place on this said date, it shall be held on **March 1, 2022** without further notice.

Laoag City, December 20, 2021.

ZALDY P. DE LA CRUZ
Provincial and City Sheriff Ex-Officio

By:

(Sgd.) JUSTINIANO D. RILLERA, JR.
Sheriff-in-charge
RTC, Branch 11, Laoag City

Copy furnished:

1. The Manager
San Joaquin Multi-Purpose Cooperative
Brgy. 1, San Joaquin, Sarrat, Ilocos Norte

2. Elmer R. Espiritu
Brgy. 3, San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte

January 17, 24 & 31, 2022*Ilocos Sentinel

SSS La Union.....(page 4)

also encouraged all members, pensioners, and employers to use SSS online services as the country continues to record a high number of COVID-19 cases.

Among SSS' online

channels are the My.SSS Portal at www.sss.gov.ph, SSS Mobile App, and uSSSap Tayo Portal at <https://crms.sss.gov.ph>. (Joanne Namnama P. DilimPIA La Union)

DOLE.....(page 4)

the countryside. “After all, this is what President Duterte always tells us in his Cabinet: it’s the people’s money, therefore let us give them back the services they deserve,” Bello said.

The Labor Secretary was joined in his visit by Undersecretary Renato Ebarle, Usec. Benjo Santos Benavidez, Bureau

of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC) Director Atty. Ma. Karina Trayvilla, and local officials namely Cong. Bonito Singson, Former Ilocos Sur Governor and now Narvacan Mayor Luis Chavit Singson, and DOLE RO1 Regional Director Atty. Evelyn Ramos. (DOLE Region 1)

Feb. 10.....(page 1)

protocols, as approved by the Department of Health and the Inter-Agency Task Force.

City Tourism Officer Ana Carmela Remigio said that on said date, a band will march around the city at dawn, followed by a Mass and a theatrical

presentation, dubbed Comedia Ilocana.

Several other activities are lined up such as the agro-industrial fair and fiesta at the Aurora Park, Miss Laoag beauty pageant, pet show, 4x4 sand dune challenge, and fluvial parade. (IS)

DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT AND ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased SPOUSES ISABELO BALAIS and MAGDALENA BALAIS pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 37565-G, Psd-01-065731 being a portion of Lot 37565, Cad. 195, situated in the Brgy. Calayab (Balacad before), City of Laoag, covered by T.C.T. No. 38414 has been adjudicated by their legal heirs Melanie B. Pedro, Connie B. Pineda and Editha B. Valinton and simultaneously sold unto Erwin B. Pineda as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. Juan Conrado A. Respicio II; Doc. No. 465; Page No. 93; Book No. DCXXX; Series of 2022.

Jan. 17, 24 & 31, 2022*Ilocos Sentinel

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DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased SPOUSES RUPERTO LUCAS and TEOFILA A. LUCAS pertaining to a parcel of land, including the improvements thereon, designated as Lot No. 21524, situated in the Barrio Poblacion (Barrio of Sta. Cayetana), Municipality of Laoag (now Laoag City) covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. (T-407)-148 has been adjudicated by their legal heir Pedrito Simeon A. Lucas, represented by Veronica D. Nevalga, and simultaneously sold unto Fermina D. Manuel as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. Mona Liza D. Antonio; Doc. No. 108; Page No. 22; Book No. XLIV; Series of 2022.

Jan. 24-30, Jan. 31-Feb. 6 & Feb. 7-13, 2022*Ilocos Sentinel



RA 9048 No. 10.1 (LCRO)
Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Ilocos Norte
Municipality of Marcos

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In Compliance with Section 5 of R. A. 9048 (CFN), a notice is hereby served to the public that **ALLAN Z. FELIPE** has filed with this Office a Petition for **Change of First Name** from "**ALANO**" to "**ALLAN**" in the Certificate of Live Birth of **Allan Z. Felipe** who was born on **March 23, 1974** at **Marcos, Ilocos Norte** and whose parents are **Fely Felipe** and **Perlita Zamora**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than **February 14, 2022**.

(Sgd.) **EVELYN I. VILLANUEVA**
Municipal Civil Registrar

January 31-February 6, 2022
& February 7-13, 2022* *Ilocos Sentinel*

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the City Civil Registrar
Ilocos Norte
Laoag City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In Compliance with Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9048, notice is hereby served to the public that **JERRY MARCOS LABSO** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from "**JERRY JUAN**" to "**JERRY**" in the Certificate of Live Birth of **JERRY JUAN LABSO** who was born on 1965 at Laoag City, Ilocos Norte and whose parents are Pedro Labso and Perfecta Marcos.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than **February 14, 2022**.

(Sgd.) **JEAN PASCUA MANUEL**
City Civil Registrar

January 31-February 6, 2022
& February 7-13, 2022* *Ilocos Sentinel*

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased **AGRIFINA P. GALACGAC** a.k.a. **AGRIPINA P. GALACGAC** pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 10339, situated at Brgy. Billoca, Batac, Ilocos Norte, covered by Original Certificate of Title No. OCT P-19436 has been adjudicated by her legal heirs **Antonia P. Galacgac-Cabuyadao** and **Leonila P. Galacgac-Agudelo** and simultaneously sold unto **Maria Fe S. Navarette** portions of aforesaid lot equivalent to 630 square meters, now referred as Lot No. 10339-B, and another 1,260 square meters, now referred as Lot No. 10339-C as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. **Francisco A. Musni**; Doc. No. 375; Page No. 76; Book No. CXXXI; Series of 2022.

Jan. 31-Feb. 6; Feb. 7-13 & Feb. 14-20, 2022* *Ilocos Sentinel*

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased **NICOMEDES P. GALACGAC** pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Cadastral Lot No. 10343, situated at Brgy. Billoca, Batac, Ilocos Norte, covered by Original Certificate of Title OCT P-17376 has been adjudicated by her legal heirs **Antonia P. Galacgac-Cabuyadao** and **Leonila P. Galacgac-Agudelo** and simultaneously sold unto **Maria Fe S. Navarette** portions of aforesaid lot equivalent to 633 square meters, now referred as Lot No. 10343-B, and another 332 square meters, now referred as Lot No. 10343-C as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. **Francisco A. Musni**; Doc. No. 374; Page No. 76; Book No. CXXXI; Series of 2022.

Jan. 31-Feb. 6; Feb. 7-13 & Feb. 14-20, 2022* *Ilocos Sentinel*

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late **ELPIDIO CORPUZ, SR.** consisting of two (2) parcels of land designated as Lot Nos. 3035 and 5484, both situated at Barrio Mang-ngato, Laoag City, both covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-28506 has been adjudicated by his legal heirs unto themselves and simultaneously the aforesaid lots unto **Sps. Adriano D. Corpuz** and **Norma A. Corpuz** as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. **Nestor T. Corpuz**; Doc. No. 215; Page No. 44; Book No. XXIII; Series of 2022.

Jan. 31-Feb. 6; Feb. 7-13 & Feb. 14-20, 2022* *Ilocos Sentinel*

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH ABSOLUTE SALE WITH PARTITION

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late **SILVERIO GODOY, JR.** consisting of two (2) parcels of land designated as Cadastral Lot Nos. 12809-F and 12809-D, both located at Brgy. Quiling Sur, Batac, Ilocos Norte, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title Nos. 2021000950 and 2021000948, respectively has been adjudicated by his legal heir **Nestor Rubio Godoy** and simultaneously sold Lot No. 12809-F unto **Josie M. Gudoy** and Lot 12809-D unto **Nathaniel Rotsen U. Bilgera** and **Neil Arbee U. Bilgera** as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. **Francisco A. Musni**; Doc. No. 263; Page No. 54; Book No. CXXXI; Series of 2022.

Jan. 31-Feb. 6; Feb. 7-13 & Feb. 14-20, 2022* *Ilocos Sentinel*

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS AND SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late **PAULA BAPTISTA** pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 8463-B-6 Psd-01-054392, situated at Brgy. Nangalisan-A, City of Laoag, covered by TCT No. 34930 has been adjudicated by legal heirs **Apolinario Julie T. Dannug**, **Danilo T. Dannug** and **Socrates T. Dannug, Jr.** and simultaneously waived by heirs in favor of co-heir **Socrates T. Dannug, Jr.**; that a portion of said lot equivalent to 256 sq. m., now referred as Lot No. 8463-B-6-B was simultaneously sold unto **Spouses Engelberto B. Valentin** and **Noreen V. Valentin** as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. **Ria B. Cruz**; Doc. No. 60; Page No. 13; Book No. XIX; Series of 2021.

Jan. 31-Feb. 6; Feb. 7-13 & Feb. 14-20, 2022* *Ilocos Sentinel*

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late **VIRGINIA RIGONAN ULIT** pertaining to her undivided one-half (1/2) share over a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 16091, Cad-398, situated at Brgy. 35 Billoca, Batac City, Ilocos Norte, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-6127 has been adjudicated by his legal heirs unto themselves as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. **Maria Louisa M. Que**; Doc. No. 04; Page No. 06; Book No. 02; Series of 2022.

Jan. 31-Feb. 6; Feb. 7-13 & Feb. 14-20, 2022* *Ilocos Sentinel*

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late **CRISOLOGO D. DICHOSO** consisting of three (3) bank accounts with Land Bank of the Philippines namely: Joint Bank Savings Account No. 0261-2636-70; PNP Pension Account No. 0266-1332-86 and Regular ATM Account No. 0266-1188-64 has been adjudicated by his legal heir **Teresita C. Dichoso** as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. **Lourdines C. Dela Cruz**; Doc. No. 86; Page No. 18; Book No. XV; Series of 2022.

Jan. 31-Feb. 6; Feb. 7-13 & Feb. 14-20, 2022* *Ilocos Sentinel*

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE; SELF-ADJUDICATION AND ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased **MODESTO M. ECLARIN** pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 2455, GSS-1-000001, situated at Brgy. Nagbacalan, Paoay, Ilocos Norte, covered by Original Certificate of Title No. P-62183 has been adjudicated by his legal heir **Rodolfo R. Eclarin** unto himself and simultaneously sold unto **Joenberg T. Chua** as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. **Cherrie Grace P. Bareng**; Doc. No. 46; Page No. 10; Book No. LXII; Series of 2021.

Jan. 24, Jan. 31 & Feb. 7, 2022* *Ilocos Sentinel*

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late **RODOLFO RAMOS** and **CATALINA RAMOS** pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 10991-C, Psd-01-032762, situated at Brgy. 13, Ntra. Sra. De Visitacion, Laoag City, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. T-27502 has been adjudicated by their legal heirs unto themselves and simultaneously sold unto **Kevin Bill L. Alcid**, **Kenneth Bryle L. Alcid** and **Kathryna Bianca L. Alcid** as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. **Alexandra Elyze R. Alcid**; Doc. No. 125; Page No. 25; Book No. 3; Series of 2021.

Jan. 31-Feb. 6; Feb. 7-13 & Feb. 14-20, 2022* *Ilocos Sentinel*

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased **CONRADO CAMANGEG** pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 39921, situated at Brgy. 29 San Pedro, Batac City, Ilocos Norte, covered by O.C.T. No. P-4-251 has been adjudicated by his legal heirs unto themselves and simultaneously sold unto **Leticia Estavillo** and **Jaclyne Kate Estavillo-Llanes** as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. **Francis Raul L. Dayo**; Doc. No. 58; Page No. 13; Book No. VIII; Series of 2020.

Jan. 24, Jan. 31 & Feb. 7, 2022* *Ilocos Sentinel*

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased **CARMELITA BACUD** and **ROGELIO BACUD** pertaining to their share over a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 7248, Cad-445-D, situated at Brgy. Waig-Upay, Paoay, Ilocos Norte, covered by OCT. No. P-27893 has been adjudicated by their legal heir **Maria Tereza B. Cabacungan** and simultaneously sold unto **Leysam Garcia Luis** as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. **Da Vinci M. Crisostomo**; Doc. No. 100; Page No. 21; Book No. CDXXVI; Series of 2022.

Jan. 24, Jan. 31 & Feb. 7, 2022* *Ilocos Sentinel*

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of deceased **SPOUSES FERNANDO LABUCAY ABRAN** and **DALMACIA SINFUEGO** pertaining to a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 2927, situated at Brgy. Bacsil, Paoay, Ilocos Norte, covered by OCT No. P-29118 has been adjudicated by his legal heirs unto themselves and simultaneously sold unto **Remie Digap** as per instrument executed before Notary Public Atty. **Pia Maria Barbara Mirca C. Cua**; Doc. No. 213; Page No. 44; Book No. VII; Series of 2021.

Jan. 24, Jan. 31 & Feb. 7, 2022* *Ilocos Sentinel*



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FEATURE:

Ph bets from Narvacan High School clinch int'l olympiad, silver, bronze

Representing the Philippine flag in the international arena, three teams from the Narvacan National Central High School (NNCHS) Robotics program emerged victorious after bagging awards in the 23rd International Robot Olympiad-Korea conducted via Zoom, January 24.

A month of long hours of training in programming paid off after the teams showcased their final output in three categories; AI soccer, Robot in Movie, and Creative Category challenge.

Last December 18, 2021, Team Narvacan DPC, composed of Aleckhein Cabasa,

Grade 12 STEM Feynman and Rosemarie de Peralta, Grade 12 STEM Maxwell with their coach Roxanne Rimbaoa, bagged the Silver Award in Robot in Movie Challenge.

"It was the best gift ever. We are very much privileged to bring pride and honor to our school. We just did what our coaches told us to do and, it brings us here having the silver award", de Peralta said in awe.

Meanwhile, on January 20, 2022, the contest on Creative Category was held. Team Narvacan BE consists of Mark Jason Bocaling and Ike Freniel Enomis, both from Grade 12 STEM Volta, garnered the Bronze Award, on the other hand, Team Narvacan CCA with its members Christian

Campanilla, Grade 12 STEM Maxwell, and Sandra Rose Callejo, Grade 12 STEM Feynman managed to take home the Technical Award. Vince Clyde Cardenas and Eduardo Cuartelon served as the coaches, respectively.

"After learning that one of our school's robotics team won an award, we were inspired to improve our presentation, step up our performance and do better for the last round," Bocaling shared.

Madelyn W. Enomis, Assistant Principal II of the Senior High School, expressed her gratitude to all those who extended their help, "NNCHS Robotics Team started with uncertainties. But the overwhelming support of our stakeholders, our quest

to the 23rd International Robotics Olympiad turns to reality. Our success is the honor of our country, province, municipality, school, and above all for the glory of God."

Emilio G. Ayson Jr, School Principal IV proudly shared, "those prestigious awards were manifestations that despite the global health crisis we are experiencing today, we still deliver the quality education our learners deserve to have."

NNCHS Robotics program is conducting online training for its new members to be competing later this year. (text by: Melvin Tamayo/DepEd Region I)

Imee: Release poll precinct numbers early for less delays, fewer disenfranchised voters

Senator Imee Marcos has expressed worry that mock polls held last year did not thoroughly run through pandemic protocols and may lead to voters losing their way at election centers and being disenfranchised in the May 9 elections.

Marcos, who chairs the Senate committee on electoral reforms and people's participation, said that overcrowding took place during last year's mock polls due to technical and logistical glitches.

Participants spent much time looking for their names and assigned precincts, vote-counting machines jammed or rejected ballots, and a weak internet signal delayed the voting process.

Marcos questioned the Comelec on the role of the Department of Health (DOH) in implementing health protocols in polling precincts nationwide, after the Comelec reported that it took 10 minutes and 47 seconds for each voter to cast a vote during the mock polls.

"What exactly is the role of DOH? With the overcrowding that took place, did we not fall short in applying Covid-19 protocols?" Marcos asked.

Marcos recommended that another round of mock polls be held with more participation from DOH personnel and for the Comelec to immediately release guidelines on how election campaigns should be conducted.

"I urge the Comelec to issue guidelines ASAP on how to maintain safety during caravans, sorties, house-to-house visits and town hall meetings," Marcos emphasized.

The Comelec should also speed up the release of voter precinct assignments through social media platforms instead of just mailing the information to registered voters, the senator added.

Marcos expressed regret that early voting for vulnerable groups could not take place on May 9 because the Senate did not pass Senate Bill 1104, which she authored.

The bill could have allowed vulnerable groups like senior citizens, persons with disability (PWDs), and pregnant women to vote ahead of the general public.

The privilege could also have been extended to health workers, poll watchers, military and police personnel, and the media, the senator said.

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking." — Steve Jobs

NIA.....(back page)

held on Wednesday at the NIA-Regional Office 1 in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan.

De Vera cited the Madongan Dam in the province of Ilocos Norte as one of the irrigation projects of NIA that offers a majestic view where visiting tourists could enjoy the cascading waterfalls.

Engr. Gertrudes Viado, former manager of Ilocos Sur Irrigation Management Office (ISIMO) and now the Pangasinan IMO (PIMO) manager, likewise shared that the Barbar Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP) in Ilocos Sur has become a tourism site where people can find relaxation and enjoyment.

"Sa Ilocos Sur, merong Barbar SRIP na ngayon ay maraming pumupunta. Nagba-vlog na nga sila doon kasi maganda 'yong place, nasa bundok. Naglagay din kami ng 50,000 tilapia fingerlings at marami na ring tao ang nagbibingwit pero bawal ang maramihan. 'Yong mga SRIP projects namin actually ay magandang tourist attractions," Viado said.

Prior to the press conference was the ceremonial leadership turnover within the top management of NIA in the region presided by NIA Administrator Ricardo Visaya through Zoom.

Engr. De Vera, former manager of PIMO, was promoted as the acting regional manager of NIA-Region 1 replacing Engr. Angelito Miguel.

Engr. Miguel was reappointed as project manager of the Lower Agno River Irrigation System Improvement Project (LARISIP) effective this January.

Engr. Viado, former manager of ISIMO, took over as PIMO manager in an acting capacity while Principal Engineer C Engr. Aurelia Reasonda of PIMO was designated as acting ISIMO manager.

For 2022, De Vera said the Agency remains committed to its mandate of providing efficient, reliable, and sustainable irrigation service to the Filipino farmers, the agricultural heroes who feed the nation. (APRIL M. MONTES-BRAVO/PIA Pangasinan)

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"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking." — Steve Jobs

PSA.....(back page)

PSA Regional Office in this city will receive his or her free copy of birth or marriage certificate.

Meanwhile, CRS clients in queue will be given a chance to answer questions concerning civil registration and those who will give the correct answer will be given a simple token

from PSA. Proclamation 682 declares the month of February of every year as Civil Registration Month affirmed by former President Corazon C. Aquino on January 28, 1991. (Joanne Namnama P. Dilim/PIA La Union)

Officials.....(back page)

the Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (TF-ELCAC) through President Rodrigo Duterte's Executive Order No. 70-2018.

"We credit this development to the TF-ELCAC - the enhanced political will on the part of the government working on the really problematic areas natin; the LGUs and NGAs including private sectors for putting resources which benefit the people; and through the consultation with the populace, nalaman natin ang problems nila kaya talagang importante na we integrate the community with the decision making process. Through the

active participation of the people, nakikita nila na they belong to the government and they will realize na hindi lamang ang mga public servants ang bumubuo sa gobyerno but it's also them, the community... they are the government," he added.

It can be remembered that Ilocos Region was declared as free from armed insurgents in 2021 when the only existing guerilla front of the CPP-NPA-NDF in the Ilocos Region, which is the Komiteng Larangang Gerilya-South Ilocos Sur or the KLG-SIS, was dismantled. (Joyah Mae C. Quimoyog/PIA-Ilocos Sur)

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Top regional officials of various national government agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the Inter-Agency Border Security Coordinating Council held at Aureo Hotel, San Fernando City, La Union on February 3, 2022. The council is composed of regional offices from the Bureau of Customs, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Navy, Bureau of Immigration, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, Philippine National Police, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, and Police Regional Maritime Unit. (Photo courtesy of PRO1)

NIA eyes tourism potential in irrigation projects

DAGUPAN CITY, Jan. 31 (PIA) – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is keen in utilizing the agency’s irrigation systems to attain its optimum benefits not only for farmers but also to communities. Engr. Gaudencio De Vera, regional manager of NIA in Ilocos, sees the great potential of irrigation projects as tourist destination sites to allow visitors to enjoy nature and be added to the already booming tourism industry in the region.

“Marami tayong mga ginagawa na nako-convert as tourism spots,” De Vera told the media in a press conference (Pls. turn to page 7)

Officials eye ‘insurgency-free’ Ilocos Region this 2022

VIGAN CITY, Jan. 31 (PIA) -- Officials eye 2022 as a banner year for the government’s peace and development efforts especially in Ilocos Region.

“The declaration of Ilocos Region as ‘insurgency-free’ is very much attainable this year. It’s something we look forward to,” said Brigadier General Krishnamurti A. Mortela, Commander of the 702nd Infantry

Brigade, 7th Infantry Division, Philippine Army in an interview.

According to Brigadier General Mortela, some of the key indicators for this declaration are the absence of violent incident/s; absence of armed groups; and lack of support to the Communist Terrorist Groups (CTG) from the community in the region, among others.

He said the region has been generally

peaceful and is even improving as various activities, especially in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) and former conflict-affected areas, have been conducted smoothly.

“One year na diretsong wala tayong violent incident/s, there were no reported presence of the armed groups in the area. It’s something we can really be proud of

and one of these days we shall be recommending the declaration of an insurgency-free Ilocos Region,” Mortela said.

He credited this development to the institutionalization of the whole-of-nation approach of the local government units (LGUs) and various national government agencies (NGAs) including private sectors as members of (Pls. turn to page 7)

PSA to lead 32nd Civil Registration Month

SAN FERNANDO CITY, Jan. 31 (PIA) -- The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in Ilocos Region will lead anew the celebration of the 32nd Civil Registration Month in February.

Jim Ian Bautista, PSA information officer, said this year’s activities are in line with the theme, “Improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Implementation Strategies through Digital Transformation.”

“Its celebration aims to strengthen and intensify the commitment

and advocacy of the PSA to deliver effective and efficient civil registration services and timely vital

statistics to its clients and stakeholders,” Bautista said.

To kick-off the regional celebration, the PSA will conduct a motorcade on Feb.2 around this city.

Other advocacy activities will be undertaken such as civil registration quiz bees to be participated in separately by civil registrars and employees, free issuance of civil registry documents, conduct of forum, and other interactive games.

For the whole month of February, the first client senior citizen or person with disability to arrive in the Civil Registry Services (CRS) outlet based in the (Pls. turn to page 7)

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