

the VISION

30 YEARS OF COMMITMENT BEYOND JOURNALISM

The Official Student Publication of Lipa City Colleges
Lipa City, Batangas

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**LCC tops July-August CLE,
CCJE dean eyes full-blown
face-to-face classes**

■ Andrei Vincent Pajalla, News Editor

LIPA CITY COLLEGES (LCC) has again proven its excellence as one of the best criminology schools in the country after being named the top-performing school in the July-August Criminologist Licensure Examination (CLE) released by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) last August 22.

The institution achieved this recognition nationwide with 51 to 100 examinees among collegiate institutions with at least 80% passing percentage. On this note, LCC produced 46 passers out of 52 takers boasting an impressive 88.46% passing rate in the nationwide examinee bracket.

The recent achievement replicates the previous performances of the College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) led by the former dean, Mr. Alexander C. Muria, where LCC became one of the premier criminology institutions in the country after placing as the second top-performing school in April 2016 and June 2019 Criminologist Licensure Examinations with a passing rate of 91.94% and 87.27% respectively.

Among the number of institutional examinees this year, LCC achieved an 88% passing rate after 44 out of 50 first-time examinees passed the boards while notching a 100% passing percentage among 2 examination repeaters.

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Scan this code to watch The VISION's
2nd best documentary in the SPAM
15th National Media Conference

BeyondJournalism



i-WIN. Jonas Maranan, Alhodia Sandoval, Jayven Magsino, Ryan De Guzman (left to right) win 2nd place in the i-Documento Documentary making contest during the 15th National Media Campus Conference, Tagaytay, Cavite, September 20.

Photo by Renato Kison IV, Writer

DAUNTLESS DEBUT

The VISION scribes debut in SPAM nat’l confab, hailed PH’s 2nd best documentary

■ Gabriel Valida, Writer

FIVE OF THE NINE staffers debuted with respective wins in the 15th National Media Campus Media Conference held at Angels’ Hills Tagaytay Retreat and Formation Center, Tagaytay City, Cavite, September 18-20.

Landing on their first national scholastic press conference organized by School Press Advisers Movement, Inc. (SPAM) alongside De La Salle Lipa (DLSL), 5 experienced staffers emerged winners in the national press tilt including graduating Chief Artist, Rhenber Hian Morada who clinched 4th place in Editorial Cartooning-English, while the quartet of Jayven Magsino (Associate Editor); Jonas Maranan (Managing Editor); Ryan Phillippe De Guzman (Chief Photojournalist); and newcomer Alhodia Thea Venisse Sandoval, was hailed the 2nd best national documentary team in I-Dokumento: National Documentary contest in their “AI Nakul” entry.

The publication’s immaculate run in the documentary competition landed them as one of the top contenders among 37 other higher education institutions (HEIs) across the country, including The

Benildean of De La Salle-College of St. Benilde, who were the eventual winners of the turf.

Meanwhile, other Executive Editorial Board members and staffers who represented the publication are as follows: Joe Vincent Fernandez (Editor-in-Chief)- Editorial Writing-English; third-year Chin Chin Joy Factor-Editorial Writing-Filipino; Jayven Magsino-News Writing (English); Andrei Vincent Pajalla (News Editor)-News Writing-Filipino, while Isabella Faye Alfajaro (Sports Editor) and publication neophytes Renato Kison IV and Alhodia Thea Venisse Sandoval bannered the publication in the Pautakang Pampahayagan: National Quiz Bee on Campus Journalism, respectively.

The VISION’s national press conference debut was spurred by its successful outings in the previous editions of Regional and Luzonwide Higher Education Press Conferences in Lucban, Quezon, and Naga City last February and March, where the same staffers emerged victors in various individual writing marathons.

Meanwhile, TVGOP vows to represent Lipa City Colleges once again as it eyes to be a member school of the national media organization for the next iteration of the national competition.

KITCHEN FEST

CITHM hauls awards in BAFBEX 12 Gastrolympics, 15th Nat’l Food Showdown

■ John Dave Titular, Writer

COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT (CITHM) students displayed Lipa City Colleges’ brand of tourism and hospitality excellence as they triumphed the Batangas Food and Beverage Exposition 2024 (BAFBEX 12) Gastrolympics and the 15th National Food Showdown-Lutong Ala Eh, The Outlets at Lima and University of Batangas-Lipa Campus (UBLIC), November 10 and 21-22.

Setting up the pace in table setting, CITHM students Jhasime Lasat, Jules Lawrence Macuha, and Jaica Virgenia Malaga emerged third place in the table set-up competition in the De La Salle Lipa-led provincial-wide food and beverage expo themed, "Gastrolympics: Creating a Gastronomic Journey with a Surprise on the Senses."

Meanwhile, taking their spots in the national food competition themed, "Kusina Filipina: Keep the Momentum... Full Speed Ahead!", the following students surfaced as they bagged awards in various culinary competitions: Jenny Rose Cuevas (Gold Award, Mocktail Mixing-College Division); Leigh Allen Divina (Silver Award, Cocktail Mixing-College Division); Hannah Alyssa Bote (Silver Award, Napkin Folding-College Division); Kyle Laurence Mendoza, Shane Ashley Palomares, and Athea Nicole Umali (Bronze Award, Table Setting with Centerpiece); Rica Mae Imperial (Bronze Award, Baby Cakes Display-College Division); and Jimuel De Leon, Ryan Adrian Rivera, and Gerbie Jewel Tormes (5th Place, HRT Quiz Bee).

Meanwhile, climbing to the top of the national food chain, St. Therese MTC Colleges clinched the overall champion spot at the collegiate level joined by 34 fellow entrants all over Luzon, while the University of Batangas - Batangas City Senior High School flared the overall title run in the senior high school division.

The 4th edition of the two-day nationwide culinary contest this year in Lipa City hosted by UBLIC is anchored on the countrywide celebration of culinary skills, creativity, and talent among the top chefs, food innovators, and hotel and restaurant schools and universities in the country.

Ang pinaka-bunso ng National Food Showdown at napakalapit sa sa aking puso ay ang Lipa. Ang importante talaga dito, lahat magsama-sama kahit na iba-iba ang rehiyon na pinanggalingan ng National Food Showdown, iisa lang naman ang tema at [objective] ng ating National Food Showdown, [at ito ay] maipagmalaki at mag-create ng awareness sa sarili nating bayan, na ang pagkaing Pilipino ay dapat nating ipagbunyi,

shared Chef Myrna Segismundo, overall chairman of the nationwide competition, in an interview with Balisong Channel.

The Lipeña chef also mentioned that the two-year-old national food and beverage competition that started in 2023 promised to champion local culinary practices and sustainability efforts in heeding the call to reduce food waste among local food industries.

ExclusiveReport

SL banners LCC in TRAC’s int’l SAS convention, PUP stalwart tops OSLP ‘24

■ Joe Vincent Fernandez, Editor-in-Chief

SCHOLARS’ LEAGUE (SL) President Jayven Magsino alongside adviser Ms. Kim Alyanna Gonzales bannered Lipa City Colleges (LCC) in the 4th International Convention on Student Affairs and Services (SAS), Venus Parkview Hotel, Burnham Park, Baguio City, October 2-4.

Armed with the theme, “Navigating the Digital Landscape in SAS for Empowering Leaders,” the two delegates represented LCC in the nationwide convention organized by the Transforming Advocates and Champions Philippines (TRAC Philippines) and joined by various higher educational institutions (HEIs) in the country.

Magsino, the publication’s Associate Editor and the College of Education and Liberal Arts (CELA) Governor of the Central Student Government, and Ms. Gonzales, the office assistant for scholarships area of LCC’s office of Student Services | Marketing, Scholarships, Linkages, and Career Placement (SSMSLCP) were among the more than 300 national delegates who pitched in the international convention aimed at producing international training-workshops from internationally-acclaimed speakers for student affairs professionals, educators, and student-leaders.

The convention’s local and international keynote and plenary speakers included the Dean of the Office of Student Affairs of Arellano University, Prof. Sherwin Punla; University of Santo Tomas’ College of Science faculty member, Dr. Myreen P. Cleofe; Former Undersecretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Mr. Monchito IB. Ibbrahim; Philosophy professor and best-selling author, Mr. Michael Angelo Lobrin; and the Assistant Dean of Students for the Office of Student Affairs of the National University of Singapore, Dr. Kuan Yee Han, who shared their expertise in student affairs and leadership to the attendees of the conclave dubbed “Advocates” and “Champions”.

The delegates also explored various student competitions including Idea Fest, a presentation of student organization projects, where Magsino shared “Project enReach,” a program piloted by SL last year. The 2nd-year education major student also joined the on-the-spot essay writing competition, among several contests such as student exhibits, poster-making contests, spoken poetry contests, photography contests, and talent competitions.

Meanwhile, the convention also featured the recognition of the top 10 Outstanding Student Leaders of the Philippines (OSLP) following an elaborate screening made through the formation and immersion program of the top 25 finalists last August 24-25, at Helping Land, Tondo, Manila.

The two-day community exploration, in cooperation with Project Pearls and AY Foundation, Inc., immersed the finalists in providing food, conducting tutorials, and other community works with the children of Tondo in annexing TRAC’s objectives as part of the SAS convention.

TRAC also declared October 1, 2024, as Student Leaders’ Day in a celebratory moment aimed at championing student leaders and professionals across the country who were part of the SAS ensemble.

As such, Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Sta. Mesa alumnus and Iraya Mangyan Indigenous Cultural Community advocate, John Leonard E. Evangelista emerged as the Top 1 Outstanding Student Leader of the country, besting over 200 applicants in the annual nationwide convention of student leaders.

Furthermore, the performing arts graduate took to social media the role and accountability that must be held by educational institutions and local governments for the empowerment of student leaders.

“Kinakailangang mabigyang- pansin at pagkilala ang mga lider- estudyante sa bawat paaralan, at mabigyan ng sapat na edukasyon sa pamumuno,” shared Evangelista in a Facebook post, renouncing their hope for the formation of the potentials of marginalized student leaders in the country.

Following this convention, a free webinar dubbed OSLP Talks is set for January 4, 2025, with the top 10 outstanding changemakers headlining the online forum targeted at inspiring young leaders across the country.

Prexy’s convocation, Employees’ Recognition day kick off new academic year

■ Andrei Vincent Pajalla, News Editor

THE OFFICE of Human Resource Department hosted the first institutional assembly of Lipa City Colleges’ President Joe Vincent J. Abiera and the annual employees’ recognition day to officially kickstart the Academic Year 2024-2025 held at LCC Auditorium, August 9.

The annual assembly of the school’s administration and workforce was prompted by Dr. Abiera’s convocation address where he shared the activities, achievements, and initiatives of the institution that were carried out during the previous academic year under his leadership.

Dr. Abiera reiterated his ambitions of continuously working on the school’s persistent commitment to excellence and relevance, which he shared during his inaugural address as the school’s 5th President last April 11.

"My presidency aspires for LCC to be an excellent, relevant, innovative, and socially transformative institution. These aspirations will serve as a foundation to concretize our objectives through the programs, activities, and initiatives that we will begin to implement this academic year," uttered Dr. Abiera.

The institution’s 5th president also expressed his confidence that LCC will become a globally engaged academic community through the initiatives he set forth under his presidency.

"We will make sure that LCC becomes a globally engaged academic community and we will do our best to enhance our international standing and prestige through these internalization initiatives," he shared.

Moreover, the former Vice President for Administration and Corporate Affairs also mentioned that LCC will keep participating in community activities by offering scholarships and assistance to marginalized students, one of its roles in upholding social transformation as part of its six-point agenda.

"Since one of my aspirations for our institution is to be socially transformative, we shall continue to be actively involved in community engagement by helping out the financially disadvantaged citizens through scholarship grants and assistance programs," he added.

He also vows to improve the quality of work-life balance of employees as he sets his vision on providing an enriching and nurturing service to the community along with its students, alumni, and stakeholders.

During his presentation, the LCC’s main man also shared that the office of Research and Development under Ms. April Acielo will be labeled as the Research and Creative Works office to cater to the diverse forms of studies and specializations of each program, in compliance with CHED Memorandum (CMO) number 15 series of 2019.

Meanwhile, the awarding of special recognitions, top performers, and service awardees among the employees of the institution commenced after the president’s address.

The Records Clerk in the Registrar’s Office, Ms. Flordeluna V. Gella, a 10-year service awardee, worded her message of gratitude as she shared her work experiences at LCC since 2014.

"Kaya nandito po ako sa harapan nyong lahat ten years and counting, na sana po sa mga susunod pa na general assembly ay tayo-tayo pa rin po ang magkakasama, masaya at nagkakaisa, sabi nga ‘di ga, lalayo ka pa ga?, mag-LCC na," uttered Gella.

Further, the Director of the Social Orientation and Community Extension Program, Alumni Affairs, Dr. Lolita M. Amargo gave her gratitude for being a 22-year service awardee.

"Wag kayong aalis dito, and I tell you, your life will be a very successful one like me," said Dr. Amargo in her acceptance message.

Meanwhile, the institution also recognized the institution’s Vice President for Finance and Internal Affairs, Dr. Marjorie M. Abiera for her 30-year service as one of the members of LCC’s Board of Trustees.



SHARING THE MANTLE. Registered Psychometrician Jimwell Panopio spearheads a roundtable workshop to certify 4th Year AB Psychology students as mental health first aiders during a student-led seminar, Lipa City Colleges, Lipa City, November 16.

Photo by Renato Kison IV, Writer

Psychology studes mount on ‘Pagsikhay’ for Group Dynamics ventures

■ Joe Vincent Fernandez, Editor-in-Chief & Kim Joshua Dela Rosa, Writer

FOURTH-YEAR PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS of the College of Education and Liberal Arts (CELA) department staged three student-led seminars for their Group Dynamics class, Lipa City Colleges, November 12-December 3.

Underscoring the theme, “Pagsikhay: Empowering Collective Understanding and Synergistic Pursuit for Mental Health and Well-Being,” psychology seniors ushered education and psychology students, student-leaders, and senior high school students in their student forums banked on the collective objective of providing dynamic concepts and equipping them with personal, academic, and professional guidance.

Anchored on the National Children’s Month celebration, the class’ first offering last November 12 at LCC Auditorium, patronized by CELA students labeled as mental health advocates and future educators, highlighted the appropriate ventures in understanding and caring for children with special needs.

The discussion headlined by the CAD Children’s Developmental Therapy Center directress, Ms. Mars De Castro-Salvacion, imparted basic knowledge and skills to students on handling children with special needs and conditions, emphasizing the appropriate interventions and strategies for resolving their concerns.

Meanwhile, the second batch of student-organizers also galvanized a seminar workshop dubbed "Proactive PsyCare: Mental Health First Aid Seminar-Workshop for Mental Health Advocates" last November 16 at the Audio Visual Room (AVR) joined by Lipa City Colleges Psychology Society (LCCPS) officers and Eunoia staffers.

Waging the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 3, "Good Health and Wellbeing", the seminar featured a discussion on mental health first aid (MHFA) and how to be an effective mental health first aider that was headlined by the Human Resource Management Officer I of the Provincial Government of Batangas, Ms. Em Charise Benedicto, Rpm, CHRA.

The conclave also showcased a roundtable workshop facilitated by Mr. Jimwell Panopio, Rpm, which granted the participants a valid certification as mental health first aiders for a year, following their stint in the seminar workshop.

On the other hand, the class’ last group staged their last seminar dubbed "Tayo (pa rin) sa Sikolohiyang Pilipino: Paano maging isang Pilipino?" last December 3 at LCC Auditorium.

Former The VISION opinion editor and registered psychometrician Andrea Gail Punzalan graced the discussion enjoined by psychology major students and senior high school students of LCC Silvercrest School with insightful contemporary ideas on Filipino Psychology, enclosing topics such as toxic Filipino traits and synchronous characteristics of a 'modern pinoy'.

Meanwhile, banked on LCCPS’ flagship program last year, the organizers of the event vowed to continuously promote local representation and indigenization through its perpetuation of the same activity that highlighted the introduction of the course not only among psychology majors but also in other programs’ curricula.

Meanwhile, course adviser Dr. Noralyn M. Muria shared that the activities conducted by the class significantly enhanced students’ understanding of group dynamics and functioning through interactive and collaborative learning experiences.

She also noted that the students were able to foster practical skills evidenced by the relatively positive results of the course’s learning outcomes shared by the mentor.

“Under the theme of Pagsikhay, each activity addresses critical aspects of mental health and aligns closely with the course objectives related to knowledge, skills, and attitudes,” she furthered.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

LCC alumna ranks 1st in Oct ‘24 CHRA results

■ Renato Kison IV, Writer

MA. LYCA MACATANGAY, a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology alumna of the class of 2024, clinched the top spot in the October 2024 Certified Human Resource Associate (CHRA) Assessment Examination administered by the Human Resource Educators’ Association of the Philippines, Inc. (HREAP), leading the list of the Top 10 examinees for Batch 52, October 25.

Macatangay achieved an impressive rating of 93.25% and made history as Lipa City Colleges’ first-ever top 1 in the CHRA examination, surpassing an overall passing rate (OPR) of 75.11%.

Notably, LCC previously earned a top-performing school designation with a 100% passing rate among 8 test takers

in Batch 16 of the CHRA online assessment in October 2021.

Meanwhile, earlier this year, fellow alumnae Aliyah Niña Acuña and Cherrie Rose Cuenca also placed in the top 10, earning 3rd and 4th, correspondingly for Batch 49 in the July 2024 examinations, while Maria Leonora Manalastas and Hanna Glayse Lahom ranked 2nd and 5th, respectively in the May 2024 examinations.

CHRA assessment examination is a nationwide professional examination of the basic knowledge of human resource management administered by HREAP monthly in various testing centers across the nation, including online platforms.



FAR-REACHING. U.S. Ambassador Mary Kay L. Carlson, gives her opening remarks during the EducationUSA University Fair, an event programmed to build international connections to United States, One Ayala Mall, Makati, October 9.

Photo: EducationUSA Philippines Facebook Page

SL girds int’l opportunities in 8th EducationUSA Univ Fair

■ Sofia Margaret Laugan, Photojournalist

SCHOLARS' LEAGUE of the Lipa City Colleges participated in the concluded 8th EducationUSA University Fair organized by the U.S. Embassy to cater to U.S. educational inquiries and opportunities at One Ayala Mall, Makati City, October 9.

The EducationUSA Fair operates in over 170 countries worldwide, including the Philippines, to offer accessible, timely, and extensive resources and services for prospective students, in pursuit of U.S. educational opportunities.

The event was programmed into two different arrangements, having the first one, the 5th EducationUSA University Fair, held in Cebu at the Radisson Blu Hotel on October 8.

Meanwhile, the 8th EducationUSA University Fair was held in Manila at the One Ayala Mall on October 9.

The EducationUSA Fair was completely free and open to all interested students, parents, guardians, and school administrators who seek to explore the wide variety of opportunities in the United States.

The selected participants from the Scholars' League were: Jayven Magsino (President); John Vincent Palo (Vice President Internal); Joe Vincent Fernandez (Vice President External); Beatriz Garcia (Secretary); Louisa Beth Javier (Auditor); Jermaine Kim Austria (Business Manager); and Alhodia Thea Venisse Sandoval (Public Information Officer), together with the organization's advisers, Mr. Noriel Leyesa, and Ms. Maricel Lanto.

Moreover, more than 40 U.S. colleges and universities were featured in the fair including University of Kentucky, University of Rochester, Xavier University, and Yale School of the Environment.

The event enabled the participants to directly interact with the representatives from the institutions, establish international networking, and explore potential partnerships and educational opportunities for both graduate and undergraduate programs in the United States.

LCCian scribes join ‘Project Pugad Lawin: Second Flight’

■ Rose Ann Dela Cruz, Writer

THE VISION GROUP OF PUBLICATIONS (TVGOP) held its qualifying examination for a new batch of aspiring campus journalists who registered for the Project Pugad Lawin: Second Flight Project for Academic Year 2024-2025, Learning Resource Center, August 27.

Aspiring scribes from the institution brought to the table their expertise in broadcasting, photojournalism, video editing, and journalistic writing categories.

Out of the 24 applicants who took part at this juncture, 19 campus journalists were selected from various categories after a thorough assessment and qualifying examination that had been approved by the publication's editorial board and adviser.

NEWS QUADRANGLES

LCC generates 13 new educators in Sept ‘24 LEPT

■ Sofia Margaret Laugan, Photojournalist

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION of Lipa City Colleges produced 13 new teachers in both elementary and secondary levels following the pronouncement of a 45.51% elementary-level national passing rate and a 56.88% secondary-level national passing rate in the press release announced by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) for the Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (LEPT), December 13.

Graduate School ushers 77th graduation ceremony

■ Andrei Vincent Pajalla, News Editor

LIPA CITY COLLEGES (LCC) Graduate School spearheaded the 77th Commencement Exercises for its master studies professionals, LCC Auditorium, October 12.

Headlined by the department's dean, Dr. Orbel M. Canoy, the convention themed, “*Embracing Change, Inspiring Innovation, Shaping Tomorrow*” conferred the diplomas and awards to the graduates of Master in Public Administration, Master of Arts in Education, and Master in Business Administration in both thesis and non-thesis programs.

JPIA-LCC hauls awards in ‘Be The Bida’ short film contest

■ Joe Vincent Fernandez, Editor-in-Chief

JUNIOR Philippine Institute of Accountants - Lipa City Colleges (JPIA-LCC) chapter bagged numerous awards in the ‘Be The Bida’ Short Film Making contest organized by the National Federation JPIA Region IV-A, August 2.

The student organization's film, “Ang Pangarap kong Dibling” and crew, pulled massive wins, including the best short film, 2nd best trailer, 3rd best scene, and special awards, such as Best Director (John Paul Alonzo), Best Actor (James Errol Reyes), Best Actress (Abigal Suco), Best Supporting Actor (Patrick Cuasay), and Best Cinematography in the inter-school regional competition among 11 JPIA confederates in the region.

LCC lists seven new RPms in Aug ‘24 boards

■ Jouie Allaine Malabuyoc, Writer

LIPA CITY COLLEGES notched a 63.64% passing percentage after seven new psychometricians headlined the school's production of board passers in the August 2024 Board Licensure Examination for Psychometricians and Psychologists (BLEPP).

With a total of 11 first-time examinees, seven alumni successfully passed the examination administered last August 11-12 in nationwide testing centers. Concurrently, the national passing rate of 69.78% was relatively lower than the August 2023 BLEPP national average of 73.27%, where LCC logged a nether 30% overall performance score.

JFINEX pilots leadership, personal dev’t seminar

■ Jonas Maranan, Managing Editor

UNDERSCORING LEADERSHIP and personal development in pursuit of health and sustainable discussions, the Junior Financial Executives (JFINEX)-Lipa City Colleges chapter bannered a seminar-workshop dubbed “Leadership as a Catalyst for SDG 3: Harnessing Leadership Power to Elevate Health and Sustainability”, LCC Auditorium, September 28.

Exploring the other side

TVGOP partakes in UP Diliman’s Break Free MoJo competition

■ Stephen Isaac Beng-at, Layout Artist

AMID SHOOTING at the expense of super typhoon ‘Pepito’, The VISION's staffers held the line for its entry, “KatuTubos” in the 1st Mobile Journalism competition of Break Free Alliance, November 9-28.

The MoJo competition was organized by the Break Free Alliance of the Union of Journalists of the Philippines-University of the Philippines Diliman (UJP UP Diliman), together with the UP College of Mass Communication Student Council, UP Diliman University Student Council, UP Journalism Club - UPJC and UP Solidaridad in commemoration of the 15th year of the Ampatuan Massacre themed, “*The Role of the Press during Elections*”

Further, the national contest is part of the 2024 roster of events organized by the alliance that aims to “empower student journalists to be creative in their storytelling while raising awareness of the crucial role of journalists during elections.”

The publication's participation in the national MoJo competition was headlined by senior staffers Joe Vincent Fernandez (Editor-in-Chief); Jonas Maranan (Managing Editor); Andrei Vincent Pajalla (News Editor); alongside news correspondents John Virgil Ramirez and Dallas Faith Cleamer.

Inspired by the concealed experiences of marginalized communities of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) during the election season, the publication sets its footing on a mobile reportage, highlighting national issues faced by IPs and the country's political dynasty problems.

Meanwhile, two entries from the collegiate level among the more than combined 40 entrants in both high school and college levels across the country made it to the screening panel selection but fell short of becoming shortlisted and advancing to the final round.

On the other hand, Break Free announced on December 1 the top 3 high schools that seized awards in the contest including Quezon City Science High School (1st place); Fortunato F. Halili National Agricultural High School (2nd place); and Cagayan National High School (3rd place), respectively based on the awarding and closing ceremonies last November 28.

The organizers of the competition also staged media safety training sessions, nationwide protests, and forums, as they vow to continue their pursuit of advancing press freedom in the country.

“*We urge media practitioners and budding journalists to remain vigilant and learn from the press' long history of endured injustice and unfair treatment from the powers that be,*” the organization furthered in their unity statement published last November 23.



LCC tops July-August CLE... | from page 01

On this note, PRC logged a 49.35% national passing rate after 11,121 out of the 22,539 test takers successfully passed the examination, a relatively higher national percentage compared to the 32.68% passing rate in August 2023.

Meanwhile, when asked about her thoughts on the college's recent achievement, the current dean of the department, Dr. Edna Sanchez, shared that despite holding review sessions for two months, the now-registered criminologists proved that they are more than ready and qualified to take the licensure examination.

The dean also shared her proud words on the collaborative support among the school's administration and the faculty of the department for the college's recognition. Moving forward, the department is keen to keep on improving its program focus and services on the college level following the recent achievements of the future cops.

"This semester, we are planning to expose our students to seminars and training. Sisimulan namin sa pag-identify ng mga students na may potential then sila 'yung magiging speaker sa isang lecture-seminar sa iba't-ibang area ng criminology," she furthered.

The department is also looking forward to the request for the full-blown implementation of face-to-face classes in the institution to further reinforce in-person teaching and practical lessons among criminology students.

NESTEDSTORY

LCC brings two awards in PACUCOA 35th GA, **hailed college with fifth highest accredited programs in PH**

■ Kate Dimaunahan, Artist

LIPA CITY COLLEGES (LCC) soared anew in the 35th General Assembly of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA), bagging two awards during its 51st Founding Anniversary, Novotel Manila Araneta City, Quezon City, December 10.

The institution continued to make its mark as one of CALABARZON's and the country's up-and-coming educational institutions after being hailed as the country's college with the fifth-highest accredited programs and the first school offering a criminology program to be granted Level IV accredited status in Region IV.

Being one of the top-performing criminology schools in the country evidenced by the school's impressive results in the July-August Criminologists Licensure Examination, LCC stands as a premier higher educational institution (HEI) to provide quality education, particularly in the criminology program.

Further, with 16 accredited programs as of October 2024 including the newly-accredited Senior High School for basic education, and Master in Public Administration, Master of Arts in Education, and Master in Business Administration programs for Graduate School, LCC brandished a seal of excellence in its academic programs and educational operations being one of the country's top schools with certified levels from basic education to higher education.

The awards were received by the school's Director of Student Services | Marketing, Scholarships, Linkages and Career Placement (SSMSLCP), Mr. Aldwin R. Jose, and Director of the Social Orientation and Community Extension Program (SOCEP), Dr. Lolita Amargo, who also represented the institution in the annual conference.

This is LCC's third award in two years after receiving the recognition as the only institution to receive Level III reaccreditation (RA) status for its kindergarten program in the country last year during PACUCOA's golden anniversary in Cebu City.

Meanwhile, the institution also participated in the poster contest as one of the activity highlights of the assembly this year anchored on the theme, "Enhancing Employability through Quality Assurance and International Standards," joined by all PACUCOA-accredited schools and programs in the country.

LCC, HEIs' internationalization pursuits lauded in CHED CALABARZON IZN Awards

■ Sophia Danniella Arevalo, Photojournalist

COMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) Regional Office IV headlined the CHED CALABARZON IZN Awards in partnership with the Association of the International Relations officers to recognize various higher education institutions (HEIs) in Region IV for their internationalization programs and efforts, Lyceum of the Philippines University-Cavite, December 18.

The awarding ceremony recognized the top-performing HEIs across Region IV-A, including Lipa City Colleges, in the areas of research and innovation, academic delivery and instruction, community extension, and resource generation, towards their pursuit of employing an international collaboration from various international partners and schools.

The institution was represented by the Director for Student Services | Marketing, Scholarships, Linkages, and Career Placement, Mr. Aldwin R. Jose, together with the Linkages and Career Placement assistant, Ms. Maricel Lanto, who received the recognition for the

presentations in the international research and education conference in sciences and technology, including the internationalization initiatives in student and faculty exchange programs.

The award certified LCC's commitment to internationalization opportunities following its annual partnership and international cooperation with various international schools across Southeast Asia, including Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat University (BSRU) in Thailand, and Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar in Bali, Indonesia, among others, where the institution took part in various academic undertakings, student and cultural exchange programs, and internship opportunities for its students.

Meanwhile, the gathering of HEIs across CALABARZON fortified CHED's objective of instilling a culture among schools to expose their students to extensive access to higher education knowledge and cultural experiences in guiding them to become globally competitive individuals.

Behind the highest PNLE national passing rate

LCC charts 58 new nurses in Nov '24 PNLE

■ Rose Ann Dela Cruz, Writer

LIPA CITY COLLEGES (LCC) cataloged 58 newly registered nurses in the Philippine Nurses Licensure Examination (PNLE) results published by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) last November 28.

Behind the record-breaking national passing rate of 84.99%, LCC's College of Nursing (CON) successfully logged an 88.33% institutional passing rate or 53 first-time takers who successfully passed the November 2024 boards, while 5 exam repeaters comprised the 38.46% passing rate among 13 test retakers.

Consequently, the recent exams hailed 29,349 out of 34,534 new nurses who took the exams last November 9-10 across 19 nationwide testing centers located in NCR, Baguio, Butuan, Cagayan De Oro, Calapan, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Koronadal, Legazpi, Lucena, Pagadian, Palawan, Pampanga, Rosales, Tacloban, Tuguegarao and Zamboanga provinces, respectively.

The November 2024 passing rate saw a sweeping increase from the 69.72% recorded last May 2024. This is the board exam's highest passing rate since November last year when an 80% passing rate was established.

Meanwhile, a recognition ceremony was dedicated to the newly-passed nurses last December 6, organized by the CON department to hail the new medical professionals produced by the institution.

On the other hand, following the successful submission of new nurses across the country, the PRC held the eventual oath-taking ceremony last December 16 at the Plenary Hall, Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City.

Welcoming future accountants

LCC-JPIA hosts NFJPIA Region IV's 1st reg'l town hall meeting

■ John Virgil Ramirez, Layout Artist

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF JUNIOR PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS (NFJPIA) Region IV Council successfully launched the first segment of its Regional Town Hall held at LCC Auditorium, Lipa City Colleges, November 10.

The regional event introduced new leaders who will assist the symbolic bird of EKSULAWID labeled *Eskplorasyon Sugod Salinmbay Himpapawid*, and BAGWIS, in their journey this academic year.

Regional Council President Ben Christian Agonia warmly welcomed the participants from Region IV-A and IV-B, celebrating the year of EKSULAWID Federation initiatives, which follows the legacy of past first established federations: MARIRAYAS, IYARUMA, and LANAHAYA, respectively.

The program also featured the induction of the federation's regional executive board and local chapter executive officers for the federation year 2024-2025, conducted by inducting officer Mr. Jonathan Delos Reyes, CPA.

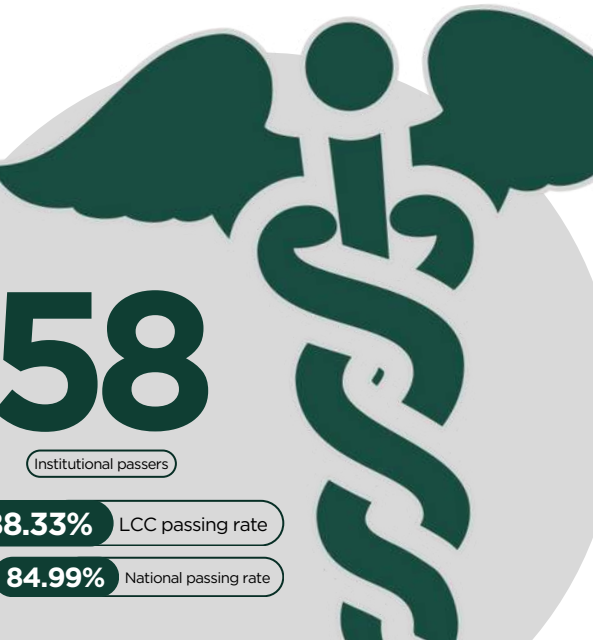
In his address, Mr. Delos Reyes emphasized the leadership potential of the newly inducted officers from different college institutions, urging them to uphold their responsibilities with dedication and integrity.

"You are the future leaders of the accounting profession in the Philippines," he remarked, encouraging them to use their unique strengths to make a positive impact.

A key highlight of the event was the sashing and emblem-pinning ceremony for R4JPIAN members. Following the oath-taking, advisers met with their respective local chapters to formally acknowledge their newly appointed officers.

The event concluded with the inaugural leadership symposium for the R4JPIAN officials, fostering camaraderie and setting the foundation for the newly established EKSULAWID Federation's future endeavors.

The EKSULAWID Federation is expected to follow and constitute Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) precept, with its own professional principles and competencies guiding its endeavors.



EYE-CATCHING TRIUMPH. College of Nursing (CON) bags the championship at the Festival Dance competition during the Lipa City Colleges' 77th Founding Anniversary, Lipa City Colleges, Lipa City, November 20.

Photo by Ryan Phillippe De Guzman, Chief Photojournalist

LCC'S 77TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

CON triumphs festival dance competition; CCTE instructor wins fest icon

■ Gabriel Valida, Writer

COLLEGE OF NURSING (CON) dominated the dancefloor and bested six other participating departments in the Festival Dance with Icon competition during the headstart of festivities for Lipa City Colleges' 77th Founding Anniversary, Carlos R. Mojares Gymnasium, November 20.

As one of the highlights of the first day of the three-day celebration of the school's founding anniversary, seven academic departments battled in the Festival Dance competition.

Representing the *Sinukmani* Festival of Rosario, Batangas, the nursing department outdanced six other departments as they paraded their vibrant choreography and festive zeal.

The nursing students wowed the audience as they showed their jaw-dropping formula to catch the crowd's excitement in their festive performance.

In an interview with Mervin Christian Vergara, member of the nursing department's festival dance team, he shared that commitment of each member of the group was their foundation for their preparation and that the support system within the group made them the winner of the competition.

"Commitment lang ng bawat isa, yun lang siguro yung pinanghawakan namin as foundation namin to prepare for this competition po," Vergara stated.

"I think yung nagpa-panalo talaga is yung support system within the group, support system ng mga propsmen as well as ng mga dancers kasi hindi sya naging madali... may mga problemang nagawa but still, na-overcome naman 'yun sa tulong ng bawat isa," he furthered.

Meanwhile, the College of Computing Technology and Engineering (CCTE) with instructor Joyce Ann De Torres as their icon secured the 1st Place with their vibrant and energetic performance of *Kabakahan* Festival from Padre Garcia, Batangas.

The College of Education and Liberal Arts (CELA) and their icon, Ms. Krystel Eunice Mago, seized the 2nd Place, despite facing technical difficulties, with their colorful and lively performance of *Calaca*, Batangas' *Calacatchara* Festival.

Furthermore, other departments showcased their creativity, energy, and storytelling prowess as they filled the dancefloor with vibrant colors, energetic moves, and engaging performances.

The College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) displayed their vibrant colors that symbolized the bountiful culture of Lobo, Batangas as they represented the *Anihan* Festival with their fest icon Ms. Aira Mae Latorre.

The Junior High School (JHS) Department together with their Icon, Mr. Jerico Fernandez, left the crowd in high spirits as they danced to the music of *Parada ng Lechon*

Festival of Balayan, Batangas.

The Senior High School (SHS) Department impressed the audience with their expressive facial movements and choreography inspired by the *Sigpawan* Festival of Lemery, Batangas along with Ms. Ella Deanne Latorre as their fest icon.

Lastly, the College of International Tourism and Hospitality Management (CITHM) with their icon, Ms. Tricia Kenchin Guan represented the bread-making tradition of Cuenca, Batangas as they performed the *Tinapayan* Festival of the municipality.

On the other hand, the instructor from CCTE, Ms. Joyce Ann De Torres, emerged as the winner of Best Festival Icon title, besting representatives from other departments. Ms. Krystel Eunice Mago, CELA's icon, finished 1st runner-up, while Mr. Jerico Fernandez, JHS's festival icon, secured 2nd runner-up.

The inter-departmental activity included the celebration of the festivals in Batangas province as part of the school's roster of cultural events during its founding anniversary.

The dance competition was among LCC's roster of events that include Halamanang LCCian planting, Department of Science and Technology's *Science Journo Ako Goes to Lipa*, Open Mic, Singdakan Jr., and CELA-sponsored Inter-School Elocution Contest, among others.

The Vision Sr. reaps overall 1st RU in DSPC '24, six scribes qualify to RSPC anew

■ Joe Vincent Fernandez, Editor-in-Chief

BEHIND NINE PLACE FINISHES and six Regional Schools Press Conference (RSPC)-bound staffers, The Vision Senior finally returned to the campus journalism mountain of Schools Division of Lipa City as they were hailed the overall 1st runner-up in the concluded Division Schools Press Conference, Bolbok Integrated National High School, December 9-11.

The official student publication of LCC Silvercrest Senior High School cemented its place as the 2nd best top-performing school for the secondary level as nine staffers entered the cut for both individual and group contests of the annual press tilt: Princes Christiana T. Legdao (1st Place, Feature Writing); Audrey Cyrra D. Mendoza (1st Place, Sci-Tech Writing); Althea Joi N. Benito (1st Place, Pagguhit ng Kartung Editorial); Shane Ashley B. Briones (1st Place, Pagsulat ng Lathalain), Maika Lyn C. Quitain (2nd Place, Pagsulat ng Pangulong Tudling); Angeli Kaye C. Bunsol (3rd Place, Pagsulat ng Kolum); Sherhata H. Taib (3rd Place, Best News Presenter - Radio Broadcasting); Gian Carlo O. Sagales (6th Place, Sports Writing); and Mharsene Phoemelle M. Calingasan (6th Place, News Writing), respectively.

The senior high school students' remarkable wins solidified LCC Silvercrest Senior High School's spot as one of the top-performing schools in Lipa City alongside hosts and champions Bolbok Integrated National High School, and 2nd runners-up, Pinagkawitan Integrated National High School, among the 37 participating secondary schools in the division.

This year's feat also improved the school's last year's standing of 6 winners behind 3 RSPC-bound staffers who competed in the regionals last February 27-March 2, 2024 in Laguna. Further, this is The Vision Senior's first overall placement in the press conference since 2019 where the publication dominated most individual and group categories, catapulting 13 staffers for individual writing events and 6 staffers for group categories to the eventual regionals.

Meanwhile, the six campus journalists who finished in the top 3 of the individual and group competitions underwent a five-day cliniquing session last December 12-16 at Bulacnin Elementary School for their preparation prior to the RSPC to be jointly hosted by the Batangas cluster (Schools Division Offices of Batangas province, Batangas City, Lipa City, Sto. Tomas City, and Tanauan City) from February 5-7 and 10-14, 2025.

on LCC's 77th Founding Anniversary

GB Lontok, STES claim top spots in 2nd Singdakan Jr.

■ Jayven Magsino, Associate Editor

TWO PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN LIPA CITY emerged victorious in the 2nd Singdakan Jr. Inter-school Competition, held as part of Lipa City Colleges' 77th Founding Anniversary, LCC Auditorium, November 21.

The second annual competition showcased the talents of young students across the Schools Division of Lipa.

Gaudencio B. Lontok Memorial Integrated School took home the championship title in the modern dance competition, outperforming four other schools. Candido M. Pesa Memorial School secured the first runner-up spot, followed by Bugtong na Pulo Elementary School in second runner-up.

Meanwhile, in vocal solo competition, Bryx Panganiban of Sto. Toribio Elementary School (STES) impressed the judges and secured the top prize against eight other talented contestants, while Jeff Ihvan Carandang of GB Lontok and Daryl Kendrick Maranan from Bugtong na Pulo Elementary School finished as first and second runners-up, respectively.

LRC marks 90th nat’l book week

■ Kim Joshua Dela Rosa, Writer

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER (LRC) of Lipa City Colleges headlined a series of activities for the annual National Book Week celebration themed “Magbasa, Mangarap, Magdiwang,” LRC Main Building, November 26-29.

Anchored on its mission of promoting reading and literacy among LCCian students, the LRC department, under the direction of the Chief Librarian of LCC, Dr. Marebel U. De la Cruz, launched three main engaging competitions: bookmark making contest, My Day at LRC video contest, and oral spelling bee which aims to foster enthusiasm, vocabulary, and artistry skills among LCCians.

College departments participated in the bookmark making contest showcasing their creativity and unique styles last November 26. Meanwhile, the College of Education and Liberal Arts (CELA), College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE), and College of International and Hospitality Management (CITHM) engaged in My Day at LRC, displaying their talents and confidence through a video-making contest posted on the official Facebook account of LRC last November 27.

Further, representatives of different college departments demonstrated their mental sharpness, spelling, and vocabulary skills in the oral spelling bee competition held last November 29. Students also

experienced the fingerprinting on the LRC tree and the LRC photo booth organized by the LRC staff and student assistants.

Meanwhile, the winners were awarded based on their successful accomplishments in their respective categories. Maria Enghrid Maxine Ilagan from the CELA department was hailed as the champion of the bookmark making contest, while the CCJE department represented by Mr. Adrian Llaneta, was hailed first place, and Maria Christina Sandoval from the College of Nursing, finished second place.

Subsequently, the CITHM department was lauded as the winner of My Day at LRC, while CELA’s Renato Kison IV emerged as the champion of the oral spelling bee competition, hailing a three-peat win for the department.

The LRC also recognized top faculty library users and book borrowers: Dr. Carmelita Bandelaria, Mr. Jasper Reyes, Ms. April Acielo, and Mr. Patrick Joseph De Ocampo. Rounding up the top borrowers in the students category are as follows: Bernadette Hugno, Rusell Talan, and Jaymie Fernandez, while the CCJE was named the top library user of the year.

BATTLE OF WIT. LCC Silvercrest School teacher Erika Gwyn Rubio ushers the oral spelling bee competition during the annual National Book Week Celebration, Lipa City Colleges, November 29. / Photo by John Virgil Ramirez, Layout Artist

TOWARDS THRIVING WORKPLACES

Mental health in workplace ushers KAAGAPAY symposium, PFA training

■ Isabella Faye Alfajaro, Sports Editor

IN A FRUITFUL CELEBRATION of World Mental Health Month and the Human Resource Department’s Faculty Wellness Day, the Lipa City Colleges Psychology Society (LCCPS) headlined the KAAGAPAY: A Symposium and Psychological First Aid Training on the LCCian community held at LCC Auditorium and Carlos R. Mojares Gymnasium, November 25.

Despite setting behind supposed schedule, the activity was piloted in coordination with the institution’s HR department, Young Peers’ Circle, and Central Student Government, underscoring the worldwide theme of putting priority of mental health in workplaces.

The symposium was participated by various guests and participants including all academic and non-academic employees and staff of the Lipa City Colleges and LCC Silvercrest School, alongside selected Institutional Student Organization (ISO) officers of the institution.

According to the LCCPS President and Project Head, Renato Kison IV, the event aims to raise school-community awareness on mental health among the LCCian community, including students, faculty, staff., and other stakeholders.

“In this year’s edition of World Mental Health Day, we are catering the utmost participation of our faculty and staff kasi this year’s theme po ay about “It is Time to Prioritize Mental Health in the Workplace”, he shared when asked about the symposium.

The project head also shared the significance of integrating the event’s deliverables among student leaders and employees of the institution in order to train them for psychological first aid (PFA) in both classrooms and offices, if situation happens to thrive.

“Ma-utilize po natin ang mental health awareness sa school setting and proper na pag-apply o paglapat po ng psychological first aid sa mga staff natin and sa mga faculty natin....then, alam po nila ang dapat nilang gawin,” he concluded.

CON studes join reg’l nursing quiz bee

■ Alhodia Thea Venisse Sandoval, Writer

LIPA CITY COLLEGES’ COLLEGE OF NURSING (CON) representatives showcased their academic prowess and collaboration in their debut in the regional nursing quiz bee dubbed “Reaching for the Stars: MataliKNOWng Nars 2024” held at St. Jude Cooperative Hotel and Event in Tayabas, Quezon, November 5.

The regional nursing quiz bee was hosted by Stars - NKL Review Sciences and Consultancy, with dedicated sponsors from StaffWRX, Advance Health Care, US Healthcare Careers Philippines, Cambridge Healthcare Services, and PACS.

The competition aimed to foster nursing students’ knowledge, critical thinking skills, and dedication to the nursing profession, with its signified acronym for Scholarship, Teamwork, Adaptability, Resilience, and Service (STARS).

Furthermore, the regional nursing quiz bee has gathered over 15 teams from the participative schools including Lipa City Colleges, The Laguna College, Maryhill College, and Calayan Educational Foundation Inc., among others.

Several teams gathered from various higher education institutions (HEIs) across CALABARZON have set to compete with one another for the coveted title of the champion nursing quiz bowl.

Comprising LCC’s team, nursing students Ryan Phillippe De Guzman, Mawie Adagio, and Paul Edward Mayonila hailed the school’s first team, while May Surco, Claire Libat, and Danna Mei Medrana composed the second.

In a sea-saw battle, LCC’s first team managed to thrive until the third round of the 4 general rounds of the competition, while the second team reached the first round. Eventually, the team from The Laguna College was named the winner of the highly-contested event among student nurses in the region.

Meanwhile, amidst the nursing quiz bee, representatives of the sponsors from the different healthcare services discussed the different U.S.-based healthcare career opportunities and processes being offered by them, to arouse the Filipino participants’ curiosity and interest to pursue medical endeavors abroad.

GOLDEN RETURN

CITHM nabs overall gold award in 7 Lakes THC

■ Marinela Cervana, Layout Artist

COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT (CITHM) claimed the overall gold award at the recently concluded 5th 7 Lakes Tourism and Hospitality Conference (THC), San Pablo City Multipurpose Convention Center, San Pablo, Laguna, December 3.

The department’s tourism students bannered Lipa City Colleges in the annual regional convention organized by the Laguna State Polytechnic University—San Pablo Campus, themed “Qualitourism: Unleashing Exceptional Service through Filipino Hospitality.”

Eight out of 11 students who competed in several conference competitions bagged awards in tourism and hospitality-labeled activities: Crystal Mae Colorada and Eshley Trix Antoni (Gold, Tour Guiding); Angelica Eunice Lalucis and Raizen Del Rio (Gold, Tourism Promotional Video); Honeylene Espinili, Cassandra Geguiera, and Angelica Lacerna (Silver, Digital Poster Making); and April Olan (Bronze, Photography), while Camille Hernandez, Florence Panganiban, and Jhoma Edd Polega settled for 4th place in flight attendance showmanship, among the roster of events that celebrate CALABARZON’s cultural heritage through tourism and hospitality.

CITHM’s entries to the 5th edition of the annual regional conference cemented the institution’s best finish since its overall silver award last year. This year’s awardees also include College of Science, Technology, and Communication, Inc. and National University-Laguna which bagged silver and bronze honors, respectively.



ACE. Second-year tourism students Angelica Eunice Lalucis and Raizen Del Rio receives their award as Gold Medalists of Tourism Promotional Video of the 5th 7 Lakes Tourism and Hospitality Conference (THC), San Pablo City Multipurpose Convention Center, San Pablo, Laguna, Dec. 3. / Photo from Raizen Del Rio



DEVASTATING BLOW

Batangas province placed under 'state of calamity' due to 'Kristine' aftermath

■ Chin Chin Joy Factor, Writer

THROUGH the special session held by the provincial council of Batangas, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Resolution No. 1565 was issued on October 25, declaring Batangas under the "state of calamity" status following the onslaught of severe tropical storm Kristine in the province.

The resolution was based on the assessment of the Batangas Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRPMC) headlined by PDRRM officer Dr. Amor B. Calayan, and Chairperson and Batangas Governor Hermilando Mandanas, on the number of casualties, disruption of livelihood, and major roads and infrastructures in the province.

The province charted the highest number of fatalities with 61 death toll, including 20 afflicted lives from the Talisay landslide.

In the same way, prior to the pursuant of the declaration, the Municipalities of Cuenca and Agoncillo had already been placed under the same status

following the devastating result of the severe tropical storm.

The declaration authorized the utilization of more than 41 million pesos from 30% of the 5% calamity fund for quick response to expedite relief and recovery measures for the affected individuals and communities across the province.

Meanwhile, three more provincial government units in CALABARZON also issued the same declaration including Cavite, Laguna, and Quezon provinces following the onslaught of the calamity in their respective areas.

The damages to infrastructure and agriculture amounting to more than 124 million pesos in irrigation infrastructures and more than 96 million pesos in crop losses, with 35 million pesos depletion in Batangas alone, contributed to this widespread declaration of the status in the regional zone.

Earlier this year, the provincial government also raised the same status due to the effects of the Enhanced Southwest Monsoon (Habagat) intensified by Typhoon Carina last July 24 which was lifted on August 12.

ON BUWAN NG WIKA

Big Ben's 'Awit, Pelikula, at Pagkakaisa' accents OPM, Pinoy Films

■ John Virgil Ramirez, Layout Artist

'AWIT, PELIKULA, AT PAGKAKAISA', an event organized by the Big Ben Complex, featuring local singers performing several Original Pilipino Music (OPM) from various Filipino films was successfully held at the Big Ben Complex Courtyard Extension, August 17.

As part of the Buwan ng Wika celebration, the event highlighted Batangas province's local singers who showcased their talent by singing different OPM songs from well-known and classic Pinoy movies.

The program aimed to promote and safeguard the rich and diverse culture of the Philippines, particularly in the fields of music and Philippine cinema.

Included among the featured local performers are: Jed Hael aka Boy Sanid, Djohn Vincent Pasia aka Ako si Bogart, Rio Arabelle Salvacion, Gwyneth de Torres, Enoch Canillo, Donwen Galaura, Angelica Lina, Rico Comia, Faye Asher De Vera, Katherine Gwyneth, and Lipa City Colleges' Culture, Sports, Student Activities and Involvement (CSSAI) office assistant, Mr. Jobet Llanes, among other performers.

In a Facebook post, Mr. Llanes expressed his gratitude for the continued preservation and enrichment of Filipino culture.

"Salamat sa patuloy na pagpapanatili at pagpapayabong ng makulay na kulturang Pilipino. Para sa mga batang nangangarap, sa sining, at sa bayan," Llanes wrote.

Meanwhile, also in a Facebook post, the Big Ben Complex shared their appreciation towards the individuals who participated in the said event.

"Pasasalamat sa lahat ng nagpamalas ng kanilang talento, kaalaman, at kahusayan, hindi lamang sa pag-awit, pagtula o paggitara bagkus pati na din sa pagpapalawig at pagmamahal sa ating sariling wika – ang wikang Filipino," they wrote, ushering the annual celebration as an avenue to prompt the nationwide call for cultural preservation in the country.

IN-DEPTH NEWS

Megaworld to spend whopping P12B investment for Lipa 'wellness township'; Lipeños perturbed by agricultural destruction, environmental woes

■ Rose Ann Dela Cruz, Writer

THE MEGA WORLD CORPORATION, the Philippines' top awarded developer, seeks to invest 12 billion pesos in a 25-hectare integrated active wellness township in the City of Lipa, teaming up with the multi-awarded and well-known eco-luxury holistic medical wellness resort, **The Farm at San Benito**.

According to reports, this real estate will feature a low-density wellness community with residential village lots, low-rise residential condominiums, an international brand hotel, a sports and leisure center, an active adult center, community gardens, commercial shops within an expansive nature park, along with nature walk trails.

In addition, green and open spaces, such as natural parks, reserves, and terrains, are stated to occupy half of the entire township.

The township will be directly linked to The Farm at San Benito, providing an easy and convenient connection between the two locations that will allow both residents and visitors to enjoy access to the facilities and amenities offered by the wellness resort.

On the other hand, the P12-billion project, initially lauded for its potential to enhance the city's appeal as a wellness destination, has faced backlash due to growing concerns over its potential environmental and social impacts.

A significant number of Lipenos are expressing opposition to the proposed development plan, concerned that the construction of the township will lead to environmental degradation.

In response, some individuals are initiating petitions to stop the wellness resort project and advocates against initiatives that may compromise the environment.

In addition, concerns have been raised regarding the potential for the project to intensify urban flooding, following the significant flooding incidents caused by Typhoon Kristine, which impacted various areas of the city.

In a Facebook status posted by Lipa Status, a concerned citizen commented: *"Expect na natin ang pagbaha, pag init ng paligid at pagdami ng basurat trapik Dito sa Lipa."*

Meanwhile, another concern raised by the critics is the lack of transparency on the planning and the approval of the township project.

Residents of Lipa, on the same post, stated that the project should have included consultations with the local communities and environmental experts.

"Dapat may Environmental Compliance Certificate sila from DENR. At ginawang mga consultations sa mga maaapektuhan na lugar/mga tao. Alam dapat yan ng Padre Garcia LGU at iba pang surrounding muns/cities," a netizen commented, insisting that the project must consult with the locals and experts.



Lipa stands 6th in ‘23 nationwide local source revenue collection

■ Gabriel Valida, Writer

LIPA CITY was recognized by the Department of Finance (DOF) - Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) as it ranked 6th nationwide on Year-On-Year Growth Local Source Revenue Collection for the year 2023, BLGF Regional Office, December 7.

The City Treasurer’s Office of Lipa placed 6th among 149 cities under the component cities area of Year-On-Year Growth Local Source Revenue with a ratio of 23.33%. The award was received by Ms. Judy Macasaet, head of the office of City Treasurer together with other members of the local government.

Moreover, among the top 10 component cities are eight more cities from Region IV-A CALABARZON: Santa Rosa City, General Trias City, Tanauan City, Bacoor City, Carmona City, Biñan City, Santo Tomas City, and Calaca City; and one from Region VII - Central Visayas Region: Tagbilaran City.

The evaluation of the awardees was based on the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures (SRE) reports for the fiscal years of 2019, 2022, and 2023 submitted by the treasurers of the LGUs. The data were verified by the BLGF’s Local Financial Data Analysis Division (LFDAD) in coordination with regional offices.

Meanwhile, this recognition underscores the progress the local government of Lipa City made in improving its local revenue collections and reflects the local government’s efforts to ensure growth in revenue streams that are crucial for funding public services and development programs.

SL, SOCEP headline LCC’s Pamaskong Handog; Lipeños, street workforce receive early Christmas gift

■ Alhodia Thea Venisse Sandoval, Writer

LIPA CITY COLLEGES’ Scholars’ League, together with the Social Orientation and Community Extension Program (SOCEP) spearhead “Pamaskong Handog ng Lipa City Colleges” in celebration of the year’s holiday spirit at the vicinities of the Lipa City Public Market and the city proper, December 11.

According to the director of Student Services | Marketing, Scholarships, Linkages and Career Placement (SSMSLCP), Mr. Aldwin R. Jose, the project aims to share the blessings of Christmas with the hardworking and dedicated individuals who contribute to shaping the daily life of the city of Lipa.

Hence, the prepared Noche Buena presents, containing basic necessities such as hygiene kits, sacks of rice, biscuits, instant noodles, bottled drinking water, and other non-perishable food have been distributed to the dedicated Lipeño street vendors, security guards, traffic enforcers, street sweepers, and citizens.

The organizations’ officers involved in the distribution of the Christmas goods were headlined by its president Jayven Magsino under the supervision of its adviser, Ms. Kim Alyanna Gonzales.

Furthermore, the initiative has been executed from the Lipa City Public Market, along the avenues of its nearby communities including Barangay 1, Barangay Mataas na Lupa, and Barangay Maraway.

Magsino noted that the outreach project bolstered LCC’s commitment to its community engagement efforts in the light of festive season.

“It is a testament that us, student leaders...can do so much more. I hope, it also inspires the students of our institution to create and do something phenomenal,” shared Magsino when asked about the program’s deliverables.



Lipa is now a debt-free city — EBA

■ Jouie Allaine Malabuyoc, Writer

LIPA CITY Mayor Eric B. Africa (EBA), in an online conference, announced that Lipa City is debt-free as of September this year, September 30.

In his Ulat sa Bayan 2024, Mayor Africa revealed that Lipa is now a debt-free city as of the month of September of the current year after discussing the budget of the Mayor’s office from the year 2019-2024.

Mayor EBA also highlighted that Lipa’s 30-year debt streak has come to an end during his administration.

“For the past 30 years, ang Lipa City po ay lagi pong may utang. Pero ngayon po, under our leadership, ang Lipa ay officially debt-free city na. Wala na pong utang ang ating minamahal na lungsod,” the mayor stated, enclosing a further step to rule out debt issues in the city’s financial backlogs.

Moreover, Mayor Africa also mentioned in the press video that the proposed budget of the City Office amounted to 3.5 billion pesos, which is 4.8% higher than last year’s budget of 3.1 billion pesos.

The city mayor stated that this proposed budget will be the largest ever put forward by an executive department of a local legislative body.

“And for next year, tayo po ay magpopropose sa Sangguniang Panlungsod ng PHP3.5 Billion budget. Ito po ay biggest budget ever proposed by an executive department of a local legislative body,” said the mayor.

In addition, Africa also proudly presented certifications from the Commission on Audit (COA) from the previous years proving that the office received no COA Disallowance since his first term as City Mayor. According to him, this proves that the office uses its budget appropriately.

“Bagamat malaki po ang budget ng Lipa, ang kagandahan po dito ay malinis at tama po ang paggastos natin ng ating pera. Ito po’y pinatutunayan lamang ng ating Commission on Audit na since I assume office noong 2019, ay taon-taon po, wala tayong COA Disallowance,” he furthered.

Meanwhile, EBA further talked about the accomplishments of the office this year in the health sector, education, livelihood, digitalization, infrastructure, and DPWH projects. He also discussed the developmental projects for the city in the future.

BEST LOMI IN TOWN

Inosloban eatery snags District 6’s Batangas Best Lomi Season 2 title

■ Marco Paz, Writer

IN THE CONCLUDED SEARCH for the best lomi in Lipa City, Shay Shei, a lomi house from Barangay Inosluban, hailed as the grand winner of the Batangas Best Lomi Season 2 - District 6 (Lipa City) Competition, Lipa City Hall, November 4.

Located at Purok 4, EMB Unit 1, Barangay Inosloban, Shay Shei was ultimately named the best maker of the most delicious lomi in Lipa as they bested 19 other lomi houses from different barangays in Lipa.

Organized by the Balisong Channel, together with Amazing Batangas and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) Lipa, the competition brought together the most popular lomi houses in the city, each showcasing their own versions of the iconic Batangas Lomi.

Participants of the city-wide Lomi competition include: Dev’s Lomi and Silog (Barangay Tibig); A&B Lomi House (Barangay Duhatan); Acero’s Lomi House and Pasilogan (Barangay Sampaguita); Sabang Lomi House (Barangay Sabang); K&M Lomi House (Barangay Munting Pulo); Hangover Lomi Hauz (Barangay Lodi); Mommy Tita’s Lomi Batangas & Guisado (Barangay San Benito); Jazel Lomi Hauz (Brgy. Banay-banay); Centro’s Stopover Food House (Barangay Pangao); Happy House Lomihan & Eatery (Barangay Bolbok); LRM Lomi Guisado (atbp) (Barangay Lodlod); Ignacias Lomi House (Barangay Pangao); Shay Shei (Barangay Inosloban); Busolved Eatery (Barangay Inosloban); Vicente’s Bahay Kainan (Barangay Banay-banay); Lucky 5M Lomi House (Barangay Maraway); GMAK Lomi House & Eatery (Barangay Inosloban); Arabelly’s Lechon atbp. (Brgy. Banay-banay); 5 Brothers Lomi (Brgy. Banay-banay); and Jaryan’s by JNB Food House (Barangay 7), respectively.

The participating eateries brought to the table their signature versions of Batangas lomi which were then judged based on the criteria of taste, presentation and innovation, process and execution, sanitation and hygiene, and online votes.

Lipa City Mayor Eric B. Africa, alongside city councilor Mikee Morada shared the table with the event organizers to witness the heated competition of the city’s staple food.

Meanwhile, along with the grand winner, three more eateries placed in the competition: Mommy Tita’s Lomi Batangas & Guisado from Barangay San Benito was hailed 3rd place; A&B Lomi House from Barangay Duhatan was declared the competition’s 2nd place; while Arabelly’s Lechon atbp. from Barangay Banay-Banay snagged the 1st place, respectively.

In addition to the main competition, special awards were given to the participating eateries. The “Most Voted Online Award” was won by A&B Lomi House, while Centro’s Stopover Food House received both the “Most Popularity Award” and the “Best in Mise en Place” award. Vicente’s Bahay Kainan was recognized for the “Best in Chef Attire,” and Happy House Lomihan & Eatery earned the “Best in Presentation” award. The “Best in Sanitation and Cleanliness” award went to K&M Lomi House, while Arabelly’s Lechon atbp. was honored with the “Best in Toppings” award.

Furthermore, the winning lomi house is set to represent District 6 at the Provincial Level of the said competition.

SPECIAL REPORT

ROCKWELL IN LIPA?

Severe traffic, flood feared as giant corp looms Lipa lands

■ Joe Vincent Fernandez, Editor-in-Chief ■ Photo | Inquirer.net

A JOINT VENTURE of General Milling Corporation (GMC) leveled the planned construction of Rockwell Center Lipa, a commercial and residential project under Rockwell Land in the city, catering to both the “new metro in Lipa” lifestyle and feared sequels of its contriving.

Rockwell, a high-end mixed-use neighborhood in Makati owned by Lopez Holdings Corporation, has established its first two project expansions in Lipa, with Terreno South located in Barangay Lodlod, being the first in 2018, and Rockwell in Lipa in the boundaries of the city and municipality of Mataasnakahoy, being the latest.

Following these towering projects, a third venture to be situated at LP Leviste Road, Barangay Inosloban will soon be established via Rockwell Center Lipa, a 63-hectare mixed-used community development that will bring residential units, institutional schools, sports club, shopping areas, and commercial development to the city’s growing proximity.

However, Lipeños quickly noticed the upcoming project’s possible repercussions on the city’s already worse traffic and flood situation once the blueprint had been laid down.

Lipa City has been recently experiencing rough traffic congestion woes due to the high volume of vehicles on Lipa’s main roads and highways every day due to business establishments, schools, and ongoing public and private works and constructions.

Most congested areas are usually reported to be in Claro M. Recto Avenue, J. P. Laurel Highway, and Barangay Tambo where major thoroughfares such as South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) and STAR Tollway are situated, as well as other areas where Manila-Batangas bypass road are located.

Furthermore, in recent months, the city

experienced the worst flooding following Severe Tropical Storm ‘Kristine’ that submerged the city’s main roads and other areas and barangays including Barangay Insoloban, Marawoy, and Balintawak, and the city’s uptown area, justifying the distress brought by locals to social media during the project announcement.

Further, while the project seeks to bring a “gold standard in luxury living” and a new metro to Lipa, considered a prime location for this expansion, locals are perturbed by the fated traffic congestion and flood system problems due to the continuous rise of establishments and public works in the city.

In addition, despite being dubbed as the “next destination” for this expansion and a viable alternate alternative to Metro Manila, the city’s urbanization problems penetrate to become another problem in concentration, evidenced by more than 428,000 residents logged by the city in 2024 according to the metro area population figures, noting a 2.39% increase from last year.

The rapid rise in Lipa’s metro population contributes to the eventual metropolitan problems amidst the ongoing and upcoming citywide projects, which are feared to curb the city’s available areas to cover these ambitious projects despite growing interests and demands.

Meanwhile, the project is pragmatic to bring positive outlooks on the city’s economic landscape as it is expected to bolster the city’s local economy, and economic activities, draw potential investors, attract businesses, and generate more jobs for the locals, driving Lipa’s economy and boosting its footing as one of CALABARZON’s thriving economic centers outside the metro.

Still, amidst these gains, Lipeños call out the potential risks that Rockwell in Lipa might pose particularly on the city’s traffic and environmental proportions, setting a large-scale caution for city officials and developers to review its drafts to steer clear of its unprecedented drawbacks.

on COA’s annual revenue report

COA logs P4.9B revenue for Lipa, ranks 4th in CALABARZON

■ John Dave Titular, Writer

LIPA CITY’s annual revenue increased by about 2 billion pesos over the previous year, reaching P4.9 billion in 2023 in the annual report released by the Commission on Audit (COA), December 10.

The city earned P2.93 billion in the 2022 Annual Audit Report (AAR), ranking second to Batangas City, which earned 4.4 billion pesos, the highest revenue that year.

With the statistics presented in the 2023 report, Lipa City took the top spot in Batangas province, while Batangas City, which had been the top-ranked city the year before, came in second with P4.3 billion, followed by Tanauan with P2.9B then Sto. Tomas has 1.8 billion pesos in total revenues.

Furthermore, this AAR yielded Lipa City’s fourth-place ranking among all CALABARZON cities, with Calamba City coming in first, Santa Rosa in second, and Antipolo City finishing third.

The report also included financial data, showing that the liabilities climbed from P1.1 billion in 2022 to 1.4 billion in 2023, and the assets increased by approximately 906 million pesos from P5.7 billion to P6.6 billion.

SMC’s NNIC eyes potential expansion via new aviation in Lipa

■ Rose Ann Dela Cruz, Writer

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION-BACKED New NAIA Infra Corp (NNIC) President Ramon S. Ang disclosed the possible relocation of a general aviation to Lipa City, Batangas as part of the extensive rehabilitation work being done at the nation’s aging primary gateway.

Due to its convenient access to the SMC-controlled STAR Tollway and South Luzon Expressway, Lipa was considered a potential site for the envisioned aviation.

In addition, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) are willing to discuss this plan’s goal of alleviating congestion at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) and is only awaiting a formal proposal.

“We need to study any proposal that will be submitted,” CAAP stated.

Further, Ang said that this project is “just an idea” when asked by Insider PH.

Meanwhile, 20 more wide-body flights a day might be made possible by cutting back on general aviation travel according to one estimate. Civilian, non-commercial flights, including private and chartered flights, are referred to as general aviation in this proposed target.

BPSF installs 22nd initiative in Batangas

■ Renato Kison IV, Writer

AIMING TO DELIVER EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICE, Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair (BPSF) marked its 22nd installment in Batangas led by House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) at Abotiz Pitch, Lima Park, Lipa City, August 24-25.

With 60,000 Batangueño beneficiaries, ₱563 million worth of government service and aid were distributed via service caravans assisted by Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary Ralph G. Recto, Senator Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr., Ryan Christian Recto, and Luis Manzano, alongside other city and national officials who called the shots in representing the program head, President Ferdinand

“Bong Bong” Marcos Jr.

The simultaneous caravan was joined by more than 50 national agencies in catering national services among Batangueños, who are part of the more than 400,000 Filipinos expected to receive aid under PBBM’s flagship program.

Moreover, programs under the wing of the BPSF were given financial aid under the Cash Assistance and Rice Distribution (CARD) program spearheaded by DSWD’s Ayuda para sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP) which entitled 3,000 beneficiaries with ₱5,000 and 20 kilograms of rice held at Lipa City Youth and Cultural Center.

Additionally, small-time business owners and entrepreneurs alike were also given benefits under Start Up, Investments, Business Opportunities, and Livelihood (SIBOL)

with ₱5,000 and 5 kilograms of rice situated at Claro M. Recto Event Center.

Furthermore, the BPSF also gave out educational assistance worth ₱5,000 and scholarships dubbed Integrated Scholarship and Incentives Program (ISIP) and through the Tulong Dunong Program (TDP) which granted 3,000 Batangueño scholars with ₱7,500 per semester given by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) at Lipa City Sports Academy.

“Ito po talaga ang ating tungkulin bilang mga kongresista at bilang representante ninyo,” said Romualdez as the BPSF marked its first visit on the province in a nationwide caravan that aims to reach all 82 provinces in the country.

on 44th Southern Luzon Area Conference

JCI Lipa draws Southern Luzon leaders for SOLAC '24

■ Jayven Magsino, Associate Editor

JUNIOR CHAMBER INTERNATIONAL (JCI) - Lipa chapter hosted the 44th Southern Luzon Area Conference (SOLAC), bringing together dynamic leaders across Southern Luzon such as Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Bicol, and Palawan held at Lipa City, Batangas, September 6-8.

The conference seamlessly blended leadership development activities, like the engaging TATAG Amazing Race, with immersive cultural experiences.

Delegates also explored Lipa's rich heritage, including captivating coffee farm tours highlighting the region's renowned Kapeng Barako.

In an interview on Wow Batangas, SOLAC 2024 Overall Area Director Ms. Joyce Tapay Katigbak, emphasized JCI Lipa's dedication to promoting local culture extended to a coffee cupping session, allowing delegates to savor the unique flavors of the Batangas treasure.

"This is our chance to promote and give awareness to our culture, to what we have here at ang ating personalidad na mayroon tayo," shared Katigbak.

Beyond the cultural immersion, JCI Lipa celebrated its remarkable achievements, garnering numerous prestigious recognitions during the Dangal Awards night in the same event.

The organization received seven prestigious Dangal Awards, recognizing excellence in: Most Outstanding Local Organization (Category 1), Best JCI Week Celebration, Best Environment Sustainability Program (I.K.O.T.: Trash Talks), Best Civic Involvement Program (Grab-A-Job), Best Peace Advocacy Program (Bloom Behind Bars), Best Inclusivity Program for the Differently Abled (PWD DITO), and Best Advocacy Program for the Elderly (Kamusta po Muli, Lola?).

Furthermore, JCI Lipa earned five Dakila Awards, highlighting their impactful work in: Most Outstanding Local Organization President (Category 1), Best Youth Development Program (Project GOAL), Best Gender Equality Program (Women with Drive), Best Long-Term Local Community Program (Bangkabuhayan 4.0), and Best Animal Welfare Program (Fur-get Me Not).

Three additional nominations further solidified JCI Lipa's position as a leading force in community development and youth empowerment, showcasing their commitment to impactful initiatives.

Moreover, SOLAC 2024, aptly themed "Livin' it in Lipa," truly showcased the city's vibrant spirit and JCI Lipa's dedication to service and community growth.



Photo: JCI Lipa Facebook Page



'She has nowhere else to go' — Hontiveros on Guo's arrest in Indonesia

■ Gabriel Valida, Writer

FOLLOWING the incarceration of suspended **Bamban Mayor Alice Guo in Greater Jakarta, Indonesia, Senate Deputy Minority Leader Risa Hontiveros emphasized that she has no place left to turn, and will soon face the Senate, in a press interview on September 4.**

In a press briefing, Senator Hontiveros expressed her hope and expects Alice Guo to cooperate and speak the truth now that she's back in custody.

"I am fully expecting magsasalita na siya ng kumpleto at katotohanan kasi patunay itong pag-aresto sa kanya na hindi siya makakatakas talaga," Hontiveros stated. "Tumakas man siya nung una, nahuli pa rin siya at ibabalik dito. Kung baga, she has nowhere else to go," she added.

Furthermore, Guo will remain in the custody of the Senate when she returns to the country, according to Hontiveros. Even if she testifies for the upcoming hearing, she still needs to appear before the Committee on Women, of which Senator Hontiveros is the Chairperson and also issued the arrest warrant against her.

"Kahit pa makaharap na siya bukas, ang source naman ng warrant niya ay mula sa Senate Committee on Women. So, kailangan pa muna siyang humarap sa susunod na hearing ng Committee on Women....," Hontiveros explained.

Moreover, the Senator also mentioned Guo's arrest should warn individuals with pending arrest warrants who are still on the loose.

"Ipinakita nitong pag-aresto kay Alice Guo na tumakas ka man pag pinaghanap ka ng mga awtoridad at may tulong pa ng mga otoridad ng ibang mga bansa, kahit dun ka pa tumakas, ay maibabalik ka rin dito sa bansang Pilipinas. That should make a strong impression sa iba pang subjects ng warrant of arrest na patuloy pa rin tumatakas o nagtatago," said the Senator.

Meanwhile, this investigation seeks to unveil Guo's involvement in the running of Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGO). Hontiveros also suggested that Guo might not be the most significant or highest-ranking individual involved, noting possible larger allies behind her questionable remarks.

"Maaaring hindi siya yung pinakamataas pa. Maaaring hindi pa siya yung pinakamalaking isda dito. At yun yung gustong tumbukin ng Committee on Women bilang bahagi ng pag-wrap-up ng kabuuang apat na taon nang imbestigasyon laban sa Pogos," the senator concluded.

Currently, the dismissed mayor is still under questioning and could face more serious criminal offenses including graft and corruption, falsification of documents, and perjury for her transgressions involving POGOs during her time as a city official.

Appointed not: Quiboloy surrenders to PNP

■ Renato Kison IV, Writer

UNDER THE GUISE of "ultimate sacrifice", fugitive Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) founder **Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy, along with his four subordinates surrendered to the authorities following the week-long manhunt of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in his compound, September 8.**

According to the PNP, Pastor Quiboloy "peacefully" surrendered after being given a 24-hour ultimatum with almost 2,000 police forces deployed within the KOJC compound.

Following the ultimatum, Quiboloy was transported to Camp Crame in Quezon City for detainment and future legal proceedings wherein he is allegedly involved in child abuse and human trafficking violation that was reported by the pastor's former followers.

Furthermore, Quiboloy also faces charges filed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the United States for sex trafficking, conspiracy, fraud and coercion, and cash smuggling.

Meanwhile, Senator Risa Hontiveros filed a subpoena against Pastor Quiboloy and is expected to appear before the Senate for a hearing session on October 23.

74 Batangueños qualify in WCOPA PH 2025 team draft

■ Abby Girl Barredo, Writer

SEVENTY-FOUR Batangueños successfully passed the World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA) Philippines audition for the 2025 team draft held at SM City Lipa, September 9.

Almost 100 auditionees across Batangas province traveled to Lipa City to showcase their talents in various fields of performing arts.

All participants aspired to secure a spot in the 2025 Team PH draft and represent the country on the world stage in California, USA, from July 17 to July 25, 2025.

Meanwhile, a nationwide search for top talents has been conducted throughout the year. The auditions started on August 3 at SM Southmall, ran through various locations across the country, and concluded on November 25 at SM General Santos City.

Previously, the Philippine team brought home a total of 296 medals, which included gold, silver, and bronze, along with finalist and semi-finalist finishes in various categories of the annual international performing arts championships.



EDITORIAL

Cartoon | Rhenber Hian Morada, Chief Artist

Mastering the circus

TO BE A STUDENT LEADER is to be a professional juggler - balancing academics, organizational duties, personal life, and the expectations of an entire community without letting anything fall.

Leadership within student organizations is not simply about holding a title - it is about stepping into a role of responsibility and influence, shaping the culture and progress of the school. Whereas, supporting the school's vision, and planning events, while maintaining their academic performance is no small feat. Despite the challenges, those who take on these roles understand that leadership is a commitment, not a convenience. By stepping up, they pledge to meet these demands head-on with determination and integrity.

Likewise, student organizations offer much more than extracurricular engagements. They serve as platforms for growth, where students learn teamwork, leadership, and responsibility through hands-on experiences. Projects like clean-up drives, school fairs, and seminars equip leaders with practical skills in time management, communication, and collaboration. These experiences are invaluable, but they also demand a level of focus and commitment that only those truly dedicated to their roles can deliver.

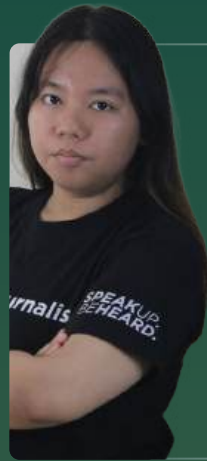
Unfortunately, not everyone who steps into leadership does so for the right reasons. Some are enticed by the recognition and prestige of the position, allowing appearances to take precedence over meaningful actions. When leaders focus more on status than service, they fail other people in the organization and compromise their overall mission. True leadership requires humility, accountability, and the courage to lead by example.

On the other hand, among student leaders are those who take on the extraordinary challenge of juggling multiple roles - serving in various organizations inside and outside the campus, maintaining strict quota grades, and even working part-time jobs to support themselves or their families. These individuals have willingly chosen a path of immense responsibility, and while their circumstances are undeniably challenging, they must still rise to meet the expectations they accepted; leadership is not about excusing failure under pressure but about thriving despite of it.

Unfortunately, not everyone who steps into leadership does so for the right reasons.

Leadership is, at its core, a commitment to service and growth. It is a promise to guide others, fulfill duties, and continuously strive for self-improvement. While the challenges may seem overwhelming, there are opportunities for student leaders to develop resilience and leave a lasting impact on their school community - away from clamor and spotlight of the ecosystem they entered.

In the end, every student leader must reflect on their role. Are they fulfilling their duties with discipline and integrity, or are they letting responsibilities slip in the name of convenience or recognition? The question is simple but meaningful: are you a juggler, skillfully balancing your commitments, or a clown, dropping the responsibilities that come with your position? Leadership is a commitment, and how one handles it defines their legacy.



After all, **they cannot reach the peak alone**, they need comradery to make the journey bearable.

Looker's Eye

Duanne Luke Amria Edurise | @4mr1a

Climbing the Summit

THE STATUS OF MENTAL HEALTH in the workplace is an alp that the working class is trying to conquer.

As workers try to traverse such harsh conditions, they are met with an even harsher reality: that the surface has not been scratched yet. The existing poor work conditions are a growing concern for employees and employers worldwide which should be stopped triggering a toxic cycle of careers affecting mental health and vice versa.

In the Philippine context, even with already existing initiatives like the 2024-2028 Philippine Council for Mental Health (PCMH) Strategic Framework, as of June 2024, 87% of Filipino workers reported experiencing at least one work-related mental health issue, which is 11% higher than the global average of 76%. This further proves that the mountain that is being trekked is the obstacle itself. It is an internal issue that cannot be solved by external agents alone.

There's no doubt that mental health is stigmatized within the community; mental health programs within companies are looked down upon. Likewise, related issues are also oversimplified and pushed back being labeled as something that workers should solve on their own. More often than not, these are organizational issues that turn into personal problems.

Employers need to foster appealing environments with the validation and encouragement that the employees need to defeat this mountain-size problem. Standing behind stigma and lack of mental health programs within a company is an adversity, and with the employers still not wanting to comply with this urgent call are bystanders for a landslide waiting to happen.

This issue is a height filled with slopes and peaks that will take long to reach. Even though business should not be mixed with pleasure, implicating personal endeavors, that is not the case anymore. Mental health will always be a personal matter even though it comes from an external source like the working environment.

For conquering the alps, the community must look outward and realize the importance of stability and collaboration between the working forces. Giving emphasis to the importance of mental health in the workplace by funding more worker-related health initiatives and support such as proper counseling and mental health leaves are the right steps to scratching the surface. After all, they cannot reach the peak alone, they need comradery to make the journey bearable.

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87% Filipino workers reported experiencing at least one **work-related mental health issue**

working-age adults were estimated to have a **mental disorder** in 2019.

15%

12B working days are lost every year to depression and anxiety

Source: World Health Organization and 2024-2028 Philippine Council for Mental Health (PCMH) Strategic Framework, as of June 2024

BY THE NUMBERS



We cannot afford to let the heartwarming stories of communal unity obscure the fact that **our government should be leading the way, not trailing behind.**

Trojan Horse

Jayven Magsino | @hoevennnn

No! Where?

IT'S AMUSING TO SEE how Filipinos lend light to each other during dark times, just as how the recent severe tropical storm Kristine once again brought out a sense of “bayanihan” from one hand to another. However, this heartwarming display of resilience should not be mistaken as a license for the government to shirk its responsibility in disaster response.

While this Filipino trait is a powerful force for good, it must not be used as a shield to excuse the government's shortcomings. Every time a typhoon batters our shores, we see outpouring efforts from various private sectors and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), with donation drives and relief operations springing up all over the country. While we celebrate this generosity, it's a sobering fact that these private initiatives are often the first responders, filling the void left by a sluggish and ill-prepared government. It shouldn't be the people's burden to shoulder the responsibility of national emergencies.

This reliance on these private efforts to fill the gaps in government response creates a dangerous cycle. It allows complacency to fester, and it weakens the government's accountability. We cannot afford to let the heartwarming stories of communal unity obscure the fact that our government should be leading the way, not trailing behind.

The Filipino spirit of being one in challenging times is something to take pride in, but it should not be exploited as a convenient excuse for government inaction. We need a government that is prepared, proactive, and accountable. We need a government that puts the welfare of its citizens first, not one that relies on the generosity of its people to fill the gaps in its own inadequacies. Let us not let our spirit of “bayanihan” become a crutch for a government that fails to fulfill its fundamental duties.

DESPITE THE GROWING AWARENESS of mental health's importance, it is disheartening that Filipinos—especially the youth, marginalized sectors, and the broader community continue to face limited access to reliable mental health services due to the lack of qualified professionals.

According to data from the 2024 Philippine Registered Professionals, only 5,001 licensed guidance counselors are in the country. Subsequently, as of March 2024, the Department of Education (DepEd) is facing with a shortage of 4,460 guidance counselor positions. This means that only two counselors are available for every 100,000 Filipinos which is a glaringly inadequate ratio, particularly with the nation's population exceeding 120 million and the increasing prevalence of anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges. In public schools, the shortage is even more noticeable, often forcing teachers to take on counseling roles despite lacking the necessary training.

Furthermore, the lack of funding and clear career opportunities under the Department of Education (DepEd) aggravates this issue. Many licensed guidance counselors leave the public sector for better pay and opportunities elsewhere. Even with the passage of the Basic Education Mental Health and Well-Being Promotion Act under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the absence of a structured career pathway for counselors remains a significant challenge, particularly in public schools where their presence is most critical.

Overlooked Counselors' Deficit

Aya serious???

Aira May Medrano | @itsyagurlaya



Undoubtedly, this crisis is part of a broader problem that affects both the educational and mental health systems of the country. It is high time for the government to implement reforms that will increase the number of guidance counselors, provide adequate incentives for their profession, and allocate sufficient funding for mental health programs.

Every sector, especially the government, bears the responsibility of addressing the lack of mental health professionals, particularly guidance counselors. The shortage is a striking barrier to providing proper support for students, leaving many without the expert guidance they need to navigate their challenges.

Thus, solving this issue would not only encourage more professionals to pursue this vital career but also ensure that students—each with unique needs—receive the expert support not just academically, but emotionally, they require. A nation cannot thrive without prioritizing the holistic development of its youth, and addressing this gap in mental health support is a crucial step toward that goal.



Plenty fall to the prey unfaithfulness brings, with the number only getting higher with each passing day.

AspiRyn

Ryan Philippe De Guzman | @ryencor

Happily Never After

IT SHOULD BE NO surprise how cheating in a romantic relationship is regarded as the gravest mistake that a committed couple can do to each other. And now more than ever before, people recognize and esteem the inherent importance of fidelity in relationships.

Prominently in the entertainment and show business industry, there has been a recent influx of cheating-associated breakups. The unforeseen separation of likes of now celebrity ex-couples Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla, and more recently, actress Maris Racal and song artist Rico Blanco have people questioning if unrelenting faithfulness is still present in this day and age.

Adding fuel to the fire, wedding vows are not as binding as one may seem. The once married Moira Dela Torre and Jason Marvin Hernandez shocked many in 2022 after the latter openly admitted his disloyalty three years later after tying the knot.

Back down to earth, Filipinos face these hurdles on the regular regardless if married or not. With divorce remaining unconstitutional and annulments inaccessible to all social classes, plenty fall to the prey unfaithfulness brings, with the number only getting higher with each passing day.

However, often overlooked, cheating brings forth psychological damage to the victim and almost never the cheater. The emotional turmoil can haunt the victim long-term with intense emotions such as insecurity, paranoia, depression, and even trauma.

Tale as old as time, people seek for the perfect ending to their love story. However, for as long as people commit with uncertain fidelity, and for as long as we aren't living in an ideal Disney plot, not all will ever finish their story with "and they lived happily ever after."



Entering politics should not be a career move designed to cement one's fame or fortune further.

Gab and Go

Gabriel Valida | @vldgbrl

Lights, Camera, Politika!

THE 2025 MIDTERM ELECTIONS are looming, and with it comes a familiar yet unsettling spectacle: the influx of Filipino showbiz personalities vying for public office.

While the entertainment industry and politics have always enjoyed a somewhat symbiotic relationship, the current trend raises serious questions about the motivations behind these candidacies and the implications for Philippine democracy.

It's undeniable that celebrity status translates into name recognition, a crucial asset in electoral campaigns. A smiling face on television screens for years becomes instantly recognizable, potentially eclipsing less-known but potentially more qualified candidates. This, however, shouldn't be mistaken for genuine leadership capability. The allure of power and the amplified platform of public office are strong temptations, but they shouldn't overshadow the core responsibility of public service.

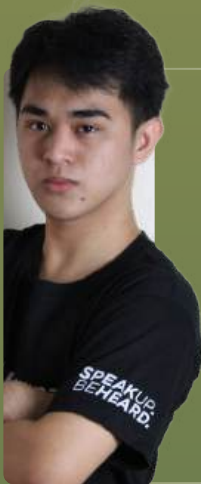
Entering politics should not be a career move designed to cement one's fame or fortune further. The transition from the glitz and glamour of showbiz to the often-grueling realities of governance requires more than just a charming personality and a loyal fanbase. It demands a deep understanding of policy, a commitment to ethical conduct, and a genuine desire to serve the people.

Sadly, the history of celebrity politicians in the Philippines offers a mixed bag at best. While some have

proven to be effective and dedicated public servants, many have fallen short, their celebrity overshadowing any meaningful contribution to governance. This creates a cynical environment where voters prioritize entertainment value over substantive policy platforms, further undermining the democratic process.

The path to public service requires more than just a compelling narrative and a polished image; it necessitates a dedicated commitment to the well-being of the nation and its people. Aspiring politicians, particularly those transitioning from the entertainment world, must demonstrate their understanding of the complexities of governance and their sincere dedication to the people they seek to represent, more than just their brand of a public icon but as a public servant.

The electorate, in turn, must resist the allure of celebrity and demand a higher standard – choosing leaders based on merit and proven competence, not simply on fame and familiarity. Lights, camera, indeed, but let's hope the focus shifts from the spectacle to the substance of a truly effective governance. The future of the Philippines deserves nothing less.



The rise of deepfake technology **shadows the integrity of elections.**

52-hertz whale

David Amurao | @dav_orn

Deeper perils

TECHNOLOGY is advancing faster than ever, and with it comes the growing challenge of the alarming rise of deepfake technology. This powerful tool which is capable of creating hyper-realistic fake videos is not just a novelty; it is a threat to truth, trust, and democracy.

The ever-evolving landscape of technology shapes perceptions and influences people's decisions. The rise of deepfake technology shadows the integrity of elections. In 2024, 200 cases of political deepfakes were allegedly reported and no criminal prosecutions happened. In previous years, AI (Artificial Intelligence) has enabled deepfakes to create a realistic version featuring several public figures; these people found out that they are being used without their consent.

Deepfakes have the power to manipulate public opinion and have the potential to mislead voters and undermine trust in legitimate media sources. As we approach the upcoming 2025 elections, the implication of this technology is becoming prominent and already surfacing in political campaigns. This isn't entirely new. For years, various forms of media manipulation were used in different political campaigns to sway public opinion. The difference now lies in the Deepfakes' level of sophistication, which can more effectively convince people, making the potential for manipulation and altered election results undeniable.

Sadly, people's short attention span makes them more likely to believe and easily be influenced by visual information than reading a text-data-based one. According to Bradbury, people tend to pay attention depending on how impactful the material they are learning is and how it is presented to them. This makes deepfakes particularly dangerous. Similarly, AI being used to create a fake video featuring President Marcos, has been one of the concerns and investigations as the Commission on Elections is now eyeing the ban of AI and deepfake for the upcoming elections next year. This highlights concern about how deepfakes can affect one person and the whole country, showing the need for stronger measures to combat misinformation.

On the other hand, it is worth noting how it actually has some positive applications across various fields. These AI and deepfake technologies have the potential to immersive new ways in education, too, as they help students learn more effectively and guide them to develop new skills. As Drew Rose, CSO and also the founder of cybersecurity firm Living Security, explains, leveraging deepfakes can actually create an immersive learning experience.

Given this point, most AI or deepfake videos are not meant to sway public opinion, but to make their preferred candidates look good in the eyes of the people. Although it can be done by just using a simple photo, AI easily makes it more realistic and convincing.

In conclusion, the spread of fake AIs is inevitable and yet dangerous. It shapes industries and can cause a lot of harm, as many jobs will be lost over time. If one day it essentially thinks like humans, we will become obsolete.

It is important to be mindful of the information we consume on social media. To discern facts from fakes in the context of deepfake videos during elections, it's crucial to employ fact-checking practices and enhance our media literacy. To combat the threat of deepfakes, active consumers of information must be employed with fact-checking skills, questioning sources, and staying informed about technological advances.

PULSONG LCCIAN

2025 Midterm Elections

- The 2025 Midterm Elections will be held on May 12, 2025. New and returning faces are both running for local, provincial, and national positions. Local personalities are also poised to land their respective seats in both executive and legislative positions. Some candidates are already doing early introductions and activities prior to the official dates of election period released by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC). **With these developments going, what can you expect in this elections moving forward?**



I expect a **competitive and dynamic political landscape** as candidates balance traditional campaigning methods with modern strategies to reach a wider audience.

Clarisse Cueto | 1st Year, Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management



As the number of youth and students become voters at this period, the **number of knowledgeable and more aware voters increase**. Students nowadays know how to investigate, analyze, and evaluate the candidates and are more likely can overpower the wasted votes. Thus, on this upcoming elections, it is fair to expect that candidates who shall lead and have the power shall be elected.

Ma. Cetha Juneia Mayo | 1st Year, Bachelor of Science in Accountancy



If these candidates truly wanted to rule the nation, or kahit dito na lamang sa Lipa, **dapat alam nila ang gusto ng mga tao**. If these developments will be the reason for the people to doubt them, it's not the people anymore, it's the decision they will make for the people to trust them again.

Famhella Jane Kalaw | 4th Year, Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management

On campus renovations

- Lipa City Colleges has recently experienced renovations following the installment of Dr. Joe Vincent J. Abiera as the institution's 5th president. The modifications conducted in the campus, including the quadrangle, stage flooring, building façade, and student areas in the canteen have been witnessed last semester as one of the steps in achieving Dr. Abiera's six-point agenda. More developments are expected to be placed in the coming years which include the construction of new college buildings. **Are you satisfied with the recent developments of the institution?**

Yes

83.3%

No

5.7%

?

12.4%



YOLO with the Yulos

RENflections

Renato Kison IV | @ren.d32vous

Is it **fair to always expect their adult children** to follow their guidance?

THE NAMES Carlos Yulo, Mark Andrew Yulo, Angelica Yulo, and Chloe Anjeleigh San Jose have sparked an intriguing topic in the public eye. The drama unfolded as Caloy, fresh from his success at the Olympics with two gold medals, became entangled in a familial conflict that spilled into the public eye.

The public fascination with the Yulo family drama is not just about the intrigue of personal conflicts but also the intersection of athletic achievements. Carlos Yulo, a gymnastics sensation, has brought pride to the Philippines with his exceptional talent and dedication, rooting for his Olympic triumphs. However, despite the spotlight on his success, it also casts shadows on the strained relationships with his family.

At the core of Filipino culture, Filipinos deeply value family connection, thus, resonating with Yulo family

drama with the public and layering a mattress of complexity to his public image becoming a matter of public interest and concern.

What makes the situation more unfortunate is how they became the talk of the town, prying on an issue that should've been far from the eyes of the public as it led to unsolicited remarks. Although it's unconventional to speak against your parents, it's worth considering all the sides and not crucifying someone for something no one knows everything about. Hence, raising a question: is it fair to always expect their adult children to follow their guidance?

The Yulo family drama has sparked widespread attention to balancing personal relationships with professional achievements and the impact this balance—or lack thereof—can have on one's emotional well-being.

Sender’s View

Recently, I have observed a growing concern among students regarding tuition fees at our institution. Many are expressing uncertainty about how these fees are being utilized.

As a student myself, I share these concerns. I've noticed certain areas where institutional provisions appear less effective than they could be. A prime example is the issue of student IDs. This year, returning students were not issued new IDs; instead, existing IDs were simply validated for an additional one academic year. This decision has raised questions among the student body about the rationale behind this move. Many wonder if allocated tuition funds are insufficient to cover the cost of new student IDs.

Furthermore, I have noted the inclusion of various "other fees" on student enrollment forms. The specific purpose and allocation of these fees remain unclear to many students. This lack of transparency contributes to the overall concern about tuition fee utilization.

As a member of this community, I believe greater transparency regarding tuition fee allocation is crucial. A detailed breakdown of tuition fees and other charges would provide students with a clear understanding of how their contributions are being used to support the institution's operations and services. This transparency would foster greater trust and confidence within the student body.

I believe that addressing this concern is essential for maintaining a positive and productive learning environment. I hope that through open communication and collaborative effort within our LCCian community, we can achieve a more transparent and accountable system that benefits all students.

Jhon Patrick Villanueva
Secretary General, Central Student Government

Editor’s Review

The lack of transparency in the tuition fees and other collected fees of the institution was relatively prevalent during the start of the academic year, which puts a gray area on these financial issuance.

While Lipa City Colleges remains committed to upholding its ground for quality education, the school still has to do a great effort to address a transparent record of students' financial accounts. Currently, there is no apparent issuance of a total breakdown of fees as stipulated on the student’s assessment or enrolment forms. The inclusion of “other fees” on the student’s accounts was also questioned due to unclear provisions of its purpose, leaving LCCians puzzled about their payment’s whereabouts.

Certainly, the school's management fell short of being transparent to its students and stakeholders, marking a questionable move at the start of the academic year. Now, as LCC persists to become one of the premier institutions in the region, it certainly needs to indicate more forthright measures to avoid clouded judgments and contentious claims for its management.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The VISION welcomes all forms of inquisitive aspects from LCCians and beyond the campus. Should you have questions, opinions, or messages, enclose them to our office and official socials. By doing so, you are agreeing that the publication will be entitled to publish it as content for our future use and issue release.



Cartoon | Ma. Enghrid Maxine Ilagan, Cartoonist



Nepo-CHEAT-ism

Miss InkDependent

Chin Chin Joy Factor | @ctcchin

WHEN CONNECTION DICTATES SUCCESS, fairness falters in the field of those who are blessed.

At its deep core, nepotism is a type of workplace favoritism shown toward family members, relatives, and even friends, often relegating genuinely talented individuals and breeds resentment among those who are in the field of striving for success.

Comparing it to the far-reaching morale in professional

In many instances, connections overshadow competence, leading to a culture where meritocracy takes a backseat.



events, the diminishing ground of entitlement to those who deserve it deprives the rights of ranks and leads to demotivation towards work culture. Moreover, the environment created by these repercussions stifles creativity and innovation in the organization, caging new generations of work setups to a putrid ground.

With the lineup of competent backgrounds, it's clear that talent alone should dictate success. Yet, in many instances, connections overshadow competence, leading to a culture where meritocracy takes a backseat. Thus, sprouting various consequences of nepotism beyond individual grievances.

Such practices hinder growth, when nepotism takes root that stifles the efforts of recognition. Is it fair to allow personal connections to overshadow genuine talent and hard work?

Nepotism and cheating, bypassing merit, and hard work in favor of personal connections. We should be chosen for our abilities, not our connections, ensuring that the best people in positions are those who are capable of making the most remarkable impact in the field.

6 Hours of a Bleak Rewind

WITH AT LEAST 16 times of martial law declarations in South Korea, the country is held with a bleak history of assassinations, human rights violations, massacres, and military takeovers that accentuate the power that true democracy massively bears.

On December 3, South Korea tormented its citizens with an emergency declaration of, once again, martial law by then President Yoon Suk Yeol, in a supposed attempt to protect the free Republic of Korea from the threat of North Korean communist forces. This implies the prohibition of all political activities, control over the media, and the strengthened military forces—indicating that the violators of the decree may be searched without a warrant, arrested, detained, and punished in accordance with the law.

Prior to this, it is worth noting that the former president held a low approval rating and lacked control over the parliament, having its majority from the opposition party. Furthermore, he has been associated with alleged corruption that also involves his wife who has been accused of stock manipulation and bribery. In line with this, the opposition has executed actions to impeach various officials for failing to investigate such alleged cases.

Hence, it is apparent that contrary to the position title, Yoon seemingly struggled politically and did not have a tight grip over power and authority.

In response to the declaration, the citizens, and even lawmakers protested outside South Korea's National Assembly on the chaotic and disquieting night. Fortunately, after about 3 hours of the martial law declaration, 190 out of 300 lawmakers who were present at the National Assembly voted to reject the rule, handling Yoon with no other choice but to honor the decision and lift the 6-hour martial law on



It is alarming to think how democracy can easily be threatened by a leader's mere decision.

Ventures

Alhodia Thea Venisse Sandoval | @alhodiasandoval

December 4, in accordance with the constitution. Ultimately, on December 14, Yoon was voted for impeachment by the National Assembly over his imposition of martial law.

The 6-hour historical event unraveled the citizens' rewind on the bleak, painful memories, arousing their fear and anxiety with the uncertainty and unjust implications that could have turned out with a single rule.

The noteworthy history of South Korea in terms of martial law declarations, along with the impeachment and prosecution of former presidents highlight the role of the citizens in appropriately practicing the true essence of democracy and in becoming vigilant to foresee political leaders that have the innate responsibility to uphold the rights of the people.

It is alarming to think how democracy can easily be threatened by a leader's mere decision. Yet this historical event in South Korea attests to how vital it is to exercise the power of people in opposing a massive political change.

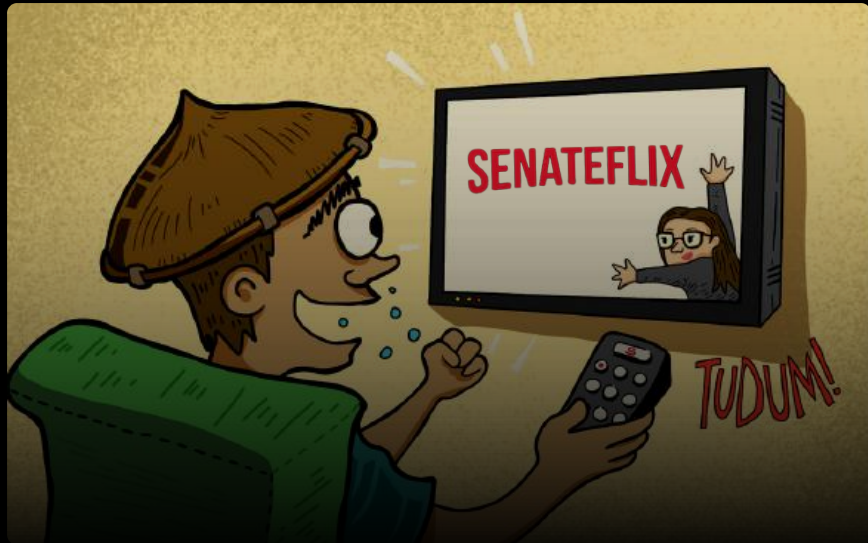
The country can only dream of as efficient and firm lawmakers that can withstand the pressure of opposing corrupt leaders. Hence in May 2025, may the public prove their power and elect people that won't bend and instead will stand with them.

SENATEFLIX

Home TV Shows Movies New & Popular My List



My List



Philippine Political Drama • 2024 • Limited Series

Inspired by real political events, this article shows tangled stories of political figures, public officials, and key individuals in the course of Senate and Congressional hearings to the delight of the Filipino masses.

Who's watching?: **Senateflix** is fun until...

■ Joe Vincent Fernandez, Editor-in-Chief

THE PHILIPPINE POLITICAL DRAMA has long been established involving Senate and Congressional hearings and sessions encompassing a true-to-life *teleserye* of the country's politicians, convicted personalities, and everyone else in between. From every corner of national headlines, the controversy embroiling the government and various political scandals summarized the tea that every Filipino surely feasted upon.

Senateflix is a turn of phrase describing a series of political shows served by the Senate and Congress following the progression of various hearings including politicians and defamed personas. Filipinos were then quick to react to these national developments, giving birth to a nationwide phenomenon that went on as the country fixated its view on free entertainment they couldn't miss. Now, decked on their mobile phones as they binge-watch these live streams, Filipinos proved to be more than just "marites" in these conversations, they are concerned citizens who are attentive to these issues not because they enjoy a thing or two, but more likely because they are affected by this political utopia, too.

ALICE IN MOTHERLAND

The season opened following the narratives of the dismissed Bamban mayor Alice Guo a.k.a Guo Hua Ping, and her ties with illegal activities involving her to a local offshore gambling hub in her town in Tarlac, setting her connections to Philippine offshore gaming operators (POGOs) in the country. While several documents and court findings revealed Guo as a Chinese citizen, the accused "Chinese spy" consistently denied these allegations, leaving sluggish progress in her case.

But here's the twist: The country was left in confusion as the Alice in question escaped the country and fled to Indonesia, as confirmed by Senator Risa Hontiveros on August 19. According to reports, the dismissed mayor alongside her siblings allegedly went to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Singapore, until they reached Indonesia, where they were seized. Her accomplices were the first to be arrested with Shiela Guo and Cassandra Ong being apprehended in Batam, Indonesia. Her brother, on the other hand, has not yet been captive by the Philippine custody according to authorities, while Alice, has been captured by Indonesian police on September 3, prompting her return to the country for further investigation.

Since her return, the former mayor has been in the hot eyes of the authority, including Hontiveros, who spearheaded her immediate capture and questioning. However, despite these efforts, Guo reaffirmed her

stand away from the allegations. Now, under police custody, Guo remains in question for her connections to POGOs for possible charges including graft and corruption, as well as falsification of documents and perjury, which made her one of the clear-cut shaky characters in this Senate series.

THE POGO'S GAMBIT

Concerning Guo's case, several episodes of widened POGO information were traced, connecting illegal activities, such as drug trafficking and money laundering schemes to various local officials. As a prequel to this season, these Chinese-run illegal operations were labeled by Surigao del Norte 2nd District Representative Robert Ace Barbers in 2019 as a haven for criminal activities, including investment scams, kidnapping, murder, prostitution, and human trafficking, to name a few. As such, according to the lawmaker, some unprincipled Chinese nationals tricked the country's laws via bribery to slide away from their mess and pursue a completely legitimate local identity for smoother business transactions.

However, these vulgar mockeries of the country's federal system were ended last July 22 via President Ferdinand "Bong Bong" Marcos Jr.'s directive in his 2024 State of Nation Address (SONA) strengthened by Executive Order (EO) No. 74, which declared a nationwide ban on all POGO operations across the country, citing grave abuse and disrespect to country's laws.

Despite a total ban, no one was excused from its repercussions as further investigations involving the now-detained Guo, and other local officials, which involve Pampanga Mayor Jaime Capil, Vice Mayor Francis Tamayo, and other local officials over Porac, Pampanga mess, as well as Sual, Pangasinan and Mexico, Pampanga's mayors, Liseldo alugay and Teddy Tumang, for their deal and favorable courtesy with Guo and other Chinese nationals for the POGO activities to thrive in their locality.

STRANGER THIEVES

Of course, it will not be a complete political drama without a soap opera involving two families in dispute — the Marcoses and Dutertes underlining the climax of this season. The country's president, Ferdinand "Bong Bong" Marcos, and his predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte were not excised from the drama that flourished since 2022 during the national elections. From an exchange of innuendos of drug abuse and mental impairment, the two chiefs of state of two generations clashed in a public duel with Marcos noting Duterte's drug war, which heightened the familial hostilities. Meanwhile, Duterte's son and Davao City mayor, Sebastian Duterte, had urged Marcos to resign given the accusations of him trying to extend his reign by changing the constitution to favor him and their clan. The women in the family were later on involved with the first wife and lawyer, Liza, challenging

Duterte's daughter and the country's vice president, Sara Duterte to step down from being the secretary of the education department. She accepted the challenge later on, resigning from her post as the chief secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) weeks before the opening of classes, as well as a member of the Cabinet sans any excuse or reason.

This tension has been immediately seconded by heated exchanges of words and threats spurred by the former Cabinet member when she lashed out at Liza Marcos, House Speaker Martin Romualdez, and PBBM, intimidating the latter of being assassinated if she was deemed killed. Duterte later on negated the claims of her remarks, exclaiming that her words were held out of context. The tension was intensified by her claims that the First Lady was involved in corruption activities and that the House probe involving her office and DepEd on the use of confidential funds was spurred by Romualdez's interest in the presidency in 2028.

Still and all, due to her active threat to the president, Duterte ultimately faces multiple charges of impeachment. Hence, as the fallout continues, the feud between Dutertes and Marcoses will carry on in 2025 ahead of the midterm elections when the two largest political families in the country face head-to-head in supporting their respective bets in contention for local and national posts.

The political telenovela in the country is undoubtedly a source of entertainment following a myriad of plot twists and turns of those who were at the top of the national headlines. However, it underscores stories more than just plots of horror, comedy, and drama— it reveals antithetical stories of crime, family affairs, and action from stirred incorporations of both scripted and unscripted telltales. Now, beyond cheap slapstick, the focus is directed on a wider perspective of keeping the truth and letting everyone know that the show is not just for fun, but a prompt to take each national controversy seriously despite the ruckus of various episode fillers along the way.

Watching episodes of Senateflix is fun as it gauges most Filipinos to be more proactive and aware of the national concerns that are likewise affecting everyone in one way or another; however, it also holds one responsible for being not easily swayed by the comedy and drama dialogued by each cast as they, too, have perfectly imperfect approaches to control their viewership. These political chronicles are far from over, at least from a national situation perspective, as more stories need to be unraveled, and more plots are waiting to be twisted as the country awaits the next seasons to be released sooner or later.



Sensitive content

This photo may contain graphic or violent content

See why

Only for fun: Unmasking secrets behind screens

■ Duanne Luke Amria Edurise, Writer

It stings.

THE BLARING SCREEN burns the watcher's eyes while they enter a world where lust meets money. With a few clicks away can be seen what the new meta for adult content are: personalized, profitable, and permanent. OnlyFans, a debate-provoking gateway between financial freedom and personal privacy.

With the masses longing for some sort of convenient entertainment and alternative income source, internet content subscription apps have risen due to popular demands, one of which being OnlyFans. This social platform, which was produced in 2016, suddenly hit its newfound peak during early 2020 because of the presented COVID-19 adversity. Having its main appeal being "easy," in some sort of way, it spoke to the internet. This introduced a new form of production and consumption, one of which poses a unique but dangerous promise that both creators and customers cannot keep their eyes off of.

For creators, the appeal of OnlyFans lies in its promise of easy money, employer-independence, full control, and convenience. Despite this, many creators report facing privacy breaches, online harassment, and societal stigma. "I felt extremely uncomfortable and violated when a stranger sent me real-time messages detailing my appearance and even a photo of me working out," an OnlyFans content creator Alicia Davis expounded. For some, the platform's false illusion of

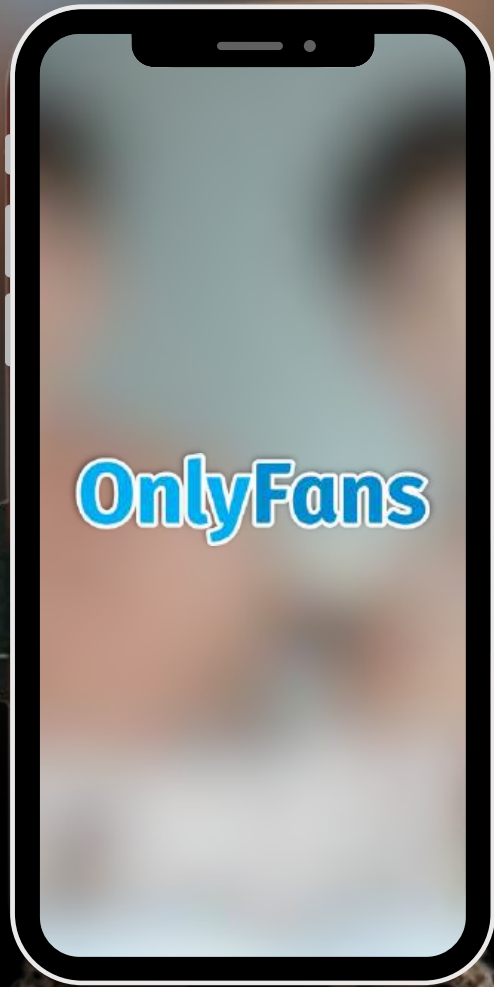
goodness is tempered by the harsh realities of being an NSFW content creator, needing to traverse spaces where personal and professional boundaries blur.

Meanwhile, subscribers are drawn to the platform's one-sided intimacy because of OnlyFans' level of personalization that is difficult to find elsewhere. Fans pay for direct access to creators, making it feel more intimate than what it really is, a business tactic. With this recent trend in the sexwork industry, this changed the way people consume and produce content, further emphasizing personalized and accessible creation. In result, desensitization to saturated porn scenarios and even romance has escalated, changing how society perceives intimacy and entertainment.

The rise of OnlyFans has not been without controversy. It has sparked debates about ethics, empowerment, and exploitation. Supporters view the platform as a liberating tool for empowerment and expression. Critics, however, question the long-term impacts of such platforms on mental health and societal norms. Furthermore legal challenges are also present, such as underage users accessing the platform or concerns over content moderation. All of these are present in a gray spectrum of problems, making this application's rise complicated.

The effect of OnlyFans goes beyond the bright screen because the masses can feel its impact in real time. As people participate in this industry more, consenting to this "operation" continues.

In an age defined by the media, OnlyFans is an icon of both opportunity and risk; it culturally shifts how the masses perceive media-related endeavours, it is an easy cash grab, and it raises ethical questions about how the people can go about the use of this platform. As creators and consumers continue to click and browse while their eyes sting because of the monitor, the lingering question is: is this all worth it for some temporary pocket change?



EXPLICIT FIGURES

4.11M
creators

305M
registered users

31.25%
largest age demographic
users (24-34 years old)

Source: Social Rise (as of 2024)



Recognition goes beyond grades and trophies; **it stems from the genuine pride of knowing you've given your all**

Vanchives

Vanessa May Gonzales | @vnmagonzales

Thirsty for more

THE OVERACHIEVER. The meticulous individual. The person who not only succeeded but also distinguished themselves, wearing each recognition as a form of protective gear. The journey of such individuals is often punctuated by moments of self-doubt and external pressures, driving them to push beyond their limits.

Experiencing self-hatred occurs when individuals allow external influences to divert them for the inherent pressure associated with their intellectual capacity. Many students who achieve remarkable accomplishments pledge to themselves that they will not let external factors of maintaining their top spot overcome them. However, this sentiment is often challenges as overachievers feel profound dissatisfaction despite their best efforts. The emotional burden skews their perception, leading them to see themselves as failures rather than recognizing their achievements. They find themselves adrift on a once-familiar path, struggling to breathe in the pursuit of freedom, while their hearts ache in silence, devoid of words to express the anguish they feel.

The disparity between passion and acknowledgment is a common phenomenon. Individuals exert themselves, take on numerous obligations, and strive for external validation. Despite the significant time invested in studying, working, and performing to the best of our abilities, the tangible rewards often fall short of our expectations. This disparity often leads one to ponder: "What does passion truly mean?" Is it merely the recognition from others, or does it encompass deeper aspects such as personal development, resilience, and the connections we foster throughout our journey?

Fueling the fire fundamentally intertwines with the journey just as much as it does with the end result. It encompasses the progress we make from overcoming obstacles, the lessons we glean from failures, and the appreciation we find in the process itself. The true value isn't solely in the accolades we chase; sometimes, it lies in the personal triumphs we fail to recognize within ourselves. Recognition goes beyond grades and trophies; it stems from the genuine pride of knowing you've given your all, and it does not need physical recognition to validate your journey.

Many view accomplishments as the main path to success, often neglecting failures. They pursue excellence for admiration and praise, grappling with the pressure to meet high expectations. Students in the limelight may not realize that others expect even greater brilliance. Over time, praise like "I am proud of you" can turn into "You are not that intelligent after all," leading to a loss of intrinsic motivation and purpose. Some resort to dishonesty for recognition, compromising ethics. True success lies not just in trophies but in the small, unnoticed moments of overcoming obstacles, the quiet joy after hard work, and the encouragement from loved ones. Real success is knowing we did our best, even if there is no recognition.

WALA KANG UTANG NA LOOB!

Why Vice Ganda's 'And The Breadwinner is' is the *ultimate Pinoy slap in the face*

■ Joe Vincent Fernandez, Editor-in-Chief

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH inside the Filipino family chain, the ultimate trick to put up on your sleeve is always the “*utang na loob*” card. It never declines.

Vice Ganda's comeback movie for the 50th anniversary of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), “And The Breadwinner is” reflects the very nuance of this exploited value as her character in the dramatic-comedy family film, Bambi Salvador, exposed trademark stories among Filipino breadwinners on home soil and overseas. The film, co-produced by Star Cinema and The IdeaFirst Company under the direction of Jun Lana, took the unkabogable phenomenal superstar into a different era of portrayal after her decades of magnetic comedy movies every Christmas, deviating into a deeper ‘Pinoy’ perspective.

The movie follows the story of Bambi, a gay breadwinner and an overseas Filipino worker (OFW) in Taiwan, who went back home to Arayat, Pampanga, her hometown, for her birthday celebration as she was expecting their dream house to be installed upon her arrival. Contrary to her expectations, the second child among the Salvador siblings witnessed their run-down home, in less unfavorable conditions. The drama and comedy lived on behind Bambi's rage, realizing that she was being scammed by her family.

Banking on the unsung narratives of breadwinners in every family, the movie became a sure hit as it was patronized by Filipinos of different ages who were touched by its raw and heartfelt intimation— the weight they carry on their shoulders is not as light as the appreciation and recognition they duly received. Maybe this is the common denominator for the film to get noticed by the masses. Of course, it felt like a ‘Pinoy’ story because it truly is one. It encompasses a detailed and unfiltered familial reality that everyone experienced and observed, rehearsed in a braver collaboration not just for a realization project but for an exhibition of truth beyond every family table.

A DISADVANTAGED VANTAGE POINT

The Filipino structure immortalizes the thought of holding *utang na loob* or debt of gratitude to someone who holds a dear appreciation for a favor that is expected to be returned in, also, a favorable way and similar magnitude. At first glance in thought, there seems no blemish in this ‘Pinoy’ impression as this fosters an affirmative relationship of friendship and assistance, but this, however, posits collective stories of abuse among Filipinos through the years, imposing a daunted picture of its vantage point.

Filipinos are family-oriented in nature, situated on their anthropological roots of being collectivists. The term breadwinner, however, does not come from a collective perspective evidenced by its first use in 1614 by a Scottish minister and diarist James Melville who inferred bread as a staple household food, a thought that the person who brings home money is also the person who brings home the bread. The logical standpoint of the term revolved until it reached the coastline of every country, as reflected more predominantly in today's Filipino cultural values.

Filipinos view *utang na loob* as a national character seated beyond the realms of expressing gratitude, and responding to a favor, or vice versa. In a more social context, particularly during confrontational discussions, Filipinos tend to use these expressions in support of their claims that someone should be held accountable for their debt toward them, which can be in the forms of moral, emotional, and even relational charges. This ultimately suggests a reciprocation of the good deeds and favor manufactured, which are, of course, expected to be returned. This, in general, exposes the premium value of

debt of gratitude that often leads to unresolved interpersonal conflicts.

TRAPPING THE TRAPPED

Furthermore, some family members, including parents, often take extensive regard to their family's breadwinners as mere household earners, or worse, as financial obligation scapegoats. In the film, Bambi absorbed this reality as she was not able to escape his family's growing needs. She, just like any breadwinner, was deemed expected to take the responsibilities left by her oldest sister, Baby, portrayed by Eugene Domingo, and by their late father and sick mother. Temporarily leaving everything behind, Bambi flew overseas to make amends for these financial disparities, only to find out her life's worst birthday surprise.

The movie swayed Vice Ganda in an emotional dialogue with top-caliber actors Jhong Hilario, Gladys Reyes, Kokoy de Santos, and multiple MMFF supporting actress winner, Eugene Domingo. The dramatic exchanges involve hurtful tones of reproaching, sacrificing, and resentment indulged by every character, bursting in one heavy scene. She also went into a raging monologue as she explored her life's reality as a trapped breadwinner, whom her younger closeted gay brother, Boy, referred to as “miserable”. Her response to an insult inflicted on her and on every breadwinner blanked cinemagoers as they shattered into tears at how each line pushed their buttons. They felt that, for sure.

The unrehearsed tears among moviegoers, who could either be breadwinners, family members of a breadwinner, or parents, made them have second thoughts about their own experiences too.

Of course, no two breadwinners' experiences are exactly alike, but witnessing the trapped collective experience materialized by Vice Ganda's character is enough reason to denounce that bread-winners share

the same fate.

MOLDY BREADWINNERS

Breadwinners like Bambi are not mere cash suppliers. They, too, have the right to be hurt and feel tired from the responsibilities surrounding them. They are not robots; they are just mere dreamers wanting a better life for their family, and yet, their tortured experiences whenever they sacrifice a slice of themselves for the benefit of their family reveal the explicit realities and bitter pills they have to swallow after becoming one.

Furthermore, breadwinners leave a little less for themselves. They don't have time for love or to be loved, nor treat themselves once in a while, because for them, doing so is just a waste of time, and they would just put their money and time into their family. This is the reality they get used to as being part of the cycle. In return, instead of keeping an idea of responsibility with every family member, they are enculturing a moldy culture of irresponsibility and negligence to their family. Of course, it is not their fault, but these situations will not change unless they do something to break the curse, just like what Bambi did.

On the other hand, some family members are also showing little respect and care to their breadwinners. The manner of giving and receiving remains a constant culture deprived of thanks and mere appreciation. However, this should not be the norm; the plot has to change as breadwinners need more than just appreciation for their sacrifices— they need support from their families to help them perform their familial obligations. Giving help is significant in these circulations because they are not invincible to life's limitations; they cannot always remain at the top of the pedestal in doing these duties, hence, they have to have assistance from everyone in the family to continue their lives. After all, in Bambi's words, there is no rule that states that there should only be one breadwinner in the family. To her, it should be a collaborative effort.

In reality, as reflected in Bambi's tale, breadwinners can be labeled as sore losers of the family, particularly when they are left empty-handed after giving all that they have at the expense of their personal loss. Sacrificing for the betterment of family is the core of being a family-centered Filipino, but this must not implicate one's well-being because continuously doing so puts oneself in a prolonged hazard of exhaustion, a place of hard recovery.

As advertised, Vice Ganda's 'And The Breadwinner is' promises to be this year's most heartfelt family movie. More than its striking thread, the film centers its attention on giving every a Filipino a taste of their own medicine— a slap in the face considered as a life lesson that can be taken into account as the family progresses into showing more importance, care, and love to their life's breadwinners. Hence, it can also be laid down that now more than ever, Filipinos can learn the value of *utang na loob* more than just its corrupted meaning, but as a profound and seasoned merit in the life of every Filipino.

Uttering “*wala kang utang na loob!*” as a last resort to someone who was not able to bestow a deal of something wished to be returned is a symbolic gesture of an uncharitable character that every Filipino must understand beyond their familial chapters, because just like Bambi, breadwinners only want a well-lived life for their families, and mortifying them with these slurs does not make a positive count.

LOST SABUNGEROS' DISAPPEARANCE IN PHILIPPINE CINEMAS

■ Flordeliza Resurreccion, Writer

THE 2024 FILIPINO DOCUMENTARY FILM "Lost Sabungeros" is a must-watch film if you want to see the side of cockfighting beyond the scenery of what it is portrayed to be in real-life and online. This docu-film was directed by Bryan Kristoffer Brazil and is GMA Public Affairs' first-ever investigative docu-film, which was initially set to premier at the 20th Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival in August, but then sidelined due to questionable charges.

Due to an unfortunate turn of events, the screenings of the film were promptly cancelled by Cinemalaya due to "security concerns." The screenings were supposed to be held on August 8 at 5 p.m. at Ayala Malls Manila Bay Cinema 2 and August 9 at 5:30 p.m. at Cinema 8. The August 8 screening was then replaced by the film "Balota," a GMA Pictures film starring Marian Rivera.

The docu-film tells the story of the *sabungeros*—a Filipino term for "cockfighters", who strangely disappeared in different cockpit arenas in several parts of the Philippines between April 2021 and January 2022. The film follows the story of the different family members who shouts for justice and seeks for the truth on what really happened to their missing loved ones.

The trailer sparked the curiosity of viewers as it showed the controversies and dangers of the billion-peso-government-contributing activity, which have led to the sudden disappearances of the 34 'sabunge-

ros' or cockfighters. Film director Brazil, through the film, aimed to show the shouts for justice and truth that would not be buried and forgotten.

According to him, his conscience was bothering him and that is why is speaking up. He explained that the missing sabungeros are being brought to a farm. An interviewer asks him if the missing sabungeros are still alive and the trailer left a cliffhanger to have us wanting for more.

The abrupt cancellation of the film has left the audience hanging and wanting for more. Some were saddened and disappointed by the circumstances, but some pointed out that the reason for the sudden cancellation was because of the powerful and influential names mentioned and included in the film. It also made them worried about media censorship and the filmmakers' safety in triggering sensitive topics.

Until now, there is still no news whether the film will be released through other platforms. According to the director and producer, their team plans to do a film showing in micro cinemas and schools, who have also expressed interest in hosting screenings. With this in mind, they also hoped that more people would be able to watch the film and give a voice to the grieving families.

The documentary's trailer alone triggered the issues of justice, truth, freedom of expression, and possibilities involved in investigative storytelling; thus the film highlighted the importance of fighting for justice alongside unapologetic discoveries by filmmakers and exposure of the truth beyond 'make-up' censorship.

Seasoned & flavored: DRPH S3 is that "Pakak" season!

■ Jayven Magsino, Associate Editor

LET'S BE HONEST: if you Google "best season of Drag Race Philippines," you are practically drowning in clips and images celebrating the concluded Season 3, garnering high star ratings and embedded with very good commentaries.

The success value of the third season is all attributed to its impeccable casts, cohesive storylines, and stellar production. It is well-packed and well-thought-out, as if every detail of the season counts.

NUMBERS DON'T LIE

Week after week, episode after episode, viewers delivered top marks, creating a sustained wave of popularity that goes far beyond a fleeting trend. The numbers themselves are record-breaking. Consider this: a wildly inventive and chaotic "Snatch Game" episode achieved an almost unbelievable 9.9/10 rating on IMDB—the highest the show has ever received—and a score that rivaled the most celebrated episodes from international "Drag Race" franchises.

The success of Drag Race Philippines Season 3 isn't just a matter of high overall ratings; it's the consistency. We're talking weeks of unforgettable television, a rollercoaster of emotions that left audiences gasping with shock, doubled over with laughter, and occasionally wiping away a happy tear.

PUKSAAN NA!

Season 3 boasted a phenomenal cast, immediately captivating audiences from the very first "Meet the Queens" segment. Each queen brought a unique and unforgettable flavor to the competition, creating a dynamic and compelling ensemble.

The season was rife with compelling storylines: the intense sibling rivalry between Maxie and Angel; the dramatic tension between Versex and Khianna; Tita Baby and Zymbading's inspiring challenge to ageist preconceptions within the drag community; John Fedellaga's rape story awareness; and Myx Channel's impactful HIV awareness campaign – all contributed to a season bursting with diverse representation.

The leap in production quality for Drag Race Philippines Season 3 is undeniable, elevating the entire viewing experience to a new level. Gone were the more modest sets of previous seasons with improved lighting and camera work. The challenges themselves were significantly upgraded such as the design challenges, virality challenge and girl group challenges.

These weren't simply the same old drag race tropes; they were inventive, high-octane events that pushed the queens to their limits and provided unforgettable moments of both triumph and heartbreak.

With the incredible success of Season 3, the anticipation for the All-Stars Season 1 and Season 4 is at a fever pitch. This season wasn't just a win for the queens; it was a win for Filipino drag, proving the power, heart, and undeniable place on the global stage, a legacy built on talent, hard work, and a whole lot of "pakak".



9.22

Highest IMDB rating among 65 finished Drag Race seasons

IMAGINE A BOY wearing a long-sleeve shirt under a polo shirt, complete with a necktie. He pairs this ensemble with a long skirt and sneakers, finishing off the look with sunglasses and a bandana as a headpiece. These outfits, which might seem chaotic yet intentional, challenge traditional matching rules by blending patterns, textures, and colors – they call it "balagbag outfit."

The term "balagbag" is a Filipino term that means "thrown across", describing the trend of throwing fits together to come up with a complete look. This trend was started by a TikTok content creator named Kiel The Great who currently has 2 million followers. He posted a video of himself wearing the never-before seen combination of clothing as his streetwear, popularized by the background music in Michael Jackson's 'Beat It', characterizing the trend as a form of self-expression. Teenagers lived up to the hype of the trendsetter, shifting to a more collective style and generational fit check.

Since then, more and more youngsters have engaged in the new vogue of fashion, showcasing a way of one-upping each other. Hence, as the popularity of the *balagbagan* grows, it shows a testament that this generation appreciates individuality and self-expression through fashion. This shift in young people's view of outfit culture proves that beauty and aesthetics are truly subjective and that everyone can wear and set their style at their own brawling pace.

Balagbagan sa Kanto: Brawl of styles in street fashion

■ Gabriel Valida, Writer

“Kung ano yung sinapit ng mga bata... 'pag inaalala ko, di ko mabalikan kung ano'ng nangyari

To Plea or To Perish: Silenced narratives in Kara David's “Kapalit ng Katahimikan”

■ Ryan Phillippe De Guzman, Chief Photojournalist

Trigger Warning: This article on a documentary about sexual abuse include themes and discussions of sexual assault, abuse, and harassment which may be disturbing and traumatizing to some audience.

“THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME” is a saying generally thrown around as it depicts the general experience we feel in the comfort of our own home. However, this isn't necessarily the case for Dolores, Jasmin, and Marisol (not their real names) who experienced a combined total of eight counts of rape under the hands of their respective uncles and neighbors. “Kapalit ng Katahimikan”, an I-Witness documentary by Kara David unfolds the traumatizing events that happened to the three minors in rural Maguindanao.

The eye-opening documentary narrates the cases of Dolores, a now 25-year-old mentally-challenged pregnant woman, then Jasmin and Marisol, sisters aged ten and seven respectively, all residents of rural and tribal Maguindanao. Kara David unfolds the grueling stories of each, narrating the testimonies of every victim, interviewing their families, and highlighting the unruly outcomes of their abuse.

TO PERISH: TIL DEATH DO US PART

“Dolores”, as recalled by his father's memory, was only 16 or 17 years old when she was pulled to the cornfield and sexually exploited by her own uncle. Ate “Bing”, a former *kagawad* at their village, joined Dolores' father in reporting the case to the tribal council, only to be summoned back and informed that the case will be settled via an agreement until Dolores' family accepts the offender's offer of settlement.

In many indigenous areas like South Upi, Maguindanao, the tribal council is the ones who mediate conflicts among the indigenous people as part of their culture to resolve conflict in their communities and promote the traditions of their group. Jarring as it may seem, in the case of Dolores, their tradition states that there is no such thing as rape; if a woman insists that she refuses to be with the man, then the man shall provide a “payment for her shame”—a penalty which can amount to anything that the woman wants.

Instead of filing a criminal report against her abuser, the tribal council was the one who made the arrangements. Dolores' family accepted this so-called “payment for her shame”, which amounted to a measly horse and Php 6,000.

Years pass and unease strikes once again Dolores and her family. She was sexually abused by her neighbor. The tribal council once again intervenes, stating that Dolores shall be bound with the man who abused her in marriage to clear off all penalties involved as if she was never raped in the first place. In the eyes of the council, all shame will be erased if the man marries the woman he raped.

For Dolores and her family, it is grueling to appeal due to the scarcity of finances and abusers leveraging Dolores' mental condition.

TO PLEA: DESPITE ALL ODDS

In written, painful testimony, young Jasmin and Marisol recall the multiple abuses they endured from their very uncle. As she was walking to the banana plantation to take a bath, the then 10-year-old Marisol was taken advantage of by her uncle, striking fear and trauma to her heart. She cried, yet was unable to utter a word to her parents for the abuser threatened to kill them once they knew.

Months pass, and terror unfolds in the lives of both Jasmin and Marisol under the same hands that victimized them the first time. Both of the sisters were followed first in the dark, quiet bamboo forest where no one would hear them scream, shout, or beg for mercy. Adding insult to injury, Jasmin witnessed firsthand the abuse happening to younger Marisol, wherein she was next abused by her uncle after letting the latter flee.

Then the abuse happened again for the third time. Taking advantage of the fact that there would be no one to protect the then 5-year-old Jasmin alone in their abode, the gruesome uncle took advantage of the situation yet again, with the minor unable to speak or stand up for herself.

The fourth time around, the abuse happened yet again. However, something began that would start hope anew. As Marisol was sleeping in her aunt's house, her uncle abused her again. But this time, Rosa, her aunt saw the treacherous deeds of her husband. Marisol mustered up the courage and told Rosa of the abuse that has been happening multiple times, all along. Rosa reported this to the children's mother “Lydia”, yet she, of all people, saw this as a blatant lie.

What would eventually shift Jasmin and Mirasol's mother's perspective to witness the cruelty upfront. Lydia was told by one of her children that she would only visit the bathroom. Too many minutes pass and unease seeps into

Lydia, and so she searches and sees her mud-stained child on the other side of the river. Lydia asked what happened, and there the child also admitted the abuses happening under the grasp of their uncle.

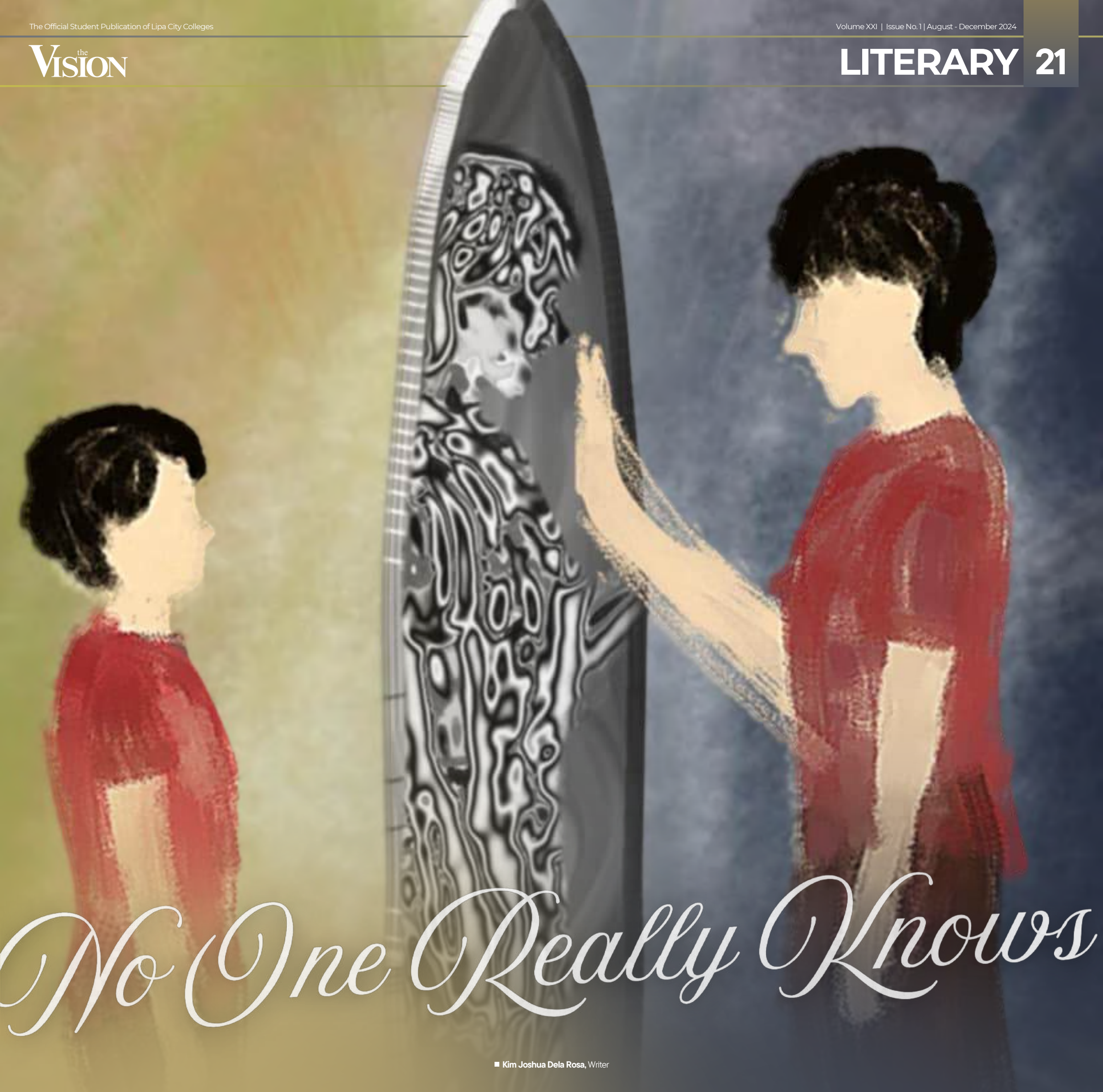
In the end, strong-willed Lydia stood up for her children filed for a case, and denied any settlements. Even Rosa, the suspect's wife, and their cousins joined the fight against Jasmin and Marisol's abuser. In spite of poverty, lack of connections, threats from the abuser, and disapproval from the tribal council, in the end, they won and put the exploitative uncle behind bars.

The agonizing documentary delves into the harsh reality that women and children face today. Plus, it has put into the limelight the unequal, slow, and social-class-dependent justice that sexual abuse victims face that make it all the more difficult to appeal these cases in a court of law. This, in turn, delivers to the audience an appalling narrative, having to witness the likes of Dolores, Jasmin, and Marisol, individuals who are innocent, ignorant, and less fortunate as they are unable to defend themselves against the terrors that lurk in their community, in their own homes.

“In my more than 20 years creating documentaries in I-Witness, this documentary was one of the hardest stories I had to write,” revealed Kara David at the near-end of the documentary.

According to the 2020 World Population Review, there is an estimated 1.3 billion women experiencing sexual abuse globally every year, and only 10% of them have the courage to report it to the authorities.

In an ideal world, women and children are able to live freely and without fear of being exploited by perpetrators who creep in plain sight. In an ideal world, our justice system is truly equal, speedy, and radical, regardless of socioeconomic status and gender. However, until that ideal world comes, silenced narratives will continue to be written with the tears and trauma of the victims, and woefully never revealed nor resolved. Until that world comes, criminals will continue to roam the towns and homes without guilt or remorse for the insufferable pain that the victims will mourn for indefinitely. In the end, it leaves those less fortunate, those who have less of a voice, and those who have no one to run to only have two gut-wrenching choices: to plea or to perish.



No One Really Knows

■ Kim Joshua Dela Rosa, Writer

"If I have a chance to have a time machine or a magical reflecting mirror, I would tell my seven-year-old shadow to stay young, enjoy his childhood, and not force himself to be a dreamer of reaching adulthood." - Guy in Gray Hoodie

Amid the night, he tried and wanted to cry even though no tears were running down his face. With every bang that the door gives, the cold guy wearing a gray hoodie staying in his room starts to panic, and it causes his chest to pound; however, he continues to write on his laptop with little to no breaks. Imagine a life of rotating around the cycle of being the eldest in the family with academic responsibilities and the pile of obligations he must fulfill.

No one really knows what's really going on inside the so-called "quiet and calm home," they didn't know there are three men under one roof who have different struggles with their own shadows haunting them. Are they bound together by fate for what? Until now, the senior high school student in the gray room, sitting in a red chair typing and writing an essay on his study table with a pile of books, still uncertain about everything.

He was once a believer and a dreamer of being one of many students who attained achievements. In fact, those students he saw on social media and in institutions with good academic and extracurricular remarks inspired him to pursue his passion and learn other skills that will guide him to reach his goal.

But now, what's the goal? Sleepless nights? Ruminating that what he did yesterday wasn't enough to fill the gap between what's best and what's

next?

One time, in his online philosophy class, the instructor asked the students about their definition of happiness? Some said they gained happiness when they met their needs, had a healthy life, were content, or just had "me time" sitting on their couch watching their favorite Netflix series without worrying about schoolwork or other life issues.

The guy wearing his usual gray hoodie answered complexly, even though he was uncertain about his definition of happiness. He stressed, *"How could I attain the eudaimonic feeling when I was continuously facing trials day after day?"* However, he also emphasized that we should be honest that money can buy happiness. He always asked himself if someone could be happy and be in love if they can't satisfy their basic needs in life.

At midnight, in one of the corners of his room, he was sitting on the floor with two hands on his head, trying to control the words and questions in his mind. Praying, begging, and hoping to his creator, "Please, make me the best version of myself so I can give the best life that my mother deserves."

His uncertainties and insecurities worsened when some of his old poor neighbor's words, as sharp as knives, slapped him about the gap between reality and his fantasy. Years tested him financially, mentally, and socially, but he was still grateful that he survived.

But does he have a choice? When, in his eyes, his only goal is just to comply and survive.

One moment in his life, when he was peacefully scrolling through his Instagram account, one posted a statement on their story, which captured and further perplexed his thoughts about the deeper meaning of passion, practicality, and achievements in life.

But still, he tried, and with his "take the risk, or lose the chance" mantra, although he failed some people, he tried. I believe it's the most important thing that at the end of the day, we tried, we learned, and only regret the chances we didn't take.

In his video-recorded speech in a philosophy project, he said, "You will be forced to be independent. Along the road, you will learn to embrace who you are and work through a thousand puzzles and riddles of life's ups and downs. But remember, it's normal; we're still living, pursuing, and hunting our lives!. Remind yourself that no one knows about your future; they can judge you. However, your future will always depend on how you take your own path."

After a long day of trying to write the essay's ending, the introverted guy in the gray jacket realizes everything is just a glimpse; he sets aside the blank paper sheets, leaves his seat, cleans his bed, and falls asleep. While he was sleeping, his most awaited tears started falling from the side of his bed, and in his dreams, he was a walking typewriter with an enigmatic smile writing the next chapter.



City of Dreams

■ Flordeliza Resurreccion, Writer

The lights that crashes through my eyes,
the cars that passes by so fast,
the noise that surrounds me,
and the cold air piercing my body

Seeing different people with different lives
gave me wonders about my future
That one of them only wakes up just to survive
and keep up with life's pressure

As the road that I take gives me different perspectives,
I will always come back to how it makes me feel
Comforted, relaxed, dreamful, and reflective,
somehow wishing these visions will become real

There's really something comforting about the city
The way it motivates me to dream,
it inspires me to take roads that are risky,
And it gives me hope to gleam

Mx. and Match

■ Isabella Faye Alfajaro, Sports Editor

SHOWCASING THE FINEST STUDENTS of the College of International Tourism and Hospitality Management (CITHM), highlighting their skills, creativity, and dedication to the field, the Mx. CITHM pageant stands more than just a pageant competition; it's a celebration of talent, intelligence, and the spirit of hospitality.

LCCian Tourism Students' League (LTS-L), a student organization under the CITHM Department, spearheaded an event aligned with the celebration of World Tourism Day 2024, themed, "PAX: Tourism and Peace" underscoring the knowledge and sparked passion for tourism.

Mx. CITHM is to celebrate with the world and foster unity and love among 'Puso' CITHM students. Additionally, the event also undermines belongingness in the industry and showcases the message of the theme through various seminars, competitions, and gender-inclusive pageants promoting their advocacies.

In an interview, Cristine Maalam, 1st-year representative of the LCCian Tourism Students' League, emphasized the importance of the celebration. "...It's very beneficial, first and foremost, to boost their confidence because alam naman po natin sa industry natin na bawal ang mahiyain," Maalam stated.

The festivities promote sustainable tourism emphasizing the vital connections between peace and travel and making it an experience that they will treasure. Garnering a lot of positive remarks from students and also from faculty members. Mr. Andrei Niño Neria, the current hotel custodian, "...Wala tayong gender na pinipili so lahat naman p'wede sumali. Para sa akin, nakaka-boost 'yon ng confidence ng mga student na sumali pa din sa mga gano'ng event," Neria added.

LTS-L's Mx. CITHM pageant is a shining example of how regardless of gender, students can steal the spotlight with their beauty, talent, and intellect. It is an initiative that not only flaunted individual excellence but also strengthened the sense of camaraderie within the community and tourism industry. The student organization's directive to bring back its gender-neutral pageant in the campus' avenue is a bold statement that resonates a resounding theme to the educational and social climate of the institution.



Designing an AI-nimated creative blasphemy.

■ Jayven Magsino, Associate Editor

WITH THE HIGHLY IMMERSIVE EXISTENCE of Artificial Intelligence (AI), there is a growing fear that it will soon take over humanity and replace human jobs, especially in the field of creatives such as artists, designers, graphic artists, creators, and even writers. As it is scary to think, it's now emerging, that humans are slowly being "cursed" by AI.

The fear isn't just about AI replacing human jobs—a very real concern—but about a more insidious consequence of a creeping dehumanization of creative output. The ease and efficiency of AI tools are undeniable. With a few clicks and a well-crafted prompt, AI can generate images, designs, and even text far beyond what a human could produce in a comparable timeframe. This power, however, comes at a cost. It's a kind of digital witchcraft – mysterious, effective, yet ultimately fostering creations that feel both inhumane and dishonest.

The recent controversy surrounding SM Company Mall's use of AI-generated graphics is a stark example of this curse. The resulting ads, with their unsettlingly unnatural features – think distorted hands and nonsensical placement of elements, like a girl inexplicably fused with floating buckets of popcorn – are not just poorly designed; they're symptomatic of a deeper issue.

For a company the size of SM, the deployment of such obviously AI-generated work is not just a misstep; it's an unforgivable betrayal of the creative process. It speaks to a prioritization of speed and cost-effectiveness over quality and genuine artistry.

The problem isn't AI itself. AI is a tool, and like any tool, it can be used for good or ill. The issue lies in the wholesale adoption of AI as a replacement

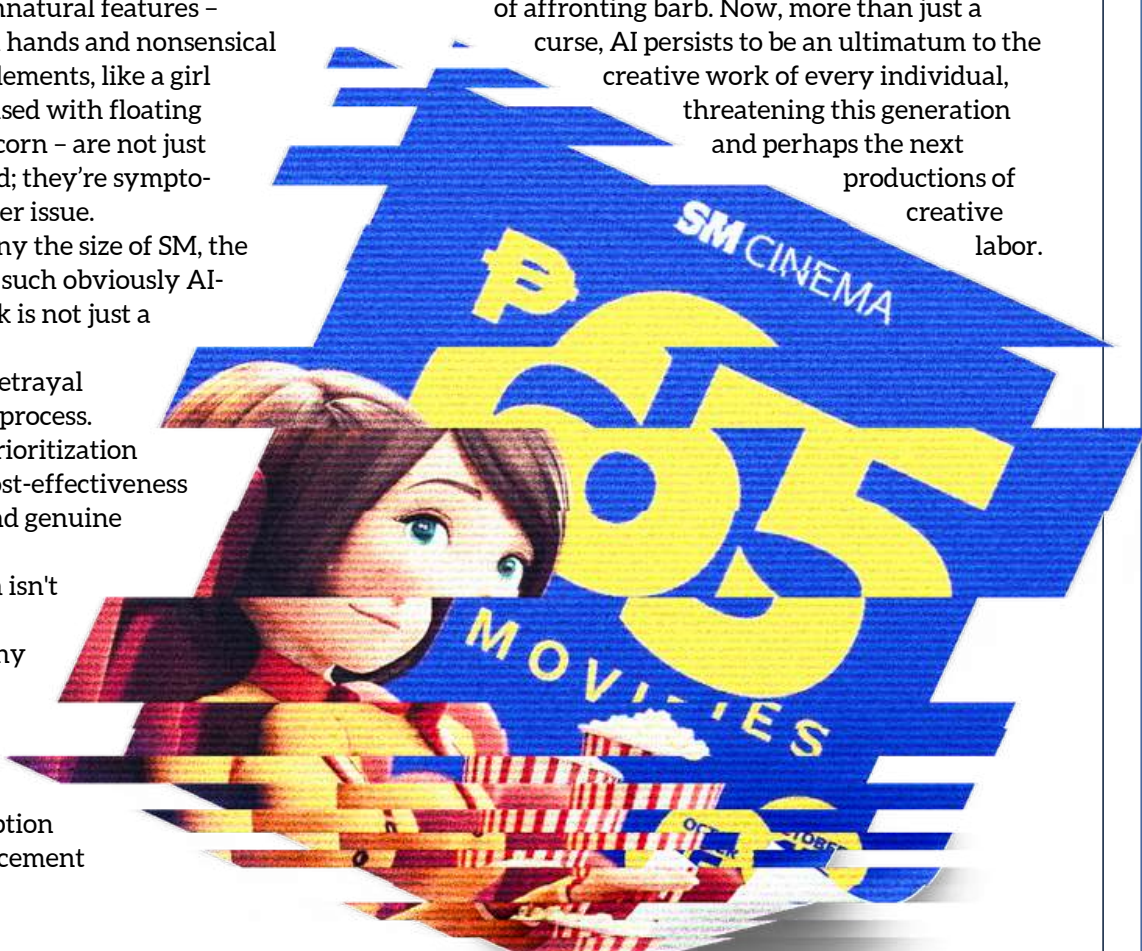
for human creativity, without consideration for the nuances, the emotions, and the sheer human ingenuity that true art demands. The resulting product, while technically proficient, often lacks the soul, the originality, and the emotional resonance that sets truly great creative work apart.

This "curse" isn't about stopping technological progress. It's about a responsible approach to integration. It's about recognizing the value of human creativity and ensuring that AI serves as a tool to augment and enhance, not replace, jobs created for humans.

The path forward requires a mindful balance: the efficiency of AI while safeguarding the irreplaceable qualities that only human artists can provide—the ability to feel, connect, and create something truly and uniquely human.

Until then, the specter of those creeping AI fingers will continue to haunt the space of contemporary creativity in a relative and daunting sphere of animation within the realm of affronting barb. Now, more than just a

curse, AI persists to be an ultimatum to the creative work of every individual, threatening this generation and perhaps the next productions of creative labor.



Now more than ever, Lipa's traffic situation has been **an eyesore and headache** to the daily experiences of all city dwellers

Joek Lang

Joe Vincent Fernandez | @joevincentfernandez

Sick of Traffic

Lipa to Lipa – 1 hour.

TRAFFIC SITUATION in Lipa City has been marked by the interchange of daily outrage of drivers and commuters, exclaiming their tantrums over long periods of waiting on queue in a long line of traffic jam. Experienced usually at the height of peak hours, this day-to-day road sickness has been labeled as Lipa's worst nemesis at the verge of heightened progress and development.

This road ruckus persists under the problematic highway of urbanization and poor traffic management, leading to a jam-packed problem every rush hour and other busy situations on Lipa's main roads, such as B. Morada street, General Luna street in Barangay Sabang, Claro M. Recto Avenue, and Jose P. Laurel Highway, where most schools, business operations, and establishments are located. These locations are also the prime hotspots for road jams due to the inclusion of additional bypass roads and other public roadworks, connecting the city proper to other adjacent barangays and municipalities in a "hopefully" faster beat.

However, this seems to be the problem – now that more roads are accessible to more vehicles in the city, more opportunities were opened to add more volume to the space that is already over occupied. Lipeños, on the other hand, are left ill-fated due to these circumstances, leaving a heavy drawback on their backs during their circadian commute.

On this note, while the local government unit of Lipa has been heeding the call by deploying more traffic aids under the Traffic Management Division (TMD), adding more alternative routes, and constricting its traffic policies, the city's road problem happens to be more of a serious case as Lipa emerges to be one of the upcoming urban centers in the country, where most industries and economic zones are nested, naming these problems as inevitable junctures of the development.

Now more than ever, Lipa's traffic situation has been an eyesore and headache to the daily experiences of all city dwellers, and with the relatively increasing number of urban population in Lipa each year, the problem balloons as a concerning point of view to the daily sickness of every Lipeño.



COMMUNITY

Transforming here and now: Lipa City shifts as a digital city

Alhodia Thea Venisse Sandoval, Writer

THE VAST DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY encompasses the innovation of accessible, convenient, and secured financial transactions in the digital ecosystem. Likewise, the Lipa City Mayor Eric Africa signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with GCash representatives for the DigiCities Program, in line with the Lipa City Digitalization Partnership, August 5.

GCash is a digital wallet service that enables online shopping, bills payment, and money transfer. As of 2023, there were upwards of 76 million registered users, thus becoming the most popular mobile wallet in the Philippines. Moreover, it is the largest digital ecosystem in the country and has launched its DigiCities Program in 27 cities nationwide, now, including the city of Lipa.

The program aims to collaborate with LGUs, businesses, and consumers across the country to foster digital inclusion through the extensive adoption of digital payments with the use of the GCash app in the local community. DigiCities Program has implemented its initial run from June to October 2024, with its

participative local government units (LGUs) nationwide. Furthermore, the empowerment of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) up to the acceptance of digital payment in public offices assists the local community in adopting the digital economy and upscaling their potential in business.

In a Facebook post, Mayor Eric Africa emphasized the highlight of the program in line with the digitalization and innovation of various small enterprises in Lipa.

"Highlight ng programa ang GCash DigiCities for Business Masterclass initiatives kung saan ibabahagi ang iba't ibang plataporma na makakatulong sa digitalization at innovation ng mga maliliit na negosyo," Africa shared.

The Lipa City GCash Digitalization Partnership provides a necessary tool for the local government, businesses, enterprises, and consumers to be equipped with adequate means to shift and advance in the digital landscape where most engagements and financial interactions are being held. Hence, this innovative solution approaches a more progressive, inclusive, and smart community, towards sustainable and resilient economic growth in the city of Lipa.

COVER STORY | From page 01 **Danger in the clouds: Lipa City faces Taal's volcanic fallout**

Chin Chin Joy Factor, Writer

LIPA CITY recently faced air quality deterioration as Taal Volcano's volcanic smog (vog) emissions spread across the CALABARZON region. On August 19, The Weather Channel reported that the city's Air Quality Index (AQI) reached an "Unhealthy" level, prompting concerns among residents. Consequently, this level poses health risks for everyone, with vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and individuals with respiratory conditions at greater risk.

Moreover, an "Unhealthy" AQI level, as defined by the U.S. AQI standards, is just two steps away from the most severe category: "Hazardous." As visibility decreases across the area, many residents reported eye and throat irritation caused by the vog.

Meanwhile, neighboring cities and municipalities promptly suspended classes, but Lipa City experienced delays in issuing a general announcement. Nevertheless, some schools made independent decisions to suspend classes following the health concerns.

In response to the situation, Lipa City Colleges (LCC) announced an immediate transition to online classes effective August 19, 2024. According to the administration, the health and safety of students and faculty remain the top priority, prompting the suspension of all face-to-face classes across all levels. Online instructions proceeded as scheduled, with further updates provided as the situation develops. This timely decision demonstrates LCC's commitment to safeguarding its academic community while ensuring the continuity of education.

Furthermore, by 6:19 a.m. on August 19, the Lipa City Public Information Office (PIO) issued a statement advising certain areas to adopt modular or online distance learning. This precautionary step aimed to reduce exposure to vog, which consists of sulfur dioxide and fine particulate matter. However, PHIVOLCS

warned that sulfur dioxide emissions from Taal Volcano are expected to persist until 2026, urging the public to remain vigilant.

Fortunately, by August 21, Lipa City's AQI returned to "green" status, indicating safe air quality with minimal health risks. Alongside this improvement, additional pollutants such as sulfur dioxide were reported to be at satisfactory levels. Nevertheless, authorities reminded residents to remain cautious, as sudden changes in air quality could occur due to Taal's ongoing activity.

To address these risks, health officials encouraged wearing masks and avoiding outdoor activities during vog episodes. Prolonged exposure to sulfur dioxide can worsen asthma, trigger respiratory diseases, and significantly impact individuals with pre-existing health conditions. Therefore, following safety measures and staying informed remain essential for safeguarding health.

All things highlighted, this incident puts a strong emphasis on the need for sustained community awareness and disaster preparedness. By prioritizing regular monitoring, strengthening communication between authorities and residents, and establishing contingency plans, Lipa City can mitigate the impact of future vog emissions. Promoting a sense of vigilance and responsiveness will also help the city adapt to the challenges posed by Taal volcano's activities and potential threats.

At the same time, this almost-every-now-and-then occurrence sets a huge wake up call to local officials to integrate long-term actions. It's high time to set the priorities straight and look for solutions regarding disaster-proofing and providing real-time financial aid to those affected. After all, there's a sitting P21 billion allocated for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund for 2025 budget; Php 500 million higher than 2024's allocation.

InHairness!

Jayven Magsino, Associate Editor

THE SINKING OF A MOTOR in Bataan resulted in a devastating oil spill, threatening marine life and coastal ecosystems. However, an unexpected ally has emerged in the fight for clean waters: human hair.

Focalore Youth, a youth group in Lipa City, Batangas, spearheaded an innovative cleanup initiative, collecting hair clippings from local salons to absorb the spilled oil. Headlined by its theme "Together to Care: Youth Eco-Warriors Battling Oil Spill Spread."

The effectiveness of hair in oil spill cleanup stems from its unique structure. Research demonstrates that hair's porous nature and high surface area allow it to effectively absorb oil.

In a GMA interview, Ian Grande, head of the aforementioned initiative, highlighted the effectiveness of hair as oil absorbent. *"...Mas kumakapit daw po 'yung oil sa ating hair strand, so kahit lightweight siya, maganda siyang pangkuha ng oil,"* Grande shared.

This makes hair a surprisingly effective and low-cost adsorbent material, especially compared to commercially produced alternatives. The Lipa City youth group, in their first-ever project of this kind, set an ambitious goal of collecting 20 kilograms of hair clippings.

Their confidence is rooted not only in the scientific evidence but also in the overwhelming support received from local businesses. Nicko Inoc, a salon owner, enthusiastically supported the initiative, *"Para malinis din 'yung kung ano mang dapat linisin doon para sa dagat... mas maganda 'yan kasi kahanga-hanga 'yung ginawa ng kabataan ngayon,"* Inoc stated.

The group's proactive approach has been met with positive responses; many salons already had hair clippings prepared for the collection. The youth group actively called on barbershops and salons to join their effort and created a collaborative network to combat the environmental disaster.

Moreover, the collected hair, amounting to several filled sacks, was successfully transported to Bataan on August 14, 2024, ready to play its part in the cleanup efforts.

This seemingly simple solution is grounded in surprising scientific principles while effectively showcasing the power of community action. Hence, a testament to the ingenuity and dedication of young people tackling environmental challenges head-on and proving the unexpected power of seemingly ordinary materials in extraordinary circumstances.



GO FOR MOJO:

Storing stories of compact journalism

■ John Virgil Ramirez, Layout Artist

CONVENTIONAL journalism frequently encountered notable obstacles to participation, especially in economically challenged and isolated areas. Dependence on costly broadcasting tools, institutional backing, and centralized media frameworks left numerous voices out of public conversation.

Marginalized groups had few platforms to express their stories, and information primarily flowed in one direction, offering limited chances for grassroots involvement or local storytelling.

Mobile journalism (MoJo) revolutionized the media environment by providing an economical and reachable way of narrating stories. By using only a smartphone and simple applications, people from various backgrounds could capture and share their stories.

The democratization of media enabled local issues to achieve visibility on regional, national, and international stages. High-caliber video reporting, instant updates, and innovative formats such as podcasts and social media posts evolved into instruments for advocacy and awareness.

By promoting participatory communication, MoJo allowed communities to take on active roles in crafting narratives instead of merely receiving information.

Marginalized voices have become integral to the global dialogue, and grassroots movements have gained traction through live reporting and extensive sharing. Communities utilize mojo to record cultural events, promote social justice, and communicate creative solutions for local issues.

The media environment has evolved into a more interactive space, highlighting the importance of dialogue and cooperation. Transparency and accountability have enhanced as real-time coverage guarantees that important events are observed and widely disseminated.

To maximize the impact of mobile journalism, there is a need for continued investment in training and capacity-building programs. These initiatives should focus on equipping individuals with technical skills, storytelling expertise, and ethical practices. Partnerships between media organizations, educational institutions, and development agencies can further expand access to mobile journalism tools and resources.

Additionally, in mobile platforms will effectiveness of fostering innovation technology and digital enhance the reach and MoJo.



Fortunes of fabrics: Weaving secrets of Lipa City's solar-powered sportswear manufacturer

■ Joe Vincent Fernandez, Editor-in-Chief

THREADING their success from rags to bulk orders of customized clothes, Lipa City's ARN Embroidery and Sportswear proved to be one of the most promising sustainable business enterprises in the city led by owners Aida and Nestor Tesimo. Their secret? An ordeal of hard work embedded in every piece of cloth worn by every individual.

The Barangay Sabang-based business venture offers products ranging from sportswear, office and school uniforms, and embroidery products, which made itself known in the city as one of the most profitable customizable sportswear hubs for school intramurals and other administrative clothing needs.

The enterprise, however, did not start in an instant, because according to Mrs. Tesimo, fate, and fortune made their success in the industry when she met an old fortuneteller offering to give her a reading in exchange for money to buy her food, hard work still plays a crucial role in their thriving venture. From this view, her objective of offering help to someone in need, especially their employees, energized the success of their business through the years.

Meanwhile, aside from their business offerings, one key aspect that sets ARN different from other sportswear competitors in the city is their sustainability practices which promote the use of solar energy through the assistance provided by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) with the solar panels installed in their main one-stop shop. Their partnership with DOST materialized after they submitted their proposal last year, which was eventually approved by the department this year. This leads to a more efficient and substantial use of energy among their horsepower machines and equipment, saving up to 10% of their monthly electricity bill since its installation.

In addition, DOST also provided technical aids to ARN's business operations for the improvement of their sublimation printing process and capability enhancement on knitting last June 25, 2024, as part of the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program(SETUP), among other support provided by the department to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country.

The business couple also shared that part of their

management practices in reducing waste and promoting recycling in their business processes include giving away free scrap fabrics to individuals in order to make rags, doormats, and other reusable products, supplying sublimation papers to their partner stakeholders, and using them as gift wrappers during Christmas season.

The Lipa City Colleges (LCC) alumni also shared that during the circulations of their more than 25-year-old business, they focused on providing livelihood to locals and students, and ensuring that they prioritize the quality of their products and services.

The couple also mentioned that some of their employees usually gain Php. 5,000 to Php. 15,000 per week depending on the workload terms, ensuring that each worker gets paid for their skills rather than the wage per day. They also shared that some of their employees are on a stay-in set up for almost 15 years.

Meanwhile, just like any other business firm, the entrepreneurs bared that they primarily struggled to establish their business with capital concerns and loan woes. However, the business went through after sustaining its mark as a business partner for school uniforms, logos, and catalogs among various institutions in the city, including De La Salle Lipa (DLSL) and other government officials and offices across the country. They also have ongoing local and national partnerships, including agreements as official outfitters of some teams in the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), among others, which cemented their business portfolio over the country.

Setting their vision as they move forward, ARN Embroidery and Sportswear vows to continuously improve their footing in the industry while ensuring their brand as one of the pioneering solar-powered sportswear manufacturers in the region, solidifying their ground as a growing business in Lipa known for its quality products and top-grade excellence in utilizing renewable energy for its production.

ARN's fate as one of Lipa's profitable embroidery and sportswear enterprises is marked by the couple's commitment to their craft, sewing their legacy and success as a clear-cut story evidenced by their hard work and passion.

WHAT DOES THE MPOX SAY?

■ Gabriel Valida, Writer

AS the Philippines navigates the post-pandemic era, Mpox resurfaces as a new health concern threatening the health sector of the country once more.

In mid-2022, clade IIb, one of the two strains of the Mpox virus, proliferated globally starting in the Democratic Republic of Congo where the virus originated. 14th day of August 2024, when the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of Mpox as a public health emergency of international concern.

Not long after its declaration as an international health concern, the first case of Mpox in the Philippines was confirmed by the Department of Health (DOH) on August 18. The patient is a 33-year-old Filipino man with no travel history outside the

Philippines. This alarmed the health sector and heightened the disease surveillance of the country.

Health Secretary Ted Herbosa has ordered a ramp-up in testing centers, for the early detection and control of the communicable disease. Moreover, while Mpox sounds new, it has been around since 1958, when it was discovered. Previously known as monkeypox, it was renamed after racist and stigmatizing language online, in other settings, and in some communities was observed and reported to the WHO on its outbreak in early 2022.

Meanwhile, in Batangas, only one case of Mpox was recorded — a 12-year-old boy from Balayan City, making him the first-ever confirmed case of Mpox in CALABARZON and also the youngest reported case in the whole country. As of September 2024, there have been 18 recorded cases of Mpox in the country.

While the number might suggest that the Mpox situation in the Philippines is well-managed, beneath these small digits, lies a larger issue: a healthcare system still grappling with significant vulnerabilities.

Poor disease surveillance, ineffective early detection of cases, and slow contact tracing for Mpox cases highlight the system's reliance on outdated protocols and its failure to improve response strategies. These issues necessitate reforms in the public health system of our country.

The outbreak of Mpox in our country conveys a message: with these circumstances, the health infrastructure requires improvement for the Philippines to effectively address Mpox cases and also to handle health crises that may arise in the future.

DOST-STII, TVGOP, LRC collab steers LCCian scribes to sci-comm workshop

■ Andrei Vincent Pajalla, News Editor ■ Photos by Ryan Phillippe De Guzman, Chief Photojournalist

UNDER THE INITIATIVE of The VISION Group of Publications (TVGOP) and Learning Resource Center (LRC) of Lipa City Colleges (LCC), the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute's (DOST-STII) 'Science Journo Ako' finally reached Lipa City via a two-day seminar-workshop series for the institution's campus journalists held at AMALFI 718 Hotel, J.P. Laurel Highway, Lipa City, November 21-22.

As part of LCC's 77th Founding Anniversary, TVGOP and LRC teamed up to bring 'Science Journo Ako Goes to Lipa: Creating Engaging Science Stories through Multimedia Platforms' enjoined by more than 50 campus journalists from various student-led publications of the institution in both basic education and collegiate level which include The Vision (Junior High School department); The Vision Senior (Senior High School department); Eunoia (College of Liberal Arts); The Nightingale's Gazette (College of Nursing); The Nexus (College of Business and Accountancy); and TVGOP, headlining the roster of scribes who took part in engaging science content forums and roundtables.

SJA is a flagship science communication advocacy program headlined by DOST-STII that aims to empower students, educators, researchers, and technical staff of various agencies and regional offices in the country to integrate science communication on their respective publications, online news sites, and social media platforms.

The program was also ushered by DOST Batangas provincial director, Ms. Felina C. Malabanan, who graced the visitors headlined by DOST-STII's Communication Resources and Production Division Chief, Mr. Rodolfo P. De Guzman, as they benchmarked the project in Lipa, the first in the province.

Meanwhile, renowned speakers held the line for an interactive discussion among student journalists who learned the fundamentals of science news and feature writing, basic photography and photojournalism, and social media content creation on the program's first day.

Freelance science journalist and lecturer at Ateneo de Manila University, Ms. Ingrid Espinosa called the shots for science communication involving effective science news and feature writing where she highlighted the importance of effective storytelling to science communication.

The lecturer also shared compelling interests and notes to consider in writing both science-blended news and feature articles, emphasizing the need for research and interviews for a justified output.

"It's important to do your research and plan. Don't be afraid to ask simple questions. Summarize to confirm, recheck quotes, and keep questions short and easy to understand," shared Espinosa.

Meanwhile, to further expose the participants to an immersive platform, she spearheaded a mini-press conference where students asked her questions about "Buddybetes", a devised start-up application for blood sugar control and management.

The speaker lauded the students for their active participation in the forum, citing her impression of their interviewing skills and approach amid time pressure.

Espinosa concluded her discussion as she reminded participants of other interests that might steer viewership among audiences including social diversity, gender and

social sensitivity, social stigma, and SOGIE (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression), which she considered as factors relevant to media interests and science communication topics.

On the other hand, Science Research Specialist I, Ms. Rosemarie Señora, and Information Officer III, Mr. Allan Mauro Marfal, both DOST-STII officials, also lectured the students on mobile photography and photojournalism involving science subjects as well as utilization of media applications, such as TikTok and Facebook for engaging video reels of their social media content.

Meanwhile, the second day of the program saw a workshop following simultaneous site visits in various DOST Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) in Lipa, including ARN Sportswear in Barangay Sabang, and Magpantay Homemade Candies and Willmarr Sweet Foods Products in Barangay Dagatan. These business ventures received assistance from DOST to bolster their product manufacturing and upgrade their services.

Students were immersed in interactive discussions and tours headlined by the firms' owners where they learned owners about the technologies, products, and services propounded by these private enterprises.

Selected groups of students were awarded for their impressive outputs in science news and feature writing, photojournalism, and reel-making during the workshop. They received certificates and cash prizes from the organizers in recognition of their work during the conference.

Meanwhile, when asked about sentiments on the staging of the collaboration in Lipa, The VISION's Editor-in-Chief Joe Vincent Fernandez shared that the project's outcome was due to LRC's initial endorsement of the proposal to the publication based on their past benchmarking activities in DOST's main office.

"Actually, nagsimula sya when LRC, particularly Dr. Marebel Dela Cruz shared to us about this program. From there, we just made the initiative of communicating with DOST from time to time until we got a go signal and a final date," shared Fernandez.

The publication's executive director also noted the project's supposed emplacement in LCC for its founding anniversary but was later moved to a different venue due to logistics and procurement concerns.

"Dapat talaga sa LCC ito gagawin, but due to their [DOST-STII] request na gawin na lang sa AMALFI due to concerns sa logistics, budget, and procurement, we opted na dun na lang gawin para mas ma-engage din ang mga bata sa ibang environment," he furthered.

Science Journo Ako's deployment in Lipa is among the various places in the country visited by DOST-STII to hold training and workshops for students to capacitate them with skills and social awareness, extending their reach towards the grassroots levels in terms of science communication line of action anchored on DOST's public mission.

Financially secured: CCTE, BPI collab bolsters financial literacy among LCCians

■ Ryan Phillippe De Guzman, Chief Photojournalist

IT IS UNDENIABLE that life is full of struggles if people lack financial stability and assistance. Whenever we are in need, the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) proclaims its dedication to transforming financial education in the Philippines.

College of Computing and Technology Engineering (CCTE) partnered with BPI recently held a seminar on financial education at Lipa City Colleges Silvercrest Auditorium, October 4, 2024, bringing together students providing them and offering insightful opinions on banking advances, financial literacy, and financial sector employment prospects.

If we are to assess, financial literacy is crucial and critical for all Filipinos, especially students. Access to education every now and then is costly and in need of a consistently large amount of money. Not all students are allowed to study due to reasons such as poverty and the absence of educational resources that would help them throughout their schooling journey.

educational resources that would help them throughout their schooling journey. With the help of BPI, they offer and pursue innovative ways to provide financial education through accessible channels to target sectors at the core of the Fin-Ed Unboxed program, which provides financial concepts into practical, actionable steps, guiding individuals toward financial freedom.

Through the support and partnership of BPI, tertiary students of LCC will be self-assured without having to worry about expenses with their ability to manage their personal finances. Fortunately, the Fin-Ed Unboxed program opened its doors for individuals and sectors by providing secured financial education with their aims of budgeting, saving, managing, investing, insurance, and securing against financial frauds and scams all covered in the program.

No matter the limitations, education as a basic human right must always be served to everyone, and the BPI Fin-Ed Unboxed Program establishes a bridge for individuals to foster security and stability in financing education.

BATTLE FOR GOLD. College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CITHM) Puso and College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) warriors battle it out on the do-or-die match during LCC Palaro Basketball Men's Finals, Lipa City Colleges, Lipa City, October 30.

Photo by **Alhodia Sandoval**, Photographer



Rookie Cetron powers CITHM comeback, dethrones 3-peat seeking Warriors in Palaro men’s basketball

■ Isabella Faye Alfajaro, Sports Editor

COLLEGE OF INTERNTATIONAL TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT (CITHM) Puso emerged victorious over archrivals and perennial tormentors College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) Warriors, clinching the men's basketball title in Palaro 2024, Carlos R. Mojares Gymnasium, October 30.

In a thrilling match, CITHM men's basketball team managed to edge out the twice-to-beat Warriors, ending the game with a three-point lead. The final score of 87-84 showcased the skill, heart, and determination of Puso's players, especially their star player and graduating Jan Russel Ramos, who delivered a series of crucial points throughout the game. This remarkable achievement marks a triumphant return for the department, bringing the coveted crown back to their halls after years of determined effort,

Tension rises as the crowd hails for their respective departments as both loud chants and cheers were heard from both ends of the gymnasium during the player introductions.

Showcasing their skills and prowess, Alberto Dalisay led-Warriors aggressively took the lead for the first quarter game, despite having to face Ramos who scored the first points on the board while Carl Benedick Pamplona was able to successfully defend and prevent the star player from advancing.

With the assistance of John Rainier Dimayuga, they were unstoppable and were able to secure a lead in the first quarter of the game, 21-25.

In the face of an inflicted series of strategic plays, Warriors still managed to clinch the quarter comfortably and penetrate defenses against their opponents on several occasions, displaying a solidified ground for the future cops to have a 50-36 finish at the end of first half.

Puso aggressively pushes back in the third quarter of the game, as rookie Keith Michael Cetron executed blazing three-pointers and Ramos driving layups, ending the quarter with 64-65 with follow-up points from Warriors' Dimayuga.

Despite facing a strong CCJE Warrior team, Puso's determination and strategic play allowed them to secure a lead in the final moments of the game. As Marcus Evangelista made an early push, Puso's Ramos responded with a flurry of

three-pointers and crucial shots, exciting the crowd and demolishing the opponent's hope while maintaining a slim lead.

With a timeout and 11.8 seconds left on the clock, the scores were tied at 84-all. Warriors managed to bring the score even, but the red-hot Ramos, not letting the adrenaline die out, ended the series with a final score of 87-84, securing the win for the Puso, with the help of tournament most valuable player and key sparkplug Cetron.

"Una sa lahat, hindi ko inexpect na ako ang mapaparangalan ng titulong ito kase sa 1st half ng championship game, hindi naging maganda yung pinakita ko," Cetron stated when asked about bagging the season's MVP title.

This year's basketball championship is a source of immense pride for Puso that symbolizes their perseverance and excellence in this edition of Palaro with years of trying to take home the ultimate bacon, they have finally achieved their goal of bringing the honor and glory to their home, signifying the hold of their line above all, *"puso pa 'rin ang nangingibabaw"*.

Blazing Hawks sustain romp in BUSCAA bounce back

■ Dallas Faith Cleamer, Writer

BEHIND MULTIPLE CHAMPIONSHIPS and silver medal finishes, Lipa City Colleges (LCC) Blazing Hawks improved the results of last year's competition as they made impressive wins in the concluded 25th season of the Batangas Universities, Schools, and Colleges Athletic Association (BUSCAA), Our Lady of Caysasay Academy, Taal, Batangas, December 13.

Comebacking Blazing Hawks hauled awards in its second year as a member school of the Batangas province-wide tournament, trailing its mark after securing the following awards in the following sporting events, including badminton: Ricjay Robles (Gold, Singles A-Men); Aldrin Morata (Silver, Singles B-Men); Justine Robles (Gold, Singles A-Women); Rianne Leslie Dimaculangan (Silver, Singles B-Women); Clouie Palma and Nicole Ann Martinez (Gold, Women's Doubles), and table

tennis: Maria Teresa Ramos (Silver, Singles A-Women); Hanna Cent Ariola (Bronze, Singles B-Women); and Kate Dimaunahan and Kristina Margareth Mendoza (Silver, Women's Doubles).

Meanwhile, powered by the tournament Most Valuable Player and senior outside hitter Mendel Molina Jr., the Lipa City-based boy's volleyball team rallied past the gritty Batangas Christian School in four sets to claim the tournament gold, improving their previous season's record of 3rd place finish.

"Sobrang saya ko po kasi 'di ko inexpect na ako 'yung magiging MVP lalo na't last year of playing ko na po," shared Molina when asked about the championship run playing on his last playing year with the team.

Team captain and playmaker Mark Dhaniel Magpantay, and senior opposite spiker Khent Vincent Pactoranan also made their presence felt as they were named among the tournament's mythical six members.

The senior high school students-laden roster went spotless in the tournament after sweeping the competition and claiming the top spot from eventual silver medalists BCS, and bronze medalists OLCA in a breathtaking showdown.

LCC's resurgence in the provincial meet was sealed by the striking victories manufactured in both senior's and junior's divisions as they gave a facelift to match last year's output with an improved slate after taking home 5 golds, 5 silver medals, and a bronze medal behind four sporting events that the institution participated in this year.

The 25th edition of the Batangas-wide tournament joined by 15 elementary to college schools was held from November 6 to December 13, hosted by Our Lady of Caysasay Academy (OLCA) in various sporting centers and venues in the province.



COMMUNITY

Sports complex to rise in Lipa

■ Andrei Vincent Pajalla, Writer ■ Photo: National Academy of Sports

LIPA CITY MAYOR ERIC B. AFRICA having received significant recognition, is now planning to develop a 30-hectare property to enhance the growth of the sports arena in Lipa City.

The local government aims to acquire this land along the Padre Garcia bypass road. Additionally, this initiative vows a promising future for athletes, guiding them toward better opportunities.

The Sports Complex that the city mayor envisioned to build will feature a 12,000 seating capacity. It is also designed to be a venue for both sports and entertainment events.

Additionally, a new stadium with a capacity of 20,000 will be constructed, along with an athletics facility, an aquatics center, an indoor games court, and more. This entire project is said to be developed through a Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Following discussions with the Department of Education (DepEd), various stakeholders and officials immediately started organizing a visit to the National Academy of Sports in Tarlac. This visit aims to gather information for elevating the standards of the future Lipa's Sports Complex.

Mayor Africa highlighted that the prime goal of establishing the Sports Complex is to increase Lipa's potential as a host for regional and national sports events, such as the 'Palarong Pambansa'. With a fresh start, the Sports Complex is set to enhance the state and reputation of sports in Lipa City.

Gradually, the construction of the new Sports Complex will provide an excellent chance to build one scheme that will unite athletes in the city.

With this in mind, aspirations are high for Lipeño athletes who may advance together at the same pace in reaching greater heights.

They can also seek to improve and unite as one powerful and strong league and hone aspiring talents for the national team in the future.

Meanwhile, some Lipeños have expressed their concerns about the projected plan, stating that the success of this project depends on the implementation of infrastructure improvements such as additional roads, road widening, and flyovers that connect to the Sports Complex development.

Furthermore, Lipeños has shared a range of sentiments regarding the project, expressing diverse opinions and views. Despite the objective of taking the city to the next level, some netizens have suggested that it would be better to address other concerning issues before building the proposed infrastructure.

Concerns about heavy citywide traffic have also been voiced, with residents stating that the success of the project depends on the implementation of the infrastructure improvements that connect with the new Sports Complex.

Ultimately, the success of this project hinges on the collaboration between local officers, the community, and DepEd Lipa. Thus, Lipeños aims to achieve not only a premier sports facility, but also a more harmonious and developed city landscape that benefits the residents, Lipeño athletes, and stakeholders.

By addressing these floating concerns, Lipa City has the opportunity to emerge as one of the model cities for balanced urban development, ensuring long-term benefits not only for its residents but also for others and creating a more vibrant and resilient community.

PULSONG LCCIAN

LCCians eye Palaro revamp — survey

■ Joe Vincent Fernandez, Editor-in-Chief

LIPA CITY COLLEGES (LCC) has annually staged its collegiate intramurals dubbed “Palaro” in celebrating LCCian sportsmanship and skills in sports, marking its third edition since the post-pandemic slate last February 2023.

The school's management of intramurals has been notably labeled based on each college department; however, several attempts to change this annual team tradition ushered by the Culture, Sports, Student Activities and Involvement (CSSAI) were prompted to shift the games' oversight.

On this note, based on the survey conducted by The VISION among more than 200 LCCians, 68.9% of the students amplified their positive call on the proposal, urging to accord the teams equally, not based on the perennial team arrangement, suggesting a massive change to the next edition of the games.

CCTE computes... | from page 32

Furthermore, in the women's sprinting event, the Blazing Phoenix team gained a clean sweep after emerging victorious in the 100M, 200M, and 400M races, while, the 400M Relay Champion title went to Raging Blue Flame, solidifying their track dominance.

Meanwhile, the sports fest also highlighted chess, the only mind game to be battled by the teams. The Blazing Phoenix dominated the board and hailed champion on both Board 1 of the men's and Women's divisions. Simultaneously, the Raging Blue Flames also checkmated their opponent and won both the Men's and Women's Division on Board 2.

In addition, the Raging Blue Flame team showed their mastery of traditional games as they took home the championship for the sack race in the Palaro ng Lahi event.

The winners who dominated each sporting event were recognized during their awarding ceremony last October 5. The Blazing Phoenix was then awarded the best team logo for the Sportsfest.

Overall, the CCTE department sportsfest centered on sportsmanship and camaraderie among students and concluded with the athleticism and competitive spirits of each team in preparation for the annual Palaro where the top student athletes will have a chance to represent CCTE in the school intramurals.

UAAP welcomes Esports in S87

■ Duanne Luke Amria Edurise, Writer

UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES Season 87 begins with the launching of its first Esports competition, which will include three competitive games: NBA2K, Valorant, and Mobile Legends: Bang Bang (MLBB), that took event at Hyundai Hall in Arete, Ateneo, August 17.

UAAP has finally opened its doors to the competitive landscape of Esports in addition to Season 87's offering prior to the season jumpstart, intending to be a responsible gamer amidst the stigma of video games with the common tag-line “that's because you always play computer” or “it's because you're always on your phone”, as they also believe gaming offers opportunity and career.

With all eight member schools, the season's hosts University of the Philippines-Diliman steered the inaugural event with tournaments such as NBA 2K that took place last August 15. Following that, Valorant took the spotlight from August 16 to 17, and the competition concluded in the last week of August with the highly popular Mobile Legends: Bang Bang (MLBB) among the events of the tournament's pilot-testing.

UAAP's Executive Director Rebo Saguisag said that the league is prepared to integrate with the Esports ecosystem in the Philippines to meet the growing demand for Esports games in the country.

“Nand'yan na ‘yung demand and it is really growing, the schools have their own clubs,” Saguisag said in a One News interview last December “We have to embrace the ever-growing ecosystem that enhances our esports games,” he added when asked about meeting the growing demand of Esports in the Philippines.

While this Esports debut will not be a medal event, it is an important milestone since the Philippines has been winning international competitions, demonstrating the nation's potential and the advancement that it can make on the turf.

These competitive competitions were streamed live on the YouTube channel of One Sports, as well as on Pilipinas Live and the Varsity Channel.



Photo: ABS-CBN News

PALARO 2024

CCJE, CITHM dominate swimming tourney

■ Isabella Faye Alfajaro, Sports Editor

LIPA CITY COLLEGES pool area buzzed with adrenaline as swimmers from various college departments presented their prowess and sheer determination in one of the most action-packed LCC Palaro competitions, October 30.

In several swimming categories, the aquatic athletes delivered catchy streamlined performances, giving the best results in every movement. Big splashes of water and chanting can be heard as the event kicks off with a blast.

Moreover, the pool-goers from different departments bagged the crown in their respective categories: Mendoza, Charlie (1st), Kyle Symon Cuenca (2nd), and Petalio, Rafael (3rd) were hailed as the winners for the 25M Butterfly Male category. While, Lacdao, Margaret Isabel(1st), Magsino, Klein Louise R. (2nd), and Messy Joy Manalo (3rd) for the female category. Ryan Adrian Rivera Obispo(1st), Ron Lit (2nd), and Paolo Anthony M. (3rd) bagged the awards for 25M Backstroke Male. Followed by Lumanglas, Ellane Lyn (1st), Macabante, Cyrrah (2nd), and Rabino, Tielo Adrem (3rd) for the female category.

Dominating the 25M Breast category, Castillo, Renmar clinched the top spot followed by Maguiat, Mac Daniel, and Lean Karl Illustre in the male's division while female swimmers Rabor. Robyne, Zyra Soriano, and Rodriguez, Vanessa conclude the top spots respectively.

Securing their lane of success in 25M freestyle category, Mendoza snatched the hopes of opponents with 14.01 seconds finish in male division while Agno, Dlane concluded the female division with 20.52 seconds.

With 52.41 seconds finish, swimmers Ryan Rivera, Lean Illustre, Christian Tarrazona, and Stephenne Baduya from College of International Tourism and Hospitality Management (CITHM) Pusong sealed their standing in 4x25M Freestyle Relay Male, followed by College of Business and Accountancy (CBA), and College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE). However, College of Nursing (CON) Green Falcons showcased their prowess as Umali, Elizabeth, Badcon, Angeline, Loleng, Renelyn, and Bianzon, Joyce wrapped up the female division accompanied by CITHM Pusong, and CCJE Warriors, while Freestyle Mixed Relay concluded with CITHM Pusong, CON Green Falcons, and CBA Warriors respectively.

Meanwhile, 4x25M Medley Relay Male division was dominated by CCJE Warriors with 1 minute and 26 seconds finish, while CON Green Falcons in Female division with 1 minute and 53 seconds finish.



FLAWLESS VICTORY. Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) Warriors men's volleyball team preserve their twice-to-win advantage after defeating the College of Education and Liberal Arts (CELA) Blue Ravens at the LCC Palaro Volleyball Men's Finals, Lipa City Colleges, Lipa City, October 29.

Photo by Sofia Margaret Laugan, Photojournalist

UNSCATHED GLADIATORS

Spotless CCJE Warriors pummel Blue Ravens, take 3rd straight Palaro men's vball crown anew

■ Vanessa May Gonzales, Writer

TWICE-TO-BEAT College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) Warriors stay unbeaten as they flexed their way to the crown over rivals College of Education and Liberal Arts (CELA) Blue Ravens in the Palaro men's volleyball championship match, Carlos R. Mojares Gymnasium, October 29.

As the crowds cheered with excitement, the two teams engaged with enthusiasm and agility to achieve victory. CCJE Warriors, led by their team captain, Prince Palicpic, overpowered CELA Blue Ravens with their unique routines and defense, winning an overall score, 3-1.

"Hindi naman kasi kami nagkameron ng training ang ginawa ko lang, ginawa lang namin ay tiwala sa isa't-isa...kung magkamali man ay bawi na lang," said Hidalgo in an interview.

"Kasi kami-kami lang din naman ang magtutulungan," he added.

Warriors in Maroon established their techniques with a series of attacks against the opposing team, clinching the first leg of the match in a 25-18 score. However, Blue Ravens bounced back with the unified force of sets and spikes guided by middle blocker Lenz Hero Aguila and playmaker Troy Asufre, claiming the second set, 25-19.

Subsequently, CCJE Warriors regained their momentum in the third set and were motivated to release an array of

powerful plays, beating their opponent, 25-18, heading to stay ahead of the game in the eventual final frame.

As the match continued to heat up on the court, both teams strategized and employed different plays. Blue Ravens were still optimistic about regaining a score in the fourth set. Guided by Aguila, open spiker Peejay Capistrano, and libero Stephen Pagcaliwangan, attempted to fight back, but their defenses and points were unable to halt the streaking Warriors.

With the consecutive points and by maximizing the endurance of players, Warriors showcased a final row of their defensive and offensive plays, dominating the final set, 25-17.

Moreover, Best Spiker Paulo Hidalgo highlighted that their motivation for their triumph was the support of their department, as it gave them confidence and trust in each other.

The criminology department kept the crown for the third-straight year as their players bagged several special awards in the tournament, specifically, the exceptional exhibition of graduating Prince Palicpic that enabled him to win the coveted title of Most Valuable Player (MVP) award and be included in tourney's Mythical 6 members.



Photo | Premier Volleyball League

Cool Smashers dash triple gold, claim historic PVL grand slam

■ David Amurao, Writer

IN A NAIL-BITING MATCH against rivals Signal HD Spikers, Creamline Cool Smashers make history as they are crowned as the Premier Volleyball League's first-ever Grand Slam after they sneak out the 2024 Invitational Conference championship on Thursday, September 12 at the Araneta Coliseum, Cubao, Quezon City.

The Cool Smashers made a comeback and overturned the gritty HD Spikers in a one-game showdown, 21-25, 25-17, 20-25, 26-24, 15-13, regaining their winning ways and venting their ire by upsetting their rivals with precise tosses and powerful spikes.

The triumph continued with back-and-forth maneuvers from both teams, splashing their chances in five games, one of those in the preliminary round against the formidable MJ Perez-led spikers.

Meanwhile, outside hitter Jema Galanza, who returned to her mother's team after her Alas Pilipinas stint, said their team needed help to advance because this is not the first time they won two consecutive conferences.

"Hindi man sa mga puntos pero sa pagiging vocal na lang talaga para sa mga teammates ko," shared Galanza.

This was also Creamline's 10th PVL crown as they were unbeaten in the Invitationals when they showed no signs of fatigue with only days to recover from their recent Reinforced Conference championship run after defeating Akari Chargers, claiming their eventual 9th crown and 2nd Reinforced title.

There was nothing but celebration for head coach Sherwin Meneses' squad after securing the elusive title they first tried to get last 2022 after completing both All-Filipino and Invitational Conferences, but eventually falling short in the import-laden conference, bagging bronze.

Meanwhile, the Cool Smashers completed the Invitationals with import Erica Staunton taking the Best Outside Hitter honors, Kyle Negrito as the conference's Best Setter, and Michelle Gumabao as the tournament's Most Valuable Player, her first as a professional player. Negrito was also named the conference's Finals MVP after steering Creamline to its first triple crown in a year.

PALAROABSTRACTS

Women's Basketball

■ Jouie Allaine Malabuyoc, Writer

COLLEGE OF NURSING (CON) Green Falcons prevailed in the thrilling women's basketball championship match against College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) Warriors in the Palaro 2024, Carlos Mojares Gymnasium, October 29.

During the first quarter of the game, both teams secured identical scores but tournament Most Valuable Player and Green Falcons team captain Princess Angeline De Torres excised their edge over Eunice Lunar-led Warriors, maintaining 6 points on the shot clock before the timer ended. The championship run ended with a slim 26-25 CON win.

Scrabble

■ Flordeliza Resurrecion, Writer

GREEN FALCON Criscia Lene Olat takes a grip of the scrabble tournament in a four-way final duel between College of Nursing (CON) and College of Business and Accountancy (CBA) Dragons, Learning Resource Center, October 29.

Prior to the championship, Olat won 244 points in round one of board 1, eliminating College of International Tourism and Hospitality Management (CITHM) with 97 points finish and College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) with 122 points.

Billiards

■ John Dave Titular, Writer

TABLE CONQUERED: COLLEGE OF NURSING (CON) Green Falcons won 3-1 against the College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) Warriors in the Palaro 2024 billiards tournament, Brgy. 11 Dimayuga St., October 20.

Photo by: Loner, Javiel R. Batallan, Palaro 2024

COLLEGE OF NURSING (CON) Green Falcons (Men) and College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) Warriors (Women) ruled over their opponents in the Palaro 2024 billiards tournament, Brgy. 11 Dimayuga St., October 20.

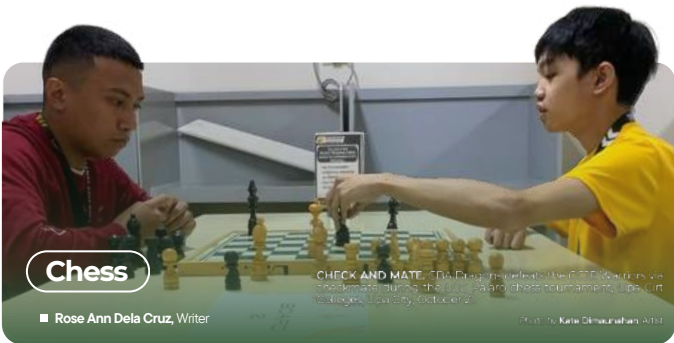
With their might and grit, Green Falcon John Gabriel Mamba scratched out College of Computing and Technology Engineering (CCTE) Cyber Mamba Joshua Gonzales in a decisive win of 3-0, where he outsmarted Gonzales with his strategic plays, grabbing the championship title.

On the other hand, Warrior Clarisse Dimaculangan executed multiple hard cues, jaw-dropping skills, and her strategies, tallying a score of 3-1 against Christine Joy Caponpon of CCTE Cyber Mambas, giving her the opportunity to claim the winning title.

Mobile Legends: Bang Bang

■ Jody Pelogero, Writer

COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION (CCJE) Warriors claimed the first-ever throne of Mobile Legends: Bang Bang (MLBB) tournament in a heated battle against College of Business and Accountancy (CBA) Dragons, Multimedia Room, October 28.



Chess

■ Rose Ann Dela Cruz, Writer

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ACCOUNTANCY (CBA) Dragons roared past contenders in both men's and women's divisions of the chess tournament, Learning Resource Center-College, October 21.

With seven minutes and forty-four seconds left in the allotted ten minutes of chess time, CBA woodpusher Arnold Oliquino defeated College of International Tourism and Hospitality Management (CITHM) Puso via a checkmate during the championship, maintaining his record at 4-0.

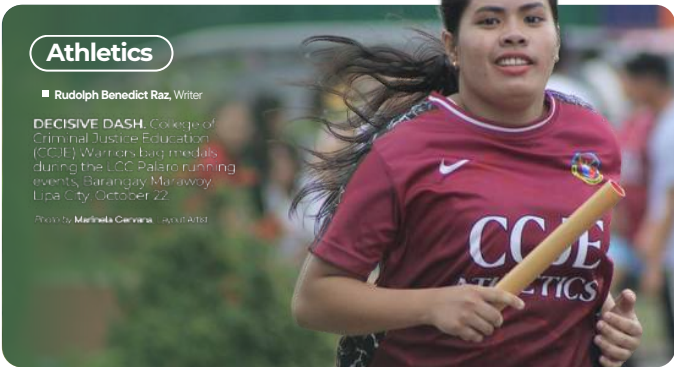
Roaring their prowess and strategic play, Dragons clinched back-to-back triumphs in the concluded tourney, marking their grounds in the tourney as they prepare for another wave of battle next Palaro.

Zumba

■ Abby Girl Barredo, Writer

DESPITE imminent rain and bad weather brought by Severe Tropical Storm 'Kristine', every corner of Carlos Mojares Gymnasium was filled with liveliness and vitality as the College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) Warriors heated the dance floor with their energetic and contagious zumba performance, October 21.

The competition went off a blazing start as the Warriors cemented the competition, winning its first title, followed by College of Education and Liberal Arts (CELA) Blue Ravens and College of International Tourism and Hospitality Management (CITHM) Puso.



Athletics

■ Rudolph Benedict Raz, Writer

DECISIVE DASH: College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) Warriors bagged medals during the LCC Palaro running events, Barangay Maraway, Lipa City, October 22.

Photo by: Maribela Cervantes, Palaro 2024

COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION (CCJE) Warriors and College of International Tourism and Hospitality Management (CITHM) Puso seized triumphs in LCC Palaro throwing events of athletics competition, Sto. Nino Parish, Levitown, Maraway, October 22.

The two largest departments in terms of student population snagged victories in javelin throw, discus throw, and shot put, besting other departments in the field fray.

Meanwhile, amidst the scorching heat of the sun, Warrior Rommel Recede outstripped his opponents securing the gold medal in 800-meter dash, 400-meter dash, 4x100 meter relay, and 4x400 meter relay, hauling medals in the running events.



While it is **quick to claim victories**, it is **slow to cover expenses related to training**, travel, registration, and food costs.

Bella Ciao

Isabella Faye Alfajaro | @vonebll

Victory on hold

PRIOR TO WINNING, Filipino athletes face the combined difficulties of competing in their respective sports while contending for limited resources.

The country's torchbearers encounter numerous challenges that may be difficult for those outside the athletic community to understand fully. They are required to possess skills like maintaining their physical fitness and demonstrating the ability to achieve good results regardless of the circumstances they face.

On the other hand, athletes are often required to demonstrate their skills and achieve competitive success before they can fully commit to their training and performance. It is truly disheartening to observe that our athletes do not receive sufficient financial support from our government as they gear up for the Olympics and other sporting events.

In reality, the necessary funding and assistance tend to materialize only after athletes like Hidilyn Diaz secure a gold medal. Prior to her victory, Diaz faced significant challenges due to inadequate financial support from the government, even after she won the gold.

Due to ongoing austerity measures, the Philippine government fails to fully fund sports programs. Like many government hubs, it aims for maximum results with minimal investment. While it is quick to claim victories, it is slow to cover expenses related to training, travel, registration, and food costs.

It's just frustrating that athletes don't get much support from the government and its people. Filipino athletes often face political challenges despite having adequate support, and they are only acknowledged when they achieve victory. A sad reality is when we get gold or get recognition, it's the government taking all the credit for all the athletes' hard work and investment. Additional funds must be granted for their training, as well as the resume of training for student-athletes to achieve greater heights of achievement in international competition.

They struggle significantly due to a lack of adequate funding. The issue extends beyond merely insufficient financial support; it impacts every facet of an athlete's journey, from training and preparation to competing and achieving success.

Training for high-level competition requires substantial financial resources. Athletes need to access high-quality training facilities, equipment, and coaching. Many Filipino athletes face the challenge of training in subpar conditions due to limited funds. This situation hampers their ability to reach their full potential and compete effectively on the global stage. For instance, while the institution or the government may allocate funds for elite athletes, grassroots and developmental programs often remain unfunded, leaving emerging talent without the necessary support to thrive.

Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach from both the government and private sector to invest in sports programs and provide sufficient financial support for athletes. Long-term funding strategies and initiatives, such as scholarships and sponsorships, can help alleviate the financial pressures athletes face. Ultimately, a united effort is needed to nurture and empower Filipino athletes, enabling them to bring pride and recognition to the nation on the local and international stage.

SPORTSBRIEFS



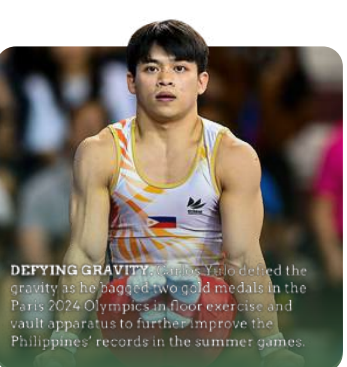
FINALLY, Under new manager, the Philippine Women's Volleyball Team dubbed Alas Filipinas scored its first bronze medal in AVC Challenge Cup in Manila, holding the national team's best AVC finish in 63 years.



GITING Season's Most University of the Philippines (UP) Fighting Maroons brought the title back to Katipunan after a hard-fought championship thriller in UAAP Season 87 men's basketball over DLSU Green Archers.



ELECTRIFIED, Chris Newsome and the Meralco Bolts scored their first PBA championship at the expense of San Miguel Beermen in the Game 6 of the Philippine Cup at Smart Araneta Coliseum.



DEFYING GRAVITY, Yuliy Yuliy defied the gravity as he bagged two gold medals in the Paris 2024 Olympics in floor exercise and vault apparatus to further improve the Philippines' records in the summer games.

SPORTS EDITORIAL

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One for all, all at once

PERHAPS athletes no longer seek mere support, but rather the ground where their skills can be forged to turn their dreams into gilded gold.

Lipa City College's commitment to its athletes extends far beyond just moral and emotional support, it must also include the development of sporting venues. While having strong support is crucial, providing athletes with the best facilities is equally important to gain success.

The month of July saw our schools' athletes excel in the National Volleyball Competition held in Legazpi. Despite their success, in an interview, one glaring challenge surfaced: the lack of adequate sporting facilities as a significant barrier to their training. This recurring issue highlights the urgent need for infrastructural improvements to support our athletes' ambitions.

LCC Blazing Hawks' achievements shine brightly on various sporting events, yet their training conditions dim the luster of their potential. Inadequate facilities are not merely an inconvenience, despite having two large gymnasiums and a swimming pool area, there are a lot of obstacle that hinders them from reaching the top of their abilities. Issues such as outdated equipment, limited access, and insufficient maintenance create an environment where th e journey to excellence is fraught with unnecessary challenges.

Athleticism is nurtured not just by determination and dedication but by an environment that fosters growth and excellence. The lack of proper facilities means our soaring athletes must navigate their path to victory with plain handicaps. Training grounds should be arenas of progress, not an echo of stagnation. The disparity between our athletes' talent and the resources available to them is a gap that needs bridging.

Building premier sporting venues is not a luxury; it is a necessity.

Moreover, the lack of appropriate facilities does not only impact physical training but also affects the psychological well-being of our athletes. A well-equipped training environment boosts morale and confidence, fostering a sense of pride and belonging among Blazing Hawks. When they see and feel that their institution is invested in their success, it fuels their motivation and commitment to excel. By providing modern and comprehensive facilities, we can create a positive and empowering atmosphere that nurtures both the body and mind.

Additionally, investing in state-of-the-art sports venue can attract more talented individuals to our institution. Potential recruits are likely to choose a college that offers superior training environments and comprehen-

sive support system. By enhancing our facilities, we can position Lipa City College as a premier destination for aspiring athletes, creating a cycle of success and growth that benefits both the individual and the institution as a whole.

The impact of upgraded sporting venues extends beyond the realm at athletics. It fosters a sense of school spirit, as students, faculty, and supporters rally around the achievements of their teams. Thus, investing in our athletes and their training grounds, we invest in the overall well-being and cohesion of our institution, creating a legacy of excellence.

All is well and done, building premier sporting venues is not a luxury; it is a necessity. In transforming raw LCCian talents into unstoppable champions, the institution must create the ground where they can train, grow, and be competent. The school's commitment to its athletes should reflect in the facilities they provide to them, ensuring that their dreams of greatness are supported by state-of-the-art training environments. This investment is not just about winning countless medals and recognition but about fostering a culture of excellence and inspiring future generations of athletes.

The call to action is clear: perhaps athletes no longer seek mere support, but rather the hallowed grounds where their skills can be forged to turn their dreams into gilded gold. With this, we pave the way for our athletes to reach new heights, achieving not only personal success but also bringing pride and honor to Lipa City Colleges.

ICYMI

CSSAI holds try-outs for aspiring Blazing Hawks

■ Isabella Faye Alfajaro, Writer

AS THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR UNFOLDED, Lipa City Colleges (LCC) Blazing Hawks, the official sports teams of the institution held tryouts for the first semester for the aspiring athletes in both high school and college departments, which ran from September 6 to October 5.

The office of Culture, Sports, Student Activities and Involvement (CSSAI) has announced the tryout schedule through its Facebook page, encouraging a lot of athletes to try and earn a spot in different sporting events.

Athletics, such as running and throwing events, kicked off last September 6-7 at the Carlos Mojares Gymnasium along with the search for Table Tennis players at the LCC Old Gymnasium that ticked over in the afternoon, while the badminton hopefuls entered the court on September 10-12.

Furthermore, the Blazing Hawks swimming team also opens its doors to aspiring tankers at the LCC Pool Area, from September 17-18, while vying for their spots on the school's volleyball teams, aspiring spikers attended the tryouts in both men's and women's divisions last September 26 at the Carlos Mojares Gymnasium.

Meanwhile, bolstering the Blazing Hawks boy's and men's basketball team, new cagers of the institution attended the tryouts last October 5 at Carlos Mojares Gymnasium, showcasing their skills in joining the competitive team of the institution.

Following the series of tryouts, the Blazing Hawks are poised for the upcoming season with the new and retained athletes as they gear up for a highly competitive year in representing LCC in various local, provincial, and regional competitions for the first semester of the academic year.

SIZZLING SMASHES

CCJE Warriors grabs gold; slips past CCTE Cyber Mamba in badminton tourney

■ Gabriel Valida, Writer

WITH A SHUTTLE DROP, College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) whitewashed College of Computing and Technology Engineering (CCTE) in the LCC Palaro Badminton Finals on a rainy day at LCC Old Gymnasium, October 29.

In their clear-kill showdown, CCJE Warriors gained full court control over CCTE Cyber Mambas, overcoming them with a 5-0 tally after falling short due to lead-player, Nicole Martinez, inability to play due to health reasons.

Meanwhile, College of Nursing (CON) faced off against College of Business and Accountancy (CBA) and secured the spot for third place after winning against the Dragons with 3-2 on the board.

Moreover, Rianne Dimaculangan, top scorer of the Warriors women's badminton team, that has been representing the department since her first year at the institution mentioned that facing Cyber Mambas on the court was a challenge.

"Sa Engineering po, gawa po ng player din po kasi yung kalaban din po namin kaya, maalam din po talaga maglagay ng bola," said Dimaculangan when asked about the challenges they encountered in the tournament.

With the department's great run as the badminton champions, the shuttlers in maroon are set to defend their title as they vie in the next year's edition of Palaro.

BUSCAA SEASON 25

Blazing Hawks tame BCS, seize boy's vball gold

■ Vanessa May Gonzales, Writer

LIPA CITY COLLEGES (LCC) Blazing Hawks prevailed over Batangas Christian School (BCS) to claim the gold medal in the boys' volleyball championship game of the 25th season of Batangas Universities, Schools, and Colleges Athletic Association (BUSCAA) earlier today, University of Batangas Gymnasium, December 12.

Inspired by their third-place finish last year, the Blazing Hawks came back to the tournament anew as they carved out a masterful four-set victory over the gritty Alangilan-based spikers, 25-17, 23-25, 25-21, and 26-24.

Despite the absence of the last edition's mythical 6 members John Vincent Torrevillas and Zymon Bryan Mendoza in the roster, the now Mark Daniel Magpantay-led Hawks managed to lead the squad to an explosive victory in the provincial-wide meet.

Meanwhile, behind the masterful performance of tournament Most Valuable Player, Mendel Molina Jr., the Lipa City-based boy's volleyball team rallied past other rival schools including hosts Our Lady of Caysasay Academy (OLCA) during the preliminary round to book their finals berth to further their last season's 3rd place finish.

Team captain and setter Magpantay, and senior hitter Khent Vincent Pactoranan were also named the tournament's mythical six members as they headlined LCC to a golden celebration under new head coach, Roy Laparan and coach Cymon Basco who called the shots to steer the team from previous team coach, Marvin Panganiban.

Meanwhile, the team is eyeing to represent the institution as they vie for the provincial level of the Private Schools Athletic Association (PRISAA) set on February 2025.

SWEEPING SUCCESS. Rianne Dimaculangan of the College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) Warriors badminton team paved the way for their 5-0 victory against the College of Computer Engineering (CCTE) Cyber Mamba at the LCC Palaro Badminton Finals, Lipa City Colleges, Lipa City, October 29 / Photo by Loren Jane Batronel, Photojournalist



CCTE computes perfect victory on Sportsfest '24

■ Gabriel Valida, Writer

COMPUTING a series of perfect victories, College of Computing Technology and Engineering (CCTE) students successfully conducted their two-day long Sportsfest, Lipa City Youth and Cultural Center, September 24-25.

Fueled up with energy, Computer Engineering, and Computer Science students engaged in different sports activities spearheaded by their department heads and the official student organizations of both programs: Computer Engineering Vanguard (CEV) and the Society of Computer Enthusiasts (SCE).

Following the inaugural sporting event, Cyber Mambas were divided into three competing teams—Blazing Phoenix, Raging Blue Flame, and Green Archer—that went head-to-head on different sporting events.

The department started the first day with a heat as the teams went on parading their colors and introduced themselves through their energetic cheers.

The groups then headed to the court and battled on different team sports. Blazing Phoenix served up a win for the championship title on men's volleyball while the Green Archer team spiked their way to victory in the women's division.

Moreover, for basketball, Green Archer outscored other teams and prevailed as the men's champion while Raging Blue Flame prevailed in the hard-fought championship match in the women's category.

Further, in badminton, Blazing Phoenix secured the women's singles title, while the Raging Blue Flame team shuttled down other teams and dominated men's singles, women's doubles, men's doubles, and mixed doubles championships.

On the second day, the squads raced on the trail for the Track and Field events. Green Archer representatives outpaced their rivals as they won the 400M and 800M and shared the 100M title with Raging Blue Flame and the 200M with Blazing Phoenix.

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PALARO 2024 OVERALL SCORE TALLY

 CCJE WARRIORS	212
 CON GREEN FALCONS	161
 CITHM PUSO	138
 CBA DRAGONS	68.5
 CELA BLUE RAVENS	60.5
 CCTE CYBER MAMBA	25

► College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) Warriors snag their **3rd-straight overall Palaro championship** in the post-pandemic era after sweeping most sporting events in the five-day collegiate intramurals.

SPORTS EDITORIAL

One for all, all at once

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