

Marcos: No 'ghost' or substandard classrooms under DepEd-LGU deal



LOVE IS IN THE AIR – With just three days before Valentine's Day, selfies are a common sight at the giant 'LOVE' sign at the Maynila Valentine's display at the Kartilya ng Katipunan in Manila on Wednesday, Feb. 11. (John Louie Abrina)

By ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS and MERLINA HERNANDO-MALIPOT

President Marcos assured the public that ghost projects and substandard classrooms will not be tolerated under a new agreement between the Department of Education (DepEd) and local government units (LGUs) aimed at accelerating school construction nationwide. Speaking during the ceremony

of the Memorandum of Agreement in Malacañan on Wednesday, Feb. 11, the President said local accountability would help prevent irregularities in the implementation of the program.

"Ang sabi ko nga sa kanila, sa lahat, eh sabi ko, papaano 'yan, baka magkaproblema ulit sa ghost" ▶ 6



ADDRESSING CLASSROOM BACKLOG – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. addresses top national government officials, provincial governors, and education leaders after the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Department of Education (DepEd) and local government units (LGUs) to fast-track classroom construction and address the long-standing shortage of learning spaces, at the Malacañan Palace in Manila, Feb. 11, 2026. (Mark Balmores)

Palace denies gov't 'lost interest' in flood control probe

By ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS and TRIXEE ROSEL

Malacañang rejected claims that the administration had lost interest in pursuing accountability over alleged anomalies in flood control projects, saying President Marcos remains committed to hold accountable

those who are responsible.

In a press briefing, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said such assertions were unfounded, stressing that the President continues to push for accountability even as he focuses on economic priorities.

"Hindi po nawawalan ng ▶ 7

Tributes pour in for former House Speaker JDV; 'a respected statesman, icon'



By ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS, ELLSON QUISMORIO, and HANNAH L. TORREGOZA

Former President and incumbent Pampanga 2nd district Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Executive Secretary Ralph Recto led government officials in paying tribute to former House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., describing him as a leader and icon driven by reform and nation-building following his passing at the age of 89.

"I mourn the passing of Jose de Venecia Jr. not only as a former ▶ 7

Rep. Marcos: House to tackle expanded LEDAC list 'without delay'

By ELLSON QUISMORIO and HANNAH L. TORREGOZA

Majority Leader Ilocos Norte 1st district Rep. Sandro Marcos said the House of Representatives is ready to do its part in hastening the

passage of measures in the expanded Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) list.

"We are prepared to do our part to ensure these priority bills move without delay," the presidential son said on Tuesday, Feb. 10, following the LEDAC meeting that was held in

Malacañang.

During the meeting that was presided over by President Marcos, the LEDAC expanded its Common Legislative Agenda (CLA) from 48 to 52 priority measures.

The four bills added to the list seek to address online sexual ▶ 6

PH stance vs China remains 'firm but diplomatic' amid embassy's confrontational approach—Palace

By ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS, JOSEPH PEDRAJAS, and HANNAH L. TORREGOZA

Malacañang said the Philippines will maintain a "firm but diplomatic" stance toward China amid the Chinese Embassy in Manila's more confrontational ap-

proach to dealing with issues surrounding the South China Sea.

Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said this after Beijing criticized a Senate resolution denounc-

ing statements from the Chinese Embassy in Manila.

In a press briefing, Castro said President Marcos respects freedom of expression and underscored that both sides may air their views on the issue.

"Ang Pangulo po kasi ay rumirespeto sa kalayaan ng pama- ▶ 7



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